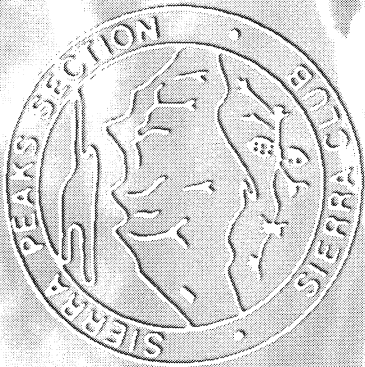


The Sierra Echo

VOLUME 50 NUMBER 1 JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2006



FRONT COVER

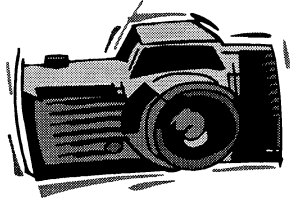
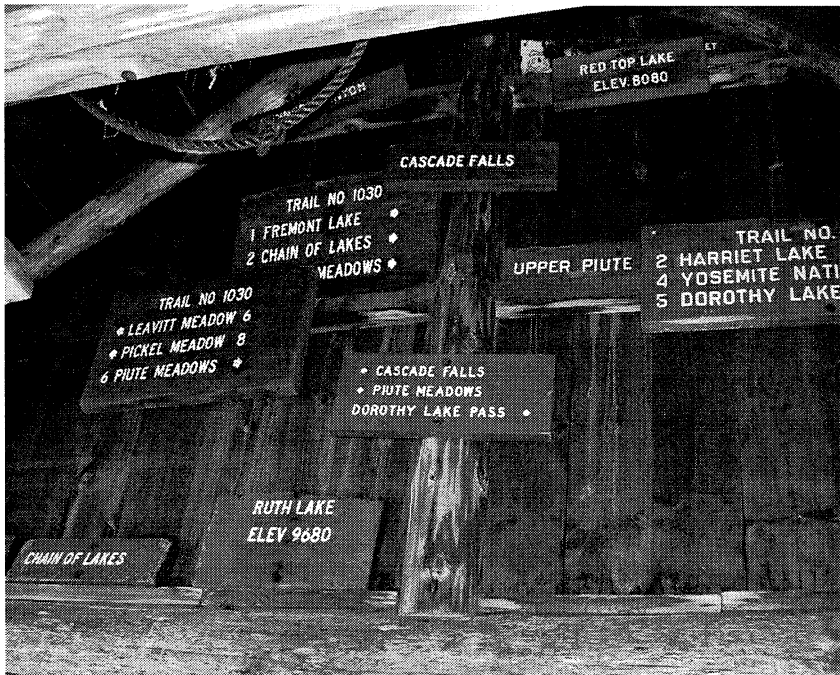


Photo -
Mt. Tom
by Dave Sholle

Peak List See Stories Inside

Mt. Perkins
Colosseum Mountain
Stanislaus Peak
Black Hawk Mountain
Disaster Peak
Leavitt Peak

American Samoa - "In High Places"



Echoes From the Chair

Which way, SPS?

We have greatly enjoyed our 50th Anniversary Year. The 50th banquet was a great success, kudos to all involved.

Now it is time to think of the future of our section. Which route will we take? That depends on you! Yes, I'm talking to you.

Statistics gathered by Outings Chair Reiner Stenzel, show a steady decline in 'E' and 'M' trips, as well as emblem achievements, over the last few years. While emblems and list finishes are not

the reason we climb, they are a good indicator of section activity. As is attendance at meetings and banquets, both of which are on steady declines.

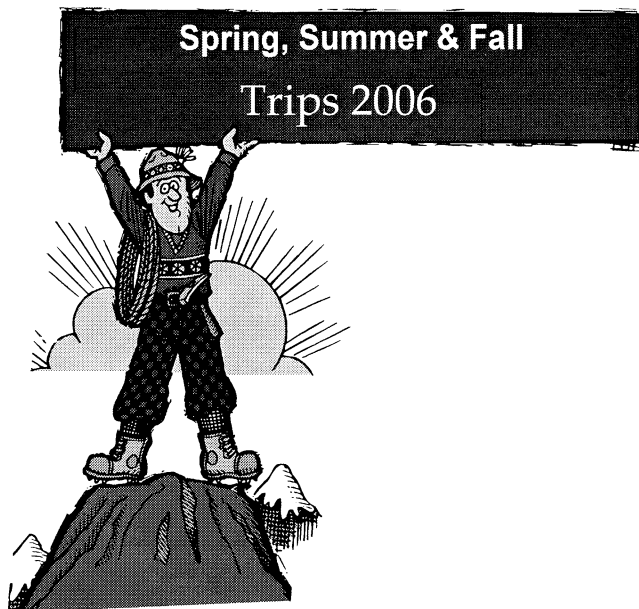
What are the reasons behind these stats?

For starters, traffic in LA is a nightmare. The idea of traveling across town midweek to a meeting is a form of torture fewer and fewer are willing to perform on themselves. The Forest Service trailhead quotas have a negative impact. The Sierra Club national office has added a few more paperwork chores for leaders and participants on restricted mountaineering trips. This, while unfortunate, is understandable. Liability in what is possibly a hazardous activity must be taken seriously, and The Sierra Club has assets to protect.

So, what is our course? Simple, we do what we do best: proceed upward! The Management Committee has several tasks ahead. One is to establish a consistent, yet flexible, meeting schedule. Another is to find ways to make the restricted trip approval process as streamlined as possible for our leaders. Section leaders, especially 'M' and 'E', need to schedule more trips. Without 'M' and 'E' trips, there will be no new 'M' and 'E' leaders. We need the capability to lead our list, and without advanced leaders, we'll not have that capability. Mostly, we need to climb.

We need solutions. We need our membership. The SPS consists of some very smart people. Ideas are welcome, whether in the form of letters to the Echo editor, or discussions at business meetings. Please, join in.

Climb safe. Gary Schenk



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. For restricted trips send the Medical form

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.

NEW: All participants on restricted trips are required by National Sierra Club to complete a medical information form . To obtain the form go to www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/medical or use the copy inserted in this issue of *The Sierra Echo*.

APRIL

TI Apr 13 -16 Thur - Sun SPS/SMS Mt Lyell: Ski mountaineering trip to an SPS Emblem peak from Silver Lake. Advanced backcountry skiing and snow camping experience required. Bring skis, skins, beacon, shovel, probes. Send experience, contact, and ride share info to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Alvin Walter.

TI Apr 15 -16 Sat – Sun SPS, SMS San Joaquin Ridge: Sat ski from Mammoth Lks along the San Joaquin Ridge toward Two Teats and S. J. Pk. SPS snowshoers welcome. Intermediate skiing abilities reqd. Bring metal-edged skis, skins, poles. Sun ski The Mountain. E-mail or call with experience Ldr: Barbara Sholle. Asst: David Sholle.

M/ER Apr 22 – 23 Sat – Sun SPS, LTC, DPS, and SMS Sierra Snow Check off: Demonstrate your skills to receive an M or E snow check off or sharpen snow climbing skills. Restricted to SC members with prior ice axe, crampon, rope training/experience. Eastern Sierra site depending on snow conditions. Email or send 2 sase, Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co-Ldr: Randall Danta.

Spring climbing - sign up early for trips listed in this schedule. Practice your ice axe skills to be safe and ready for climbing.

MAY

MR May 5 -7 Fri – Sun SPS, Mt. Barnard (13,990'), Trojan Pk. (13,947'): Strenuous trip to 2 almost 14,000 foot peaks in remote bighorn sheep area. Backpack/ bushwhack up trail-less George Creek with many stream crossings for 5200' to camp on snow. Saturday with ice axe and crampons proceed up 5000'+ to climb both peaks. Sunday pack out. Restricted to SC members. \$5 permit fee Ldr: Larry Tidball. Assist: Barbee Tidball, Patty Rambert.

MR May 6-7 Sat-Sun SPS Mt. Bolton Brown (13,491'), Mt. Prater (13,471'): Pay homage to early explorers of the Sierra. Sat pack in to Tinemaha lake, 5 mi, 5,000' gain; Sun climb both peaks and pack out, 9 mi, 4100' gain. Comfort on Class 3 rock and experience with ice axe/ crampons required. Restricted to SC members. Send email to Ldr.: Jeff Dhungana. Co-Ldr: Randall Danta.

SPS Membership Meeting May 10, 2006
 Program to be announced. 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.

MR: May 12-14 Fri-Sun SPS Mt. Williamson (14,370): Day 1 hike from TH (6,360') up George Creek 4 mi to camp at meadow S of peak (4,860' gain). Day 2 climb Williamson via cl 2 southeast ridge, 3.2 mi, 3,160' gain. Day 3 hike out 4 miles. Total stats: 11.2 miles, 8,020'. Restricted to SC members. Send SASE / email and \$5 permit fee to Ldr Darrick Danta, Asst. Patrick McKusky.

TI May 13 – 20 Sat – Sat SPS/SMS, Onion-Boose Trip: Join a Sierra Crest ski tour from Onion Valley to Taboose Pass. Ski and climb by day, followed by happy hour in camp. Hi route goes via Kearsarge Pass, Dragon/Rae Lks, Baxter Lks, Twin Lks, Pinchot Pass, Lake Marjorie and Taboose Pass for a short car shuttle back to Onion. On the way there are optional ski ascents of such class 2 peaks as Gould, Baxter, Acrodectes, Cedric Wright, Crater, Wynne, Pinchot, and Striped. Need advanced backcountry skiing skills, proper ski and snow camping experience, bring good food and the right spirits. Must have skied/climbed with the SMS/Ldrs before the trip. Extended ski pack touring experience req. Trip subject to modifications depending on snow and weather. Send e-mail to Ldrs: Tom Marsh, Reiner Stenzel.

M/E May 20 – 21 Sat - Sun SPS, LTC, DPS and SMS - Sierra Snow Check off/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC mbrs with some prior basic training with the ice axe. 2 SASE or email to Ldr: Nile Sorenson, Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

LEADERS & PARTICIPANTS - PACK YOUR CLIMBING HELMETS ON ALL RESTRICTED CLIMBING TRIPS THAT INCLUDE ROCK CLIMBING. SIERRA CLUB HAS ADDED THIS REQUIREMENT TO HELP KEEP OUR CLIMBING TRIPS SAFE.

MR: May 20 – 21 Sat –Sun, SPS Bloody Mtn. (12,522') and Laurel Mountain (11,812'). Strenuous two day trip to the summit of Bloody Mountain via a snow climb of the North Couloir. We will climb this classic route in one of the most beautiful areas of the Sierra. Experience with ice axe and crampons required. Send SASE to Prov. Ldr. Jennie Thomas (jenniet@uci.edu) co-ldr. Tom McDonnell

MR May 27 – 29 Sat - Mon SPS Thompson Pk. (13,494), Powell Pt. (13,360'): Backpack to 5 miles to Baboon Lakes. Sunday climb peak with ice axe and crampons. Monday pack out. Restricted to SC members. Send SASE, \$5 permit fee to LdSr: Barbee & Larry Tidball.

JUNE

MR June 2 – 4 Fri – Sun SPS Mt Dade (13,600+'), Pipsqueak Spire (13,268'), & Bear Creek Spire (13,713'): Backpack Little Lakes Valley to Treasure Lakes (4 mi, 1000' gain). Climb Dade via Hourglass Couloir (up to 40 degree slope). Traverse Pipsqueak Spire to Bear Creek Spire. Climb Class 3 route. Descend via Cox Col. Ice axe, crampons and helmet required. Restricted to SC members. Send email/sase, to Ldr: Steve Curry, Asst: Asher Waxman.

MR Jun 3 – 5 Sat – Mon SPS Mt Williamson (14,375'): Climb California's second highest peak via the West face. This will be a strenuous three-day hike and class 3 climb via the Shepherd Pass trail. On Sat. hike from Shepherd's Pass trailhead to camp in the area of Anvil Camp. Attempt the summit Sun.. On Mon. hike out. Experience with ice axe and crampons and strong fitness required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send SASE / email and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: Alex Amies, Asst: Tom McDonnell.

I: Jun 10 – 12 Sat – Mon SPS Kern Peak: (11,510): SPS introductory trip in southern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTCts. Moderate and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack 9 mi, 1500' of gain to camp at Redrock Meadows at 8600'. Sun climb class 2 Kern Pk in 8 mi, 3000' gain rt, all x-country. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack out 9 mi, 800' gain (With ups and downs). Send SASE to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst George Wysup.

MR: Jun 22 – 25 Thur - Sun SPS/SMS Miter (12,770'), Major General (12,400') and McAdie (13,680'): Do the three M's out of Rock Creek. We explore new routes and non-listed peaks. From Cottonwood Lks trailhead via New Army Pass to basecamp in Rock Creek. Must be comfortable on high cl 3 rock and proficient with ice axe and crampons. Restricted to SC members. Send SASE and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Asher Waxman, Mark Goebel.

MR: Jun 23 – 26 Fri – Mon SPS Baxter (13,136), Diamond (13,127): Day 1 hike on Baxter Pass trail from TH (6,000') to camp near Summit Meadow (10,000), 3.8 mi 4,000' gain. Day 2 climb Diamond via cl 2 southeast slope, 4.8 mi 3,130' gain. Day 3 climb Baxter via Baxter Pass and cl 2 southwest slope, 8.4 mi, 3,140'. Day 4 hike out, 4 miles. Total stats: 20.8 miles, 10,260'. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send SASE and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: Darrick Danta, Asst: Barry Holchin.

JULY

MR: Jul 8 - 9 Sat- Sun SPS Independence Pk (11,744') & University (13,632'): Sat. backpack to Robinson Lk. (2 mi, 2,100' gain) climb Independence (1,300' gain). Sun. climb University and hike out (7.5 mi rt, 3,200' gain). Cl 3 rock ice axe & crampons exper. req.. Send sase/email to Ldr. Virgil Popescu, Co- Ldrs.: Larry Hoak.

SEE MEDICAL FORM IN THIS ISSUE OF THE ECHO. FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH TRIP SASE TO LEADERS ON RESTRICTED TRIPS. COPIES OF THE FORM ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SPS WEB SITE.

M/E R: Jul 21-26 Fri – SPS North Guard (13,327'), Brewer (13,570'), South Guard (13,224'), Jordan (13,444'), Stanford (12,838'): Climb via loop from Onion Valley. Strenuous x-c backpacking, class 3 summits, class 4 summit block on Jordan. Backpack in over Kearsarge Pass to camp 1st day, 12 mi, 4000' gain. Climb peaks, 4-5000' gain each day, move camp. Backpack out via class 2-3 University Pass, 10 mi 3000'. Experience on class 4 rock and strong fitness required. Ice axe may be needed. Restricted to SC members. Send sase/email to Ldr (M): Alex Amies, Assts: Ron Hudson (E), Patty Rambert.

I: Jul 22-23 Sat-Sun WTC/SPS Mt Silliman (11,188'): Sat strenuous but moderately-paced backpack from Lodgepole in Sequoia Nat. Park to camp at Silliman Lake and group happy hour, 5 mi 3300' gain. Sun climb the class 2 south slope to the summit (1200' gain) and pack out. This trip involves cross-country travel, comfort with friction hiking on steep granite slabs is required. Send sase & \$5 permit fee to Ldr: Anne Marie Richardson. Co-Ldr. Scott Nelson.

I: Jul 22-23 Sat-Sun WTC/SPS Mt Morgan S. (13,748'): A prominent peak along the ridgeline above Rock Creek Lake, Mount Morgan is easy to attain and offers spectacular views. Sat backpack to Francis Lake, 4 mi, 1200' gain. Climb the peak via north ridge Sat pm or Sun am (4.5 mi, 2900' gain). Pack out on Sun. Send email or sase to Ldrs: Helen Qian, Scott Leavitt.

I: Jul 22-24 Sat-Mon SPS Cirque Pk (12,900'): SPS intro. trip in eastern Sierra. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack from Horseshoe Meadows at 10,000' to Long Lake at 11,160' (6 mi, 1200' gain). Sat evening legendary community happy hour. Sun climb class 1 Cirque Pk (5 mi rt, 1800' gain). Sun evening legendary community happy hour. Mon hike out 6 mi, 1200' loss. Send sase with \$5.00 permit fee to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Rick Jali.

I: Jul 28-30 Fri-Sun WTC/SPS Mt Davis (12,311'): Fri backpack along the scenic River Trail from Agnew Meadows near Mammoth Lakes to camp at Thousand Island Lake, 8 mi 2100' gain. Sat climb Davis, class 2 with much talus and scrambling, 6 mi rt, 2400' gain, spectacular views of Ritter, Banner and the Minarets. Sun hike out. Send email/sase to Ldr: Beth Epstein. Co-Ldr: Sheryl O'Rourke.

MR: Jul 28-30 Fri-Sun SPS Temple Crag (12,976), Gayley (13,510): Day 1 hike from Glacier Lodge (8,000') to camp at lake S of Temple Crag (11,850), 3.8 miles, 3,850' gain. Day 2 climb Gayley via cl 3 SW ridge, 2 mi, 1,670'. Day 3 climb Temple Crag via cl 3 SE face, 1.3 mi, 1,130' gain, then hike out 3.8 miles. Total stats: 10.9 miles, 6,650' gain. Restricted to SC members. Send SASE & \$5 permit fee to Ldr Darrick Danta, Asst. Keith Martin.

ER: July 28-30 Fri-Mon SPS/WTC Norman Clyde Pk (13,855'): One of the fine mountaineering peaks. Fri backpack into camp near Finger Lake 5 mi, 3000' gain. Sat climb the peak by class 4 n/ne ridge, 3000'. Sun pack out the cars. Restricted to Sierra Club members with strong rock skills. Small group; and medical form is required. Send sase/esase to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co-Ldr: Nile Sorenson.

AUGUST

I: Aug 4 – 6 Fri -Sun SPS/WTC Four Gables (12,245), Pilot Knob N. (12,720): Friday 7 miles, 2,000' gain to camp; Saturday climb both peaks totaling 14 miles round trip, 3,000' gain; Sunday pack out. Send E-mail (preferably) or SASE to Sara Danta at s_wyrensat@yahoo.com Leaders Darrick and Sara Danta.

I: Aug 5 – 6 Sat –Sun SPS/WTC Mt Johnson (12,871) and Mt Gilbert (13,106): Moderate 11 mile RT, 5220' total gain. Sat backpack to upper Treasure Lake (3 miles, 1700' gain). Set up camp and head out to Johnson (2 miles round trip, 1550' gain). Return to camp for happy hour. Sunday, early start to Gilbert (3 miles round trip, 2000' gain). Return to camp and leisurely pack out. Send email (preferred) or SASE to: Ldr: Greg Mason, e-mail, nosamgatcharter.net Assist: Tom McDonnell.

I: Aug 5-7 Sat-Mon SPS/WTC Red Slate Mtn (13,123'): SPS Intro trip geared to WTC students and prospective SPSers. Relaxed, causal, and enjoyable. Sat backpack up McGee Creek to McGee Lakes at 11,040', 6 mi, 2900' gain. Sun climb class 1 Mountaineers Peak, 4 mi rt, 2200' gain, considerable cross country. Mon hike out. Legendary community happy hour Sat and Sun eve. Send sase with \$5.00 permit fee to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Kent Schwitkis.

MR: Aug 11-13 Fri-Sun SPS Junction (13,845): Day 1 hike in from TH (6,410) over Shepard Pass Trail to Anvil Camp (10,127), 5.3 miles, 4,217 total gain. Day 2 climb Junction via Shepard Pass and cl 3 SW ridge, 9 miles, 3,720' gain. Day 3 hike out, 5.3 miles, 500' gain. Total stats: 19.6 miles, 8,437' gain. Restricted to SC members. Send SASE and \$5 permit fee to Ldr Darrick Danta, Asst. Keith Martin.

I: Aug 12th - 13th Sat-Sun SPS/WTC Mount Lamarck (13,417'): Pack in from North Lake to beautiful Upper Lamarck Lake (4 miles, 2000'); happy hour to ensue. Sunday climb Lamarck cross-country (5 miles round trip, 2500') and pack out. Send 2 sase, \$5 permit fee (including WTC group information) to Leader: Edd Ruskowitz. Co-Leader: Melissa Kane.

MR: Aug 12 – 13 Sat - Sun SPS/WTC Temple Crag (12,975'), Mt Gayley (13,510'): Saturday rugged cross-country backpack 5 mi, 3200' gain from Glacier Lodge to camp near Elinore Lake. Climb Temple Crag via SE face, 1.5 mi, 1800' gain. Sun climb Gayley 3.5 mi, 2100' gain via "Yellow Brick Road" and out. Restricted to SC members. Send sase, \$5 check for permit fee to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Co-Ldr: Ed Cottone.

I: Aug 12-13 Sat-Sun WTC/SPS Mt Agassiz (13,893'): Sat backpack from South Lake trailhead to Bishop Lake, 4 mi 1400' gain. Sun climb Mt Agassiz from Bishop Pass, 6 mi rt, 2700' gain, then backpack out 4 mi. Send sase, \$5 permit fee to Prov. Ldr: Steve Curry. Asst: Anne Marie Richardson.

MR: Aug 12-20 Sat-Sun SPS Scylla, McDuffie, Three Sirens, Ragged Spur: Spend a week in the Black Divide to climb listed and explore non-listed Sierra peaks. 30 mi, 10,000? rt via Lamarck Col. Restricted to SC members on Mnteers List or equiv. experience with ice axe and ropes. Send sase to Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, Patty Rambert.

ER: Aug 19 Sat SPS Mt. Humphreys (13,986'): Strenuous 17 mi, 5000' gain dayhike via Piute Pass for a relentless, small, skilled group to climb cl 4 emblem pk. Restricted to SC members on Mnteers List or equiv. Send e-mail or sase to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-Ldr: Tom Bowman.

I: Aug 19 – 20 Sat – Sun SPS/WTC Cloudripper (13,525'): Gourmet backpack! Join us for Decadent Wilderness Weekend IV. Saturday backpack 2.5 mi, 1800' gain to Green Lake for 5-star dining experience. Sunday work off those calories with 4 mi, 2500' gain to Cloudripper. Send e-mail or sase and your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Asst: Georgette Rieck.

I: Aug 19 – 20 Sat - Sun SPS/WTC Florence (12,432) and Vandever Mtn (11,947): Mineral King weekend backpack. Sat 5 miles, 2,400' to camp and another 2,300' 6 miles round trip to Florence; community happy hour. Sun climb Vandever and pack out 11.5 miles round trip and 2,600' gain. Send E-mail (preferably) or SASE to Ldrs: Darrick & Sara Danta.

I: Aug 19-21 Sat-Mon SPS Mt Bago (11,870'): SPS intro. trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers & WTC. Relaxed, enjoyable pace. Sat backpack over Kearsarge Pass to Charlotte Lake, 10,370' in 8.5 mi and 2600' gain. Sat and Sun evenings legendary community happy hours. Sun climb Bago in 2.5 mi and 1500' gain and explore spectacularly scenic surrounding areas. Mon backpack out in 8.5 mi, 1500' gain. Send sase, \$5.00 permit fee per person to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Joe Wankum.

I: Aug 25–27 Fri-Sun PVS/S/SPS/NSS/Wilderness Adventures Mt Henry (12,196'): SPS Intro Trip suitable for WTC students. Join leaders for moderately fast-paced 3-day backpack & climb in the John Muir Wilderness Area/ Kings Canyon Nat. Park. Start Fri. by taking Ferry across Florence Lk (fee tbd) backpack 8 mi, 900' gain to camp along San Joaquin River east of peak. Sat climb Mt Henry by northeast ridge, 6 mi 4000' gain. Sun backpack out to Florence Lk and ferry then return to LA. While not for beginners, this trip is suitable for people who already have some other xc trips. Some naturalizing along the way as time permits. Send check for \$5 permit fee (payable to leader) and separate \$30 check returnable at trailhead (payable to Sierra Club), two 4x9 sase (or 1 sase & email), complete contact info, recent backpacking & climbing resume and rideshare info to Ldr: Keith Martin. Asst: Mark Mitchell

MR: Aug 26-27 Sat-Sun SPS Mt. Sill (14,153') Climb SPS mtnr's peak situated in the rugged Palisades area of the Sierr via Scimitar Pass to Southwest Chutes. Strenuous backpack and class 3 climb. Sat pack from trailhead at Glacier Lodge to camp in area of Elinore Lk via South Fork Big Pine trail (4.9 mi 3800'). Attempt the summit Sun and pack out (10 mi 4400'). Exper. w/ class 3 rock, & strong fitness required. Restricted to SC members. Send SASE/email to Ldr. Alex Amies, Asst Ron Compbell

SEPTEMBER

I: Sept. 2 - 4 Sat-Mon SPS/WTC Mount Julius Caesar (13,200'): Labor Day weekend will find us packing out of Bishop to Honeymoon Lake Saturday, then ascend the glorious viewing perch that is Julius Caesar Sunday and pack out Monday. Send 2 sase, \$5 permit fee to Leader: Edd Ruskowitz. Co-Leader: John Cyran

M: Sep 2-4 Sat-Mon WTC/SPS Split Mtn, (14,058'): Climb another 14'er in the fall. Sat backpack up to Red Lake, approx 5 mi, 3700' gain. Sun climb the peak via the north slope, approx 10 mi rt, 3600' gain. Mon pack out. Send email or sase to Ldrs: Scott Leavitt, Helen Qian

I: Sep 2-4 Sat-Mon WTC/SPS Mt Langley (14,026'): Relatively relaxed but moderately strenuous backpack to bag the southernmost 14er in the United States. Late Sat morning pack in to Long Lake from Cottonwood Lakes Trailhead, 7 mi, 1500' gain (1200' net). Summit on Sun, 8 mi rt with 3 600' gain (2900' net), followed by celebratory happy hour. Relaxed hike out to reach trailhead early afternoon Mon. Send 2 sase/1 sase & email, to Ldr: Gary Bickel, Asst: Wayne Vollaire.

I: Sep 8-10 Fri-Sun SPS Wonoga Pk (10,371') Redux: Leisurely paced ascent of a panoramic but unlisted peak coupled with two nights of extended happy-hour reflections to mark the near end of the SPS 50th Anniversary Celebration. Trip will emphasize renewing acquaintances with longtime climbing friends and welcoming newcomers. Camp both Fri and Sat nights at BLM Tuttle Cr facility (5120') near Lone Pine. Car pool Sat am up paved Horseshoe Mdw Rd for climb of Wonoga or explore the gentle terrain at road's end (10,000'). Wonoga climb starts on Little Cottonwood Cr Trail and ends with Cl 2 xc. Total gain, 1100', 3 mi rt. Sun, for those interested, an optional 2-mile rt climb of the high point of the Alabama Hills (5354') with 600' of xc gain. Send sase with H&W phones & e-mail address to Asst Ldr: Jerry Keating. Ldr: Gordon MacLeod. Founding Member Liaison: John W. Robinson.

I: Sep 9 – 10 Sat – Sun SPS/ WTC Alta Peak (11,204'): Introductory SPS climb. Easy paced trip. Sat. backpack in via Wolverton/Alta Pk trail in Sequoia NP 4½ miles with 2000' gain. If time permits, explore Alta Meadow. Sat. night shared pot luck salad before dinner. Sun. climb peak via XC route approx 5 miles round trip with 2500' gain. Return to camp and pack out. WTC or equivalent required. Send e-Sase to Leader: Cheryl Gill. Co-Leader: Greg DeHoogh.

I: Sep 9-10 Sat-Sun WTC/SPS Mt Morgan (South) (13,748'): Sat backpack 2.5 mi 1200' gain from Rock Creek Lake to Francis Lake, set up camp. Sat day hike to Tamarack Lakes, 6 mi route 1000' gain, to view more wildflowers. Sun climb peak, 2900' gain, then pack out. WTC or equivalent necessary. Send SASE, or e-mail to Ldr: Ed Morente. Asst: Tom McDonnell.

MR: Sep 9-10 Sat - Sun SPS Mt. Russell (14,088'), Mt. Carillon (12,323'): Strenuous two day trip including Mt. Russell, a California 14er and Mountaineer's peak, and Mt. Carillon. Saturday backpack in to Upper Boy Scout Lake followed by peak climb of Mt. Russell via the East Ridge and Mt. Carillon from the Russell-Carillon saddle. Restricted to Sierra Club members with 3rd class climbing experience. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase and \$15 check for the Whitney Zone permit fee to Ldr: Jennie Thomas. Asst: Tom McDonnell.

MR: Sep 9 – 11 Sat – Mon SPS/WTC Matterhorn Peak (12,279'), Twin Peaks (12,323'), Whorl Mountain (12,033'): Fri backpack 5 mi, 3600' gain to camp near Horse Creek. Sat climb Matterhorn 1 mi, 1600' gain by southeast slope. Optional climb of Twin Peaks 1 mi, 1700' gain. Sun climb Whorl 2 mi, 1400' gain via southeast chute and out. Recent 3rd class rock experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send sase and \$3 check for permit fee to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Asst: Virgil Shields.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

WFA REFRESHER COURSE

NOVEMBER 4th or 5th FOR LEADERS.

**SIGN-UP EARLY, 8-YRS MAX. SINCE
LAST WFA COURSE REQUIRED**

I: Sep 9-11 Sat-Mon SPS Bloody Mtn (12,552'): SPS Intro trip geared to new and prospective SPSers and WTC students. Moderate backpack for class 2 pk south of Mammoth. Sat backpack 8 mi, 2600' gain to Dorothy Lake. Sun climb Bloody in 4 mi rt, 2400' of gain, mostly cross country. Mon backpack out 8 mi, 2600' of loss. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Send sase, \$5.00 permit fee per person to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Keith Martin.

O: Sep 15 – 17 Fri-Sun PV-South Bay/OCSS/SPS/Natural Science Yosemite Volunteer in Parks Program: Sat. work under direction of Park Rangers participating in end of season campground clean up in Yosemite Valley. Pot-luck Bar B Que on Sat. night. Sun. do your own thing or join leaders in hike somewhere in Yosemite Valley area (possibility might have Sat. off and work Sun.).. Stay in reserved Yellow Pines Campgrounds and get free Park entry pass, bring your own tent, sleeping bag and car camping equipment. Send 2 sase to Ldr: Keith Martin, Assistant: Bob Beach.

ER: Sept 15 - 17 Fri - Sun SPS Clyde Minaret (12,281'): Class 4 climbing up this mountaineer's Peak and high point of the Minarets. Other Minarets may also be climbed. Fri backpack about 8 mi, 2500' gain to camp in picturesque lake near base of peak. 2500' gain to summit Sat, hike out Sun. Experience on class 4 rock and appropriate fitness required. Restricted to SC members. Send sase/email to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-ldr: Larry Tidball

MR: Sep 21-24 Thu-Sun SPS Junction Pk (13,888'), Mt Tyndall (14,018'): Backpack up Shepherd Pass Trail (11 mi, 7000' gain), possibly to top 1st day. Climb Junction, Tyndall, all x-country, approx 2000' gain each from Pass, both with some class 3. Expect cold nights. E-mail to Ldr: ALEX AMIES, Assist: Asher Waxman & Ed Cottone.

MR: Sep 22 – 24 Fri - Sun SPS LeConte (13,930') and Corcoran (13,760'): Strenuous three day trip to these two third class peaks in between Whitney and Langley. We will hike in on Friday and set up camp, then climb both peaks Saturday, and hike out Sunday. 3rd class experience and excellent conditioning required. \$5 permit fee will be collected at the trailhead Send email to Ldr: Jennie Thomas Asst: Doug Mantle.

O: Sep 23 Sat SPS Cloud's Rest (9926'):

Moderate, 16 mi RT, 2700' gain. Beauty and the "Senior" Beast are leading this moderately paced Fall dayhike from Tenaya Lake onto one of Yosemite's spectacular view points with Class 1 trail all the way. The view of Half Dome from the top of Cloud's Rest is worth all the effort. Optional carcamp at Porcupine Flats with climbing stories from the old days. Contact Ldr: Bob Hartunian Asst: Tina Bowman.

II: Sep 23-24 Sat-Sun SPS/HPS Mt. Silliman (11,188'): SPS Intro trip for new and prospective members. Saturday backpack 3.5 mi, 2000' gain to camp, at a moderate pace. Time to relax or explore. Sunday 4 mi rt, 2500' to summit. Return to camp and pack out to cars. Bring goodies for happy hour Sat. night. Send SASE or email to Ldr: Gary Schenk. Co-Ldrs: Patty Rambert, George Wysup

I: Sept 24 Sun LTC/ WTC Grinnell Ridge

Navigation: Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase with navigation experience/training, rideshare info, H&W phones to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Phil Wheeler

Sep 30 Sat LTC Deadline for Leadership

Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment, by LTC Registrar for Oct 14 seminar. Next seminar: Spring 2007. See ad in back pages of Angeles Chapter Schedule.

OCTOBER**E: Oct 6 Fri LTC/SPS/HPS Five Fingers**

(5174'): Climb each of the five fingers of Aquila Peak near Ridgecrest. Much of the route is class 3, but has class 4&5 roped climbing sections. Start in Indian Wells Canyon, climb up and traverse ridge. Good use of climbing skills for Sierra peaks. 3 mi, 2500' gain. Harness, helmet, gear, suitable experience required. Send sase or email to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Asst: Asher Waxman

Leaders - send trip reports, photos, and interesting stories of your climbing adventures to the Echo Editor. Echo Editor - Edd Ruskowitz, 4 Locust, Irvine, CA 92604-3136 or e-mail hikinedd@yahoo.com.

Oct 14 Sat LTC Leadership Training Seminar:

Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. For info, see LTC section in front of Schedule. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Sep 30. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Spring 2007. See ad in back pages of Angeles Chapter Schedule.

I: Oct 22 Sun LTC/ WTC Indian Cove

Navigation: Navigation noodles at Joshua Tree NP for either checkout or practice to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones, sase to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw

I: Oct 28 Sat LTC/WTC Mt Lowe (5603')

Beginning Navigation Clinic: 5 mi, 500' gain. Spend the day one on one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass. Beginners to rusty old timers welcome. Not a check off. Many expert leaders will attend; many "I" rated leaders started here in the past. Recent no-shows require a \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead. Send large sase early with check made out to Sierra Club, H&W phones to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman

NOVEMBER**C: Nov 4 Sat LTC, Harwood Lodge/WTC**

Introduction to Wilderness First Aid: Runs from 8 am to 5:30 pm Sat. Includes instruction, notes, lunch, snacks. Existing leader rating or proof of previous CPR course required to enroll. \$50 (full refund through Oct 1). For application, contact Ldr: Steve Schuster

C: Nov 5 Sun LTC/Harwood Lodge/WTC

Wilderness First Aid Refresher: Runs from 8 am to 5:30 pm Sun. Includes instruction, notes, lunch, snacks. Wilderness first aid course of at least 24 hours within previous 8 years to enroll. \$50 (full refund through Oct 1). For application contact Ldr: Steve Schuster

I: Nov 18-19 Sat-Sun LTC/WTC Indian Cove

Navigation: Navigation noodles at Joshua Tree NP to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresh, altimeter, campfire. Sun for checkout. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, any WTC, sase to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw

Mountaineering Leaders:

Are you current with your Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training for 2006?

1. You are current if you have ever taken a WFA class.

Will you be current in 2007 with your WFA training?

1. To be current to lead mountaineering outings for the Sierra Club you must have taken a certified WFA 16-hour course in the last 4 years.
2. or the LTC refresher course on November 5, 2006.

Leaders who will not be current in 2007:

1. While this is not an endorsement, there does seem to be one Southern CA provider (other than the June LTC course) with WFA classes in 2006. Sign up early for classes. Orange County classes held at O-Neil Park. Idyllwild classes are held at camp ground with a \$13 person camping fee or \$19 per person dorm room fee nightly. Idyllwild camp/dorm site includes bathroom, showers and kitchen. Student are not required to stay at camp or dorm.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Provider</u>	<u>Cost</u>
WFA	2	WMA	Apr 22-23	Orange County	Adventure Risk Management	\$199
WFA	2	WMA	Jun 3-4	Orange County	Adventure Risk Management	\$199
WFA	2	WMA	Aug 19-20	Idyllwild	Adventure Risk Management	\$199
WFA	2	WMA	Dec 2-3	Idyllwild	Adventure Risk Management	\$199
WFAA	4+	WMA	May 6-9	Idyllwild	Adventure Risk Management	\$349
WFAA	4+	WMA	Jul 13-16	Orange County	Adventure Risk Management	\$359
WFAA	4+	WMA	Sep 2-5	Idyllwild	Adventure Risk Management	\$349
WFAA	4+	WMA	Nov 16-19	Idyllwild	Adventure Risk Management	\$349
WFAA2WFR	4+	WMA	May 11-14	Idyllwild	Adventure Risk Management	\$349
WFAA2WFR	4+	WMA	Sep 7-10	Idyllwild	Adventure Risk Management	\$349

Adventure Risk Management Call: John Jacobs 951-659-4090
www.adventureriskmanagement.com . e-mail: info@adventureriskmanagement.com

2. It may be possible to hire a private instructor for a group of 10+ leaders, contact Barbee & Larry Tidball at lbtidball@earthlink.net if interested in a private course. If there are enough respondents we will try to coordinate a course for Fall 2006.

Mountaineering Outings Leader Requirements.

Leaders wishing to lead mountaineering outings must:

- Be a certified leader and be and current in at least basic first aid*
- Have a climbing resume** on file at the National Office, to be updated every 2 years.
Send to Reiner Stenzel SPS Outing Chair

***First Aid Requirements:** For trips in 2006, one leader must have taken Wilderness First Aid (WFA) and be current in basic First Aid or more advanced training. The second leader must be current in basic First Aid or more advanced training. Wilderness First Aid is usually covered in an approximately 16-hour course. Basic First Aid is an approximately 4-hour course.

In 2007, one leader must be current in WFA, the other leader must be current in basic first aid or more advanced training. Currency for first aid, whether WFA or other, is required every four years under the Leader Standards Policy.

**** Climbing Resumes:** Climbing resumes should be updated every two years.

Please include:

- Contact information (address, phone number, email)
- Date of Resume
- Sierra Club member number and expiration date
- First aid training and currency (type of class, such as wilderness first aid, and when taken)
- Recent training, if any, with some detail about the training, sponsor, and date
- Recent relevant climbs- where and when, type of climb (rock, snow, canyoneering), level of difficulty, nature of participation (lead climber, follower, top-roped)



Below you will find provider listings for basic first aid, CPR, Wilderness First Aid/Responder courses. The purpose of this list is to let Sierra Club leaders know what is available. The Sierra Club does not endorse any of these providers. More information from the Sierra Club may be found at the URL:

http://www.clubhouse.sierraclub.org/outings/medical/first_aid/providers.asp

National Wilderness Medicine Providers

WMA

Wilderness Medical Assoc.

189 Dudley Road, Bryant Pond, ME 04219, www.wildmed.com

Courses provided across the country.

LA area WMA WFA courses are conducted in Idyllwild by Adventure Risk Management (John):

www.adventureriskmanagement.com

WMI

Wilderness Medicine Institute

284 Lincoln Street, Lander, WY 82520-2848, (866) 831-9001, <http://wmi.nols.edu>

(This URL did not work on 3/12/06.)

Courses provided across the country.

American Red Cross

ARC chapters are located across the country. They have recently put together a Wilderness First Aid curriculum.

In addition to the courses each of the above organizations advertise, each one will provide a custom course in your home town if you are interested in sponsoring it. To sponsor a course, each organization typically charges a very reasonable rate per person (around \$80) and asks you to cover the costs of instructor travel, lodging, and meals. As a sponsor you are also responsible for advertising the event and finding a classroom. The organization will provide all reading materials, class materials, certificates, and instruction. Contact each organization by email to receive a sponsor packet that includes more detailed information or refer to their website. Many of the Regional Providers below will also provide a custom course.

Regional Wilderness First Aid Providers

The following is a list of regional providers of wilderness first aid training. The purpose of this list is to let Sierra Club leaders know what is available. The Sierra Club does not endorse any of these providers. If you have any comments on any of the providers below, or know of any others, please contact LTC.

Foster Calm

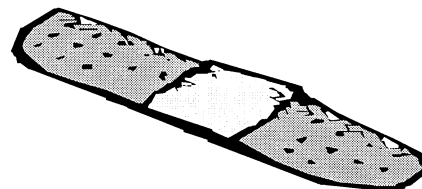
Bobbie Foster, 15135 Lake Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959, 530-265-0997, www.fostercalm.com

Hands on Training (WMA)

Julie Kliger and Jim Morrissey

585 Ocean View Dr., Oakland, CA 94618, 510-652-2543,

julie2543@aol.com



Peak Adventures

ASI Peak Adventures

6000 J Street, Sacramento CA, 95819-6011, 916-278-6321

Wilderness Emergency Care

Steve Donelan

PO Box 1227, Berkeley CA 94701, 510-549-3911, www.wildernessemergencycare.com

Outdoors Unlimited, UCSF

500 Parnassus Ave., Box 0234, San Francisco, CA, 94143-0234, www.outdoors.ucsf.edu/ou/

Wilderness First Aid Course

Steve Schuster, PO Box 3414, Fullerton, CA 92834, 714-315-1886, www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org

Red Cross first aid class schedules are normally released for a 6-month period, probably not soon enough to be included in the Schedule. (In January, they release a schedule through June. In July, they release a schedule for the rest of the year.) The following are several URLs for the Red cross web site to go to for information on courses sponsored by several LA area chapters:

<http://www.acrossla.org/> LA (first aid info is hard to find on site)

<http://www.greaterlongbeachrc.org> Long Beach (best organized site)

<http://www.sgvarc.org> SGV

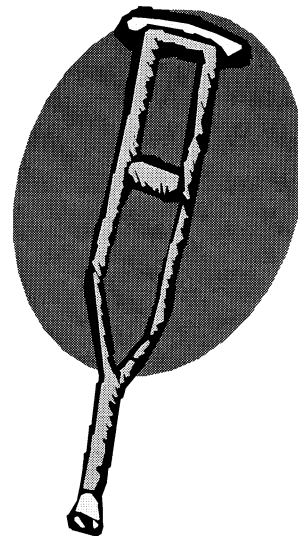
SPECIAL EVENT:

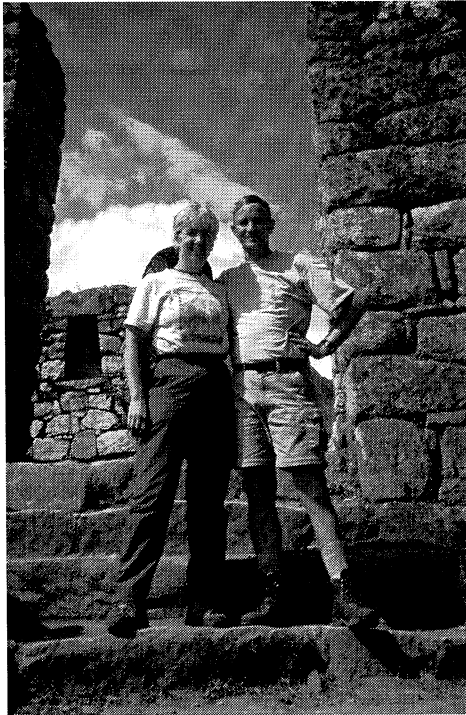
Long Beach CPR SATURDAY JUNE 10, 2006

CPR Saturday \$5 for one session (pre registration) and \$15 for one session (at the door). \$10 for combination sessions (pre registration) and \$30 for combination sessions (at the door)

Safe Kids \$5 or \$15 with lunch. Must sign up prior to June 2, 2006.

NO SAME DAY REGISTRATIONS. SPACE IS VERY LIMITED.





Farewell & Hello

This issue of The Sierra Echo is the last issue for editors Barbee Tidball and Barb Sholle along with Dave Sholle creating the cover art. Volume 40, November/December 1996 was the first issue Barbara (Cohen) Sholle and I put together. Barb provided critical assistance in planning the Echo layout and selecting articles or calling leaders to urge them to submit write-ups. I spent hours putting the Echo together, gathering permit, conservation, trip and other information I thought would be important to Echo readers. The Echo has evolved from a cut and paste creation to a computer generated publication.

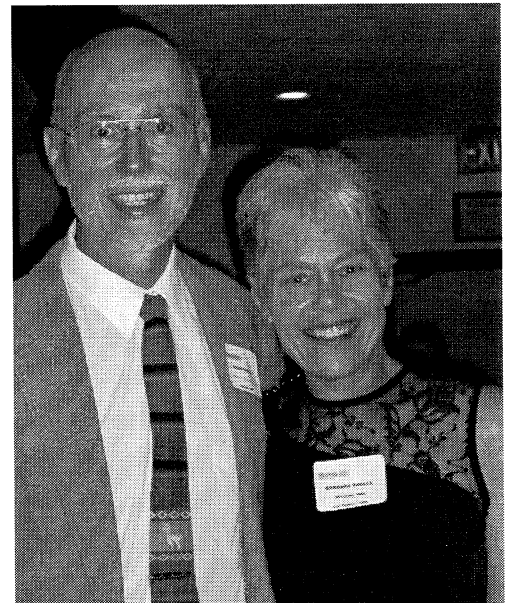
Less than a year after we began editing, Dave Sholle joined our Echo team with the publication of Volume 41, the July/August 1997 issue. Dave created the now familiar cover graphic design layout. Our

team was complete, I prepared, Barb proofed and corrected and Dave created the cover art.

When we took over editing the newsletter from Wayne Norman, we never imagined that 9 plus years later we would finally be ready to pass on the responsibility for the Sierra Peak Section's newsletter. It has been a very rewarding nine plus years. I am grateful to all the support Barb and Dave have given me over the years and to the section for everyone's understanding when we published late or the support we received through leaders submitting trip reports.

I hope everyone will welcome and support Edd Ruskowitz as he begins his work as *The Sierra Echo* editor. Keep sending in the trip reports, write comments on the issues that affect the Sierra and send in photos.

I asked Edd to tell us about himself....and he responded "I'm not what you would call a peakbagger, but I'm terminally in love with — and in awe of — the Sierra. I'm especially fond of peaks that look like peaks, like Merriam, and I'm drawn to every part of a trip: the hike in, the camp, the camaraderie and especially the view from the top. I've enjoyed hiking the local mountains and desert peaks as well, ever since way back in 1999 when I got up off the couch and let hiking change my life. I'm a graphic designer by weekday (and some weeknights) and a dedicated and I-rated WTC assistant leader. After producing the WTC Newsletter for four years, I'm looking forward to taking on the Echo."



Thank you Edd for stepping up to take over this wonderful job. Thank you, too, to Barb & Dave for helping make the last 9+ years very rewarding and to Larry for supporting me! BARBEE

Mt. Perkins/Colosseum Mtn. Trip Report

May 28-30, 2005

By Daryn Dodge

Participants: Beth Epstein (leader), Asher Waxman (leader), Patty Rambert, Jennie Thomas, Garen Yegpairiank, Alexander Smirnoff, Alex Amies, Paul Garry, Daryn Dodge

This was a re-scheduled SPS trip that had been delayed 2-weeks. But a paperwork snafu changed it to a private trip. After introductions near the Sawmill Pass trailhead near the Division Creek power station, the 9 participants drove to a parking area at Scotty Springs and then piled into two 4-wheel-drive vehicles for the drive up the old Armstrong Canyon mining road. This mining road is rough, necessitating a high-clearance vehicle. However, there appeared to be only 1 or 2 locations of loose pumice where the 4-wheel-drive was necessary. Also, do not take a car with a new paint job on this road. The brush overgrowing it will provide your vehicle with 'racing stripes'.

We parked the cars at a turnout just beyond a road fork that leads up to a mine. It's possible to drive all the way into Armstrong Canyon, but a big snow bank and someone else's pickup blocked the narrow road. At 9 am we made the relatively easy hike up Armstrong Canyon, which was mostly snow-filled above the nine thousand foot level. R.J. Secor's guidebook isn't kidding about the lack of running water in this canyon. Even though we had warm weather and plenty of snow, we could not find a single drop of running water and had to melt snow for our water supply. We set up camp only a little more than two miles from the cars, in a group of trees at about 10,000 feet. The afternoon was spent setting up tents, eating lunch, catching up on gossip, and exploring the upper reaches of the snow-filled canyon. The owner of the pickup blocking the road came by camp in the late afternoon after day hiking Mt. Pinchot. He reported that the snow conditions were poor, resulting in a short ride down in an avalanche while descending Mt. Pinchot. This information somewhat deflated our enthusiasm for the next days' climb.

During the evening strong gusting winds arrived. You could hear the wind gusts hit the ridge tops above before reaching down into the canyon, allowing us time to brace for impact. Asher's tent was shredded by the wind gusts necessitating his move into Paul & Alexander's tent. Beth, who was sharing the tent, moved into a rock cave that Alex A. was using.

The group started hiking towards Armstrong Col at 5:20 am with crampons, ice axes, and helmets on; Asher stayed behind due to lack of sleep and continued strong winds. The objective today was to first climb Colosseum Mtn, then Perkins if time permits. We cramponed all the way up the Col following the main chute in the SW corner of Armstrong Canyon. The maximum angle reached was about 35°. We then followed the Sierra Crest towards Colosseum Mtn. The winds were much stronger up here and we were continually knocked about by strong gusts. Even though we were right next to each other, we had to yell to be heard. Beth said wind gusts this strong are at least 40 mph. But we grimly continued on. About 400 feet below the summit we came to a deep gully that stymied our upward movement. Beth, Alex A., and I dropped down about 100 feet on the west side looking for a way to cross. The steep-sided gully contained rock-hard snow that increased the difficulties for crossing. With no clear way to cross the gully, and no guarantee that we could easily reach the summit if we did find a way to cross (the north sides of the peak looked steep and loose, and the chutes leading up may have been ice-filled), we turned back and decided to give Mt. Perkins a go instead. The howling wind was also a factor in this decision. Back at Armstrong Col, Beth decided to head back to camp due to remnants of a nasty cold from previous weeks. Paul's knee was bothering him and he decided to head back as well. That left six of us to tackle Perkin's southern ridge approach.

Reiner Stenzel's previous report on this approach noted it was quite arduous with numerous ridges to cross. We were not disappointed. We crossed a myriad of ridges and gullies staying below the summit crest on the moderately steep western side. There were more than 10 significant ridges to cross. Most were 15-30 ft. high with a few of them involving some class 3 climbing. Two members of the group asked for the rope up one ridge and Alex A. efficiently belayed them up. Secor's guidebook lists this south side ridge approach from Armstrong Col as

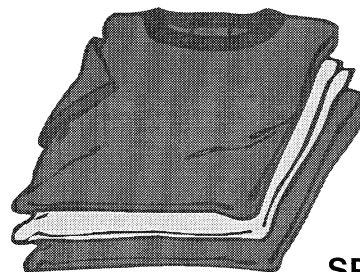
class 2, but we didn't see anything that would stay class 2. Often, Alex A. and Alex S. jumped ahead to scout for the best way to cross the next ridge. Once found, they waited for the others to catch up. This helped keep the group moving. With 3-4 ridges left to cross, we could see a dark red ridge looming up ahead above the others. This ridge signified the gully we needed to reach before beginning our actual ascent of Mt. Perkins.

When we finally reached this gully, Patty's GPS/altimeter indicated we were 0.15 mi. from, and about 400 feet below, the summit [on a future trip, Patty "donated" her GPS/altimeter to the summit of East Vidette]. This wide gully had a noticeably greater abundance loose scree and talus. Just short of the summit we came to a small rock buttress, which gave us a choice of moving left around the main buttress over a small cliff band with loose rock, or moving right up a steep chute with loose rock. We choose the chute with loose rock and climbed up it one-by-one to avoid falling rocks. Near the top of this gully was an amazing array of very loose rock that was ready to fall if one so much as breathed on them. One rock the size of a basketball was set free and careened down the chute. It then proceeded to thunder down out over the open talus field below. As it picked up more speed, it took a huge hop and then came crashing down, smashing itself into oblivion. This was quite a humbling site from above, but those below still waiting to move up the chute were not impressed. The last two in our group decided to go around to the left over the steeper rock band, thus avoiding the loose chute and falling rocks altogether.

We reached the summit around 5 pm and radioed Beth of our success. According to the register, we were the first group since Oct. 3rd of the previous year. Mt. Clarence King, Mt. Wynne, and Mt. Pinchot were all impressive sites, as was the totally snow-bound Pinchot Pass area. For our descent route, we continued north, looking to reach a broad chute leading into Armstrong Canyon from its northwestern side. It had been reported by Beth that this was a much easier route to Perkins. We crossed a few easy ridges, then followed the east side of a large plateau-like area. An east-tending ridge that went down and narrowed considerably followed this. Most of us put our crampons back on at one point to negotiate a short steep section of hard snow. Once at the top of the broad chute leading down into Armstrong Canyon, we descended first on loose rock,

and then plunged-stepped without crampons down poorly consolidated snow that was thin and hard on the surface but powdery underneath. These snow conditions did not allow for glissading and was quite exhausting. However, this side was definitely the easier route to Perkins. We arrived back at camp at 8:20 pm tired and hungry – a 15-hour hike. I wasn't sure where I was going to find the strength to dig up frozen snow, start the stove, and fix dinner. Much to our surprise, Beth had already fired up most of our stoves and was boiling water before we got back to camp. Tears of joy and group hugs ensued.

We hiked out of the canyon the next morning after an axe-tossing contest started by Jenny. Beth had the best toss with a quadruple flip-double axel, and stuck the landing with a perfect spike plant into the snow. It only took a little over an hour to get back to the cars. Armstrong Canyon makes for a wonderful early season trip into the High Sierra for some alpine climbing. With enough water bottles and a 4-wheel drive vehicle, Mt. Perkins or Colosseum Mtn. should also make a good summer dayhike and climb.



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

Sonora Pass Clean-Out **(Stanislaus, Black Hawk, Disaster, Leavitt)**

Sept. 9-12, 2005

By Darrick Danta

George Wysup kindly planned and organized an early September trip to car-camp and climb four peaks in the northern Sierra: Stanislaus, Black Hawk, Disaster, and Leavitt. After doing all the preliminaries, including lining up a couple extra leaders, some unexpected medical problems prevented him from participating; for one reason or another, the other leaders along with some of the participants also opted out. I had arranged with George to lead one of the hikes as an "I" Provisional, but in the event ended up leading all four.

Most participants drove up on Thursday, settling into Baker camp ground near Kennedy Meadows resort on Hwy 108, which proved to be an excellent central location for the four peak attempts. On Friday, seven eager climbers—myself, Laura Joseph (assistant), Randall Danta, Mike Gosnell, John Radalj, Kyle Atkins, and Dave Jenkins—set out at 8 a.m. from the marked Stanislaus TH just west of Sonora Pass. The weather and trail conditions were excellent, and we soon reached Saint Mary's Pass in the shadow of Sonora Peak before making the 2.5 mile contour around to the peak's base. En route, we passed through lovely meadows graced with some lingering wildflowers and enjoyed vigorously gurgling springs; the open topography afforded excellent views of granite outcrops and volcanic cones to the west and north. A good use trail extends up the east flank of the peak, but proved too steep and slippery for one member of the party. We reached the top at 11.30, but the blustery conditions hastened our retreat back to the more sheltered rocky area found below at UTM NAD27 11S 267681E 4251423N. A moderate pace broken by a few breaks brought us to the cars at 2. Stats for day: 9 miles, 2,600' gain, 3.5 hours up, 2.5 down for 6 total.

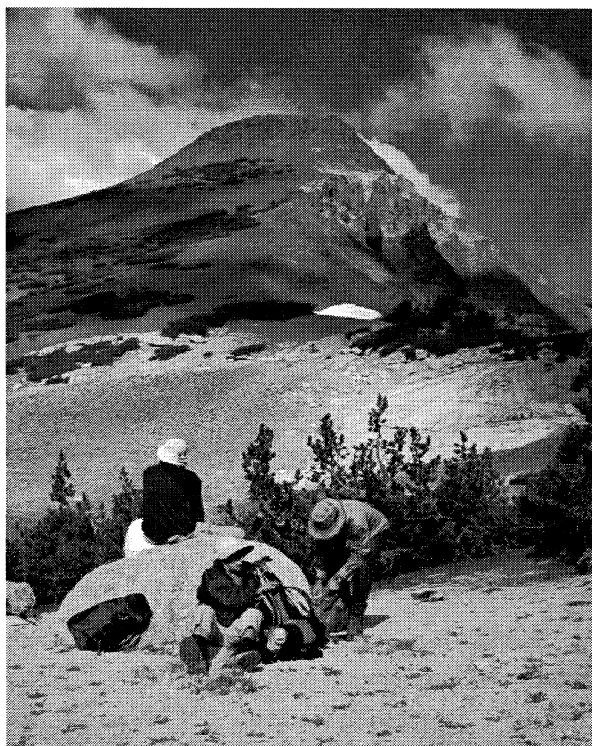
On Saturday, John, Randall, and Mike joined assistant John Cheslick and me for an assault on Black Hawk. Given the rumored distance of 20+ miles with over 5,000' of gain, we opted to assemble by 6.30 a.m. at the TH near the Kennedy Meadows store (we had secured permission to park here for the day) and were steaming toward our goal by 7. Pete Yamagata's route description proved entirely accurate and extremely helpful as the several trail branches, footbridges, and other features were encountered. However, we decided to follow a more direct route to the peak that was scouted by Mars Bonfire and used by Patty Kline. This route leaves the trail at UTM NAD27 11S 261902E 4235162N and continues due south up the drainage to the easternmost Lewis Lakes, then curves around left (east) up to the saddle south of point 9129, south up the ridge to contour around point 9523, thence past Black Hawk Lake, and finally straight up to the summit. This route proved to be excellent, leading first over slabs, then along grassy valleys, then along ridges, and finally up an easy scramble to the top. Again the weather at the summit was windy and cold, so we lingered only long enough for a quick bite and photo before heading back. On the return, we opted to head NE down the large bowl south of Black Hawk Lake (UTM NAD27 11S 262458E 4232819N) to re-join the trail NNW of Sheep Camp (UTM NAD27 11S 262888E 4234298N). This route proved adequate for a descent, but is not recommended for going up. After reaching the trail, we raced back down, thoughts of a restaurant dinner at Kennedy Meadows propelling our every step. We reached the cars at 6, thus capping a fast-paced day that saw our merry band cover the 20 mile distance and 5,500' gain in 11 hours.

We slept in a bit the next morning before heading off to climb Disaster on September 11. To get to the TH, we drove west on HWY 108 from Baker about 5 miles, then headed up the Clark Fork Road 9 miles to the Disaster Creek Trailhead. Randall, Mike, John Radalj (assistant) and I were on the trail by 8.30, heading north and up past the prominent Iceberg. After 2 miles (the second stream crossing) I kept an eye out for the possibility of shaving some distance off the trip by heading xc up-slope to catch the trail as it folds back towards the peak. Unfortunately, the terrain remained too steep and brushy to traverse easily, so we continued on trail until just past the first meadow (UTM NAD27 11S 259210E 4258555N), where we headed NE up hill, but had to contour N to reach the trail after bush wacking the 400' gain. In retrospect, staying on the lower trail and following Pete Yamagata's directions would have been easier. Once on the trail, though, the hike around on trail and then xc up to the summit was straight forward. We reached the top at noon,

where we joined Kyle Atkins, who had spent the previous day climbing a near-by peak. After some more xc bush wacking we made it back to the upper trail for the return. We decided to avoid the mistakes of the morning by staying on the upper trail that heads NW before joining the lower trail that heads SE then S. However, we found that the trail disappears upon entering a meadow, so we had to again rely on xc navigation to get us back on course. After finding the proper trail, we easily rolled back to the cars by 3, yielding 6.5 hours for this 7 mile, 3,600' climb.

The last day Randall, Mike and I were joined by Richard Whitcomb to climb Leavitt. We had decided to leave the TH at Sonora Pass at 6.30 a.m. to give us a running start at reaching home at a reasonable hour. The PCT runs just east of the parking area and heads south across the highway. Immediately after crossing the road, at the Forest Service sign, two choices present themselves: the PCT heads left (east) to contour around for over a mile; while a "short-cut" use trail heads right, proceeding around a hill then up some steep ridges before joining the PCT after a half mile. The short-cut definitely shaves distance, but is steep and goes over slippery rock; I would not recommend it for those carrying full packs. We opted for the short-cut, and, after rejoining the PCT, easily contoured around to the pass, dropped then gained 200' to the notch, then contoured again to a prominent ridge that extends east from the peak toward Latopie Lake. Just before this ridge (UTM NAD27 11S 269070E 4240843N), the PCT makes a sharp turn left cutting across a snow bank; a faint use trail begins at this point going right (west) up the gully. This trail becomes more distinct as it ascends the ridge, and can be followed all the way to the broad summit of the peak; the register is marked by a cairn. After enjoying some time at the top we hurried back along the trail, reaching the cars at noon. Leavitt proved to be an enjoyable SPS climb; a fast pace allows an early return to town, or the possibility of pairing it with a climb of Stanislaus in the afternoon.

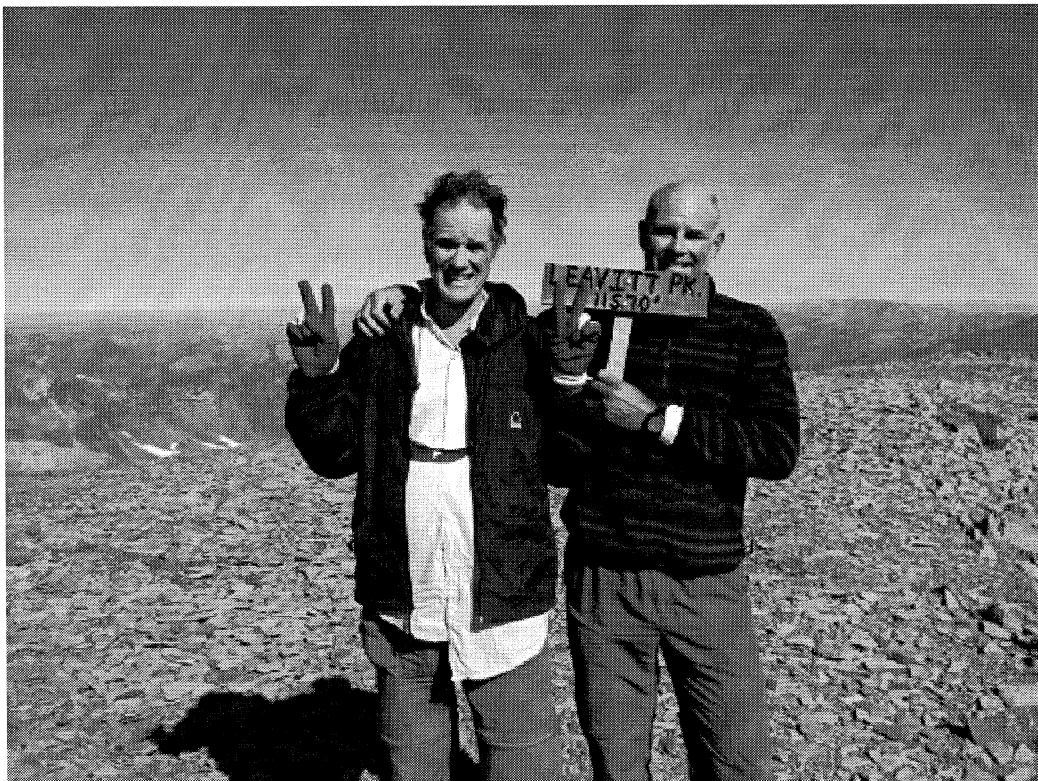
All in all, this trip provided a wonderful late season excursion to the northern Sierra seemingly enjoyed by all the participants. The added driving time for most *Echo* readers to this part of the Sierra is amply rewarded by splendid views, varied topography, and intricate formations.



Mike Gosnell, Laura Joseph (facing), and Kyle Atkins take a break before climbing the east ridge of Stanislaus.



John Cheslick, Randall Danta, Mike Gosnell, and John Radalj find shelter below the summit of Black Hawk.



Is Randall Danta (with Darrick) calling for World Peace? Doing his Nixon impersonation?
No, just affirming that he's got 22 more peaks to finish The List.

IN HIGH PLACES:

MT. LATA, MT. MATAFAO, AMERICAN SAMOA

By Burton “Ghostbuster” Falk

Have you ever had one of those trips where your plans fall apart faster than you can make them? You know, like trying to build a sand castle and the waves keep washing the sand away? Like Tantalus trying to reach the #\$\$@ grapes?

Well, that’s pretty much the story behind my recent trip to American Samoa, where, after taking thirty years to bag all fifty State highpoints, I hoped to add one more summit to my slow-growing collection of U.S. Territory and Commonwealth highpoints.

An even more compelling reason, however, goes back to the spring of 2003, when, after a swing through the South Pacific (bagging the highpoints of Easter Island, Fiji and Independent Samoa along the way), I arrived in American Samoa all set to climb 2,142’ Mt. Matafao, the high point of the Territory’s main island, Tutuila.

And I did (see details below). The problem was, as I discovered to my great chagrin the very next day, Mt. Matafao is not the highpoint of American Samoa. Oh, no! How could it be that the Territory’s actual highpoint, Mt. Lata, is actually stuck out on the small island of Ta’u, 60 miles east of Tutuila? And, furthermore, how could I have been so dumb not to have realized that? (The jury’s still out on the latter).

So, to save face, I planned to make a return visit the following year, 2004, in either June or July, Samoa’s driest months, accompanied by my long-time Colorado climbing buddy, Charlie Winger. Charlie, however, had to beg off that summer, so we agreed to put it off until 2005.

In the fall of 2004, with Charlie and several other climbers indicating a solid interest in the climb, and having lined up a guide—Steve Brown of Green Turtle Tours in Independent Samoa—I once again began to make serious plans for the following summer.

And then my cookie began to crumble. First, Charlie had to back out once again. Rats! Then the other would-be climbers began to slowly fade away. In mid-February 2005, Ta’u was hit hard by Hurricane Olaf, packing winds up to 160 m.p.h., and the unfortunate islanders, where the damage wrought

was enormous, were incommunicado for a several days. Having attempted to climb Kauai’s highpoint, Mt. Waialeale, not long after Hurricane Iwa struck that island in November 1982, I had nightmares of slogging up Mt. Lata through a jungle full of deadfall.

Then in February, Steve Brown began to hedge on his commitment to guide (he would have the ideal choice, as his wife, a Samoan, has an uncle, a chief, living on Ta’u, who could have arranged for a couple of villagers to clear a path toward the summit for us).

The plan came unglued even more so in April, when I learned that the small inter-island airline serving the Manu’a Islands (Ofu, Olosega and Ta’u) had gone belly up. Uh oh, was I going to have to charter a boat?

Not all the news was bad, however. In the meantime, I found two candidates ready to sign on, i.e., Gerry Roach, 61, legendary Boulder, CO climber and guide book author, conqueror of the Seven Summits, with whom I had finished the DPS list in the spring of 2004, and Ron Richardson, 63, recently retired purveyor of tours to New Zealand, exceedingly strong although weighing in at a mere 120 lbs, a new neighbor of mine in Palm Desert. Oh yeah, FYI, at 69, I would be the old guy on the climb.

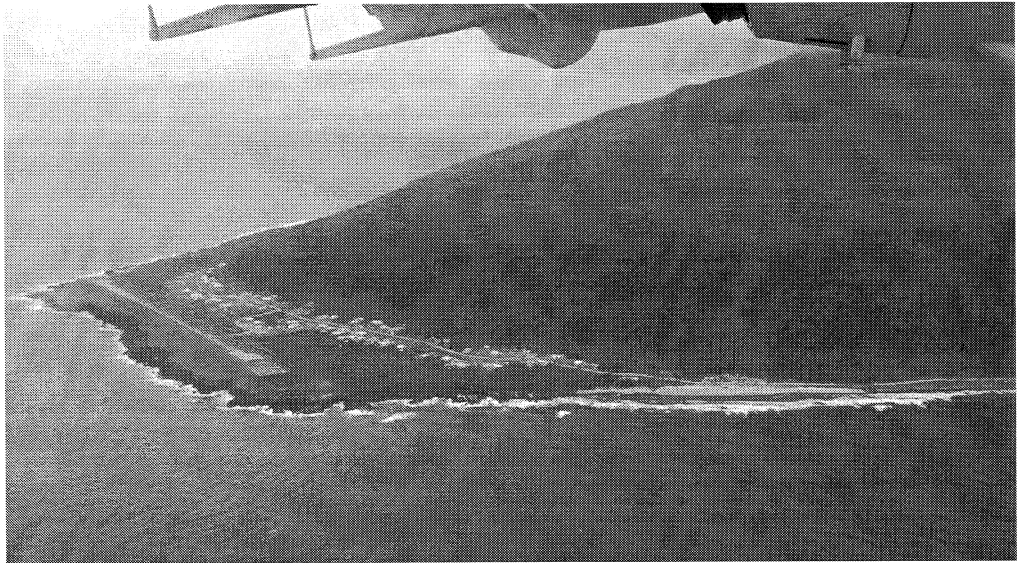
Steve Brown, who finally had to back out completely as he was involved in forming a new touring venture in Fiji, suggested a couple of other possible guides—one of whom was “Candyman,” described by Steve as the bodyguard to Tisa (who has run for governor of American Samoa twice), owner of Tisa’s Barefoot Bar, at Alega Beach, six miles east of Pago Pago.

In e-mail correspondence with Tisa, she replied that while Candyman couldn’t act as our guide, she was related to the mayor of Fiti’uta, the village just below Mt. Lata, and that he might be available to help. In addition, she mentioned that the inter-island airline had reorganized and was flying once again. Hot dog, at last things were looking up.

After checking with the mayor, Tisa sent me the following e-mail: “I spoke with (him) about your requests. He said, (there were) lots of ghosts in Manu’a, and (he) didn’t really seem interested. When I finally convinced him, he agreed to do it, of course there is a fee...The mayor has control over village life and land, including areas you requested. He was receptive at \$300.00 a day. These guys fear the ghosts more than god himself. You will take it from there.”

That was okay, too. I’ve always wanted to meet a ghost.

Then, just two days before we were to fly to Pago Pago, Tisa e-mailed that the inter-island airline hadn't flown for a week due to safety concerns. Oh, no! What next? The following morning, before I could go completely catatonic, she e-mailed that the planes were flying again.



Airstrip, Fitiuta Village, east slopes of Mt. Lata

All of which brings us to Friday morning, June 17, as Gerry, Ron and I stepped off the twice weekly Pago Pago/Ta'u flight at the Ta'u Island airport, located just next to the village of Fiti'uta.

And no one was there to meet us.

We killed time for an hour or so and then began to make inquiries. "The mayor?," the woman at the small airport store replied. "Oh, I think he's gone over to Pago." Could it be that, worried about ghosts, the mayor had gotten cold feet?

Fortunately, a small police station is located at the airport and an officer there, William Mose, who had spent two years stateside as an air traffic controller, came to our rescue. After we explained our situation, Mose arranged not only for two young villagers to assist us in climbing the mountain (at \$100/day each), but also for a place for us to stay while we were in Fiti'uta (\$50/night/person + meals). And that, as we were to discover during the rest of our stay in the islands, was indicative of Samoans in general—if you need help, you just won't find anyone more willing to lend you a hand (accompanied with a smile, too).

The Samoa Islands, split politically between Independent & American Samoa by the 171st meridian, stretch 400 miles from east to west, and lie approximately 2,600 miles south-southwest of Hawaii and 400 miles north of Tonga. Due to their proximity to the equator, 1,000 miles to the north, the islands are hot and humid for most of the year, although during the dry season, June to September, the rainfall tapers off substantially.

The islands are volcanic in origin, the oldest being Rose Atoll, eroded down to sea level, anchoring

the east end of the archipelago, while the youngest, Savai'i, with its still-active Mt. Silisili, continues to grow to the west. This orderly progression is belied somewhat by a new volcano currently arising below sea level between Rose Atoll and Ta'u.

Ta'u Island, the home of Mt. Lata, is roughly rectangular in shape, approximately 7 miles long, east to west, and 2-1/2 miles wide, north to south. The mountain itself is a remnant of the rim of an ancient caldera, most of which collapsed into the sea long ago, no doubt causing a huge tsunami. The 3,000' sea cliffs along Ta'u's south shore are among the tallest in the world.

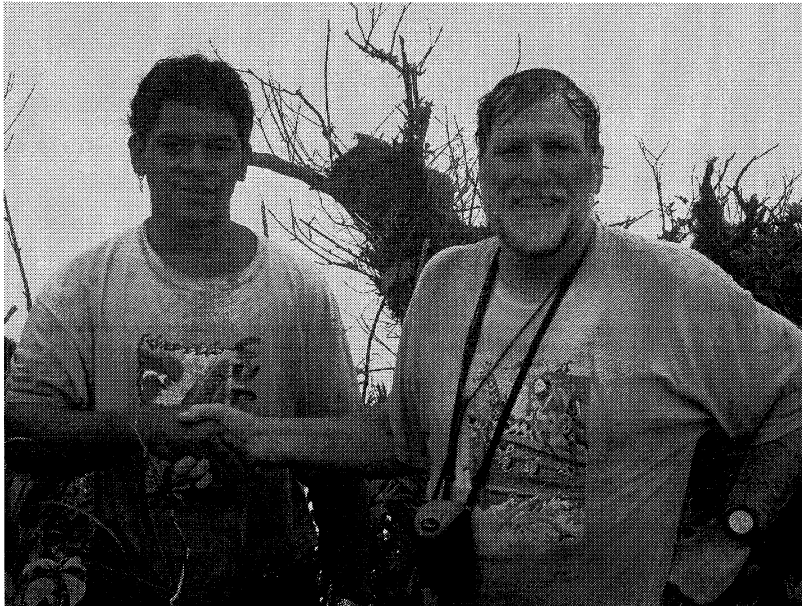
Historically, Ta'u is noteworthy because: 1.) According to Samoan tradition, it was from Saua, on island's east coast, that the navigators of yore began their incredible voyages to discover and settle most of the rest of Polynesia Islands, including Hawaii and New Zealand, and 2.) The island is where anthropologist Margaret Mead conducted studies in the 1920s for her controversial book *Coming of Age in Samoa*. The current population of the American Samoa is approximately 58,000; the population of Ta'u is approximately 700.

Next morning, Saturday, June 18, after breakfast at Nofoaiga Mauga's boarding house in Fiti'uta, we found our two guides, Toli Valahulu, 22, and Tavale Ta'aga, 18, waiting for us on the front porch. We hoisted our packs into our host's pickup, were driven to the trailhead directly above the Fiti'uta landing strip, and at 9 a.m. our party of five started up the mountain.

At first the use trail, which leads to an overgrown plantation of coconut palms and breadfruit

trees (many of which had been downed in hurricane Olaf), was steep and uneven, and I was soon panting and soaked in sweat.

Beyond the plantation, the slope tapered off, and we were able to follow bits of colored ribbon tied to branches, as we headed toward Judds Crater, elevation 1,200'. At the lower lip of that tree-filled depression, however, our progress slowed dramatically. Not only did the deadfall become more substantial, but all vestiges of a trail vanished. Indeed, the climb became downright serious grunt work, especially for Toli and Tavale who were slashing through the undergrowth with their machetes. Stops to scope out the best route through the thick vegetation became frequent.



Toli and Jerry - Mt Lata

By mid-afternoon, after gaining only 2,000' in elevation, we entered the cloud layer that normally perches on top of the mountain—and, of course, it began to rain. In fact, within minutes we were sopping wet, and our boots squished out water at each step. The climb had become almost as miserable as I had expected.

A little after 5 p.m., with 500 feet of gain still to go to reach the summit, we stopped for the evening. Sundown occurs early and the twilight is brief near the equator. I downed a cold dinner, replaced my wet clothes with a dry jacket and wind pants, and wrapped up in a small blanket covered with a red & white checkered plastic table cloth which I'd picked up at a convenience store. Then, leaning back on my lumpy mattress of fern fronds, I waited for the ghost

show to begin.

I was very tired, however. After only a few moments, my built-in nocturnal boom box—which my wife has described as sounding something akin to a rabid rhinoceros in heat—kicked in, and the next thing I knew it was dawn. Indeed, thanks to my sonic security system, not one single apparition visited our little nest of climbers that night.

That next morning, Sunday, a small discussion took place. Ron didn't think we could reach the summit and get back down to the village that same evening. Tavale had injured a leg during the prior afternoon, and, although certainly willing, he was probably not able to continue upward. Gerry, who is a big guy and needs plenty of water, had run short.

He anticipated he was going to need more than he had left if he were to continue comfortably. As for me, I was just anxious to get on with it.

We decided, therefore, that Ron and Tavale would abort the climb and return to the village, where, hopefully, they could enlist someone to carry additional water back up the slope for Gerry, Toli and me. At 7 a.m., with everyone satisfied, we set off in opposite directions.

Climbing a gentler and less brushy slope—the vegetation diminished in thickness and height as the elevation increased, possibly because, subjected to higher wind velocities, more of it had been knocked down—Gerry, Toli and I reached the summit ridge about 9:30 a.m. There, next to the precipitous

cliffs falling off to the south, we discovered that the much vaunted view was obscured by clouds, and that the U.S.G.S. Topographic map indicated neither which of the three bumps along the ridge was the tallest, nor the highpoint elevation. We, of course, had to climb all three.

Because the bump that we finally determined to be Mt. Lata's highest—on which my GPS indicated an elevation of 3,164'—had no register, Gerry placed one of our own there, securing it to a stunted tree with same yellow tape with which he had been using to mark our upward route.

After a round of handshakes and hugs, Gerry then opened the contents of two small vials into the wind, one containing ashes of his sister, the other those of Jack Longacre, the late founder of the



Matafao Peak - Tutuila Island high point

Highpointers Club. Jack, I'm sure, would be delighted to know that his ashes have now been spread over all 50 State summits, plus several other highpoints around the world.

We started down again at 10:30 a.m., and, as might be expected, we made much better time on our descent. That was the good news. The bad news was that, once below the cloud cover, it became extremely hot and sultry, and Gerry, especially, began to suffer. I have no doubt the big guy functions extremely well at freezing or below freezing temperatures—say Antarctica or Alaska—but his thermostat is definitely not set for a steamy jungle setting. When we finally did reach the plantation, we were all quite thankful to be able to whack open a few coconuts and suck out their milk. Ironically, only moments later, when we were almost in sight of the village, two young Fiti'utans arrived bearing gallons of water.

That evening, following a cold shower, a beer and an artery-clogging meal consisting of corned beef, fried fish, taro and rice—fresh vegetables being a rarity in Ta'u—at our boarding house, I, at least, found myself in a euphoric state of mind. I don't know about you, but bagging a tough mountain always gives me that sort of feeling. It's one of the best parts of mountaineering.

Since our flight back to Pago Pago wasn't due until Tuesday, the next day, Monday, Gerry, Ron and I

hiked south from Fiti'uta, along the eastern shoreline of Ta'u, past Saua—the legendary embarkation site—and all the way around Tufu Point, where we got a glimpse of the magnificent, south-facing sea cliffs falling away from Mt. Lata's summit. The U.S.G.S. map, by the way, shows a trail leading all the way around the south side of the island, but the locals report that recent hurricanes have made that route impassible.

Ron and I were scheduled to depart American Samoa before Gerry, and so on Tuesday morning we parted ways, Gerry heading for Ofu Island (one of the Manu'a Islands), while Ron and I flew on to Pago (the locals reduce the place name to a singular Pago and pronounce it Pango). Once on the ground in Pago, and after renting a car, we made a bee line for the nearest Chinese restaurant, where we demolished a mid-afternoon repast comprised mostly of fresh wok-stirred vegetables. The average Samoan diet includes a lot of meat (often Spam) and potatoes (often chips or fries), and as a result the populace suffers from a high incidence of diabetes and other diet-related diseases. And it should come as no surprise that MacDonalds is a huge success both in Pago and in Apia in Independent Samoa.

That evening, Ron and I rented two beach front *fales* (thatch-covered huts) adjoining Tisa's Barefoot Bar, and the next day, Wednesday, we hiked the scenic Mount 'Alava Trail in American Samoa

National Park, beginning at Fagasa Pass, following a ridge overlooking Pago Pago Harbor, and ending, after a steep down climb (employing ropes and ladders provided by the Park Service), at the picturesque village of Vatia, on Vatia Bay.

Fagasa Pass is also where the climb of Mt. Matafao, the 2,142' highpoint of Tutuila Island, begins. If you walk across the street opposite the small parking lot at the Fagasa Pass/ Mt. 'Alava trailhead, you'll discover a ladder constructed of white plastic pipe, now almost completely overgrown with vines and weeds, which leads to the top the steep embankment. That's the beginning of the ridge-top trail leading to Mt. Matafao. Take along a machete, plenty of water, and be prepared for an all-day bushwack.

Back at Tisa's that evening, we enjoyed a traditional Samoan feast of pork, chicken, taro, bananas and many other Polynesian delicacies, all cooked native fashion in an *umu*, and served on banana leaves. Because we had to use our fingers to eat (no utensils having been provided), a shower or, better yet, a steam cleaning would have been nice afterward.

On Thursday, our last day in Samoa, Ron and I drove out to the east end of Tutuila Island, where we

took a 15 minute ferry ride to small Aunu'u Island, an off-the-beaten-track sort of a place that offers the intrepid visitor a traditional village, a small crater and two small lakes, one filled with quicksand, the other red in color and teeming with fresh water eels.

That same evening, after dinner at our now favorite Samoan restaurant, the Hong Kong, we caught the weekly 11:20 p.m. Hawaiian Airline flight back to Honolulu.

Last but not least, here's my advice for climbing Mt. Lata, or most any other tropical mountain: 1.) Wear proper clothing—this means long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and gloves. Much of the vegetation that we pushed through came equipped with saw tooth-edged leaves, making the wear and tear on our bare skin and hands extreme. 2.) Be sure to take plenty of water—we started off with about 1-1/2 gallons each and it wasn't enough. An addendum to this rule is to make sure your guides are carrying a sufficient amount of water for themselves as well. We ended up having to share what little we had with both Toli and Tavale. 3.) Pack along something in which you can stay warm and dry during the long equatorial night (12 hours). Even though you're near the equator you'll be cool and wet. 4.) Take plenty of insect repellent. They're there, and they're vicious.

ACE Inhibitors and High-Altitude

I took a few trips to higher altitudes in the Sierra this summer and it seemed more difficult than usual. At times I felt terrible. I was breathing so hard Patty Rambert suggested I might need a lung transplant. I thought I was in good condition but I am a year older, and I wasn't sleeping too well.

With a trip to Nepal approaching that would involve several areas approaching or exceeding 18,000 feet I worried that I could complete my plans. I got the idea that maybe the blood-pressure medication I started this year was involved. I remembered reading last year that some research concluded that Viagra improved high-altitude performance and I thought I remembered it also increases blood pressure. So I decided to stop the blood-pressure medication for my Nepal trip on speculation.

In the Everest area I met a high-altitude doctor and asked if there was any relationship and told him I had been taking an ACE-inhibitor. "Oh yeah, ACE-inhibitors will make you feel horrible" was the response. I had no more difficulty than normal with the altitudes and completed the trip as planned. I resumed my medication on return as the relationship between even slightly high blood pressure and permanent cognitive-decline is well established.

I should think that the easy solution in the case of ACE-inhibitors would be to switch to a diuretic type med, but there are advantages to ACE-inhibitors that I won't go into here. A temporary switch seems logical, however.

I thought I would research meds and high-altitude upon my return and write something intelligent for the *Echo*, but did not have much luck in my internet search. Perhaps someone with more knowledge could follow this up. Jim Conley

GO READ A BOOK!

The Last Season

by Eric Blehm

I recommend that you take time out this spring to read "The Last Season" by Eric Blehm that will be released in April '06. Check out the website www.thelastseason.com and reserve a copy early. Randy Morgenson a legendary backcountry ranger headed out on patrol into the rugged wilderness of the High Sierra and did not return. The story describes one of the most intensive search and rescues in National Park history.

In January, I received an advanced copy of the book and being that it was out of season for Sierra climbing I started reading it immediately. The story was so intriguing I had a hard time putting it down. It provides mystery and suspense with a true wilderness adventure.

Randy's early years were spent with his family in Yosemite Valley. His father Dana Morgenson worked for Yosemite's benchmark concessionaire, The Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Yosemite Valley was Randy's backyard growing up. He started to work as a backcountry ranger in 1965, the year after the passing of the Wilderness Act. His job was to spread the word of how to preserve and protect the fragile environment. As time went on, the park service felt the rangers needed to become law enforcement officers and carry weapons.

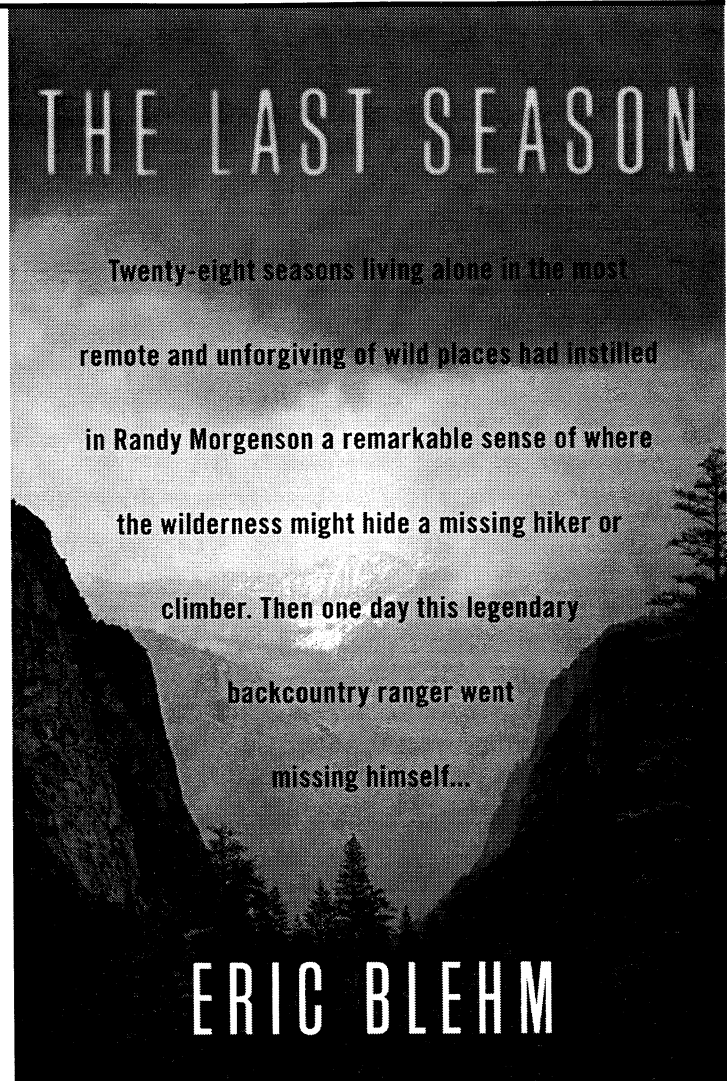
Being an SPS peak bagger, I have been to many of the areas that Randy patrolled and also had visited several of the backcountry ranger stations. I wanted to pull out a map and trace the areas that were searched. The story told how compassionate the seasonal backcountry rangers are for what they do year after year.

So sit back, relax and enjoy the journey!

Patty Rambert
Lover of the Sierras!

And from the author, Eric Blehm "...*The Sierra Echo* has some excerpts in the book from stories written by Doug Mantle, and recounts some of Doug's adventures in the Sierra including when he was rescued from The Hermit, had a run-in with a ranger, became a suspect in the disappearance of said ranger, and other relevant stuff..."

The book has been reviewed by Outside Magazine, National Geographic Adventure, Audubon, Details, Men's Journal, Ranger Magazine, Sierra Heritage, and Backpacker Magazine is running a two part excerpt.



Conservation 2- Liners

Forest Service Lands FOR SALE

by Barbee Tidball

Visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff> for a listing of lands for sale and look at Secure Rural Schools Forest Service FY 2007 Initiative.

Attempting to fund today's budget with tomorrow's non-replaceable resources, the Bush administration announced a plan to sell over 300,000 acres of national forest lands (85,000 acres in California). The proposed sales are another attempt to sell off or impose fees on public lands to raise funds for non-forest/lands related expenditures. The Fee Demonstration program has imposed user fees on the public; an attempt to allow mining companies to buy federal land was recently defeated and the House debated a bill that would allow the sale of 15 percent of federal lands out West to help pay for hurricane recovery on the Gulf Coast.

The federal government owns much of the land west of the Mississippi River, including about 45 percent of California and 85 percent of Nevada.

The federal government constantly buys, sells and trades parcels of land out West, said John Leshy, solicitor of the Interior Department in the Clinton administration. But the Bush administration's proposal aims to raise money, not better manage Western lands, he said.

The administration claims the sales are needed to fund public schools in rural areas. "The (real) purpose, frankly, is to raise money to close the yawning budget deficit," Leshy said. "Federal lands should not be used as a cookie jar."

As noted in a Sierra Club statement on the sales "Selling off national forest lands and their public benefits of fish and wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and recreation for a one-time windfall is a terrible idea and would set an ominous precedent. Future sales would undoubtedly follow. The privatized lands would no longer be managed to national forest standards."

Senators Boxer and Feinstein have stated their opposition to the proposed sale. The sale of the lands must be approved by Congress. Let your Congressional representative, know your opposition to the proposed sales for funds, not responsible land management. Submit your comments to the Forest Service by March 30th to SRS_Land_Sales@fs.fed.us.



The Sierra Club urges us to "Tell the Forest Service why the whole plan is a very bad idea and point out that the environmental impacts of the sales are not being considered. Tell the Forest Service why particular lands you are familiar with should not be sold.

The national forests do include fragmented and isolated parcels, as study of national forest maps makes clear. Exchanging such parcels for more valuable private lands inside the national forests, after full environmental analysis and public input, is a far more valuable use of fragmented and isolated parcels. Important lands in the Grouse Lakes, North Fork American, and Granite Chief areas of Tahoe National Forest have been acquired by land exchanges over the past few decades."

Submit your comments by March 30th

LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES TIP: ALWAYS WALK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TRAIL. WALKING ON THE SIDE ONLY MAKES THE TRAIL WIDER. TRAVEL PREPARED, GAITERS AND STRUDY WATERPROOFED BOOTS MAKE WALKING IN THE CENTER OF THIS MUDDY WET TRAIL EASY AND COMFORATABLE. YOUR BOOTS WILL DRY OUT FASTER THAN THE TRAIL WILL RECOVER FROM THE TRAMPLING DAMAGE WALKING ON THE SIDES WOULD HAVE CAUSED.

News Release from *Sierra Nevada Alliance Weekly*:

Proposed EPA Rule Change

Met with Concern at Public Hearing in San Francisco

March 9, 2006

Press Contact: Clare Cragan, Policy Coordinator, Mono Lake Committee, (760) 647-6595,
www.monolake.org

SAN FRANCISCO—Crowds filled the Courtyard Marriott in downtown San Francisco last Wednesday from sunup to sundown, anxious to voice their concerns about the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed changes to air quality standards. The EPA hosted hearings in three cities on Wednesday—San Francisco, Chicago, and Philadelphia—in order to hear feedback on proposed amendments to the rule for particulate matter standards.

Mono Lake Committee staff and members turned out for the event because the federal changes would significantly affect the air quality in the Mono Basin and the Owens Valley, which are the largest sources of windblown dust pollution in the United States.

"[The Mono Basin] is the wildest and most beautiful land I know... I hope we can ensure that this basin will remain a sanctuary and not a bowl of dust to poison us." said Anna Mills, Mono Lake Committee member from Menlo Park, California, who comes to the Mono Basin every year.

Dust storms originate on dry lake bed areas exposed by excessive water diversions by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP). This windblown dust poses a significant human health threat because the dust particle sizes are so small that they pass through the nose and throat to lodge directly in the lungs. The dust also contains toxins such as arsenic, cadmium, nickel, and sulfate salts.

The EPA now wants to eliminate clean air standards for the Mono Basin and Owens Valley—twice! First, the proposal would strip away protections for windblown dust, exactly the kind that blows off the exposed lake beds of Mono and Owens. Second, the proposal would dispose of protections for rural areas, leaving one-third of the US population without any air quality standards, including Eastern Sierra communities.

Based on the PM rule changes there would be no protection for citizens living in cities or towns with less than 100,000 people—37% of the US population. The EPA is charged with upholding the interests of the public; however, this amendment unfairly disregards the health of people living in rural areas.

"The EPA hearing officers in San Francisco heard nothing but opposition to changing the regulations. Even the petroleum industry does not want to see a change!" said Frances Spivy-Weber, Co-Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee.

A working solution is in place to solve these Eastern Sierra air pollution problems and attain the current EPA standards for safe air quality: DWP is allowing Mono Lake to rise and cover the exposed lake bed, while in the Owens Valley they use several dust mitigation techniques on the dry lake bed to keep windblown dust down. Under a new EPA proposal, the standards themselves would dry up and blow away.

There is still time to comment on the proposed EPA rule change for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard Particulate Matter. The deadline for comments is April 17, 2006. For more information on where and to whom you can address your comments, go to the Mono Lake Committee's website at www.monolake.org.

Sierra Nevada License Plates - CALIFORNIA

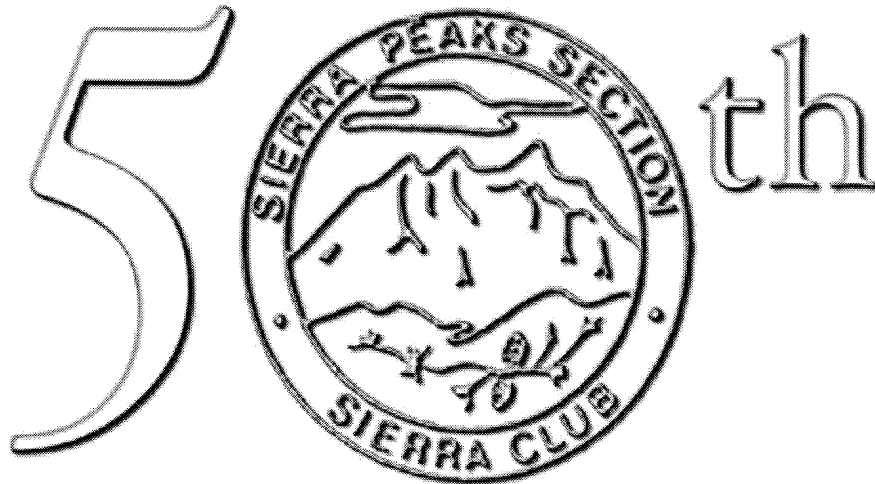
Show your support for the Sierra Nevada by reserving your Sierra Nevada License Plate...today!

Log on to <http://www.sierraconservancy.org> to find out more.

WHY RESERVE YOUR OWN SIERRA NEVADA LICENSE PLATE?

- Participate in the historic effort to protect and restore the Sierra Nevada
- Create millions of dollars in new funds that advance both environmental preservation and the economic well-being of the Sierra
- Show your commitment to — and love of — the Sierra Nevada

California requires that 7,500 vehicle owners must request a specialized environmental license plate...before the License Plate can be issued by the State Department of Motor Vehicles.



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

If you have any questions, contact Dave at dsholle@lbcc.edu or 562-429-2647.

In March 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) became available for \$20. If you would like to have the Banquet DVD and the full set of interview DVD's, the combination is available for \$25.

SPS HISTORICAL DVD SETS AVAILABLE ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

MORE NEW BOOKS FOR HIKERS:

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FAVORITE DOG HIKES SIERRA: DEATH VALLEY TO YOSEMITE Spotted Dog Press, Inc.

January/February/March VOL. 50 NO. 1

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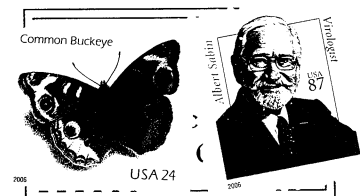
ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes to Secretary: Gary Schenk, P.O. Box 1414, Huntington Beach, CA 92647-1414. The ECHO is mailed via 3rd class mail to all regular subscribers and will not be forwarded by the post office.

PEAKS LIST: Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending \$1.00 and a SASE to the section Treasurer: Henry Arnebold 2459 Escalante, La Verne, CA 91750

MISSING ISSUES: Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Beth Epstein, 4048 E. Massachusettes street, Long Beach, CA 90814-2825.

AWARDS: Notification of accomplishments send to section Secretary: Gary Schenk, P.O. Box 1414, Huntington Beach, CA 92647-1414. To purchase awards merchandise - Emblem pins (\$15.00), senior emblem pins (\$15.00), master emblem pins (\$15.00), list finisher pins (\$15.00), and section patches (\$2.00) are available from Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr, Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290. Make all Checks Payable to the SPS, all prices include sales tax.

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