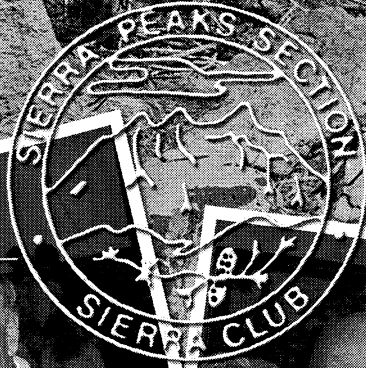


The Sierra

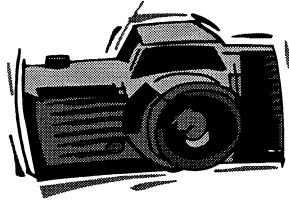
VOLUME 49 NUMBER 6



ECHO

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2005





FRONT COVER

SPS Celebrates 50 Years

Upper left - George Wallerstein, Patricia Meixner Gentry and Tom Ross.

Upper right - Rich Gnagy, Ret Moore, Maggie Moore.

Middle left - Roger Gaefcke, John Robinson.

Middle right - Jerry Keating, Leta Secor, R.J. Secor.

Lower left - Doug Mantle, Barbee Tidball, Barbara Sholle.

Lower right -

Miles and Maureen Brubacher.

Photos by Mary MacMannes & Dave Sholle.

Peak List See Stories Inside

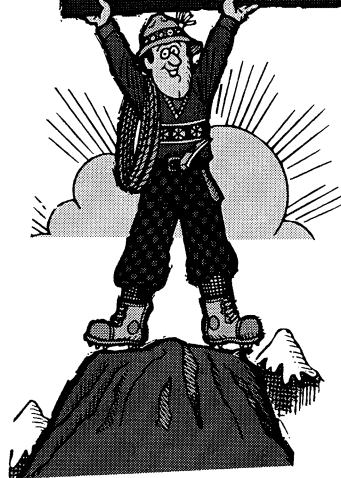
Palm View Peak
Koip
Gibbs
Mt. Bolton Brown
Split Mtn.
Pyramid Peak
Owens Peak
North Maggie

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.

February 21, 2006 Annual Joint Meeting - The Desert Peaks Section will host this year's Annual Joint Meeting Section get-together. Long time friend and recently retired BLM Ranger Steve Smith will present a fascinating program on the Adopt-A-Cabin Program focusing on the many historic cabins located in the mountains and canyons where we hike. Location: Griffith Park Ranger Station, 4730 Crystal Springs Dr. From LA take the I-5 to Griffith Park. 7:30PM.

WINTER TRIPS 2006



JANUARY - FEBRUARY

M/E: Jan 21 Sat SPS./DPS/LTC Local Baldy

Snow Practice: Review all aspects of snow climbing, including rope travel, use of ice axe and snow anchors. For anyone wishing to practice their skills or brush up on new techniques, especially for aspiring M & E candidates. Restricted to Sierra Club members with prior experience with ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel Send SC#, climbing resume, e-mail and H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson, co-ldr: Tom McDonnell

M/E: Feb 4 Sat SPS./DPS/LTC Local Baldy

Snow Practice: See Jan 21st announcement above. Ldr: Nile Sorenson, co-ldr: Tom McDonnell

MARCH

M/E: March 18-19 Sat-Sun Mt. San Gorgonio (11,499') snow climb: Strenuous, 16 mi rt, 4600' gain. Sat pack in to Dry Lake and camp, 6 mi, 2100' gain. Sun climb north slope Mt San Gorgonio, 2 mi, 2500' gain and pack out.

Restricted to Sierra Club members with ice axe and crampon proficiency. All restricted trips now require a completed Medical Form for the National Sierra Club. Send 2 SASE with e-mail, H&W phones and the completed medical form for reservation and verification of qualifications. Ldr: Virgil Popescu, co-ldr: Don Croley

SPS Webmaster

Dear SPS Member,
I wish to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the New SPS Webmaster.
As you will recall, Charlie Knapke served as the SPS Webmaster for many years and he decided it was time to move on to other activities.

I encourage you to take a look at the SPS Website. New web pages for Wilderness Permits and Wilderness Food Storage requirements have been created. The Outings page has been updated with outings through March 18, 2006 and the Restricted Mountaineering Trips section text has been extensively revised to reflect the requirement for the preparation and submission of Medical Forms to the Trip Leader for evaluation prior to the trip. This new requirement is an addition to the existing requirements for participating in Restricted Mountaineering Trips.

I plan to plan make additional modifications to the SPS Website in the near term and solicit your comments about potential design and content enhancements.
Sincerely, Larry Hoak, SPS Webmaster

Sign up to receive Sierra Club Insider, the flagship e-newsletter. Sent out twice a month, it features the Club's latest news and activities. Subscribe and view recent editions at <http://www.sierraclub.org/insider/>

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

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>



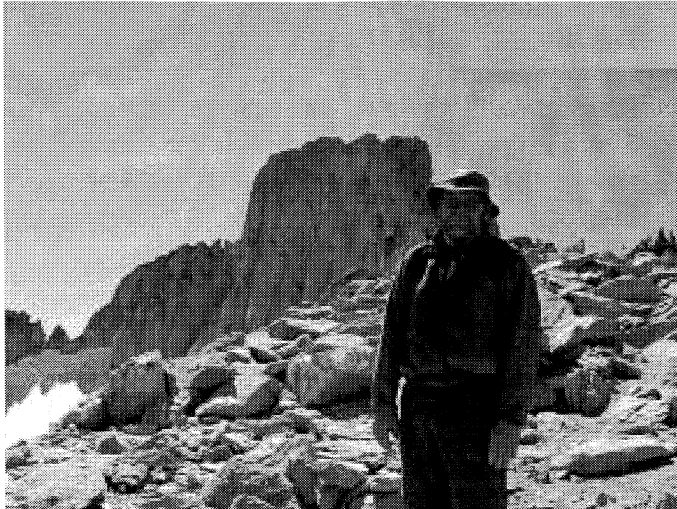
Wanted Sierra Echo Editor

This issue of the Echo is our 9th year as Echo editors. It is time for a new Echo editor(s) to take over publication of the SPS newsletter. We'll be glad to advise and help a new editor get started. The job can be fun and very rewarding.

The Echo is published 6 times a year, every two-months . The Echo editor(s) should have basic computer skills. And ideally knowledge, or the desire to learn how to use of the use page layout software - but a fancy graphics system is not needed. The Echo is published by Universal Reprographics. This is an ideal job for anyone with internet access who wants to help keep the SPS going strong. For More details see *The Sierra Echo*, Vol 49, No. 4, August-September 2005 or call Barbee at 562/424-1556.

Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee 2006

Welcome the 2006 Management Committee. The ballots have been counted and our 51st year has begun. Many SPS members will be continuing to support the Section in thier traditional roles - and others like the Echo editors are looking to retire. The January/February edition of The Echo will highlight the new Management Committee and outline the various support roles that members will be taking on.



Chair: Gary Schenk

Vice Chair/ Outings Chair: Reiner L. Stenzel

Treasurer: Henry A. Arnebold

Secretary: Mary Jo Dungfelder

Fifth Officer: Derrick Danta

Echo Editors: Barbee Tidball & Barbara Sholle

Web Master: Larry Hoak

SPS Treasurer's Report 3rd Quarter 9/30/05

Checking Account Income

Echo	\$310.00
Balance on 6/30/05	\$4,361.34
Income	310.00
	\$4,671.34
Expenditures	-873.77
	\$3,797.57

Expenditures

Echo Printing	410.70
Postage	347.99
Copies	68.07
Discs	47.01
	\$873.77

Savings Account

Balance on 6/30/05	\$4,868.08
July Income	2.07
August Income	2.07
September	2.00
	\$4,874.22

Memories of the Celebration



The 50th Anniversary banquet was a success. The event was attended by current and retired founding members of the SPS. Everyone had a wonderful time exchanging tales and memories of climbing in the Sierra.

Doug Mantle carried the evening with an entertaining narrative that accompanied Dave Sholle's DVD featuring interviews with SPS members. The DVD interviews wonderfully captured the spirit of the section as each member interviewed related stories about climbing in the mountains.

Mary McMannes captured the evening in photos. The next couple pages recount the excitement of the banquet.

Seven founding members attended the banquet, including Frank Bressel, Miles Brubacher, Roger Gaefcke, Pat (Meixner) Gentry, Barbara Lilley, John Robinson and George Wallerstein. Other early members on hand included Rich Gnagy, Rick Jali, Mary Ann Eide Miller and Tom Ross. While not able to attend the dinner but present for

the Trail-Wonoga trip in September were two additional founding members-Izzy Lieberman and John Wedberg-as well as early member June (Kilbourne)

Hakala and Lucy Woodward, both of whom are active as early as the "outlaw" days. Joanna (Lohr) Bressel, whose activities date to the "outlaw" days, was part of the Trail-Wonoga trip as well as the dinner.



Mary Ann Eide Miller



Joanna & Frank Bressel with family members Cary Bressel and Robert & Athena Garrett



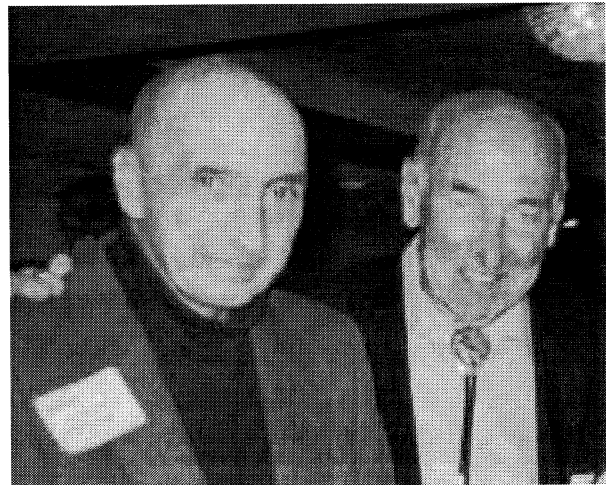
Glen Dawson and Virginia Palmresto



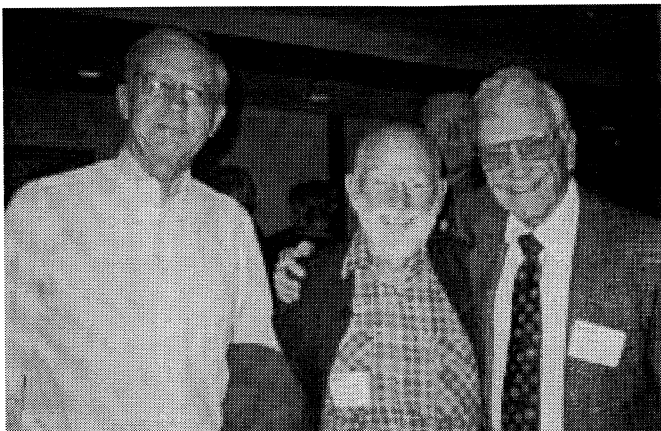
Gordon MacLeod , Mary McMannes and Tom Ross



Greg & Mirna Roach



R.J. Secor and Bob Hicks



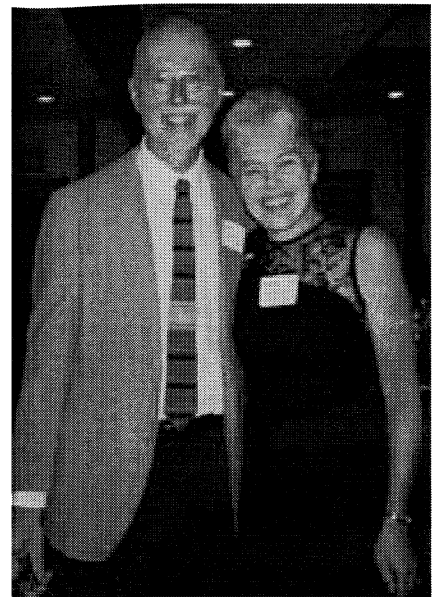
Jim Murphy, Roy Magnuson and George Toby



Randall Danta, Erick and Ellen Schumacher



Tina & Tom Bowman and Gerry & Pat Holleman



David & Barbara Sholle

SPS BANQUET DVD AVAILABLE - Order your copy now.

The DVD of edited interviews, which was shown at the SPS 50th anniversary banquet, is available for sale for \$10, which includes shipping and handling. The DVD is about an hour long, and contains interviews with 36 SPS climbers, including five founding members, and also contains several historical photographs. All proceeds from the sale go to the SPS. If you would like a copy, send a check for \$10 payable to the SPS to: David Sholle, 4166 Clark Avenue, Long Beach CA 90808



Duane & Betty McRuer

If you have any questions, contact Dave at dsholle@lbcc.edu or 562-429-2647. Note that those who were interviewed have already received a free copy of the DVD, thanks to a donation by Sid Davis.

In February of 2006, a set of several DVD's containing the full interviews (much material had to be cut out to fit into the banquet DVD) will become available for \$20. If you would like to have the Banquet DVD and the full set of interview DVD's, the combination will be available for \$25.

SPS INTERVIEW DVD AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 2006.



Ron Hudson
and Patty
Rambert

SPS

Membership Updates

Congratulations

Susan Livingston SPS Emblem #572
 Kyle Atkins Master Emblem on Lamont Peak

Welome New SPS Members

Dave Koskenmaki
 Dkosjenmaki@hotmail.com

Karen Isaacson Leverich
 Brian Leverich

New Addresses

Dan Richter
 53 N. El Molino Ave., Apt.452
 Pasadena, CA 91101
 Phone 626/844-3488
 e-mail: dan@danrichter.com

Dave Hartman
 5037 Sanderson Drive
 Columbus, Ohio 43228

Frank D. Sanborn
 24510 64th Ave. S. Apt. 302
 Kent, Washington 98032
 Phone: 253/856-3209

Allan Conrad
 e-mail: topamtn@bresnan.net

Dave Sholle
 e-mail: dsholle@lbcc.edu

Gordon MacLeod
 gjmacleodCA@cs.com

Koip-Gibbs,

July 29-31 2005

By Darrick Danta

Sometimes, the best laid plans go up in flames; literally! I had originally scheduled a four-day trip to climb Colosseum, Perkins, Pinchot, and Wynne, and decided to scout the whole route the week before. Aply assisted by Sara (Wyrens) Danta, we dutifully trudged up the first part of the Sawmill Pass Trail, experiencing first-hand what Secor (p. 152) bluntly identifies as "...another long, hard climb." We were surprised, though, by the lush vegetation, verdant meadows, and magnificent scenery that awaits just around the corner as one fully penetrates the canyon proper. We found an excellent place to camp just below Mule Lake, and next day continued to our base near Woods Lake. Later that afternoon while on top of Colosseum a sheet of clouds sprouting lightning passed just to the east.

Next day, clouds built during the climb of Wynne, thickened while making the traverse over to Pinchot (which, by the way, involves 3rd class rock thus making it too difficult for a proposed "I" provisional), and threatened while ascending the second peak. While up there I picked up some CB chatter from 395 making reference to the smoke in the Sawmill Pass area; a glance to the southeast confirmed plumes of black smoke billowing from the canyon. I quickly descended, getting drenched all the way back to camp.

Our 4th day dawned with the anticipation of an enjoyable hike back over Sawmill Pass. However, trepidation that something might be amiss was soon confirmed as we headed closer to smoke rising east of Sawmill Meadow. We soon entered a bizarre landscape of still-burning stumps and manzanita, blackened trees, and a surreal layer of white ash. If anything, the burning became more intense the further down we hiked; we eventually met a crew of fire fighters who had been dropped from helicopters the night before. Since we had a permit, they knew who we were and had been expecting us. Unfortunately, the scars of the July, 2005 Hogsback fire will remain a potent reminder of nature's fury for some time to come.

Needless to say, the Sawmill Pass Trail was closed for several weeks and so the trip originally scheduled could not be run. After a few frantic phone calls to Keith Martin, the assistant leader, and a bit of scrambling, we came up with an alternative plan to climb Koip along with other peaks in the Tioga Pass region. Along the way, though, many of the participants who had signed on to the trip dropped out, leaving just three.

So, at 7 a.m. Friday, Harry Langenbacher, Wayne Martin, and Mark Goebel joined Keith and me at the Mono Pass Trailhead just south of the Tioga Pass Entrance to Yosemite N.P. After introductions and preliminaries, we headed up the trail, stopping for lunch at the old mines and buildings near Mono Pass, arriving at the lakes below Parker Pass around 2 to set up camp and enjoy a relaxing few hours. On Saturday we headed up the switch-backed trail to Kiop Pass, then continued up the scree slope, avoiding the snow, arriving at the summit by noon. After spending some time enjoying the great views from the peak, we headed back to the pass, then up the other side to climb Parker Peak and Mt. Wood. Although not on the SPS list, these peaks afford excellent views of the Ritter Range to the south, Grant and Mono Lakes to the northeast. A descent put us back at camp in fine time for Happy Hour.

On Sunday we planned to hike out, climbing Gibbs and perhaps Dana en route. While a few choices for routes presented themselves, we eventually opted to preserve elevation by dropping our packs at the junction of the Parker and Mono Pass trails at 10,600' (UTM NAD27 11S 304604E 4192107N). A little xc travel north and east brought us to the ridge, from which we easily made the summit of Gibbs by noon. The route over to Dana looked a little too far from this approach, so after spending some time on top we returned to our packs and continued on the trail, reaching the cars at 2.40. Dinner at Whiskey Creek in Bishop capped a most enjoyable weekend in the Sierra.

Wayne Martin, Mark Goebel, Keith Martin, and Harry Lagenbacher, after taking in the magnificent views afforded from Koip Peak, hurriedly made the all important summit call (just to annoy those who frown on this sort of thing!).



Is Sara preparing to rob the vault at the Lone Pine Pizza Factory? No, just trying to withstand the smoldering terrain that only two days before had been the forests east of Sawmill Meadow.



The welcome sight of fire fighters on the line of the Hogsback forest fire of July, 2005, which forced the closure of the Sawmill Pass Trail for several weeks.



Mount Bolton Brown, Split Mountain & Pyramid Peak

August 28 – September 2, 2005

By: Greg Gerlach

Sunday, August 28. I picked up John Fisanotti in La Crescenta on Sunday morning for the 200 mile or so drive to Lone Pine. We obtained our permit from the Mount Whitney Ranger Station, then drove to the Taboose Pass trailhead. John and I started hiking up the trail at 3:00 p.m. through the desert. The sun finally dipped below the Sierra crest after a couple of hours, which provided some relief from the heat. We found a convenient campsite next to a stream at around the 8,800' elevation at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, August 29. John and I sleep in late, packed our gear and were on the trail by 8:40 a.m. We arrived at Taboose Pass at 11:40 a.m., descended to the John Muir Trail, then preceded north into Upper Basin. John and I found a nice campsite at 5:30 p.m. on the northwest side of Lake 11'600", which is the large lake located west of the Split/Prater Col.

Tuesday, August 30. We were hiking at 8:50 a.m. for the day's peaks: Split Mountain for John and Bolton Brown for me. I headed north from Lake 11,600' up the valley to the 13,200' col located about 3/10 of a mile west of the peak. The route is class 1-2. From the col, I climbed up towards Bolton Brown, staying on the north side of the ridge. I ran out of class 2 rock just below the summit and had to ascend about 30' of high class 3 to reach the top. It took me 2 hours and 10 minutes to reach the summit from our campsite. Also, the register was placed in 1974, is 1/2 full and 6 other parties had reached the top this year. After signing the register, I descended the south side of the peak in the hope of finding a class 2 route. However, the down climbing involved a 30' section of relatively easy class 3 climbing, which leads down to the southwest slope and class 2 terrain. I continued down the peak's southwest slope to the valley, then to our campsite, arriving at 11:30 a.m. Meanwhile, John headed east from Lake 11,600' to the Split/Prater Col, then up Split's class 1 north slope. He reached the summit at 11:30 a.m. and had to sign a scrape piece of paper because the summit register was full. After spending about 45 minutes on top, John

retraced his steps back to camp, arriving around 3:00 p.m. While on the climb, John saw 5 other climbers on the peak, which seemed like a lot of people for a Tuesday.

Wednesday, August 31. Since this was going to be an easy day, John and I took our time getting started. We finally got on the trail and were hiking towards Bench Lake at 9:30 a.m. We reached the lake at 2:30 p.m., found a secluded campsite on the far west end of the lake, then lounged and relaxed the rest of the day.

Thursday, September 1. John and I were up at 6:30 a.m. and hiking towards the day's objective, Pyramid Peak, at 7:35 a.m. We headed west and then south from Bench Lake towards Arrow Pass. From Lake 10,565+, which is shown as a marsh on the Mount Pinchot 7-1/2 minute topo, we angled up towards the 11'600' high pass. The route is miserable and tedious up to the pass because it involves loose scree, sand and large talus blocks. We topped out at the pass at 10:45 a.m., then proceeded west down the other side before turning south towards upper Arrow Creek. The class 2 scree and talus gully that leads to Pyramid's west ridge isn't obvious until you are lower down in the valley. John and I climbed up a sand slope from north of Lake 10,500', which has a small island in it, turned south along the base of the cliffs and continued up through the sand and scree gully to the peak's west ridge. From the top of the gully, we climbed up the ridge towards the top. John dropped out about 700' below the summit to save energy for the return trip back to camp. I continued on towards the summit, arriving on top at 1:40 p.m. The entire route from Arrow Creek is mostly class 2 with some class 1 mixed in. I spent about 5 minutes reviewing the summit register, which was placed in 2001 and only 3 pages have signatures. Also, I was only the second person to make the top this year. After signing the register, I started down, met up with John, then we both descended to Arrow Creek. Camp seemed so very far away, but we plugged along and reached Arrow Pass at 5:00 p.m. and camp at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 2. John and I sleep in late, broke camp, then started hiking out at 8:45 a.m. We reached Taboose Pass at 10:45 a.m. and the car at about 3:00 p.m.

Trip statistics: 50 miles and about 15,000 feet of elevation gain.

Owens Peak 49th Anniversary

Nov. 11, 2005
by Gary Schenk

On November 11, 1956 Miles Brubacher and Pat Meixner led the first SPS trip to Owens Peak with 46 participants. The beginning of the SPS's 50th Anniversary year seemed like a good time to repeat that trip. George Wysup and Henry Arnebold agreed. So much that they decided to help lead the repeat. And so, on Nov. 11, 2005, Armistice Day, 17 intrepid peakbaggers gathered at the Owens Trailhead.

The weather did not look promising. The summit was hidden in a thick layer of white clouds, but we thought we'd give it a go, expecting to find whiteout conditions along the way. This fear proved unfounded.

One of the changes since the first trip is the presence of a good use trail for almost the entire route. One only has to take some care upon reaching the talus, and follow the abundant ducks to reach the base of the slabs. Above the slabs the use trail is even more defined, and steeply climbs to the top.

Here we encountered Bill and Susan Livingston along with their dog Kaweah. We also found nice views north and east. Clouds covered the south and west.

Folks starting bringing out celebratory goodies and the feasting commenced. Right about this time it came out that Don Cwik had just earned his HPS 200 Peak Emblem as well as his first SPS peak. Not a bad day!

Eventually we started getting a little cold. Cold enough to actually want to leave this fine peak. In short time we reached the trailhead, and were soon back at Powers Well. Just another fine day along the Sierra Crest.

Thanks to George Wysup, Henry Arnebold, and Larry Hoak for helping lead this rowdy crowd. And thanks to Mark Allen, Gary Bickel, Larry Campbell, Don Cwik, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Rudy Fleck, Cheryl Gill, Stephanie Gylden, David Koskenmaki, Bob McEwen, Gloria Miladen, John Radalj and Kevin Rooney for making this trip so enjoyable.

Sitting, l-r: Henry Arnebold, Gary Bickel, Cheryl Gill, Gloria Miladin, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Susan Livingston, Kaweah
Standing, l-r: David Koskenmaki, Larry Hoak, Gary Schenk, Mark Allen, Don Cwik, John Radalj, Stephanie Gylden, Kevin Rooney, Bob McEwen, Larry Campbell, George Wysup, Bill Livingston
Photo by Rudy Fleck



N. Maggie Trip Report

October 1-2, 2005

A group of twelve met at the Hidden Falls Campground on Oct. 1, 2005. The group included leaders Jennie Thomas and Greg Roach along with participants Mirna Roach, Patty Rambert, Kirt Smoot, Ed Cottone, Ghislaine Stuart, Steve Goetz, Sandra Nakamura, Dave Haack, Alexander Soibel, Daryn Dodge, and Jeff Dhungana. Usually this peak is climbed with Moses, but because it was an I trip we only did N. Maggie. Felling a bit ambitious, Jeff did Moses solo in the morning and returned to camp before catching up with us on the trail. From the campground we took the River Trail, which is not marked on the map to meet up with the Summit Lakes Trail (on the map) to Long Meadow where the group set up camp in a well-established campsite. The group gathered to share stories about SPS history and personal experiences to celebrate the 50th anniversary of SPS. It was getting late in the season, but the weather was excellent and a nice campfire kept everyone warm. We saw at least three hunters throughout the course of the weekend. An amazing happy hour followed with many gourmet treats including banana chocolate fondue, chocolate cookies warmed over the campfire, and many other delights.

We knew the trip was during hunting season and saw three hunters during the weekend. Wear orange/bright colors if you plan to hike in the area after the hunters are out.

Saturday morning after an excellent breakfast and nice campfire we started out for the peak around 8 am. We diverged from the trail in a clearing at an old metal sign, which cannot be missed. We crossed back over the Middle Fork of the Tule River towards N. Maggie (peak

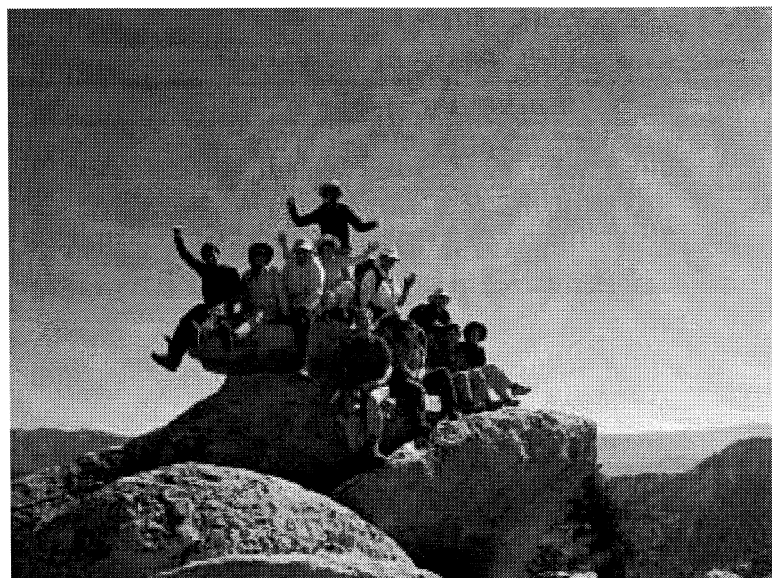
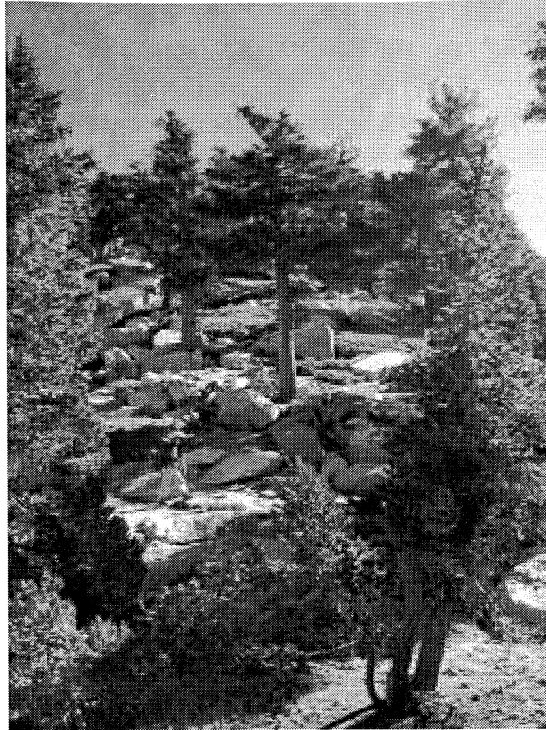
10,234' on the map). We stayed just north of the ridge when approaching the peak and then cut over to the saddle between 10,113' and N. Maggie. This

route proved to be relatively brush free and is recommended for future parties in the area. Other approaches can be quite brushy and problematic. From the saddle, the summit is easily gained by going straight towards the summit, while also avoiding the brush.

We arrived at the summit around noon and spent a long time there because it was a beautiful day. Everyone in the group arrived at the summit together, a good indication of a strong and well matched group! We also spent a lot of time reading the summit register because the trip was in

honor of the 50th anniversary of SPS.

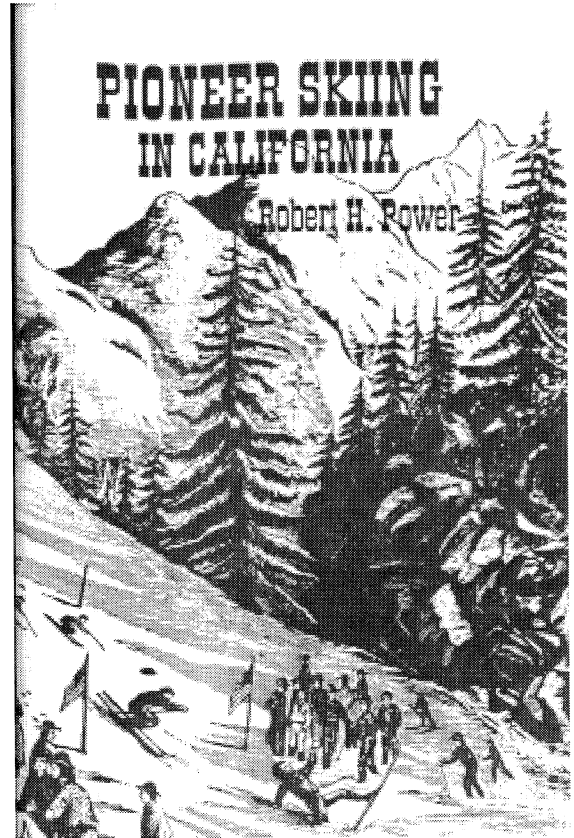
After leaving the summit we all returned to camp, packed up, and were back at the cars by the late afternoon. Overall it was a fun, mellow trip with great people.



Pioneer Skiing in California Mt. Elwell near historic skiing

We have all heard the story of "Snowshoe" John A. Thompson, skiing across the Sierra with the mail to isolated mining camps. Thompson had immigrated to the United States from the province of Talemork, Norway at the age of 10. As early as 1855 he made some skis out of oak and was skiing above Placerville.

But did you know? The Eureka Plumas State Park is located near SPS peak: Mt. Elwell. This historic mining area was the site of the earliest ski races in California, starting at least as early at 1863. These miners called their 12' long skis "snowshoes". Several ski clubs in this area were among the very first ski clubs in the world. The museum at the park has numerous artifacts from this historic ski period, as well as a booklet that is the source of these notes. The aerial tram buckets that hauled to ore down from the mine on the mountain to the mill below served as a primitive ski lift. A local man pulled out a set of these old 12' long skis in 1941 and beat the then current US downhill champion with a speed of 87 MPH.



The ski races kept the miners busy while the winter snows were too deep to carry on their mining. Ski races were annual events for about 50 years until declining ore reduced the number of towns and residents in the area. Speeds of 90 mph were attained using the long skis of the day. Racing was strictly a downhill affair, with little turning. In addition to downhill racing the miners also did ski jumping with winning distances of over 150 feet. Most of the skiers preferred open slopes. Thompson however was apparently adept at skiing through the trees. After the miners beat Thompson in a downhill race in 1869, they declined his offer of a race including; jumps off a 15' precipice, and slalom through the trees.

Fast forward to 2005. The American Alpine New reports that a world cup Ski Mountaineering event was held in the US where the course included 10,515 feet of climbing plus ski descents. The winning time to climb over 10,000 vertical feet and ski down: 1 hour, 34 minutes, and 44 seconds.

How do you climb 10,000 feet in about an hour? It sure puts the Naismith rule to shame. As a trip planning aid we allow 1000' of climbing per hour with daypacks.

Report by Larry Tidball

Source; "Pioneer Skiing in California" by Robert H. Power

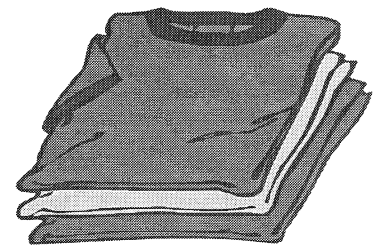
NUT TREE, Vacaville, Claifornia 1960

Reprinted Plumas Eureka State Park Association, Johnsville, CA 1980

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



Conservation 2- Liners

by Barbee Tidball

www.skiarecitizens.com. The Ski Area Environmental Scorecard grades western U.S. ski resorts on their environmental policies and practices. By using the Scorecard, skiers can choose to patronize resorts with genuine positive environmental stewardship records. The Scorecard is a service of the Ski Area Citizens' Coalition (SACC), which is comprised of Colorado Wild, the Crystal Conservation Coalition (Washington State), Friends of the Inyo (California) and The Sierra Nevada Alliance (California). These non-profit conservation organizations are familiar with the environmental policies of ski resorts and their impacts to the environment. Most volunteers and staff of participating organizations are themselves skiers, and recognize skiing as a valid use of public lands. The groups also state that they understand that skiing has significant, growing, and generally unacknowledged impacts.

Criteria used to judge ski areas' environmental practices are weighted to give significant consideration to the preservation of natural mountain environments. Through intensive review of a wide body of pertinent documents including, scientific literature and case studies, such as Environmental Impact Statements for Master Development Plan revisions, expansion proposals, Forest Plan revisions; formal biological opinions prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; as well as marketing, economic, and operational studies prepared by the ski industry, it is clear that development of undisturbed forest lands is the single most damaging ecological impact a ski area can undertake.

A sampling of California ski areas' scores follows:

Alpine Meadows	A
Sierra-at-Tahoe	A
Mountain High	B
Squaw Valley	B
Mammoth Mountain	C
Bear Valley	D
Kirkwood	D

Mining Law Put On Hold

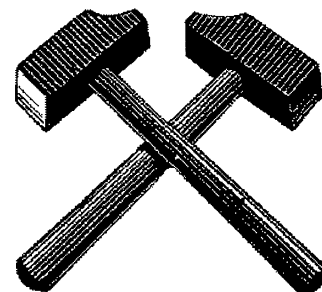
A bill that critics said would lead to the selling of our national parkland to developers has been stopped for 2005.

On Dec. 13th Congress removed the proposed mining law revisions from a budget bill. Rep. Jim Gibbons (R-Nev.) had tried to include provisions that critics said could have led to the sell-off of millions of acres of federal land, including portions of national parks and forests, such as Death Valley National Park and Mojave National Preserve. Criticism of the mining law revisions was strong and bi-partisan.

The Los Angeles Times reported that "Death Valley park Supt. J.T. Reynolds concurred: "It's a welcome stay of execution." Sid Smith, a spokesman for Sen. Larry E. Craig (R-Idaho), said that under budget reconciliation rules, the provisions could have required a 60-vote majority, which would have been difficult to win, and might have torpedoed the entire budget package, including language opening Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, which the Senate has approved.

"To be honest, [Craig] was concerned that the mining reform package might . . . make it difficult for the budget bill to pass," Smith said. "There was concern that there were a few environmentally related issues like ANWR in the budget bill, and if we had a few too many, those sorts of things might galvanize some opposition to the budget bill as a whole."

Craig also was concerned that access for sportsmen might be limited by private land sales allowed under Gibbons' mining law revisions, Smith said. He added that Craig would probably be opposed to any land sale in national parks, but was interested in working on a strong mining reform act next year."



THE DESERT PEAKS SECTION IS HOSTING THIS YEAR'S JOINT MEETING



**FEBRUARY 21, AT 7:30 PM
GRIFFITH PARK RANGER STATION
4730 CRYSTAL SPRINGS DR.**

The BLM Adopt-A-Cabin program began in the Ridgecrest area in 1989. Since then, hundreds of volunteers have worked to stabilize and preserve 35 cabins in the northern Mojave Desert.

These cabins are located in various areas, including the Inyo Mountains, Panamint Mountains, Argus Range and El Paso Mountains. These cabins are of varying ages with several dating back to the late 1890's. All of the cabins are open for visitation and many are suitable for overnight use.

Several of the cabins are in extremely nice condition and located in very scenic settings.

Steve Smith's slide presentation will show each of the cabins and he will describe how they can be accessed. Several of the cabins require backpacking trips, and some require 4-wd vehicles to reach them. Others can be easily accessed.

Steve coordinated this program for BLM from 1989 until he retired last December. He is still assisting with the program as a BLM volunteer. The BLM Desert Advisory Council is interested in supporting the program and has formed a review team to assist in continuing it.

Rich Abele, also one of the volunteers and leaders for this program will be attending the February program with Steve.

Please join us for this fascinating slide presentation, and make one of these cabins your destination for outdoor fun and adventure!

From LA take the I-5 to Griffith Park

- **LEFT** Griffith Park Drive .3 mi
- **RIGHT on** Crystal Springs Drive .1 mi
- **RIGHT RANGER STATION**

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