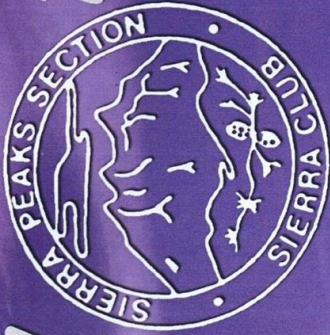


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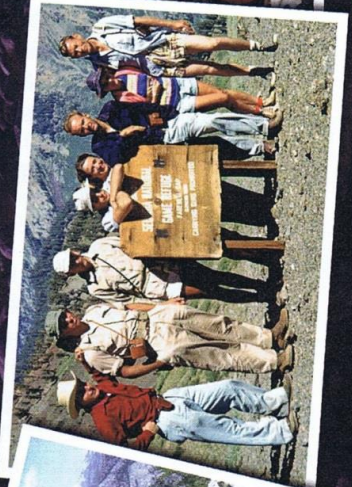
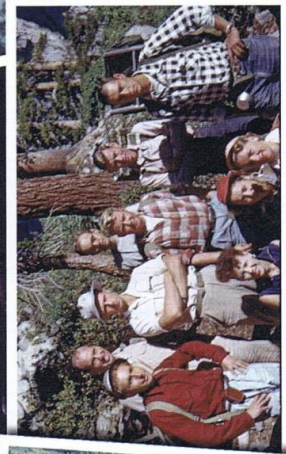
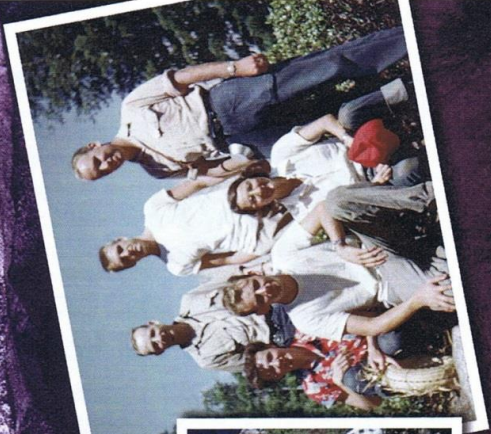
OCTOBER 2005



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The Sierra

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 5



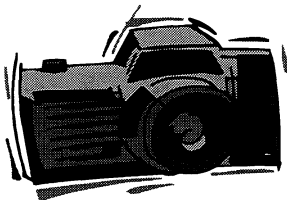
# FRONT COVER

& page 2

## Mt. Williamson

& historical photos of  
SPS climbers

Peak Photos by Tom Ross



### Announcing a new information source for SPS members

#### SPS List Server is online

Organizational, outings & conservation info  
The purpose of this list is to provide officers and staff of the Sierra Peaks Section a means of rapidly distributing organizational, outings and conservation information to Sierra Peaks Section members.

The ANGELES-SIERRA-PEAKS-NEWS list is a list sponsored by the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. This list is limited to members of the Sierra Peaks Section and newsletter subscribers who have supplied their e-mail address. Subscription to this list is by the list owner. To contact the listowner, send a message to:

[ANGELES-SIERRA-PEAKS-NEWS-request@lists.sierraclub.org](mailto:ANGELES-SIERRA-PEAKS-NEWS-request@lists.sierraclub.org)

Only editors of ANGELES-SIERRA-PEAKS-NEWS may post to the list.

To access the ANGELES-SIERRA-PEAKS-NEWS web archives, go to:

<http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/ANGELES-SIERRA-PEAKS-NEWS.html>

Lots of valuable information regarding Listserv lists can be found at:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/lists/faq.asp>

### 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.

### October 16, 2005 - SPS 50th Anniversary Banquet

Taix Restaurant, Los Angeles. Feature program - a video highlighting the last 50 years. Commemorative issue of the Echo.

**November 9, 2005 - Wednesday** A slide show by Patty Kline of her Trek in Bhutan, a kingdom in the Himalayas with ancient traditions.

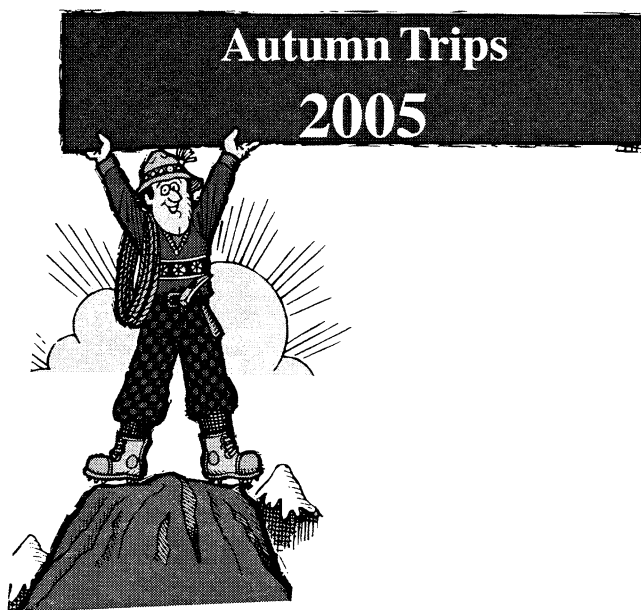
### Peak List

See Stories Inside

Disappointment Peak  
Mt. Williamson  
Piute  
Pettit  
Volunteer  
High Points - Benelux  
Castle Peak  
Adams Peak  
Mt. Elwell  
Sierra Buttes  
Mt. Lola



Deer  
Tower Peak (3-stories)  
Moses  
North Maggie  
Mt. Agassiz  
Mt. Goode  
Angora Mt.  
Trail Peak  
Wonoga Peak



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.

**OCTOBER**

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

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



**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](mailto: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.

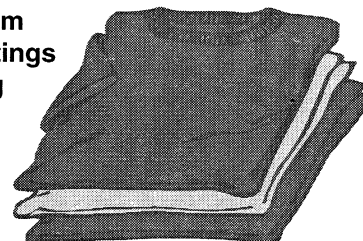
**I: Nov 11 Fri Owens Peak (8,453'):** SPS/HPS SPS 50th Anniversary climb. Join the veterans of the SPS on Veteran's Day as they celebrate the 49th anniversary of the first SPS trip to Owens Peak. Moderate pace, 7 mi

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 Checkoff:** 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**



# Sierra Peaks Section



## Anniversary

**“The magnitudes of the mountains are so great that unless seen and submitted to a good long time they are not seen or felt at all” John Muir**

Beginning late in 2004, preparations were underway for the Sierra Peaks Section’s 50th Anniversary. Dan Richter, the best organizer and delegater, formed a committee and began the process of planning how to celebrate this momentous occasion. Early on, Jerry Keating emerged as the committee’s great researcher combined with invaluable help from Bob Cates, John Robinson and Ron Jones. Jerry also solicited and encouraged trip leaders Patty Kline, Rick Jali, Mike McDermitt, Igor Mamedalin, Asher Waxman, Mikki Siegel, Dan Richter, Ron Campbell, Georgette Rieck, Scott Leavitt, Patrick McKusky, Gordon MacLeod, Barbara Lilley, Mark Mitchell, Keith Martin, John Cheslick, Patty Rambert, Jeanie Thomas and Greg Roach to lead trips commemorating trips led by the SPS 50 years ago. Jerry provided many of the leaders with copies of trip reports from the “early days”.

My role (Barbee Tidball) was of course to organize and edit this commemorative issue of the Echo. As early as February I had an outline prepared for a year-long recognition of the anniversary in each issue of the Echo with October planned to be the “big” commemorative edition. I was soliciting articles from members with fantastic help from Mary Motheral who recruited members to write their Mountain Memories.

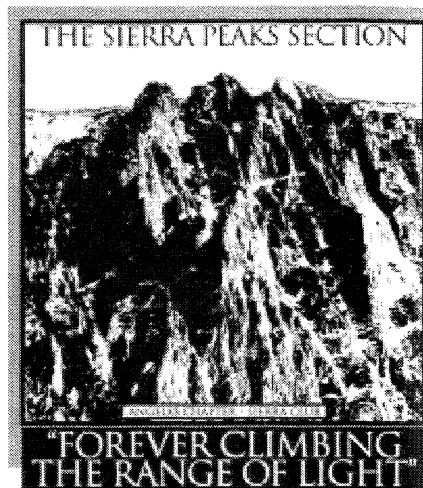
Dave Sholle decided to use his skills as a video photographer and he began his journey into the last 50 years by meeting and interviewing almost 40 past and present SPS members. Alongside Dave and my efforts was Barbara Sholle encouraging us and editing our efforts. Sid Davis helped with a generous donation to the SPS to defray the cost of materials

used in making the banquet video.

Meanwhile Dan and Mary McMannes were planning the banquet location. Duane McRuer, Doug Mantle, writers extraordinaire volunteered to compose special articles for the Echo. Jerry Keating, Ron Jones and I were off to the UCLA archives for more research and Reiner Stenzel, R.J. Secor and Jerry were signed up to write or assist with articles. Tom Ross was recruited for his tradition role - the cover

photo of Mt. Williamson. Dave Sholle designed the 50th logo used on this page and Dan Richter the 50th logo used on page 3.

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles and especially to everyone on the 50th Anniversary Committee. Many many hours have gone into preparation and as a result of the definite interest shown by everyone involved, not a month has gone by in 2005 without the Sierra Peaks Section celebrating climbing in the “Range of Light”.



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## Early trips - 1955

Following is a listing of Sierra trips scheduled in 1955 by leaders who would become SPSers once the Section gained approval on October 16, 1955. Compiled by Jerry Keating

North Guard, 7/2-4/55. Leaders: Frank Sanborn & Roger Gaefcke. Entity: High Sierra

Lone Pine Peak, 8/6-7/55. Leaders: Frank Sanborn & Reuben Schreiner. Entity: High Sierra

Mt. Tyndall, 8/13-14/55. Leaders: John Delmonte & Bob Bear. Entity: DPS

Florence Peak, 9/10-11/55. Leaders: Frank Sanborn & Frank Bressel. Entity: High Sierra

Tunnabora Peak, 9/17-18/55. Leaders: George Wallerstein & Frank Sanborn. Entity: DPS

*From DPS Newsletter No.43 October 1955*

### TUNNABORA PEAK

The DPS climbing trip to Tunnabora Peak, led by George Wallerstein and Frank Sanborn, is described by George as follows:

"On Saturday, September 17, fourteen Sierra Clubbers left Whitney Portal shortly after 9:00 a.m. for the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek. The Ebersbacher ledges were found without difficulty and lunch was consumed at Clyde Meadow. Two hours later, they reached a timberline campsite just below the first lake in the upper North Fork valley.

"After a cold, damp night, everyone started up the long chute to Mt. Carillon shortly after 6:00 a. m. Light snow started falling soon after. Nine persons turned back after climbing Carillon. Bob Bear and Frank Sanborn climbed Mt. Russell from the Russell-Carillon Col via the east ridge, which is class three. The west peak could not be seen from the east peak, so they hurried back before too much snow would accumulate on the ridge. Barbara Lilley, Bob Sheller and George Wallerstein crossed the Russell-Carillon Col and reached Tulainyo Lake. Here increasing fog and snow made them decide to return without climbing Tunnabora.

"Everyone hurried down to the warmth of Owens Valley and reached the cars before 2:00 p.m."

Trail Peak (Cirque), 10/1-2, 1955. Leaders: Frank Sanborn & Owen Blackburn.

Cirque Peak was climbed instead of Trail Peak.

Sherman Peak, 3/24-25/56. A scouting trip that started in the Kern River Canyon and involved Frank Sanborn, Frank & Joanna Bressel, John Robinson, Chuck Miller and Garver Light. Entity: Non-scheduled.

Following is the list of officially scheduled SPS trips:

Deer Mtn., 5/5-6/56. Leaders: Frank Sanborn & John Robinson

Maggie Mtn., 5/26-27/56. Leaders: Frank Sanborn & Miles Brubacher

Mt. Gilbert, 6/2-3/56. Leaders: George Wallerstein & Steve Wilkie.

Trail Peak, 6/9-10/56. Leaders: Frank Sanborn & Ted Maier

Matterhorn Peak, 6/23-24/56. Leaders: Don Clarke & Bud Bingham

Alta Peak, 6/30-7/1/56. Leaders: Chuck Miller & Frank Bressel

Mt. Whitney (Mountaineers Route), 7/7-8/56. Leaders: Miles Brubacher & Pat Meixner

Mt. Ritter, 7/24-25/56. Leaders: Izzy Lieberman & Miles Brubacher

Goat Mtn., 7/28-29/56. Leaders: Chuck Miller & Frank Bressel

University Peak, 8/11-12/56. Leaders: Chuck Miller & Frank Sanborn

Mt. Lamarck/Mt. Darwin, 8/18-19/56. Leaders: Bob Sheller & Leo Scotti

Mt. Irvine, 8/25-26/56. Leaders: Frank Bressel & Pat Meixner

Mt. Williamson/Mt. Barnard/Trojan Peak, 9/1-3/56. Leaders: Pat Meixner & Graham Stephenson

Mt. Silliman, 9/8-9/56. Leaders: Frank Bressel & Pat Meixner

Cardinal Mtn., 9/15-16/56. Leaders: Bud Bingham & Don Clarke

Mt. Morrison, 9/22-23/56. Leaders: Miles Brubacher & Izzy Lieberman

Tunnabora Peak, 9/29-30/56. Leaders: George Wallerstein & Bud Bingham

Mt. Rixford, 10/6-7/56. Leader: John Robinson. Trip stormed out at Kearsarge Pass

Mt. Inyo, 10/20-21/56. Leaders: John Robinson & Bud Bingham (joint with DPS)

Owens Peak, 11/11/56. Leaders: Miles Brubacher & Pat Meixner

*Before the SPS.....*

## Outlaw Hikes - Memoir

By Joanna Bressel

This is my recollection of the "Outlaw Hikers" and why it was started in the early 1950s.

I (then Joanna Lohr) had a large Siberian Husky named Kluetna. I lived with my parents on the edge of Elysian Park, on Park Drive. I could walk her through the park morning and evening. But on the weekends, I wanted to venture farther into the hills and mountains with her. Walking alone was not an option as far as my father was concerned. My parents had an insurance agent who was one of the top people in the Sierra Club. His name was Odmund Hydle. He suggested that my dog and I join the club and that he would be one of my sponsors. I agreed and went to one of the meetings in downtown Los Angeles. At the meeting, I also met Walt Heninger. He thought that I would be a good candidate, and he offered to be my second sponsor.

Kluetna and I enjoyed many hikes with the club. On one of them, from Palm Springs up to Long Valley, poor Kluetna got very cold at night. I tried to pull her into my sleeping bag to give her some warmth. We climbed San Jacinto the next morning. Along the way, I met a young man. On the next hike that Kluetna and I went on, this young man handed me a cut-down Boy Scout sleeping bag. He said that this would help to keep Kluetna warm. I married this young man about eight months later.

Anyway, on one of the hikes, Walt informed me that the next hike I would not be able to take Kluetna with me. I said, "Okay, but I think I will just not go on that hike." He said, "You will choose your dog over a Sierra Club hike?" I answered, "Yes." He said, "If that is how you feel, I will make a rule that no dogs are allowed." And he did. So, Frank Sanborn and Frank Bressel, Pat Meixner and a few other guys and my dog and I would plan hikes. We laughingly called them "Outlaw Hikes." We all enjoyed the hikes that we went on. We followed the Sierra Club rules about keeping the areas clean. I married Frank Bressel December 3, 1954, and hiked with the group until our first child was born on November 1, 1955. Just before that November date, Sanborn had gained approval from the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee to form the Sierra Peaks Section.

P.S.: I have a book that Mr. Odmund Hydle wrote in 1965. Its title is High Adventure.



**Frank Sanborn & Kluetna**

Photo from Joanna & Frank Bressel's collection  
Frank is wearing a wood-framed pack and Kluetna a smaller dog pack.



# Memorable Mountains

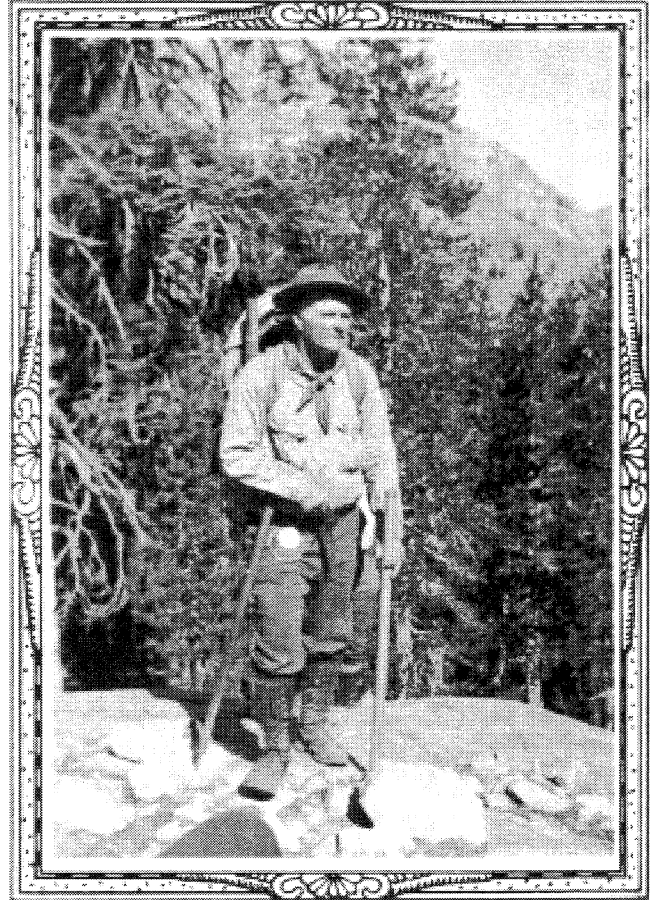
## Climbing North Palisade with Norman Clyde

By Ret Moore

The year was 1943, Ward Vickers and I were in the Naval Reserve about to finish our junior year in college and in a few weeks would be called to active duty. During this two week interval, we wanted to do something eventful. We decided to climb North Palisade Peak. I had only heard the name of the peak, but Ward had read an article which described it as a classic climb. Neither of us had done any real mountaineering, although we had been practicing roped climbing on the cliffs in Red Rock canyon. So with little fanfare we packed our bedrolls and climbing rope - which as I recall was a hemp rope about 3/4 inch in diameter. We did not have a tent, because the treated canvas tents available in those days were much too heavy for backpackers. If it rained at night you could curl up around the trunk of a big pine tree, or if you were very lucky, find a suitable overhanging rock.

We tossed everything in the car and took off. The drive up highway 395 to Big Pine was about the same as it is today without any four lane or divided highway. Our speed was less, but so was the traffic. It was late in the afternoon when we arrived at the Big Pine Creek trail head, so we parked our car and hiked up the trail until we found a good camping spot. The next day we were up early and reached 4th lake early in the afternoon. We selected a camp on the slope rising above the north side of the lake just below a permanent camp that Glacier Lodge operated. It is shown on the 1948 Mt. Goddard quadrangle as Glacier Camp, but the locals called it "Upper Lodge".

Both of us had noticed an old man camping by himself not far away. After we had laid out our bedroll, we walked over to his camp to say hello. So that he would be suitably impressed, we took our climbing rope along. He said his name was Norman Clyde, which meant little to either of us, as neither of us had heard or read anything about him. We were quick to let him know that we planned to climb North Palisade Peak the next day. When we told him this he became curiously interested in our climb and asked us a lot of questions. Had we climbed many peaks? Yes, we told him, "we had climbed Mt. Whitney and the tall mountains in Southern California". Did we have an ice ax? "No, we said we had never used one". After a few more questions it became quite clear to him that we had little real mountaineering experience under our belts (although we did not realize that this was his perception at the time). He next said that he had previously climbed the peak but would like to climb it again and asked if he could go along with us tomorrow. I thought to myself, and I am sure Ward had similar thoughts, do we really want to take this old man along with us? He



**Norman Clyde**  
photo from Glen Dawson collection

looks like he is in his 50's, but if he has done it before he should know the route. After some hesitation, we agreed that we would all go together on the climb of North Palisade tomorrow.

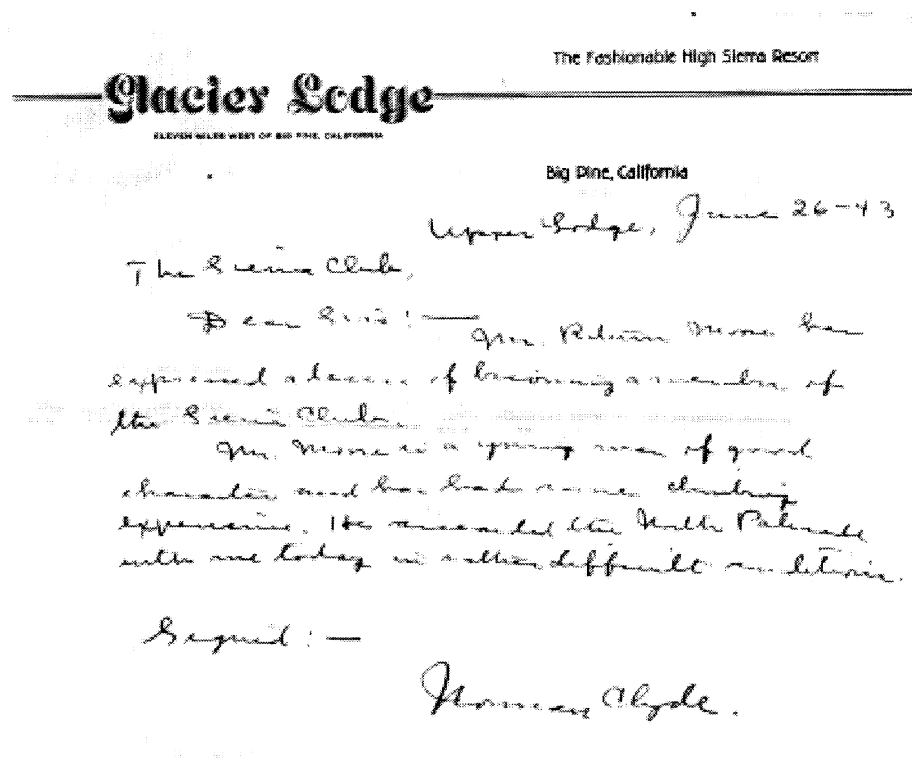
The next morning we were up and on our way early toward Palisade Glacier from our 4th Lake camp site. Eager to get up to the glacier where the climbing would start, Ward and I pushed on ahead and I can remember Norman cautioning us at least once to take it easy, we would have plenty of time to make the climb. When we reached the lower portion of the glacier, we roped up with Norman and his ice ax in the lead and the two of us following. We all had smooth leather soled boots, but Norman had attached Tricouni nails in the center and around the edge of his soles. In time we reached the bergschrund and I was captivated by this glacial feature, viewing it for the first time. It seemed to me that we would not be able to cross, but Norman followed it to the west until we came to a snow bridge which allowed us a crossing. Things went along without incident until we were well up in the couloir. Here we ran into some hard ice and Norman had to chop steps with his ice ax. Even then we had to step very gingerly because our smooth leather boots

were prone to slip with little provocation. Right then I vowed to get some Tricouni nails and attach them to my boots - which I did four years later when I was discharged from the service. They were worn until lug sole boots were introduced.

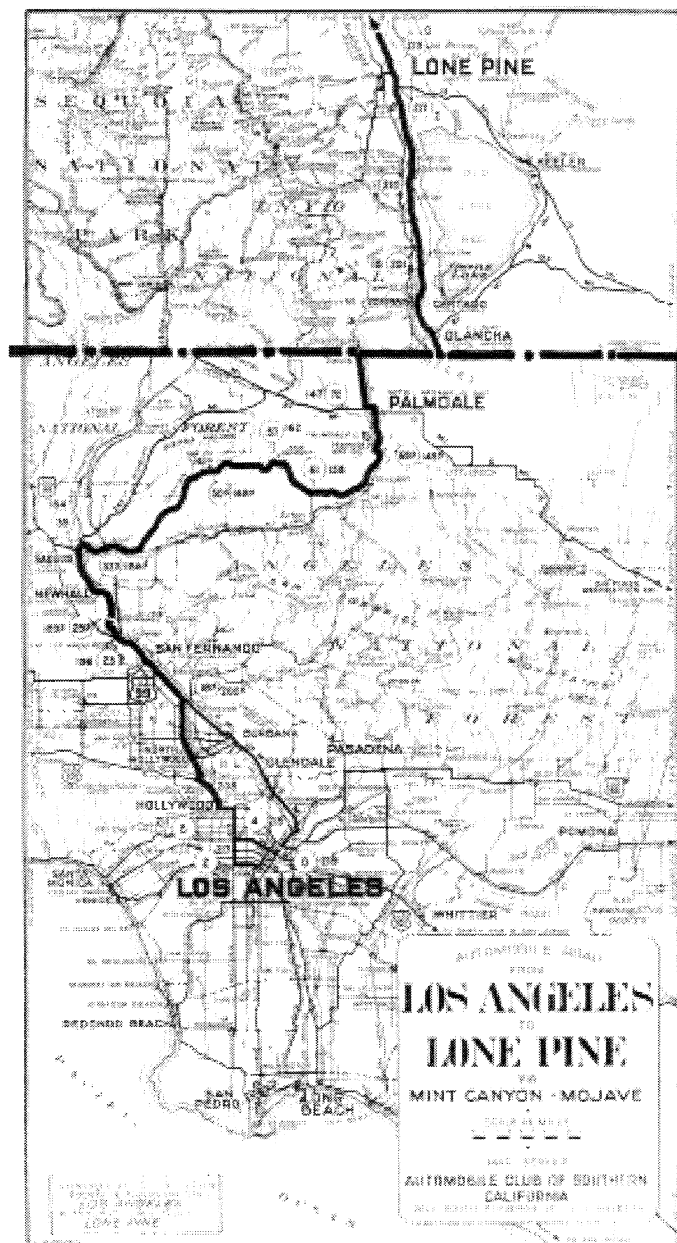
When we reached the U notch, Norman removed his boots, reached into his pack and brought out a pair of tennis shoes, which he donned for the rock climbing. He lead us up a chimney directly above the notch. This was our forte since most of our "practice" climbing had been doing chimneys in Red Rock canyon. Norman said nothing, but he seemed to be moderately impressed with

the way we negotiated the chimney. He set no protection (indeed we hadn't any) and as I recall we did very little belaying. From the top of the chimney we moved across the arete toward the summit. Here we encountered another problem, the wind was blowing ferociously across the mountain top and I recall seeing the slack in the rope between us bowed almost horizontally. This made it difficult to maintain our balance but we negotiated the arete and climbed the large blocks near the top. Finally we stood on the summit. I can't recall my feeling at the time, but it must have been a sense of exaltation and accomplishment. I would climb the peak again 34 years later, but the feeling would not compare to my first ascent this day.

We returned by the same route on which we had come, down climbing the chimney and following our footsteps down the U notch. By the time we arrived back at camp, the shadows were lengthening. It was now clear to both of us that this man Norman Clyde was not only a superb mountaineer but a man of real compassion. He had climbed the peak today to help two young men who would not likely have made the summit and possibly met with disaster without him. We were moved by today's experience and expressed our desire to join the Sierra Club, which at the time required a sponsor for membership. After dinner we all took the short walk up the hill to Upper Lodge where Norman obtained some Glacier Lodge stationary and wrote the accompanying letter. This capped off a memorable day in my life.







**Date Unknown - from early Auto Club map. Notice The route was through Mine Canyon. Highway 14 was perhaps not even planned when this map was prepared.**

*Retrieved from The Sierra Echo Vol. III, No. 2 (May-June 1959)*

## **EARLY DAYS OF SPS RECALLED BY FIRST CHAIRMAN**

By Frank Sanborn

The need for a separate section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club devoted to hiking, camping and climbing in the Sierra was evident to many for several years. Base campers, High Trippers and the Desert Peaks Section had for many years sponsored and scheduled trips into the Sierra, but it was apparent that the mountains which inspired the birth of the Sierra Club deserved a section devoted exclusively to their exploration, protection and enjoyment. The advent of modern paved highways and fast cars made it as practical to consider conducting weekend hikes into the Sierra as far north as Bridgeport as it was to hike into the Angeles Crest area.

Beginning in 1952, non-scheduled trips into the Sierra were conducted with ever-increasing frequency by an ever-growing number of enthusiasts. Impetus was given this movement by the fact that the Desert Peaks Section

scheduled an average of only three hikes per year into the Sierra. This was felt to be a waste of many fine weekends from May through October. By 1955, the non-scheduled trips outnumbered scheduled ones about six to one. Such long-term Sierra enthusiasts as Bob Sheller, Miles Brubacher, Barbara Lilley, Lee Owings, Owen Blackburn, Frank Bressel, Pat Meixner (Gentry), Chuck Miller, John Robinson, Bud Bingham and Frank Sanborn decided that the time was ripe to organize the Sierra Peaks Section.

The most essential step, of course, was to draft a set of by-laws, a statement of purpose and a list of emblem and qualifying peaks. An interim slate of officers had to be selected to guide the affairs of the section until the first regular election could be held. Finally, official recognition and approval by the Chapter Executive Committee had to be obtained.

Frank Sanborn was selected as the first chairman of the SPS, Bob Sheller the vice chairman, Pat Meixner the secretary, Leo Scotti the treasurer and Frank Bressel the alternate officer. Roger Gaefcke headed the first mountaineering committee, which then was responsible for scheduling also. Lee Owings and John Robinson worked with Roger on the committee.

Late in July, 1955, Frank, Chuck and Pat went before the Executive Committee, informed it of the intent to organize the section and requested official permission to form the SPS. After due deliberation, the Executive Committee granted official permission to organize within the framework of the Sierra Club. Thus

the Sierra Peaks Section was formally launched on its highly successful career under the initial direction of the above-named people. The first list of emblem and qualifying peaks was drafted and approved by the Management Committee, and the previously drafted by-laws were approved and put into force.

By the end of 1955, the section had 38 members, and monthly business meetings were being held at the Sierra Club headquarters in downtown Los Angeles. These meetings have been well-attended from the beginning and attest to the interest and activity of section members.

One of the main purposes of the section was, and is, to schedule weekend trips into the Sierra for the purpose of familiarizing Sierra Club members and others with California's premier mountains and fostering comradeship among those interested in this activity. Enjoyment of, as well as knowledge of, the trails, peaks, meadows, campsites, lakes, streams, forests, valleys and wildlife of the Sierra has been of primary interest.

The original list of 200 qualifying peaks reached from Owens Peak in the Walker Pass area to the Lake Tahoe area, a 600-mile stretch of the Sierra. More recently, the addition of peaks between Lake Tahoe and the Feather River area has expanded this list to the northern limits of the Sierra. The original 10 emblem peaks were from south to north, Olancha Peak, Mt. Needham, Kaweah Peak, Mt. Whitney, Mt. Williamson, Mt. Brewer, Mt. Goddard, Mt. Darwin, Mt. Lyell and Matterhorn Peak. Early in 1956 it was decided that Mt. Needham did not deserve emblem status and that Kaweah Peak adequately represented the Mineral King-Sequoia area. Accordingly, Mt. Needham was deleted from the list and Mt. Ritter in the Minarets substituted for it.

The present emblem of the SPS was drawn up by Bud Bingham in March, 1956, and promptly adopted. A beautiful piece of work, it shows the

distinctive emblem peak, Mt. Williamson, in profile, with white Sierra summer clouds floating overhead, snow on the flanks and pine boughs intertwined underneath. The climbing of the 10 emblem peaks entitled a member to wear the emblem of the section. By the end of 1956, the section boasted 18 emblem holders.

By the late fall of 1956, the section was well established. Some by-law changes had been proposed and adopted by the membership, the monthly meetings were well attended and committees on

social affairs and safety were being set up or discussed.

Membership had more than doubled from the previous December, with a total of 62 enrolled.

The officers who guided the affairs of the section through 1955 and 1956 felt that the time had now come for the first of what were to be annual elections. Candidates for the various management

offices were listed, and balloting was conducted by mail. As a result of this first full election, the following persons were elected to guide the affairs of the section in 1957: Bud Bingham, chairman; John Robinson, vice chairman; Barbara Lilley, secretary; Pat Meixner, treasurer; and Frank Sanborn, alternate officer. This group officially took over the management of the affairs of the section in January, 1957. It had been decided earlier that no officer could be re-elected for a second consecutive year in the same post. Chuck Miller became head of the Mountaineering and Schedule Committee.

In 1956, the section began its main function, that of scheduling weekend trips into the Sierra. The first scheduled SPS trip was led by Frank Sanborn and John Robinson, to Deer Mountain, near the South Fork of the Kern River, on May 5-6, 1956. On May 26-27, Frank Sanborn and Miles Brubacher took an



Frank Sanborn (far left), Roger Gaefcke (3rd from left) and Dick Woodward (2nd from right) along the John Muir Trail (now the Pacific Crest Trail), August 24, 1955 on private trip to Mt. Sill. Photographer: Richard Woodward

By Frank Sanborn, *continued*

SPS group to Maggie Mountain, in the Balch Park area east of Porterville. George Wallerstein and Steve Wilkie led a trip to Mt. Gilbert, back of South Lake, on June 2-3. Frank Sanborn and Ted Maier took a group to Trail Peak in Cottonwood Basin on June 9-10. On June 23-24, Don Clarke and Bud Bingham led an assault on the northernmost emblem peak, 12,281-foot Matterhorn Peak, in northern Yosemite west of Bridgeport. It was a memorable climb of one of our most beautiful peaks and involved uses of crampons, ice axes and ropes. Twenty-eight persons made the climb.

On June 30-July 1, Chuck Miller led a large group (38 persons) to Alta Peak, back of Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park. On July 7-8, Miles Brubacher and Pat Meixner led a very interesting trip out of Whitney Portal to the 14,495-foot summit of Mt. Whitney, the highest emblem peak. On July 14-15, Izzy Lieberman and Miles Brubacher led a challenging climb of 13,157-foot Mt. Ritter, the emblem peak dominating the Lake Ediza-Minarets region. Frank Bressel and Chuck Miller took an SPS group from Cedar Grove, in Kings Canyon, to Goat Mountain on July 28-29. On August 11-12, Chuck Miller tackled University Peak with a group from Onion Valley. One of the most impressive emblem peaks, Mt. Darwin, fell to a group led by Bob Sheller and Leo Scotti, hiking from North Lake (out of Bishop) on August 18-19. This 13,841-foot peak, plus its neighbor, Mt. Lamarck, provided this group with plenty of action. Frank Bressel led a trip to Mt. Irvine, out of Whitney Portal in the Meysan Lakes area on 'August 25-26.

The climax of this very active summer came on the long Labor Day weekend of Sept. 1-3, when John Robinson led a large group up George Creek to the 14,385-foot summit of Mt. Williamson. This trip, to the most distinctive emblem peak east of the Sierra crest near Independence, was a great success, although it involved a gain of 10,000 feet from the cars in rugged, trail-less country. Mt. Barnard and Trojan Peak were also climbed on the trip.

Frank Bressel and Pat Meixner took a group to Mt. Silliman, between Giant Forest and Kings Canyon, on Sept. 8-9. Bud Bingham and Don Clarke, leading a rugged trip over Taboose Pass to Cardinal Mountain on Sept. 15-16, were clobbered by an early-season snowstorm, but made the peak anyway under very adverse conditions. Mt. Morrison, overlooking

Convict Lake, is one of the few Sierra peaks that can be done in one day without knapsacking. Miles Brubacher and Izzy Lieberman led a pleasant but steep climb of it on Sept. 22-23. George Wallerstein and Bud Bingham led a group from Whitney Portal around Tulainyo Lake (highest in North America) to Tunnabora Peak on Sept. 29-30.

John Robinson was to lead a group from Onion Valley over Kearsarge Pass to Mt. Rixford on Oct. 6-7. Heavy snow prevented this, but an attempt was made on University Peak. A severe blizzard forced intrepid climbers off the steep northeast ridge of University, so that weekend was a loss.

On Oct. 20-21, the section joined the Desert Peakers in a joint climb of strenuous Peak 11,107, north of Mt. Keynot on the crest of the Inyo Range. John Robinson, Bud Bingham and Bob Bear spearheaded this group, which named the peak Mt. Inyo. This name has since become official. The final SPS-scheduled trip of 1956 was to the southernmost qualifying peak, 8,475-foot Owens Peak. It was led by Miles Brubacher and Pat Meixner on Nov. 11. Here again, no knapsacking was necessary.

All of the mentioned trips into the Sierra were officially scheduled activities, entered in the schedule books of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. When it is remembered that the average number of trips scheduled by the Angeles Chapter (usually by the Desert Peaks Section) into the Sierra used to be only three annually, it can readily be appreciated that the SPS in 1956, fulfilled its mission of scheduling many trips. This set the pattern for succeeding years. In addition, the trips extended from early May to early November, putting to rest the old notion that the Sierra was accessible only from the Fourth of July to the end of September. Now Sierra Peaks groups are active virtually all year in the Sierra, falling back upon the southern areas in the winter.

It was decided at the November, 1956, meeting to begin publication of a newspaper for the section, keeping its members informed of what each was doing, providing information on future trips, and giving writeups of past trips, both scheduled and non-scheduled. Roger Gaefcke suggested the name *Sierra Echo* for the paper, and this was unanimously adopted. Its editorship was undertaken by John Robinson, who turned out the *Echo* every three months in Mimeograph form [actually, Ditto spirit duplicator form—Ed.]. With the appearance of the first *Echo* in February, 1957, this history is terminated. The *Echo* carries the SPS record beyond that point.

## Echoes from the Chair

October, 2005

It is so wonderful to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SPS. I want to thank the Anniversary Committee and others who have made this happen! So much has gone into the banquet and the production of the video; this is one very special time in the history of the SPS.

Check out the SPS website and click on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, so interesting to read those articles. The list of 247 peaks which we have now was adopted in Nov. 1990 with the addition of Palisade Crest. The Senior Emblem was adopted in 1975 and the Master Emblem in 1988. Back to the home page and click on Emblems to see who has finished the list, the first being Andy Smatko in 1964 and the latest Ron Jones #63 in 2004. The Emblem holders total 571, the Senior Emblem holders total 134 and the Master Emblem holders total 72 including the latest myself September 8, 2005 on Black Kaweah.

I have just returned from the M rated Tower Peak on Sept. 23 – 25. Fall colors were abundant but not at their peak. Two river otters entertained us at Roosevelt Lake. The trip was led by John Cheslick and me. Tower is a beautiful Mountaineers Peak on the Northern Border of Yosemite National Park. Twelve of us summited so I think it is one of the largest SPS trips this year. It is so exciting to see a wide variety of participants. For several it was their first SPS Peak. Several were leader candidates from the recent LTC seminar in the spring of '04 and others were old friends. The more we each get out and get involved, the more we meet new friends and can encourage and support each other in getting stronger and safer in the mountains.

The other highlight was the M rated Mt. Gayley/Temple Crag trip – Sept. 17-19 which was a provisional lead for Virgil Popescu. The weather was beautiful but chilly. The yellow brick road up Gayley was just great. The chute up Temple Crag was a bit loose. The summit area with the step across was quite a challenge for me but with the help of Augie Medina (who climbed it 5 times that day) we summited and were treated to a spectacular view of the Palisades.

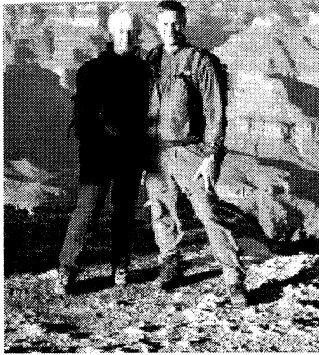
One of the earlier slogans of the SPS “Climb Mountains for Fun and Health” so let’s all keep that in mind and move into the next 50 years!

*Climb high and safe,  
Patty*



## Distant Echoes from the Chairs 1996 - 2004

### 1996 - Barbee Tidball (photo w/ Larry Tidball SPS Chair 1993)



With a great management committee - Wayne Norman, Patty Kline, Dan Richter and Harry Friemanis, plus Barbara Cohen, Dave Underwood and Tina Stough we had a very fun and rewarding year in the SPS. Sierra Club insurance costs for leaders were finally resolved. Duane McRuer and Doug Mantle (SPS Safety & Training) worked with Randall Danta (LTC Chair) Bill Oliver (OMC) and Larry Tidball (Safety Chair LA Chapter) to develop our new climbing opportunities within the Sierra Club. The SPS led 55 trips to the Sierra in 1996.

In 1996 the SPS went high-tech when Charlie Knapke set-up our SPS web site. As SPS conservation coordinator I started making trips to Bishop to work with a committee of diverse Sierra users to comments on the Inyo National Forest permit policies and the Wildernesses management plan. This effort continued for a few years and was very challenging. The SPS hosted the 1st joint sections meeting and near the end of 1996 Barb Sholle and I accepted the position to work jointly as Echo editors.

### 1997 - Tina (Stough) Bowman



The *first* issue of the Echo for 1997 announced that Bill T. Russell had died on January 8 and included many fine remembrances of him. In one, Doug Mantle proposed that the SPS add Caltech peak to the list to honor Bill T. And thus I embarked on my fiendish plan to "railroad" Caltech onto the ballot and the list. Things conspired against my plotting and planning! How dare they! I was queen, I mean chair, after all! My letter sent in July to propose the addition and following the SPS policies and procedures was "lost," so I sent another dated October 1. The deadline mentioned in the Echo of September 15 was really for the write-up of the exploratory trip, not the proposal. etc. Oh well. Caltech did eventually get on the ballot in 1998 and was not approved. So much for my evil scheming.

The year also saw R J Secor as the second double list finisher and Doug Bear as list finisher #50. The Sierra Club addressed the issue of bolting in the wilderness, Barbee Tidball doing so much to inform us on the topic and working with the Access Fund and others toward a sound solution. At the banquet, both Dave Dykeman and Bill T. Russell were posthumously honored with the SPS Leadership Award, so greatly deserved by both of them. I'm thankful to have served with a fine management committee, with elected officers Patty Kline, Dan Richter, Matthias Selke, and Barbee Tidball and appointed officers Bob Bruley, Barbara Cohen, Doug Mantle, Keith Martin, Duane McRuer, Bill Oliver, and David Underwood. Some of the elected officers also wore hats as appointed officers.

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### 1998 - RJ Secor



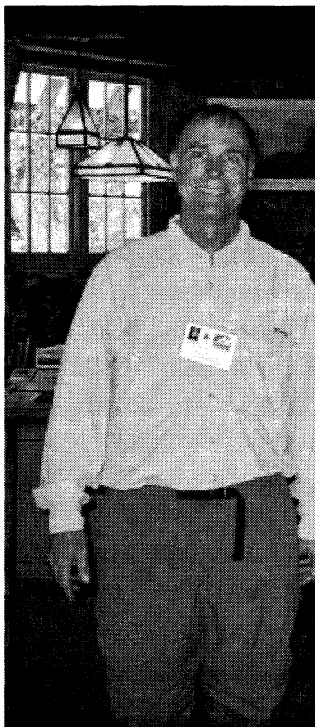
At the end of 1998 RJ wrote in *The Sierra Echo* "I want to thank our leaders for scheduling trips in an El Nino year. Many trips were cancelled but I admire those pathological optimists who volunteer to lead our trips." RJ went on to acknowledge his management committee and subcommittee members Patty Kline, Scott Sullivan, Tina Bowman, Keith Martin, Pat Mckusky, Eric Lesser, Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer, Mirna Roach, Dan Richter, Elena Sherman, Barbara Sholle and Barbee Tidball. RJ ended by writing "I regret that we disagreed on a few things, but I want to thank everyone for all their hard work, excellent performance of their jobs, and commitment to the SPS."

**Distant Echoes from the Chairs - *continued*****1996 - 2004****1999 - Patty Kline**

1999 was a great year for the SPS with Doug Mantle finishing the list for the 5th time on Clouds Rest. Dan Richter received the 4th SPS Leadership Award, which was presented to him at the December 1999 Banquet in recognition for his leadership in the SPS and the Leadership Training Program. R.J. Secor's second edition of *The High Sierra, Peaks, Passes, and Trails* came out. Among other people getting awards at the Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet, Duane McRuer received the Lifelong Service Award from the Angeles Chapter. The climbing season saw a lot of restricted "R" trips with ice axe, crampons and ropes as well as less technical trips geared to WTC students. Those were the days when we were still meeting at the Department of Water and Power for our monthly meeting. It was a very good year.

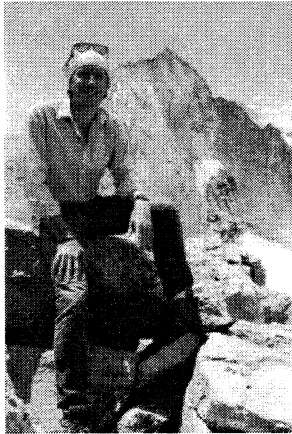
**2000 - Keith Martin**

It was my pleasure to be the 2000 Chair of the SPS management committee with Ron Hudson as Vice Chair, Scott Sullivan as Secretary, Paul Graff as Treasurer and Matthew Richardson as Fifth Officer. One of our committee's primary goals was the encouragement and development of new leaders. Peak climbing is an intrinsically selfish sport requiring personal stamina and drive. It always amazes me how many of my fellow mountaineers give so unselfishly of themselves to the Section, the Sierra Club and to their fellow climbers. Far and few are the truly selfish individuals who care only for themselves. Instead the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter and the SPS have benefited at all levels from the generous giving of time of many of my fellow SPS leaders and members. Be it leading trips, serving on management, publishing newsletters, participating in Leadership Training, serving on Chapter and National committees, taking care of merchandising, planning Banquets, maintaining records, evaluating provisional leaders, or simply being considerate and helpful climbing partners, SPS'ers have made a positive and indelible mark on the club.



Ours is an endeavor which not only requires physical fitness but also knowledge and skill. Yet it is still a dangerous sport. I now need the fingers of both hands to count the number of my friends and acquaintances who have died in mountaineering accidents. But being in the heights of our beloved Sierra Nevada, we have an opportunity to see and experience aspects of our environment denied to those who remain low. We walk amongst native

Californian plants which have survived without alien competition since before the ice ages. We saunter through and camp in groves of White Bark Pines, watching and hearing the chatter, as must also have Muir, as the Clark Nut Crackers tend the same trees harvested and replanted for millennium by their ancestors. We climb over the moraines of recently melted glaciers up into heights where the remains of long dead tree trunks can be found above the existing tree line. We see first hand the fragility and strength of nature in this demanding and rarified land as well as the contradictions and scars of climate change and the natural wide swings of climate variability. No wonder that many of the outstanding environmental leaders such as Muir, LeConte, Ansel Adams, Farquhar and Brower came from the ranks of Sierra Club mountaineers and no doubt the club will continue to need and benefit from future efforts of Sierra Club mountaineers. It was and is a pleasure to be counted amongst the ranks of such an auspicious group and I look with excitement to future achievements as the SPS enters into its second half century.

**Distant Echoes from the Chairs - *continued*****1996 - 2004****2001 – Erik Siering**

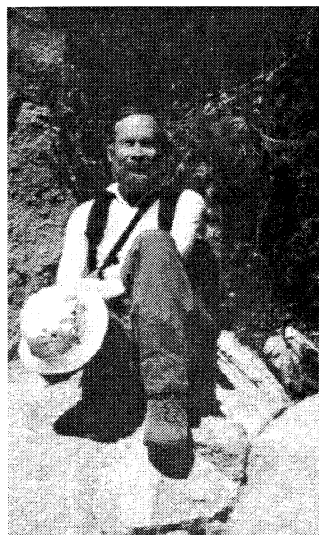
The highlight of my first year as SPS Chairman was of course my list finish on Clouds Rest. Pat and Gerry Holleman finished jointly on Taylor Dome. 50 climbing trips were led by the section. SPS members Maria Roa, Matthew Richardson and Nile Sorenson safely climbed Mt McKinley in May. Andy Smatko received the Sierra Club's Francis P Farquhar Award. Chapter award recipients were Dan Richter (Chester Versteeg Outings), and Bob Beach, Beth Epstein, Sigrid Sexton, Nile Sorenson and Reiner Stenzel (Outings Service). Dave Sholle presented our Banquet program in Long Beach on a members' successful ascent of Mt Kilimanjaro.

**2002 – Erik Siering**

It was a year of both profound joy and sadness. List finishers were Reiner Stenzel, Rich Gnagy (triple list finisher!), and Mirna and Greg Roach (together!). 48 climbing trips were led. Three of our climbing companions, Matthew Richardson, Steve Erskine and Bill Stampfl, perished in an avalanche on Huascaran in June. The April-May Echo featured our first color cover (by Cezanne). SPS hosted the annual Chapter joint peaks meeting, and welcomed the first time participation of Lower Peaks Committee. SPS members receiving Chapter awards were Charlie Knapke (Chester Versteeg Outings) and John Robinson (Elna Bakker Nature Interpretation). Ellen Wilts presented our Banquet program in Long Beach on the Wilts' first ascents in Canada and the West.



Management Comm. 2002 - Asher Waxman, Maria Roa, Erik Siering, Matthew Richardson, Joe Wankum

**2003 - Joe Wankum**

Recollections from 2003: The SPS year started with the annual banquet at Buon Gusto Trattoria in Long Beach. Ellen Wilts presented an interesting banquet program on early climbing in California and elsewhere. In February, the SPS again joined the DPS, HPS, and SMS in a joint meeting. With decreased member interest in attending meetings, the March, April, and December meetings were dropped from the SPS schedule. Starting in May, section meetings were moved to the Chapter Hq building with members encouraged to ride the Metro rail to the meetings. One issue of the Echo was again printed with a brilliant color cover. The management committee reviewed the SPS bylaws, but eventually decided to put a change on hold.

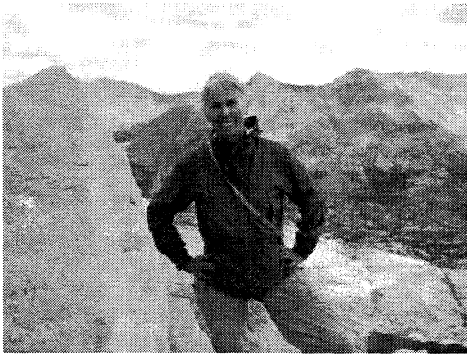
There was a significant effort early in 2003 to increase the number of sponsored outings by encouraging joint outings with WTC, SMS, and other entities, resulting in over 50 trips, including 30 that were co-sponsored. Long time member Barbara Lilley was awarded the Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award. And in September, Ret Moore became the oldest member to complete the list by climbing Lamont along with 60+ friends. The SPS year ended with

Kurt Wedberg providing an excellent presentation on climbing at the 1/14/04 annual banquet at Castaways in Burbank.

Distant Echoes from the Chairs - *continued*

1996 - 2004

2004 – Patty Rambert



The SPS was focused again in 2004 to build on leading more outings and developing new leaders and reaching out to encourage more climbers to join. The internet was providing a great resource for the climbing community to keep in touch with what was happening. There were more and more sites with trip reports and route descriptions.

We had several members pass away in 2004 which caused all of us to just think about the meaning of what climbing was in our individual lives. Ali Aminian had a fatal accident on Mt. Baldy on 1/11/04. Others included Asher “Dick” Kelty 1/12/04, Mike

McNicholas 5/04 and Brian Reynolds 8/22/04 on an SPS trip to Middle Palisade and there may have been others that I didn’t mention. I hope our thoughts can go out to all the families and friends of those climbers.

The list of accomplishments for 2004 was quite short but included Ron Jones finishing the list on 9/25/04 - #63 great job! Greg Vernon recieved his list finisher plus emblem. R.J. Secor received the Master Emblem for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. Patty Rambert received her Senior Emblem 8/21/04 - #134. Judi Richardson became the 71st Master Emblem holder. David Sholle received his Emblem 7/2/04 the same day Barbara Sholle received her Emblem for the second time! Congratulations to all, hope I didn’t miss anyone. If you have old records and they haven’t been submitted, get them in and be recognized.

It was most unfortunate that many of the summit registers began disappearing in ’04. There was an article in the Sacramento Bee that brought this to everyone’s attention and there was much discussion but no conclusions were come to. The summer general meetings were cancelled due to the fact that the Management Committee was out there leading trips to enhance our Outings Program so there was no quorum for the meeting. The attendance at the General Meetings has been declining. Usually there was the speaker, their guests, the Management Committee and usually less than 10 members which resulted in a total of fewer than 20 people showing up at the Angeles Chapter office on Wilshire.

The Editors of the Echo sponsored a cover photo contest which was won by Paul Morash. The winning photo appeared on the cover of the Aug/Sept. 04 issue.

The membership was increasing and we were looking forward to many more exciting outings!

**SPS 200 5  
Accomplishments**

**EMBLEMS**

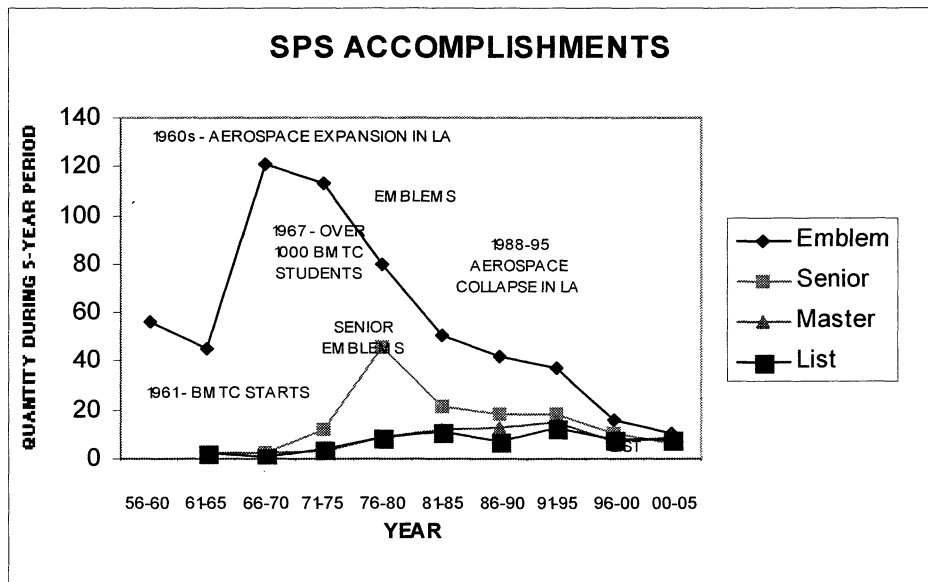
- #571 Robert Cates.  
Siretta Peak, 11/5/1978
- List + Second Emblem
- #7 Larry Tidball, Olancha  
Peak, 5/29/2005

**SENIOR EMBLEM**

- #135 Barbee Tidball,  
Olancha Pk., 5/29/2005

**MASTER EMBLEM**

- #72 Patty Rambert, Black  
Kaweah, 9/8/2005



graph prepared by Joe Wankum



## Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Sierra Peaks Section/Officers 1956 to 2005

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	<u>VICECHAIR</u>	<u>SECRETARY</u>	<u>TREASURER</u>	<u>ALTERNATE</u>
1956	F. Sanborn	B. Sheller	P. Meixner	L. Scotti	F. Bressel
1957	B. Bingham	J. Robinson	B. Lilley	P. Meixner	F. Sanborn
1958	C. Miller	B. Sanders	C. Parsons	B. Lilley	J. Robinson
1959	B. Sanders	T. Amneus	M. Eide	C. Parsons	C. Miller
1960	J. Keating	F. Sanborn	B. Sanders	G. Shinno	L. Kolbig
1961	G. Shinno	L. Kolbig	J. Keating	T. Amneus	B. Bingham
1962	M. Brubacher	G. Stephenson	G. Shinno	L. Kolbig	J. Robinson
1963	T. Maier	B. Lilley	D. Evans	B. Bingham	T. Amneus
1964	J. Robinson	F. Sanborn	B. Lilley	M. Brubacher	G. Shinno
1965	A. Erb	G. MacLeod	A. Smatko	E. Siegal	S. Ossofsky
1966	R. Jali	D. Scruggs	K. McNutt	G. Stephenson	G. Shinno
1967	S. Davis	R. Jali	B. Hunt	T. Maier	L. Kolbig
1968	J. Thornton	J. Robinson	D. Sykes	B. Bingham	J. Keating
1969	B. Hunt	D. Sykes	R. Jones	R. Jali	R. Beach
1970	D. Sykes	R. Jones	F. Hoeptner	B. Mason	E. Schumacher
1971	B. Mason	F. Hoeptner	H. Ory	R. Beach	I. Lieberman
1972	H. Ory	A. Fowler	B. Magnuson	P. Lipsohn	R. Magnuson
1973	P. Lipsohn	A. DeGoede	D. Dee	R. Jones	A. Fowler
1974	D. Dee	D. Mantle	W.T. Russell	G. Toby	R. Jones
1975	D. Mantle	G. Toby	T. Cardina/C. Ranschau	D. McRuer	W.T. Russell
1976	D. McRuer	C. Ranschau	R.J. Secor/T. Pinson	B. Shultz	M. Omberg
1977	W.T. Russell	M. Brandsma	T. Pinson	C. Ranschau	B. Schultz/ M. Muell
1978	G. Toby	R. Jones	G. Mauk	M. Omberg	B. Hicks
1979	B. Hicks	G. Mauk	J. Hellman	T. Pinson	B. Bradley
1980	G. Mauk	B. Bradley	H. McFadden	P. Holleman	D. Van Dalsem
1981	B. Bradley	P. Holleman	J. Murphy	B. Emerick	M. McMannes
1982	P. Holleman	J. Murphy	N. Gordon	R. Bartell	B. Emerick
1983	J. Murphy	N. Gordon	K. Sullivan	M. Valkass	D. Dykeman
1984	N. Gordon	D. Dykeman	M.S. Miller	R. Danta	M. Valkass
1985	D. Dykeman	M. Valkass	R. Hudson	V. Weldon	M.S. Miller
1986	M.S. Miller	R. Hudson	V. Weldon	H. McFadden	L. Machleder
1987	R. Jones	R. R. McDonald	M. Valkass	V. Grasso	A. Conrad
1988	M. Valkass	B. Oliver	R. Armentrout	A. Conrad	V. Grasso
1989	B. Oliver	Tina Bowman	V. Grasso	R. Armentrout	M Gonzales
1990	V. Grasso	B. Oliver	K. Leonard	M. Gonzales	G. Breakwell
1991	B. Oliver	K. Leonard	B. Wyka	L. Tidball	M. Gonzales
1992	D. Petzold	B. Sumner	B. Wyka	L. Tidball	M. Gonzales
1993	L. Tidball	D. Petzold	B. Cohen	P. Kline	B. Hoffman
1994	B. Cohen	L. Tidball	D. Richter	P. Kline	B. Tidball
1995	D. Richter	W. Norman	M. Roach	P. Kline	B. Tidball
1996	B. Tidball	D. Richter	W. Norman	H. Freimanis	P. Kline
1997	Tina Bowman	Barbee Tidball	Dan Richter	Matthias Selke	Patty Kline
1998	R. J. Secor	Patty Kline	Scott Sullivan	Tina Bowman	Keith Martin
1999	Patty Kline	Tim Keenan	Matt Richardson	Scott Sullivan	Keith Martin
2000	Keith Martin	Ron Hudson	Scott Sullivan	Paul Graff	M. Richardson
2001	Erik Siering	Ron Hudson	Matthew Richardson	Maria Roa	Matthias Selke
2002	Erik Siering	Asher Waxman	M. Richardson /J. Wankum	Maria Roa	J. Wankum/G. Schenk
2003	Joe Wankum	Beth Epstein	Gary Schenk	Henry Arnebold	P. Rambert
2004	Patty Rambert	Reiner Stenzel	Gary Schenk	Henry Arnebold	M. Dillenback
2005	Patty Rambert	Reiner Stenzel	Gary Schenk	Henry Arnebold	G. Wysup

## MAJOR SIERRA CLUB AWARDS TO SPS MEMBERS

Prepared by Duane McRuer

During its fifty years members of the Sierra Peaks Section have had a remarkable influence on climbing-oriented outings within the Sierra Club. Many members have been recognized for their contributions to these activities with major awards from the National Club and the Angeles Chapter. Then, in late 1996, the SPS itself instituted an SPS Leadership Award.

### NATIONAL AWARDS

#### Francis Farquhar Mountaineering

Award—"Honors an individual's contribution to mountaineering and enhancement of the Club's prestige in this field." (Established in 1970)

#### *Honorary SPS Members*

Norman Clyde, 1970 (SPS 1960)  
Jules Eichorn, 1972 (SPS 1989)  
Glen Dawson, 1973 (SPS 1989)

#### *Regular SPS Members*

Sam Fink, 1981  
Randall Danta 1994  
Douglas Mantle, 1994  
Andrew Smatko, 2001  
Barbara Lilley, 2003



This is a famous photo taken by Francis Farquhar of what Glen calls "The Palisades Climbing School". Farquhar paid Robert Underhill to come out to California to teach the Sierra Club mountaineers the 'proper' use of the rope

Oliver Kehrlein Award—"Honors an individual who has done outstanding work in the Sierra Club's or a Chapter's Outings program." (Established in 1969) Oliver Kehrlein himself was one of the first SPS emblem holders (1956).

Richard Akawie, 1984  
Cal and Louise French, 1987  
Ron Jones, 1994  
Duane McRuer, 1997  
Vicki Hoover, 1998

### ANGELES CHAPTER MAJOR AWARDS

Chester Versteeg Outings Award—"For long-term and outstanding leadership in furthering the enjoyment and safety of the outings program." (Established in 1976 as the Chapter's premier award for Outings; given the Versteeg name in 1987).

Jerry Keating, 1976	Dick Ramirez, 1989
Dick Akawie, 1977	Randy Bernard, 1990
Sam Fink, Paul Lipsohn, 1978	Randall Danta, 1991
John Backus, 1979	Patty Kline, 1993
Chuck Wilts, 1980	Gerry Dunie, 1995
Duane McRuer, 1981	Larry Tidball, 1996
Bill T. Russell, 1982	Bill Crane, 1997
How Bailey, 1983	Dan Richter, 2000

**Chester Versteeg Outings Award** *continued*

Mark Goebel, 1984

Ron Jones, 1985

Doug Mantle, 1987

Charlie Knapke, 2001

Bill Oliver, 2002

Tina Bowman, 2004

**Phil Bernays Service Award**—“For long-term and outstanding service to the Angeles Chapter in fields other than conservation and outings.” (Established in 1968)

John Wedberg, 1970

Howard Stephens, 1972

Duane McRuer, 1973

Dick Akawie, 1976, 1988

Dick Akawie, 1976, 1988

Bob Hicks, 1981

Charles Gerckens, 1982

**Lifelong Service Award**—“Given to a senior member who has provided consistent long-term service to the Angeles Chapter.” (Established in 1996)

Bob Hicks, Bill T. Russell, 1996

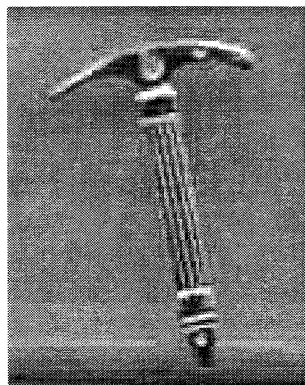
Duane McRuer, 1998

**Media Award**

John W. Robinson, 1976

**Elna Bakker Nature Interpretation Award**

John W. Robinson, 2001

**SPS Leadership Pin****SIERRA PEAKS SECTION LEADERSHIP AWARD**—

“Created by the SPS Membership to give recognition to those individuals who have shown outstanding leadership and service to the SPS over the years and who have fostered new leaders.” (Established in 1997)

Dave Dykeman and Bill T. Russell (posthumously), 1997

Doug Mantle and Duane McRuer, 1998

Dan Richter, 1999

Larry Tidball, 2000

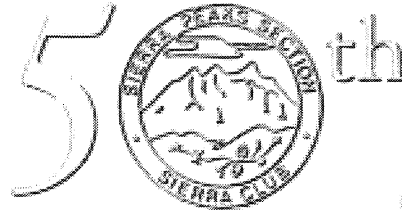
Barbee Tidball, 2002

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 Sept 4-5-6, 1969 SPS & DPS
**Mt (Chester) Versteeg (13,470') Dedication Climb**

“The U.S. Board of Geographic Names has bestowed this name on the previously unnamed peak just west of Lake Helen of Troy in Sequoia National park. Chester Versteeg was an active and beloved member of the Angeles Chapter for over half a century, founded the Desert Peaks Section, and supplied over 200 place names in the Sierra Nevada. We shall dedicate this peak in Chester’s memory and leave a register.” **Leaders John Robinson & Frank Sanborn**

# Memorable Mountains



## Sierra Recollections

by Donald Clarke

Distance prohibits a taped interview. But perhaps some reflections might be of interest. Fifty years is a long time to remember reliably. If I am inaccurate, please forgive.

In 1954, I moved to Southern California. The only place to find a Canadian climate was to climb. After a week in the Palisades that summer I turned to the Sierra Club for education.

There were a few good non-technical Club Sierra trips in '54 and '55 such as Tony Gomero's Langley and Falcon climbs. But the demand for such trips was not being satisfied. Frank Sanborn was leading interesting and demanding private backpack trips at the time, such as Sawtooth and Needham, and a circuit of Moose and Pear Lakes [memorable mosquitoes on that one]. His trips were congenial and well led, with a fairly regular list of participants, a natural start for the SPS.

I met Bud Bingham on the Club traverse of New York Butte and Keynote in 1955, led by Frank Sanborn. Bud and I made many trips together in the following years. On Labor Day 1956 we qualified for the emblem together climbing Brewer. And we stayed in touch for the rest of his life. He was a great trip partner.

We started SPS with an emphasis on non-technical climbs. Though not without argument. We recognized there were great c13 to c14 peaks not addressed by the Rock Climbing Section [RCS]. But some of us were members of the RCS and supporters of their training and qualification requirements. I do not recall any suggestion that rope and ice-ax needed equal consideration.

The history of the peak list is well recorded on your web site. I do indeed remember the Needham discussion. Shared the visit to it earlier in the season. Still think it is a crud heap, though the views are fine.

I was not active with the SPS very long. As recorded in the section history, pressure grew in 1957

to include technical climbs such as North Palisade on the peak list. Training and qualifications were not part of the drive. By the middle 1980's it seemed, to an outsider, that training and qualifications were well established.

Tuttle Creek and Georges Creek were two of my favorite Sierra entrances. Up Tuttle, I would poke at Corcoran and its neighbours, and every spring take a conditioning climb up the snow chute on the NE side of Langley. Even skied it once.

Bud and I climbed Williamson from George Creek in July 1955. Car to summit and back to timber in one day. Later that year, I brushed out the old fisherman trail. Coming out of the south fork in a fall snow storm, I saw four of the largest bighorn rams in my life. On a second attempt in August 1964, Harvey Hickman and I took about 20 rope lengths of c13 to low c14 up the granite buttress from the south fork to the summit of what then was just 13,211. Located between Tunnabora and Vacation footpass to Wallace Lake. Ascending, both of us used that chockstone and Harvey used it coming down. I stepped on it and dropped down about 100 ft with a few bounces. Goggles and some other gear went to the ice far below.

The 1950's and 1960's were golden years in the Sierras. Roads were good and cars reliable. No permits, low trail traffic, almost no restrictions. And mostly clean water. Wonderful memories. I appreciate how lucky I was.



Matterhorn, June 1956  
photo from J. Keating



## Memorable Mountains—*continued*

### A Trip To Remember

by Cuno Ranschau

On the week end of October 6,7 1979 Don Sparks, Doug Mantle and I (Cuno Ranschau) took a trip to climb some peaks. We drove up the Owens Valley to an eastside road head on Friday night. The next morning we started up a trail which finally played out at 9000 plus feet. At that point a nice wide chute went straight up the mountain. How pleasant! But Jerry Keating's writeup said NO, NO!! You must climb that nasty boulder ridge on the right, which we reluctantly did. At the top a boulder field presents itself which we crossed. Then we carefully followed JK's writeup to the summit where we arrived late P.M. Doug checked out the summit to make sure there was a register and then we laid down our sleeping bags in the very few flat places available.

When in my sleeping bag I'm thinking, "We won't wake up until 6:00 in the morning." But Doug, who seems to have a "circadian" rhythm built into his brain, woke us at 11:45! We signed in on Corcoran at 12:00, packed up and retraced our route down the mountain. It was just past full moon, and the low moon above the eastern horizon gave us a partial light on our route—hiding everything on the dark side of the rocks. No one got injured recrossing that boulder field, and we were at the car at about sunrise.

We drove across the valley to the beginning of Long John Canyon. Doug knew where it was having been there before. Don stayed in the car to correct homework papers, and Doug and I started up LJC.

It went well since there is a nice narrow trail all the way through the canyon to a high meadow. We turned left and headed to the summit of New York Butte. We were there by noon and enjoyed a nice day. We took the direct route back to the car which begins very reasonably but then comes to a loong, steep slope. The hard under surface is covered with small loose rocks which are just waiting to go if someone steps on them. Great caution had to be used to not set them off and go cascading down the

mountain with the debris. I don't recall any significant mishaps and we arrived, eventually, back at the car.

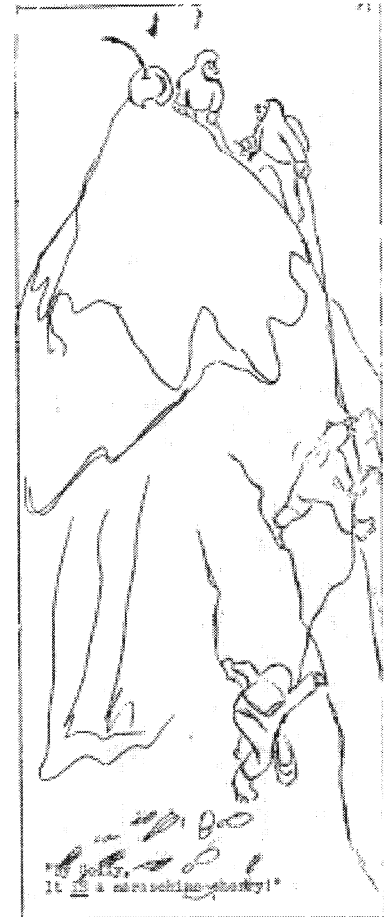
We had dinner in Lone Pine and headed south to Randsberg. We drove as far as possible along some jeep tracks into the desert and took up our day packs again.

The moon was just barely up on the east side of the mountain and we were in the semi-darkness on the west side. We stumbled along as best we could until we reached the ridge and then followed it to the summit of Red Mountain, arriving there at 9:30 p.m.

Don surprised us by bringing ice cream bars which he had packed in CO2 from home, managing to keep them cold for over 30 hours. What a wonderful surprise!

We stumbled back to the car in complete darkness with little aid from faulty flashlights. Once more no disasters befell us.

So with several hours to spare, and help from some friends, I finished all three lists in one day!



This cartoon 1st appeared in *The Sierra Echo*, Vol. 7 , No. 1, Jan/Feb 1963

Memorable Mountains - *continued*

## My Two Most Memorable Leaders

by Barbara Sholle



In my quest to finish the list, I was fortunate to have had the assistance of two outstanding leaders for the majority of my tough climbs. I believe that these men felt greater satisfaction from having their trip participants attain the summit than from achieving the summit themselves. My first mentor was Dave Dykeman who had the distinction of having



Doug Mantle & Barbara

been a leader on a scheduled trip to every peak on the list. The trips with Dave usually involved returning to camp after dark. In fact, I thought that was the norm for all SPS trips. It was important to have extra extra batteries (no typo in this sentence) in your pack. On a dayhike of Clyde Minaret, I used both sets of spare batteries! The late-night returns were because Dave was ambitious about how much the group could do in a day and the group was always able to do it. Tehipite Dome as a group dayhike seemed unreasonable (30 miles, 5000' gain) but we did it! Dave acted as both leader and sweep on his trips so that the group always stayed together. He would accept any participant as long as they had a willing spirit. I truly miss him and his enthusiasm for leading people to summits.

My second mentor was Doug Mantle who took me under his wing for the most challenging peaks on the list. Doug never failed to amaze me with his efficiency of movement, organization, conditioning, intelligence, and sense of humor. When I went with Doug, I had no wasted steps—what little energy I had was conserved! Doug's climbs all over the world are most impressive as are his numerous finishes of the SPS, DPS, and HPS lists. (One would think he did not have a full-time law practice.) Doug also serves as SPS safety co-chair and conducts regular snow and rock check-offs, which he has done for many

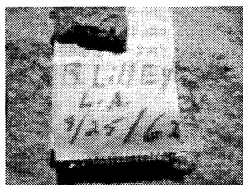
years. One of the many trips with Doug that stands out in my mind was Devil's Crag, which was the first time I had climbed with him. Doug had planned the trip because Vi Grasso told him that I 'needed' it—and Doug would do anything for his friends. When I became his friend, he helped me (as he did so many others) get the peaks we had to have. Another trip that I never will forget was one that Doug planned for my #243,244, and 245 peaks to Mendel, McGee, and Scylla in five days. Doug was very encouraging to me when I started to fade on the way to Scylla. I finally got within 10 feet of the summit, and burst into tears. I said "Doug, I'm going to finish the list!" and he commented "Not until you get up here". It has been a pleasure (most of the time) and an overwhelming feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction (all of the time) to go on trips with Doug Mantle.



Dave Dykeman & Barbara



Climbing Mt. Morrison, Sept. 16, 1956  
Barbara Lilley & Ralph Merton



## MORE "GOOD OLD DAYS" REMINISCENCES



1. When Sierra Club membership required at least one sponsor; thus fellow club members were (hopefully) more trustworthy.
2. When gas prices were WAY below \$1 per gallon!
3. When registers could still be found on peaks—some even with signatures from the first ascent. (The HEAVY ammunition box register I placed on Mt. Goethe in 1963 recently "went missing"—GRR.)
4. When articles published in newsletters contained only the writer's errors, not those of a scanner. (Fortunately, the CURRENT Echo editors have overcome this problem.)
5. When there was not only a road to the old Palisade Glacier trailhead but at one time one could even park there overnight. (The road was eventually destroyed by a flash flood.)

Did we have more fun in the "good old days"—hard to say. But before permits and quotas, one could simply drive to the roadhead, find a parking place and start hiking—no paperwork required. And, with a few exceptions, a pleasant, sociable evening could be enjoyed around a warm campfire.

Incidentally, there are still Wilderness Areas where (to the best of my knowledge) one can still enjoy the real "freedom of the hills". These include the Willowa Mtns. of Oregon, the Warner Mtns. of No. Calif., the Uinta Mtns. of Utah, the Wind River and Bighorn Mtns. of Wyoming, the Beartooth Mtns. of Montana, the Sawtooth Mtns. of Idaho and most of those in Colorado. Happy peak bagging!  
Barbara Lilley

## SWEATY GUYS LIKE US

We're mountaineers with hairy ears;  
we're sweaty sons a bitches.  
And we've got the guts to get our butts  
up some steep and scary pitches.  
We've felt the bitter cold of shivering bivouacs,  
mountain storms and high glaciers' ancient ice.  
And known the warmth, comfort and fellowship  
of evenings' campfires so nice.  
We've lived the terror of searching for a toehold  
above a thousand feet of air.  
Endured exhausted body, aching legs, monotonous  
plodding and eyes and face burning from sun's glare;  
swirling spindrift, whiteouts, disorienting mist;  
and when things go wrong the summit's missed.

We've seen the melting snow  
puddling in the corner of the tent,  
a wet sleeping bag and rain  
dribbling from the vent.  
Sweaty guys like us and the  
macho mountain mamas we climb with  
seek and find our grand adventures  
in near and far high places.  
But its the things we've dared & the memories shared  
that put the smiles on our dirty sweaty faces.

**Jack Miller**



## Pat Gentry's Memories

Dear David, (*and the SPS Members*)

I'm sorry I couldn't participate in your video interview. The distance between us was a little too much. However, my husband and I will be attending the banquet in October. I'm looking forward to seeing old friends. There are lots of good memories!

I joined the Sierra Club in August of 1953 after arriving in Los Angeles from the East coast. In the early months of 1954 I got involved with the people who were leading the "outlaw" trips. From then on I was gone just about every weekend. We hiked and climbed everywhere.... up and down the east and west sides of the Sierra and the high points. Many of the local mountain and desert ranges. We ventured into Arizona and also made two trips to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

The size of the group on a trip varied from two to maybe ten or more. We were all very independent and basically split into smaller groups to climb peaks others had climbed but we hadn't. It was on a trip in the Sierra that the idea of a Sierra Peak Section came about. All I remember is that it was a nice sized group. We were sitting around a campfire on a Saturday night. We were talking about the great times we were having. Lee Owings made an off-hand comment (and I don't remember exactly how he put it.... too many years have gone by) about there "not being an actual group to take people into the Sierra". We looked at him and the thought hit us all at the same time. We knew then what we had to do. The rest is history.

You mentioned interesting stories of climbs and adventures in the Sierra. Mine seemed to have happened during the "outlaw" days. There was the forest fire in Kings Canyon NP. On the climb of Boundary and Montgomery peaks on the Calif. and Nevada border, Lee Owings and I had an exciting UFO encounter! Several weeks later in the middle of the night on the top of Santa Rosa Mt, I left my sleeping bag and companions to answer Nature's call and witnessed a close and spectacular meteor which

turned the night to day. There are other stories too. We all have had some.

It wasn't long after I joined the Sierra Club that I was asked to join the membership committee. This plus all the mountaineering trips kept me busy. However in the spring of 1955 I decided to join the Rock Climbing Section as there were some peaks I wanted to climb that would require some technical ability. It was there that I met my husband, Arvel. By late summer we were married. I continued to keep in contact with my other friends as we got involved with forming the SPS. Arvel became an instructor for the rock climbers. About a year later we were asked to co-chair the L. A. Chapter Membership Committee. A lot of important and controversial changes were to be made and they wanted someone who would see that it was done. It was an interesting experience.

We continued to climb with the SPS and the RCS. However, in 1965 my husband discovered sailing. He became an expert at it. I worked the foredeck for him when we raced the boat. Check out his website ([www.arvelgentry.com](http://www.arvelgentry.com)). We kept our membership with the Club and kept in touch with our climbing friends but sailing became the major pastime. My husband was an Aerodynamicist with Douglas Aircraft but in 1977 he joined Boeing in Seattle.

We continued to race our boat up here. However I discovered the Mountaineers! It wasn't long before I was hiking with them. The Cascades were so close that you could do a hike or climb into the heart of the mountains in one day and come home. I soon became co-chair of the Mid-week Hikes section. I led hikes as well as scouted new ones for them. I also got in with a group that hiked and climbed on private trips. My "outlaw" days were back again. However, after 12 years of involvement with the mid-week hikers, I became tired of people problems so I dropped out of the Mountaineers and became a solo hiker in the Cascades. I love it and continue to hike even now.

I know that a good deal of what I've written is not what you needed to hear, but I wanted you to know that a love for the mountains never disappears no matter how old you get.

Sincerely, Patricia Meixner Gentry



Bob Shelter & Pat Meixner Gentry  
Climbing Darwin - Aug. 19, 1956  
John Robinson photo collection



# In Memory of Sue Gyga

Memorable Mountains - *continued*

## Sue's Life Comes Full Cycle

Sue Gyga was killed August 28, 2005, while cycling with her husband, Wayne Martin, near their home in Chelan, Washington.

Sue's start in life began inauspiciously in Trona, CA, where she was born, a twin, on May 9, 1946. She graduated from Whittier Union High School in 1964. She attended UC, Davis, and graduated from UCLA with a degree in economics and partial teaching credential which served her briefly while substituting in Pensacola, Florida. After moving to Seattle, Sue worked for the IRS while earning her commercial pilot's license. Happy to leave the IRS (Sue's sunny disposition and sympathy for the downtrodden were liabilities as a revenue officer), she piloted for Island Air in Guam until the company folded. Back in Seattle, she met Wayne Martin, who founded a thriving mail order bicycle parts business and put on cycling centuries and arduous bike events in the eastern Sierra, Death Valley, and Baja, CA.

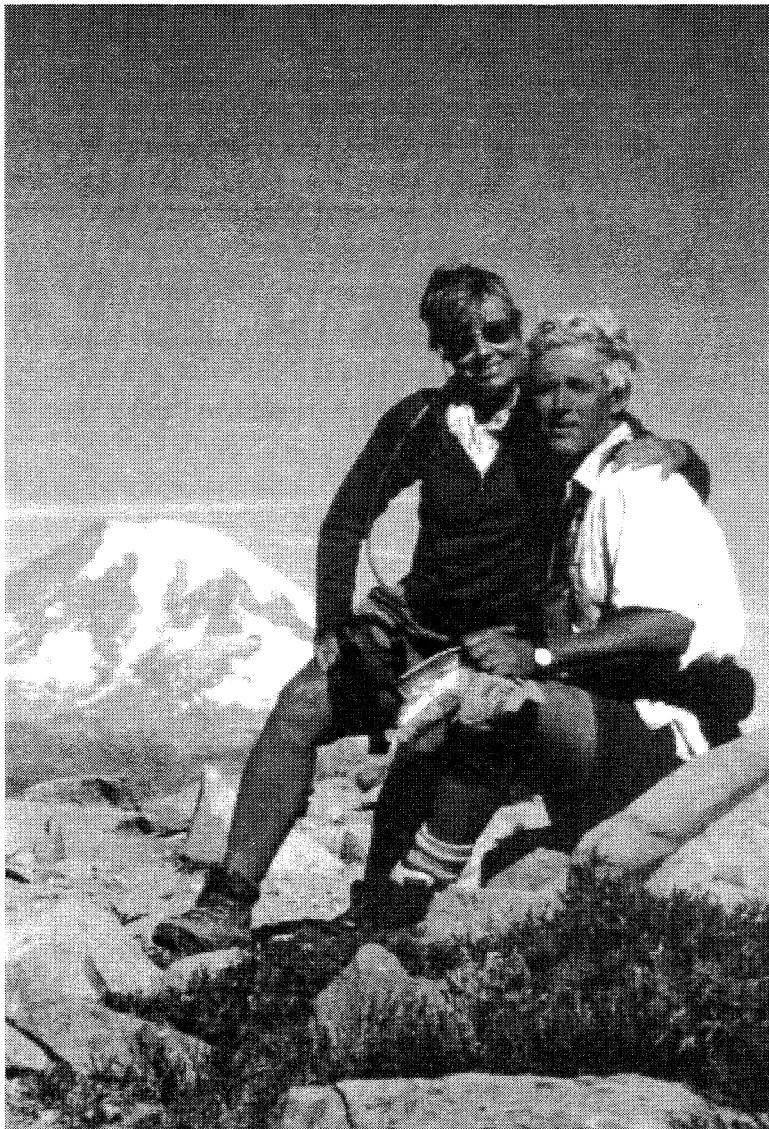
The two became partners in WayneSue Adventures which gleaned clients via the Internet. One of their

personal adventures entailed rowing sculls the entire Inside Passage from Haines, Alaska, to Bellingham, Washington.

Sue and Wayne led numerous bicycling, kayaking, and hiking trips throughout New Zealand's North and South Islands, in addition to cycling the full length of Baja numerous times. The irony of her death is that she survived left lane driving, shoulderless roads with no middle lines, horrendous traffic rife with trucks and motor homes, diesel fumes, donkeys and other road hazards only to lose her life to an irresponsible driver who was fumbling for his cigarette in good weather on a straight, flat road with no other traffic other than Sue and Wayne on a Sunday outing a few miles from home. Also struck, Wayne survived with minor injuries. Sue's death is a heartbreaking loss to those who loved her.

Mary Motheral, older sister

Sue Gyga with her husband, Wayne Martin



## Mountains of My Memories:

### Tower, Piute, Pettit, and Volunteer July 4-8, 1986

By: Larry Tidball

Whenever the participants of this trip happen to mention the trip to one another, we all think back to this tough outing lead by Dave Dykeman and Nancy Gordon with mixed pleasure and pain.

When Doug and Tina wrote of leading PP&V in an article in the November 2002 Echo, I said to myself that I had to make some note of our 1986 trip to this area. This anniversary year has put the pressure on to finally make it into print. As Doug and Tina hinted these peaks are never easy combining lots of miles and gain that we seem to try to do in too few days just because we think we can do it. Only the strongest will do this trip without taking additional days for the backpack between these spread out peaks.

The trip in 1986 was lead by two of the strongest of the day: Dave Dykeman and Nancy Gordon. Dave's grand plan for 10 days was to do TPP&V in 5 days, Conness and North on Day 6, and the Clark Range plus Starr King on days 7-10. Of course that means moving trailheads from the East side of the range to the West side without losing any peak days. The leaders with their determination made them all. Dave was on his way to finish the list in 1987 and needed these peaks. Nancy did not finish until '95 but needed them too. Others on the trip were; Richard Fritsen, Don Weiss, Sue Wyman, Vic Henny, Kathy Price, and Martha Flores. All were very strong climbers and hikers during this season. This article is mostly about the memories, but the occasional facts (*in italics*) come from Dave's trip report in the March 1987 Echo (look it up if you want an understated purely factual account of the trip).

The trip started from Twin Lakes on July the Fourth with a backpack (*3,400 'gain and 19 miles,*) that was extended for many hours longer than the statistics would indicate first by trail that did not exist anymore so we re-routed way around, and then by avalanche debris. 1986 was the year of the huge Presidents Day weekend storms. Avalanches triggered by that series of storms did a lot of damage that February, and had a lasting effect even into July. Our route was blocked for miles and miles it seemed

### Memorable Mountains - *continued*

by thousands of downed trees. The snow must have been about 6' deep with consolidated older snow when the new snow fall ran down almost every slope. The trees (even the big ones that had lived for hundreds of years without an avalanche) were broken off about 6' off of the ground. These same trees were piled across the trail like giant pick-up-sticks with branches, limbs, and trunks every which way, and mixed with some packed old snow. So we had to constantly climb over one tree and from that one up and over more, sometimes not touching the ground for some distance. And did I mention that the snow was just right for post holing? All of this with full packs of course. (The same storm caused avalanches wiped out the 3' diameter trees growing in an around Onion Valley). Since we were off our planned route somewhat, we stashed extra food and gear at a trail junction and took supplies for 1 night on towards Tower Peak.

On the 5th we headed for Tower with daypacks cross-country (*13 miles 4,200' gain,*). Slowed by distance from our camp to the peak and sun cupped snow we did not arrive back at camp prior to dark. Too late to backpack to where we had stashed the rest of our food, we camped again in the same location. Richard Fritsen and I had one extra freeze dried meal we had not stashed (I think it did not fit into the bear bag). So the two of us at least had a late dinner. The rest of group went to bed after finishing any scraps of their lunches.

On the 6th, we had to make up the miles we did not backpack the day before and were off at dawn heading for Seavey Pass where we dropped packs, set up camp, and headed off for Piute. Now Dave was always one for the direct approach. That is if you can see the peak, hike directly towards it until you reach the top. Never mind you are hiking thorough the forest and brush paralleling a nearby trail or going up and down needless gain. So we got to the top of Piute, looked at Tower way off in the distance, and thought: "Wow how did we get here, if we were way over there yesterday?" Back at camp after dark again, we had a late dinner. Stats for the day: 18





*miles, 4,000 'gain.* I think it was on this peak that Dave actually slowed down a bit near the summit and Nancy let the group go ahead to the summit a short distance away while Dave caught his breath. Boy was Dave mad when he caught up to us on the summit. He never let the group have a chance to get ahead of him or catch their breath again the rest of the trip.

After Tower, Richard Fritsen skipped Pettit and Volunteer the next day. He had gotten blisters that were getting bigger each day, and on the hike back to camp from Piute, his boots were starting to fall apart. Off at dawn again, the rest of us headed down the trail (for a change), past Benson Lake and did the usual thing up Volunteer, and a ridge traverse to Pettit. Stat's for the day: *21 miles, 6,200' of gain and 24 major stream crossings* before returning to camp after dark.

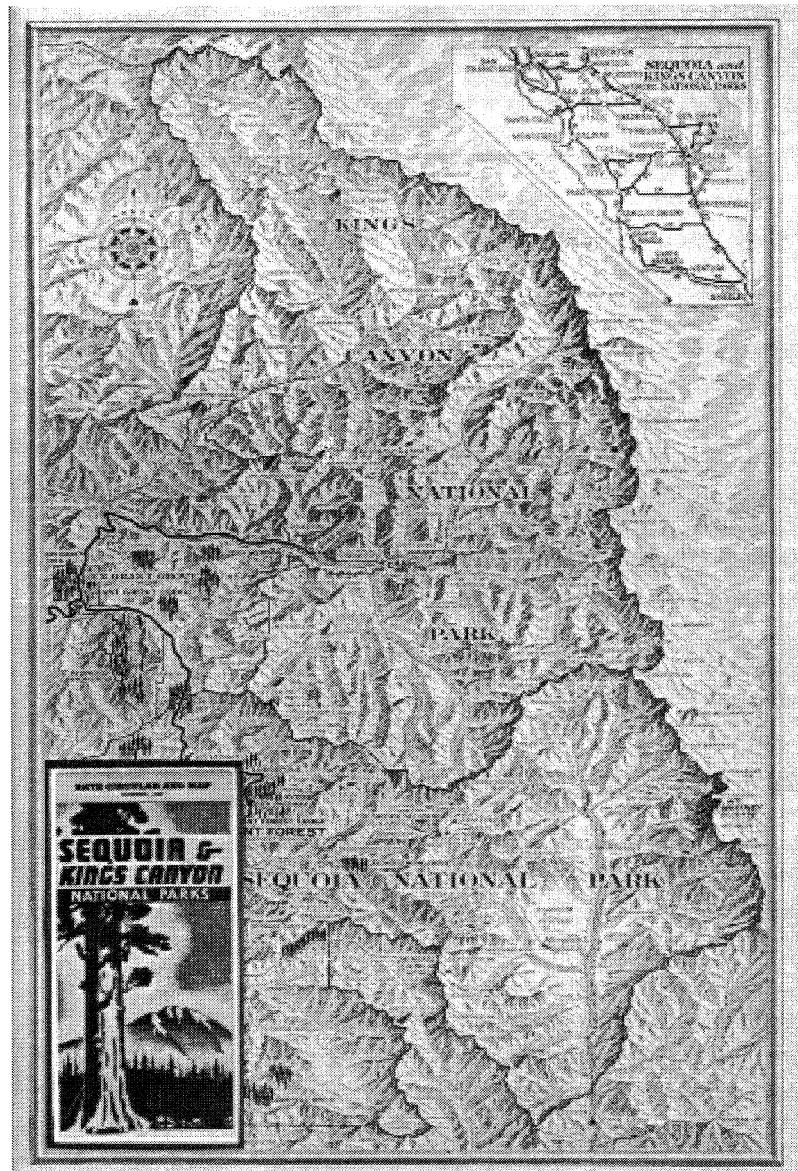
On the 8th we almost had a rest day, only hiking *14 miles* to Twin Lakes in time for showers and a late lunch in Bridgeport. My knees at this point were killing me and I hobbled out about 45 minutes behind the group with both knees wrapped and leaning on a stick.

While relaxing at lunch/dinner the group got to talking. This group of very tough hikers realized this had been a real "SPS Death March". With long days (read 5AM to 10PM hiking each day), a relentless pace and little in the way of any stops (even on the summits) this meal in the coffee shop was the first time we had a chance to exchange more than a few breathless words with the others on the trip. It was just too much to continue at this pace for the rest of the week. Fritsen and I had carpooled and although we had planned on doing the Clark Range continuation of the trip; our sore feet and knees forced us to back out. Vic and Sue also bailed out on completing the rest of the trip. With the exception of Don Weiss, the others had not signed up for the Clark Range and also headed home. For our 5 days we had gotten 4 peaks while doing *18,800' of gain, and 85 miles* (mostly cross country).

The leaders plus Don met up with the others who had signed up for the second half of the trip and completed their entire itinerary getting 7 more peaks. For Dave, Nancy, and Don their week totaled *37,000' of gain and 147 miles.*

One final memorable footnote: On the way home Richard Fritsen and I stopped off at the boot repair shop located inside Wilson's sporting goods in Bishop. Richard had another Sierra trip starting in 10 days and hoped to leave his boots to be repaired and pick them up prior to the next trip. He set his tired boots on the countertop and explained this to the repairman. The cobbler rummaged under the counter as if to locate a work order form to write up the repairs. Instead, he pulled out a book of matches and told Richard to "burn them" as they were in such bad shape.

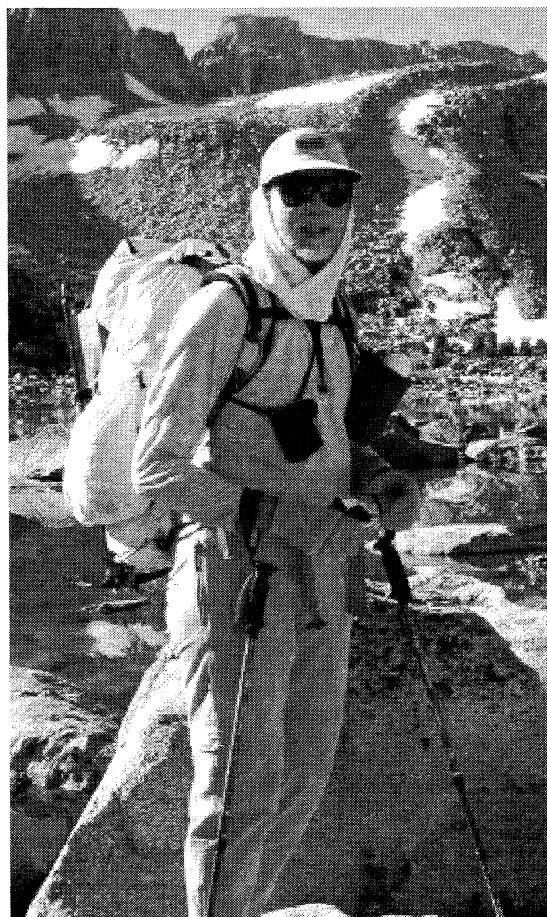
Memories.....



# Producing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SPS Banquet Video

By David F. Sholle

When the committee was put together to plan the SPS 50<sup>th</sup> banquet, I suggested to Dan Richter that it would be nice to do some oral interviews or to shoot some video of the people involved. Dan and the committee thought it was a good idea, and I offered to do it, as I had some experience shooting and editing video. I have long thought about doing some sort of interview project on some topic, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet video provided me an ideal opportunity to try it. I figured that people would like to talk about a pursuit that is so important in their lives. It turned out to be a much larger project than I planned, but I'm glad I took it on, as I met many interesting people and heard numerous fascinating tales.



When the committee first suggested names of people to interview, I knew more than half the people on the list, but we had no idea how many people would respond and want to be interviewed. We thought that if at least ten people were interviewed, the project could be successful. As it turned out, the response and interest was more than we expected, and I shot video of thirty eight people, and captured well over six hours of video. I ended up with far more footage than could possibly be used in the banquet, and the problem became how to decide what to edit out and what to keep for the banquet. Since five founding SPS members were interviewed, I decided to break up the banquet video into five segments, each starting with comments of a founding member. I also decided to include in the banquet video at least some comments of everyone who was interviewed. Many of the interviewees were very funny, and I had to bite my lip and refrain from laughing as I operated the

camera, so that I would not mess up the soundtrack.

I'd like to thank all of those who agreed to be interviewed. I had already met about 2/3 of those I interviewed, but I had never met the other 1/3. During the interviews I learned a lot more about many of the 2/3 I had already met. For example, I knew about Mark Goebel through skiing and occasionally running into him on Mount Baldy, but I didn't know of his extensive mountaineering background and his involvement with the Sierra Club while growing up. Everyone was interesting, and they were all happy to be interviewed. It was common for those



interviewed to comment on the elaborate nature of my video camera, audio and lighting setup, and I'd reply that it was a hobby that got out of hand. As peak climbers pursuing a list, many replied that they understood the feeling. I also often had long conversations with the interview subjects after the camera was turned off, and I concluded that Sierra climbers are an interesting and varied lot who pursue life to the fullest.

Many of the interviews were done at our house in Long Beach or at our condo in Mammoth Lakes, but others I traveled to. These included a series of interviews hastily done in Izzy Lieberman's motel room at the Mount Whitney Motel in Lone

Pine during the Tuttle Creek gathering in September. I'd like to thank Izzy for graciously allowing me to take over his motel room for several hours as a studio. He really wanted to attend the banquet, but he had already planned another trip a year ago that conflicts.

I'd like to thank Mary MacMannes for her help with this project. Mary suggested that I shoot some video at her condo in the valley, to make it convenient for those interviewees who lived in the valley. I was able to video six people there upstairs one Sunday afternoon/evening while Mary held a dinner party downstairs. Ask Mary sometime what term she used to refer to the room in which I shot the video.

I traveled to visit Tom and Candy Ross in Bishop to video Tom, and to RJ Secor's house in Pasadena to video him. Jerry and Nancy Keating took me out to Palm Desert to visit with and video Sid "San Jac" Davis, and I thank them for doing that. I'd especially like to thank Jerry for his tireless pursuit of historical information and photos, as well as for tracking down several people to be interviewed. I interviewed Burt Falk in Mammoth, and the day before the interview Burt and Jo had us over to their condo for an evening of conversation and a great meal of freshly caught salmon, which Burt had just brought back from a trip to Alaska.

I'd like to thank my wife Barbara, who supported me through all of this and who helped me select video segments to fit into an under one hour banquet video.

I'd like to thank Bob Cates, who did a great job in scanning old photos, for both print use and video



**Vickie Hoover & Barbara Sholle**



**Jerry Keating & Sid Davis**

use. I'd also like to thank those who submitted photos, including Frank Bressel, Pat Meixner Gentry, Lucy Woodward, Vicky Hoover, Louise Werner and John Robinson.

Only a small segment of each interview can make it into this banquet video, because of time limitations. The banquet video will be supplied free of charge to those who were interviewed, and will be available for sale through the SPS to everyone else. The entire set of interviews will be edited and will be made available for purchase at some future date through the SPS on a set of DVDs. There are many interesting, funny and historical stories that had to be edited out of the banquet video, but they will end up on the set of DVDs. The proceeds of the sales of the banquet video and the full set of interviews will go to support SPS programs and banquets.

Finally, I'd like to thank Sid "San Jac" Davis for making a generous donation to defray the costs of materials used in producing this video project.



<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*.**

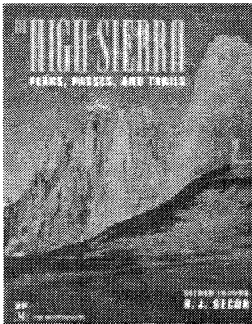
**Go to the Angeles Chapter website, then click on Sections, then the Sierra Peak Section. Once you are in the SPS website just click on the anniversary logo and begin your trip into the "ancient" lore of the SPS!**

# Guidebooks to The High Sierra, 2005

By Bob Sumner

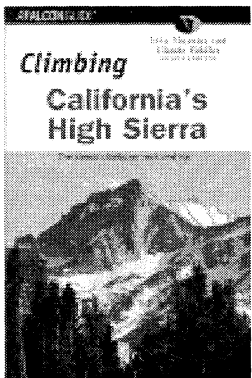
**We first looked at guidebooks to the High Sierra ten years ago in the Echo's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition**

**(Nov-Dec 1995). Since that time, there has been a lot of progress. Many of these books are now in their (improved) second editions, while some helpful new ones have emerged as well.**



*The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, and Trails* by R.J. Secor. While the first edition of this book was really good, the second edition is even better. The second edition was expanded by about 100 pages, and numerous peaks had additional routes added. Many route descriptions were clarified or enhanced. The

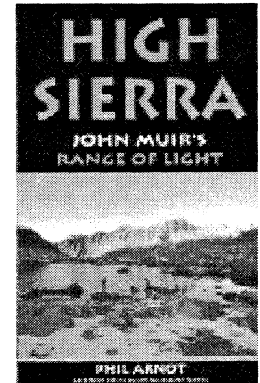
pictures seem larger and clearer, with important routes clearly marked. This book is a keeper, and is the number one text for anyone who is serious about ascending Sierra summits. (A third edition of *High Sierra* is in the works, but a publication date is not yet known.)



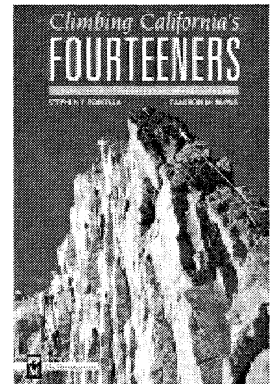
*Climbing California's High Sierra* by John Moynier and Claude Fiddler. The first rendition of this book was called *Sierra Classics: 100 Best Climbs in the High Sierra*. The old edition was a bit rough, but the new edition is much improved. In the new one, the authors have selected some better peaks and routes. There are overview maps, route topos, and many nice

pictures with marked routes. An added plus is the many background stories and historicals for the peaks and routes. The route descriptions are decent, but not as detailed as in the R.J.'s book. Overall, the book is beneficial for pursuing classic technical routes, but less so for hiking and general mountaineering.

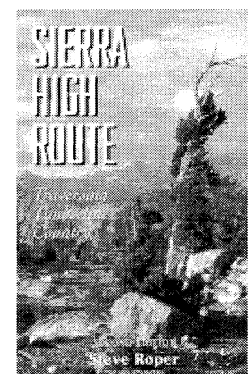
*High Sierra: John Muir's Range of Light* by Phil Arnot. More than any other book covered here, this one is a Sierra explorer's "idea" book. It discusses the best summits for overnight stays (Whitney, Barnard, Dana, etc) and where to spend a memorable Christmas (San Joaquin, Conness, Tom, etc). Arnot describes destinations by region (Evolutions, Kaweahs, Palisades, etc) and goes into great detail about the sights and natural history of each. Prominent peaks and routes are mentioned, but not in any great detail. It's an eclectic and fun book, but falls into the role of a companion guide.



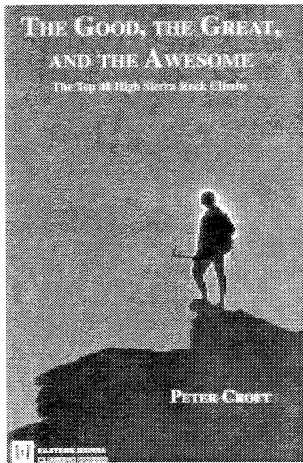
*Climbing California's Fourteeners* by Stephen Porcella and Cameron Burns. The first edition of this book, *California's Fourteeners*, was very good and the new edition continues that trend. While the first edition described one or two routes up each fourteener, the new book has a total of 183 routes on the 15 peaks. Each mountain has a detailed historical section, and many pictures have been added – both historical and routes-related. While many of the routes are technical, the easier ones are still included and all are described adequately. The one exception is the weak section on Mt. Shasta, which is no substitute for *The Mt Shasta Book* by Andy Selters and Michael Zanger.



*The Sierra High Route: Traversing Timberline Country* by Steve Roper. While this book is by no means a peak bagger's guide to the High Sierra, Roper's route passes so close to many SPS peaks that this book cannot be ignored. While sometimes utilizing trails, the High Route



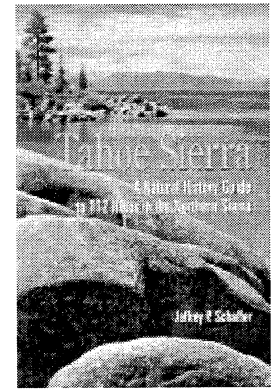
often traverses seldom trammled regions – the environs of many remote SPS peaks. The book describes these areas in detail, with overview and topo maps included. Furthermore, descriptions of the standard ascent routes are included for SPS peaks very near to the route. The book is just small enough to carry on a backcountry trip, and the section on the exploration history of the Sierra makes for a nice afternoon read beside an alpine lake.



*The Good, the Great, and the Awesome* by Peter Croft. This book bills itself as “The Guidebook to the Top 40 High Sierra Rock Climbs”. As such, it is good for those seeking technical ascents of several SPS peaks, but not so good for everyone else. Indeed, only one class 2 ascent is listed (Agassiz). The book has some good route topos and pictures, but the best feature is the anecdotes Croft relates from his years of climbing. If you

are seeking adventures on High Sierra rock, or enjoy Eastern Sierra lore, this book is a good pick.

*The Tahoe Sierra* by Jeffrey P. Schaffer. This book has detailed route descriptions for many of the northern SPS peaks, including Sierra Buttes, Elwell, Tinker Knob, Granite Chief, Pyramid, Tallac, Round Top, Freel, and Rose. It covers peaks and trails mostly near the crest, and includes topos with the hikes listed by number. It includes many hikes to lakes, and describes portions of the Pacific Crest Trail, Tahoe-Yosemite Trail, and Tahoe Rim Trail. It’s a must-have for serious exploring in the Northern Sierra.



Many of the aforementioned books have sections on finding maps and obtaining permits. Even where this information is weak or dated, it is largely irrelevant thanks to the abundance of information available on the Internet. Most government agencies are online now, and the information presented on their websites is usually fairly current.

Most of the books can be ordered quite easily through online resellers like [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and Barnes and Noble ([www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)). Good sources for rarer books include Chessler Books ([www.chesslerbooks.com](http://www.chesslerbooks.com)) and Powells in Portland ([www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com).)

## Photos tell the tale of 20 years history in the Sierra.

Photos by Daryn Dodge



Mt. Darwin September 1983



Mt. Darwin August 2003

# 1964 - 2004

## SIERRA PEAKS SECTION LIST FINISHERS!



#1 Andy Smatko  
10/25/64  
Mt. Muah



#2 Tom Ross  
1965  
Norman Clyde  
Peak



#3 Barbara Lilley  
9/28/69  
Marion Peak



#4 Jerry Keating  
8/19/72  
Table Mountain



#5 Gordon MacLeod  
9/3/73  
Center Peak



#6 Arkel Erb  
8/1/66  
Goat Mountain

(see #50 for photo)  
#7 Doug Mantle  
9/28/74 - Clouds Rest



#9 Elton Fletcher  
7/19/77  
Eagle Scout Peak

(no photo)  
#8 Ed Treacy  
8/13/76 - Finger Peak

#10 Roy Magnuson  
8/27/78 - Round Top



#11 Barbara Magnuson  
8/27/78 - Round Top



(no photo)  
#12 Timothy Treacy  
8/5/79 - Electra Peak

#13 Bill Sanders  
9/16/79 - Bloody Mountain



(no photos)  
#14 Cuno Ranschau  
9/16/79 - Mount Corcoran  
#15 Bill Schuler  
6/16/80 - Mount Warren

#16 Greg Vernon 7/25/80 - The Hermit  
#17 Jack Grams 7/26/81 - Devil's Crag #1

#18 Nathan Hoover  
8/29/81 - Mount Tinemaha



#19 Victoria Hoover  
8/29/81 - Mount Tinemaha

(no photos)  
#20 William Hoover  
8/29/81 - Mount Tinemaha  
#21 Ron Bartell 8/1/82 -  
Pyramid Peak #1



#22 Frances Hoover 10/2/83 - Mt. Powell



### SIERRA PEAKS SECTION LIST FINISHERS!

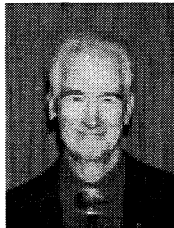


#23 Rich Gnagy  
6/1/85 - Lamont Peak

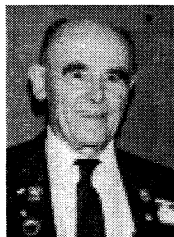


#24 Norman F. Rohn  
8/31/85 - Marion Peak

(no photo)  
#25 Lloyd Brown  
9/7/85 - Mount McCadie



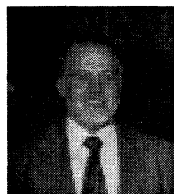
#26 Duane McRuer  
9/20/85 - Mount Gilbert



#27 Bill T. Russell  
9/21/85 - Mount Goode



#28 R.J. Secor  
10/5/86  
Smith Mountain



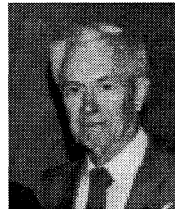
#29 Dave Dykeman  
7/18/87 - Mount Muah

(no photos)  
#30 Don Palmer  
7/15/88 - Observation Peak

#31 Bob Emerick 9/16/89 Mt Morgan #1

#32 Bob Hicks 9/8/90 - Clouds Rest

#33 George Hubbard 9/29/90 - Alta Peak



#34 Gene Mauk  
9/29/90 - Alta Peak



#35 Jim Murphy  
9/21/91 - Mount Dana

(see group photo - middle)  
#36 Vi Grasso 9/28/91  
Mount Stanford #2



#37 George Toby  
9/19/92 - Alta Peak



#38 Dave Petzold - 10/9/92  
Siretta Peak



#39  
Tina  
(Stough)  
Bowman  
(left)  
10/9/92  
Bloody  
Mountain



#40 Eric Schumacher  
9/20/92 - Pilot Knob #2

(no photos)

#41 Dale Van Dalsem 9/25/93 - Lone Pine Pk

#42 Joe Stephens 8/13/94 Observation Peak

## SIERRA PEAKS SECTION LIST FINISHERS!

(see group photo pg. 33-right)

#43 Sue Wyman 9/17/94 - Mount Morrison  
(no photos)

# 44 Vic Henney 9/17/94 - Mount Morrison

#45 David Campbell 9/2/95 - Observation

#46 Michael Lorr 9/9/95 - Alta Peak

#47 Nancy Gordon 9/23/95 - Bloody Mountain



#48 Mary Gygax Motheral  
10/5/96 - Mt. Baldwin

(no photo)

# 49 Steven Thaw  
10/15/96 - Mt. Muir



#50 Doug Jones  
6/1/97 - Kern Peak



# 51 Barbara Sholle  
9/19/98 - Cloudripper



#52 Larry Tidball  
10/31/98 - Mt. Gould

(no photo)

#53 Steve Eckert  
10/3/99 - Kern Peak



#54 Don Sparks  
8/7/00 - Mt. McDuffie



# 55 Ron Hudson  
9/30/00 - San Joaquin



# 56 Erik Siering  
9/8/01 - Clouds Rest



# 57 Gerry Holleman  
9/29/01 - Taylor Dome  
#58 Pat Holleman  
9/29/01 - Taylor Dome



# 59 Reiner Stenzel  
9/21/01 - Three Sisters



# 60 Mirna Roach  
10/11/02 - Kearsarge Peak  
# 61 Greg Roach  
10/11/02 - Kearsarge Peak



#62 Ret Moore  
9/27/03 - Lamont



#63 Ron Jones  
9/25/04 - San Joaquin Peak