

# The Sierra **Echo**

Newsletter of the Sierra Peaks Section, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

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JUNE 16, 1948

PATTY RAMBERT

MAY 31, 2006

# ECHOES from the Chair



Spring has sprung, summer is here and it's time to get reacquainted with Highway 395! As you may have noticed, the Echo is overflowing with trips of all levels. A big round of applause for our Outings Chair **Reiner Stenzel**, please.

You may notice that there are no trips scheduled to Pilot Knob (S). Some access issues have developed recently. The most usual route as of late has crossed the White Blanket Ranch. Permission to cross this property is becoming very difficult to obtain. The HPS has recently suspended this peak from their list due to this issue. The management committee is very interested in the opinions of the membership in regards to this issue. Any ideas as to alternate routes? Should we keep this peak on the list? Echo articles and letters to the editors on this subject are welcome.

Speaking of the Southern Sierra, it's time to start planning fall and winter trips. The Southern Sierra is the overlooked jewel of California. It's a fine area to introduce prospective members to the Sierra, and fall and winter can be ideal times to explore the sublime beauty of the region.

Climb safe. — *Gary Schenk, SPS Chair*

## Deja Vu... All Over Again

Volunteering to take over as Sierra Echo Editor wasn't the easiest decision I've made. Last year, after four years editing the WTC Newsletter, I handed the job over to fresh meat and looked forward to having all that extra free time for... whatever. Thing was, I really *enjoyed* the job, in spite of the hours. But WTC is an all-volunteer group, as is SPS, and I just felt it was time others stepped up. After ten years of devoted service, I'm sure that thought crossed **Barbee Tidball's** and **Barbara Scholle's** minds once or twice, too.

So what convinced me to take over the Sierra Echo? Ironically it was my friend **Patty Rambert** who, as SPS Chair, pitched the project to me. I held out for a bit, thinking I'd be nuts to throw myself back into a newsletter. But the proof in her persuasiveness is this first effort, essentially a memorial issue to the one responsible for it.

Feel free to send me your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, recipes, stock options – anything you feel might be appropriate for the Echo. There's nothing really controversial in this issue so I can't imagine getting hate mail – yet. But who knows... the term is young. — *Edd Ruskowitz*

## On Our Cover

In a rare, reflective and quiet moment, Patty Rambert, with the all-important register at her side, quietly contemplates Mt. Whitney from the summit of Thor Peak.

## Patty Rambert Photos on Facing Page

1. On top of Mt. Lawlor with Strawberry Peak in the background (HPS).
2. Carrying not only her own pack but that of a fatigued fellow hiker as well.
3. Standing in the doorway of an elaborate tent site on Mt. Shasta.
4. From the cover of the Winter 2004 WTC Newsletter "Peak Bagging" issue
5. On top of Black Giant with **Barbara Scholle**.
6. In her full luau regalia as WTC Group 2 leader on the bus to snow camp with **Ed Cottone** and **Jennie Thomas**.
7. **Ron Eckelmann**, **Greg Mason**, **Bill Livingston** & Patty cheer on the other climbers at the summit of Powell Point, May 28, 2006.
8. On the phone planning her next trip while the others lounge atop Mt. Conness.
9. On the way to Thor peak, crossing paths with **Doug Mantle**.
10. At the trailhead with her faithful Subaru Outback.
11. On New Year's Day, 2005, flashing the most famous smile in climbing.

## The Fine Print

The Sierra Echo is a quarterly publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. For more information see the back page of this newsletter. All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to **Edd Ruskowitz, Editor, The Sierra Echo**, preferably via email at [hikinedd@yahoo.com](mailto:hikinedd@yahoo.com). Mailing address is 1616 E. 4th Street, Suite 265, Santa Ana, CA 92701. The Echo will also be available in color (*with leader contact info omitted*) as a PDF download at the SPS website.

## CELEBRATE THE LIFE.

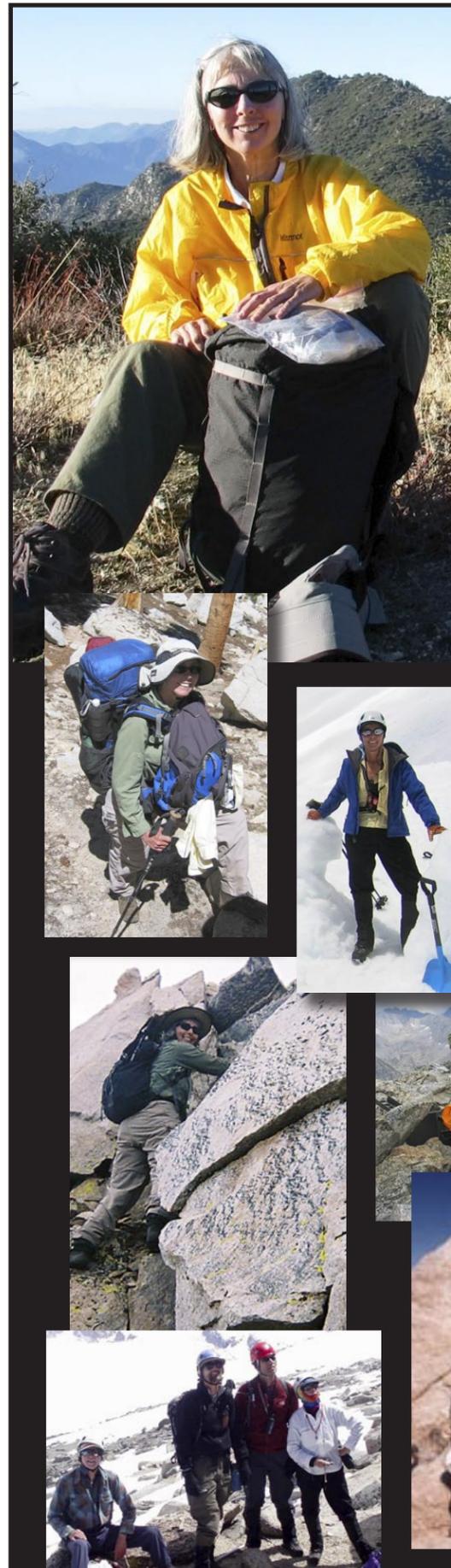
"Hey! Looks like it's clearin' up!" Melissa and I looked at each other; she has to be kidding... Poking my head out the tent door I looked up into Patty Rambert's huge Cheshire Cat grin and a backdrop of wall-to-wall gray. "It's first thing in the morning, Patty, and you can't see a speck of blue!" Well, I couldn't see it, but Patty always could.

Patty Rambert died in a fall from Mt. Mendel in the Eastern Sierra May 31st, 2006 while on a trip with one of her closest friends. Though there are questions, the answers invariably lead back to the same disbelief and emptiness I felt reading that first horrible email. I don't need answers, I need Patty.

Patty always left a gathering of strangers with new friends, and it never took long for her voice to imprint on a new acquaintance. I'm pretty sure anyone who knew her could call up that boisterous accent with no effort at all. Certainly I can, and that's reassuring to me. Because when she left I lost my friend, my teacher and, most of all, my unconditional wellspring of confidence. Though far more experienced, she treated me as an equal. And as much as she talked—and she *loved* to talk—she would never fail to listen. She had a way like no one else of making you feel you were the most important person in the conversation.

I'm certain Patty touched more lives than anyone in our climbing world, lives that will forever be brighter for it. The evidence is in the hundreds of emails, postings in internet forums and the wonderful turnout for her memorial. Personally, though, it's in that backward glance when I'm hiking, knowing she's back there, chatting, laughing.

It's in that way Patty will get her DPS list finish on the scheduled October 28 trip to Waucoba Mountain. Ron Hudson will lead, but we all know Patty will be the one getting us up there. We'll celebrate the accomplishment and we'll celebrate the life... and she'll be with us every step of the way to make sure we do. — *Edd Ruskowitz*



## Outings Sign-up

The listing of SPS Outings begins on page 4 of this quarter's Echo. Email contact info for the leaders of these trips appears on page 7. To apply as a participant on an outing send a SASE (or email if requested), Sierra Club member number, experience resume, conditioning routine, home and work phone numbers, email address (if applicable), rideshare information and – for restricted trips only – the medical information form. All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver, available at [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms), or from the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528. All outings designated MR or ER are restricted trips open only to Sierra Club members with the appropriate rock or snow skills and participants are required by the National Sierra Club to complete the medical information form, available at [www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/medical](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms/medical)

# Outings

See page 2 for information on applying for participation on these outings

**July 15-16 | Sat-Sun** **Sierra Peaks**  
**MR 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 expr. req. Medical form and helmets req'd. Send sase/email w/expr. SC#, H&W phones to Ldr Virgil Popescu, Co-ldr Larry Hoak.

**July 21-26 | Fri-Wed** **Sierra Peaks**  
**M/ER 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 first 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. Medical form and helmets req'd. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send sase/email with conditioning, experience, SC#, completed medical form to Ldr (M): Alex Amies, Assts: Ron Hudson (E).

**July 22-23 | Sat-Sun** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**I Mt Silliman (11,188')**

Sat strenuous but moderately-paced backpack from Lodgepole in Sequoia National 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 much cross-country travel and comfort with friction hiking on steep granite slabs is required. Send sase or email with H&W phones, recent conditioning/backpack experience and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: Anne Marie Richardson. Co-Ldr. Scott Nelson.

**July 22-23 | Sat-Sun** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**I 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. WTC or equivalent required. Send experience, conditioning, H&W phones, email address, rideshare info via email or sase to Ldrs: Helen Qian, Scott Leavitt.

**July 22-24 | Sat-Mon** **Sierra Peaks**  
**I Cirque Pk (12,900')**

SPS introductory trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack from Horseshow 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, conditioning and high altitude experience, H, Cell & W phones, ride share info to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Rick Jali.

**July 28-30 | Fri-Sun** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**I 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 with experience, conditioning, H&W phones to Ldr: Beth Epstein. Co-Ldr: Sheryl O'Rourke.

**July 28-30 | Fri-Sun** **Sierra Peaks**  
**MR 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 southwest ridge, 2 mi, 1,670'. Day 3 climb Temple Crag via cl 3 southeast face, 1.3 mi, 1,130' gain, then hike out 3.8 miles. Total stats: 10.9 miles, 6,650' gain. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Medical form and helmets req'd. Send SASE / email with conditioning, experience, SC#, and \$5 permit fee to Ldr Darrick Danta, Asst. Keith Martin.

**July 28-30 | Fri-Sun** **Sierra Peaks, WTC**  
**ER 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; medical form and helmets required. Send sase/esase, mountaineering resume showing relevant experience, SC number, contact info to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co-Ldr: Nile Sorenson.

**Aug 4-6 | Fri-Sun** **Sierra Peaks /WTC**  
**I Four Gables (12,245), Pilot Knob N. (12,720)**

Fri 7 mi, 2,000 gain to camp; Sat climb both peaks totaling 14 mi rt, 3,000 gain; Sun pack out. Send E-mail (preferably) or SASE, H&W phones recent conditioning/experience, rideshare info to Sara Danta at s\_wyrens@yahoo.com Leaders Darrick and Sara Danta.

**Aug 5-6 | Sat-Sun** **Sierra Peaks, WTC**  
**I Mt Johnson (12,871) and Mt Gilbert (13,106)**

Moderate 11 mi RT, 5220' total gain. Sat backpack to upper Treasure Lake (3 mi, 1700' gain). Set up camp and head out to Johnson (2 mi RT, 1550' gain). Return to camp for happy hour. Sunday, early start to Gilbert (3 mi RT, 2000' gain). Return to camp and leisurely pack out. Send email (preferred) or SASE with recent conditioning and experience, H&W phone, rideshare to: Ldr: Greg Mason. Assist: Tom McDonnell

**Aug 5-7 | Sat-Mon** **Sierra Peaks, WTC**

**I Red Slate Mtn (13,123')**  
SPS Intro trip geared to WTC students and prospective SPSers. Relaxed, casual, 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, recent conditioning and high altitude experience, H, Cell & W phones, ride share info to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Kent Schwitkis.

**Aug 11-13 | Fri-Sun** **Sierra Peaks**  
**MR 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 Sierra Club members. Medical form and helmets req'd. Club. Send SASE / email with conditioning, experience, SC#, and \$5 permit fee to Ldr Darrick Danta, Asst. Keith Martin.

**Aug 12-13 | Sat-Sun** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**I 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 or email, H&W phones, \$5 permit fee, recent conditioning, experience and rideshare info to Ldr: Steve Curry. Asst: Anne Marie Richardson.

**Aug 12-13 | Sat-Sun** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**M Temple Crag (12,975'), Mt Gayley (13,510')**

Sat 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. Recent 3rd class rock, snow experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Medical form and helmets req'd. Send e-mail or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning and climbing resume, rideshare info and \$5 check for permit fee to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Co-Ldr: Ed Cottone.

**Aug 12-13 | Sat-Sun** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**I Mount Lamarck (13,417')**

Pack in from North Lake to beautiful Upper Lamarck Lake (4 mi., 2000'); happy hour to ensue. Sun. climb Lamarck xc (5 mi. r/t, 2500') and pack out. Send 2 sase/email, \$5 permit fee, conditioning, experience (incl. WTC group info), H&W phones and rideshare info to Ldr: Edd Ruskowitz. Co-Ldr: Melissa Kane.

**Aug 12-20 | Sat-Sun** **Sierra Peaks, Ski Mountaineers**  
**MR 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. Med form and helmets req'd. Send recent experience and conditioning, carpool info, SC#, and e-mail or sase to Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, TBD

**Aug 19 | Sat** **Sierra Peaks**  
**ER 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. Medical form and helmets req'd. Send recent experience and conditioning, carpool info, SC#, and e-mail or sase to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-Ldr: Tom Bowman.

**Aug 19-20 | Sat-Sun** **Sierra Peaks /WTC**  
**I Florence (12,432), Vandever Mtn (11,947)**

Mineral King weekend backpack. Sat 5 mi, 2,400 to camp and another 2,300 6 mi rt to Florence; community happy hour. Sun climb Vandever and pack out 11.5 rt and 2,600 gain. Send E-mail (preferably) or SASE, H&W phones, recent conditioning/experience, rideshare info to Sara Danta at s\_wyrens@yahoo.com Leaders Darrick & Sara Danta.

**Aug 19-20 | Sat-Sun** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**I / Cloudripper (13,525')**

Gourmet backpack! Join us for Decadent Wilderness Weekend IV. Sat backpack 7 mi, 3400' gain to Sixth Lake for 5-star dining experience. Sun work off those calories with 2 mi, 2400' gain to Cloudripper. Send e-mail or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning and your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Asst: Georgette Rieck.

**Aug 19-21 | Sat-Mon** **Sierra Peaks**  
**I Mt Bago (11,870')**

SPS introductory trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack over Kearsarge Pass to Charlotte Lake at 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, recent conditioning and high altitude experience, H, Cell & W phones, ride share info to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Joe Wankum.

**Aug 25-27 | Fri-Sun** **PVSB, SPS, NSS, WAS**  
**I 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 National 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 under their boots. 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

**Aug 26-27 | Sat-Sun** **Sierra Peaks**  
**MR Mt Sill (14,153')**

Climb this SPS mountaineer's peak situated in the rugged Palisades area of the Sierras via Scimitar Pass to Southwest Chutes. This will be a strenuous backpack and class 3 climb. On Sat. pack out from the trailhead at Glacier Lodge to camp in the area of Elinore Lake via the South Fork Big Pine Trail (4.9 mi 3800'). Attempt the summit Sun. and pack out (10 mi 4400'). Experience with class 3 rock, and strong fitness req'd. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Medical form and helmets req'd. Send SASE / email with conditioning, experience, SC#. \$5 permit fee req'd at trailhead. Leader: Alex Amies, Asst: Ron Campbell.

**Sept 2-4 | Sat-Mon** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**M 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. Helmets req'd. Send email or sase with resume, conditioning, contact and rideshare info to Ldrs: Scott Leavitt, Helen Qian

**Sept 2-4 | Sat-Mon** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**I Mt Langley (14,026')**

Relatively relaxed but moderately strenuous backpack to bag the southernmost 14'er 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 3600' gain (2900' net), followed by celebratory happy hour. Relaxed hike out to reach trailhead early afternoon Mon. Send 2 sase/1 sase & email, conditioning, recent experience, & altitude experience (WTC leader if applicable) to Ldr: Gary Bickel, Asst: Wayne Vollaire.

**Sept 2-4 | Sat-Mon** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**I Mount Julius Caesar (13,200')**

Labor Day weekend will find us packing out of Bishop to Honeymoon Lake Sat. (5.75 mi, 3200'), then ascend the glorious viewing perch that is Julius Caesar Sun. (6.6 mi r/t, 2700'); pack out Mon. Et tu? Send 2 sase/email, \$5 permit fee, conditioning, experience (incl. WTC group information), H&W phones and rideshare info to Ldr: Edd Ruskowitz. Co-Ldr: John Cyran.

**Sept 8-10 | Fri-Sun** **Sierra Peaks**  
**I 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.

**Sept 9-10 | Sat-Sun** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**I 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 with info on Sierra experience, WTC leader's name, and conditioning to Ldr: Ed Morente. Asst: Tom McDonnell.

**Sept 9-10 | Sat-Sun** **WTC/ Sierra Peaks**  
**I 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 mi RT with 2500' gain. Return to camp and pack out. WTC or equivalent required. Send e-Sase with H & W phones, backpacking resume, and rideshare info to Ldr: Cheryl Gill. Co-Ldr: Greg DeHoogh.

**Sept 9-10 | Sat - Sun** **Sierra Peaks**  
**MR Mt. McAdie (13,680'), Mt. Irvine (13,770'), and Mt. Mallory (13,850)**

(*This trip replaces the previously scheduled Outing to Mt. Russell and Mt. Carillon*) Strenuous two day trip including McAdie and possibly both Irvine and Mallory depending on the speed of the group. Sat. backpack in via the Meysan Lakes trailhead. Climb to the Irvine Mallory saddle and then to Mt. McAdie via Arc Pass. Restricted to Sierra Club members with 3rd class climbing experience. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning and climbing resume, rideshare info, completed Medical Form and \$15 check for the Whitney Zone permit fee to Ldr: Jennie Thomas. Asst: Neal Robbins.

**Sept 9-11 | Sat-Mon** **Sierra Peaks**  
**I 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 lo ss. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Send sase, \$5.00 permit fee per person, conditioning and high altitude experience, H, Cell & Work phones, ride share info to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Keith Martin.

**Sept 9-11 | Sat-Mon** **WTC, Sierra Peaks**  
**MR Matterhorn Peak (12,279'), Twin Peaks (12,323'), Whorl Mountain**

Sat backpack 5 mi, 3600' gain to camp near Horse Creek. Sun climb Matterhorn 1 mi, 1600' gain by southeast slope. Optional climb of Twin Peaks 1 mi, 1700' gain. Mon climb Whorl 2 mi, 1400' gain via southeast chute and out. Recent 3rd class rock experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Medical form and helmets req'd. Send e-mail or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning and climbing resume, rideshare info and \$3 check for permit fee to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Asst: Virgil Shields. (12,033'):

**Sept 15-17 | Fri - Sun** **Sierra Peaks**  
**ER 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 Sierra Club members. Completed medical form and helmets will be required. Send sase/email with climbing resume including conditioning, SC#, email address, phone #s, carpool info to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-ldr: Larry Tidball

**Sept 21-24 | Thu-Sun** **Sierra Peaks**  
**MR Junction Pk (13,888'), Mt Tyndall (14,018')**

Backpack up Shepherd Pass Trail (11 mi, 7000' gain), possibly to top first day. Climb Junction, Tyndall, all x-country, approx 2000' gain each from Pass, both with some class 3. Expect cold nights. Email leader with climbing (cl 3+) and backpacking experience, conditioning, H&W phones. Medical form and helmets req'd. Leader: Alex Amies, Assts: Asher Waxman and Ed Cottone.

**Sept 22 - 24 | Fri-Sun** **Sierra Peaks Section**  
**MR 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 Fri. and set up camp, then climb both peaks Sat., and hike out Sun. Third class

experience and excellent conditioning required. \$5 permit fee will be collected at the trailhead. Completed medical forms and helmets will be required. Send email to Ldr: Jennie Thomas with recent conditioning and climbing resume. Asst: Doug Mantle.

**Sep 23 | Sat** **Sierra Peaks**  
**O 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 with conditioning info and reservations. Asst: Tina Bowman

**Sept 23-24 | Sat-Sun** **Sierra Peaks, HPS, WTC**  
**I Mt. Silliman (11,188')**

SPS Intro trip for new and prospective members. Sat. backpack 3.5 mi, 2000' gain to camp, at a moderate pace. Time to relax or explore. Sun. 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 with recent experience and conditioning to Ldr: Gary Schenk. Co-Ldrs: Mark Roberts, George Wysup

**Oct 6 | Fri** **LTC, Sierra Peaks, Hundred Peaks**  
**ER 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 the whole ridge. Is good experience for technical climbing on Sierra peaks. About 3 mi, 2500' gain for the day. Participants must have harness, helmet, and other climbing gear. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable rock climbing experience. Send sase or email, SC#, climbing resume, completed medical form to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Asst: Asher Waxman

**Oct 7 | Sat** **Hundred Peaks, Sierra Peaks**  
**I Pinyon Peak (6805')**

Join us for Fall Festival as we climb this Walker Pass peak via the Old Lodge cross-country route from Hwy 178. Moderately strenuous 6 miles round trip, 3100' gain. Terrain is often steep as we negotiate ridgelines through a vast pinyon pine wilderness. Optional car camp at Powers Well. Send sase or esase to Leader: Tom Hill. Co-leaders: Gary Schenk, Marlen Mertz

**Oct 8 | Sun** **Hundred Peaks, Sierra Peaks**  
**I Scodie Mtn (7294')**

Another Fall Festival trip. For this prominent peak near Walker Peak we create a loop route featuring scenic canyons and ridgelines, guaranteed! Moderately strenuous 9 miles round trip, 2600' gain. Send sase or esase to Leader: Tom Hill. Co-Leaders: Gary Schenk, Marlen Mertz.

**Nov 11 | Sat** **Sierra Peaks, Hundred Peaks**  
**I Owens Peak (8,453')**

Join us for our Third Annual Armistice Day outing. This year is a joint celebration of the 98th anniversary of the end of The War to End All Wars, and the 50th anniversary of the first SPS outing to Owens Peak. This will be a moderately paced, mostly cross-country loop hike on steep ridges, 7 miles round trip, 3200' gain. Phone or email leader the week prior to the trip for information. Snow cancels. Ldr: Gary Schenk. Assts: Tom Hill, Laura Joseph, George Wysup.

## OUTINGS LEADER Contact Info

**Leader contact information has been omitted for this online edition. Please see the print edition of the Echo or the Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities for contact info.**

## TRIP REPORT Mt. Williamson

JUNE 3-5, 2006

by ALEX AMIES

**F**ive of us, Tom McDonnell (Assistant Leader), Greg Mason, Alexander Smirnof, Augie Medina, and myself, departed from the car park at Shepherd Pass (Symmes Creek) trailhead at about 8 a.m. on Saturday. The plan was to climb the West Face of Mount Williamson. Greg negotiated the drive in over a dirt road labeled 4WD on the topo the night before with style in his Dodge minivan.

We hiked for about 7 hours up the trail to Anvil Camp where we spent Saturday night. Anvil camp was about half clear of snow and was where the snow began covering the trail.

On Sunday we departed camp at 5 am, heading up through the forest adjacent to camp. As we approached Shepherd Pass we spotted a herd of 7 big horn headed up the snow covered gully. We put crampons on and got our ice axes out for the ascent up to the pass.

Once up the pass it was a long hike up and down the talus and snow covered slopes to and across Williamson Bowl. From the east side of the second lake we got a good view of the chute that we were about to take up the West Face from nearly exactly where the photo in Secor's High Sierra was taken (contrary to statements on Summitpost.com). The black stained rocks mentioned were wet with a waterfall during our trip.



▲ At the peak; from left: Alexander Smirnof, Tom McDonnell, Alex Amies, and Augie Medina. Photo by Greg Mason

◀ Greg Mason starting up the chute on the West Face. Photo by Alex Amies

We headed up the chute which was a little loose but mostly good climbing. The top 700 feet was covered in snow. At the top of the chute we found the class 3 chimney / crack. I set up a belay for a couple of people in the party. After this the only obstacle was the snow-covered slope leading to the summit. We topped out at about 3 p.m.

Having done a better job on following the trail on the way down, we pulled into camp at about 9:45 p.m. We still had enough energy for a second happy hour before sleeping. The next day we packed out to the cars, arriving in the hundred-degree heat of Owens Valley.



## TRIP REPORT

# Mt. Barnard & Trojan Peak

MAY 6-8, 2006

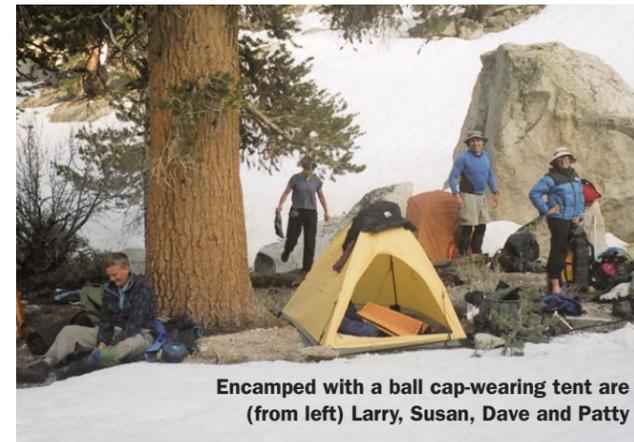
**T**o avoid possible trailhead problems we all met in Lone Pine at the park for what was almost everyone's 1st backpack of the season. Everyone was trying despite snow gear to reduce weight. We can remember the days when a 50-60 pound pack was considered "normal." This weekend included crampons, ice axe and snow shoes, and most of us kept our packs in the mid to high 30s.

The last time the Larry & Barbee had been up George Creek was in 1986 and 1989. We had memories of major bush whacking, hiking in the stream, and lots of water. Conditions up George Creek, like the weight of our backpacks, have greatly improved. There is now a use trail that can be followed most of the way from the start to about 9200 feet where we encountered snow. There are sections where bushwhacking occurs and the use trail seems to disappear in the brush, but it did seem easier than in the 1980s. This is still a hard route and travel wasn't fast. We crossed the creek 5-6 times on various logs, scrambled up loose scree, ducked under or around many a branch and crawled through or over a few bushy places.

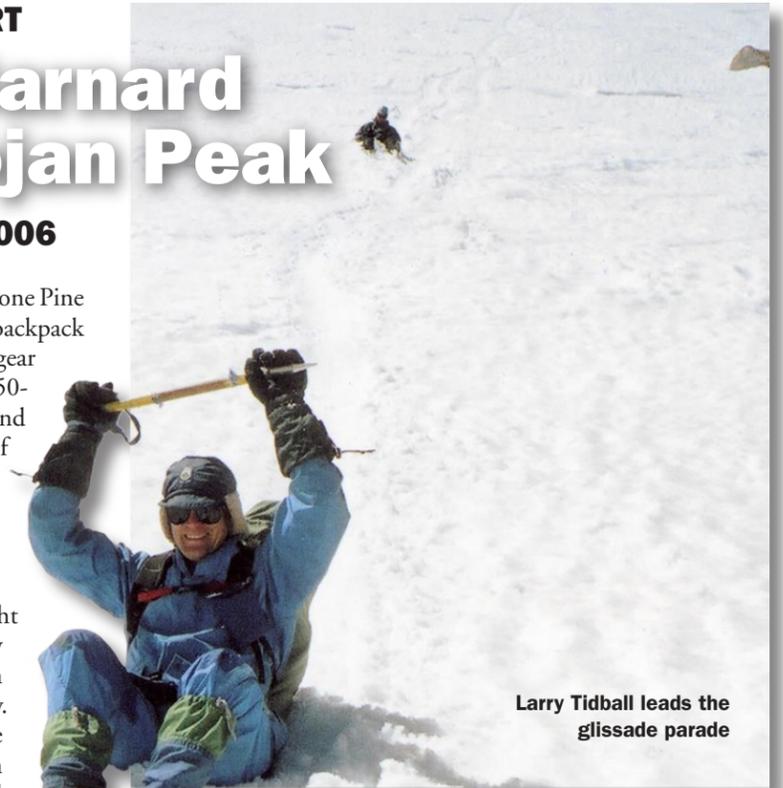
Barbee Tidball & Patty Rambert *needed* the peaks and Larry agreed to lead them with us. Darrick Danta, Susan Livingston, Harry Langenbacher, and Dave Gonzalez joined us on the trip. The weather was perfect, sunny and not too hot.

Saturday the group backpacked up to about 9500' where Harry found a perfect dry place for our campsite. Tents were set-up and after dinner everyone went to bed early, tired from the day's struggles.

On Sunday we put on snow shoes and headed out of camp by 7 a.m. to climb the peaks. For first 1000 feet we hiked in snowshoes as the night had been warm with temperatures above freezing and the snow was soft. We were not able to put on our crampons till we were well over 10,000. Once crampons were



Encamped with a ball cap-wearing tent are (from left) Larry, Susan, Dave and Patty



Larry Tidball leads the glissade parade

on, travel was smoother and faster up to the last 700 feet on Trojan Peak (13,947') when crampons were removed and the route became a rock scramble to the summit. The very summit of Trojan had a snow field and small cornice. Susan, Harry, Dave, Patty & Larry summited around 1p.m. Darrick and Barbee summited a bit later while the others headed over on the traverse to Barnard (13,990').

The views from the summits of Trojan and Barnard were beautiful. The Sierra interior peaks were white with snow and sunlight sparkled on the mountainsides. Mt Whitney, Mt. Williamson and all the adjacent peaks were a mix of snow and rock.

The route up Barnard was easier than up Trojan. The snow on Barnard was also mostly gone above the saddle – but the rocks were smaller, more like scree. On Trojan the rocks were large and had to be climbed over and around.

Once at the saddle between Trojan and Barnard we all were rewarded to hundreds of feet of glissading back to where we had left our snowshoes.

After another pleasant night in our camp, we headed out early on Monday morning. Susan and Darrick both had work obligations for late in the afternoon and needed to *hit the road* on 395 as early as possible. Our recent experience with the brush and stream crossings helped us to pick the best route on the way down. It does help being able to look over some of the smaller brush and see use trail continuing beyond when going downhill. On the uphill, you never know for sure which way the trail goes once it disappears. No one got wet on any of the stream crossings during the entire trip, so we called it success. In any event we made good time back to the cars and sent those in a rush on their way. The rest of us had lunch in Lone Pine before hitting the highway home. — Barbee & Larry

# Conservation

## Two-Liners

Why's it "Two-Liners?"  
Dunno... ask Barbee.

By Barbee Tidball

### PARKS FUNDING CUTS

April 17, 2006 Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) reported that the Administration plans to further cut funds to our National Parks by 30% under a new approach called Core Operations Analysis. "The Bush administration has directed the National Park Service to substantially decrease its reliance on tax-supported funding... In a turnabout from the last two presidential campaigns when candidate Bush promised greater funding of parks, new 'talking points' distributed last week to all park superintendents urge to begin 'honest and forthright' discussions with the public about smaller budgets, reduced visitor services and increased fees."

In 2004 Park Service talking points included statements like "This Administration is very committed to preserving the resources of the National Park System..." Now we will be hearing statements like "The National Park Service, like most agencies, is tightening its belt as our nation rebuilds from Katrina, continues the war on terrorism and strives to reduce the deficit" and "Our satisfaction rating is over 96 percent nationally, and has remained high for several years. That's a clear indicator that budgets have not reduced visitor enjoyment."

In 2004 budget cuts were called *service level adjustments*. In 2006, a non-presidential election, year we have *Core Operational Analysis* and a decrease in tax-supported funding. Anyway the Administration spins the words our National Park System is not being funded and this will spell trouble for the parks system in future years.

### LUXURY HOMES AT WHITNEY PORTAL

As of May 5, 2006, the Mt. Whitney Portal area proposed subdivision for 27 luxury homes took a step closer to breaking ground after the Inyo County Court ruled the project could be built. Save Round Valley Alliance (SRVA) is continuing to look for a non legal solution to stop the proposed development although an legal appeal is possible. On a recent SRVA news announcement the group noted that, "A compromise solution does seem to be in the works. A number of local, state, and national land trusts, as well as several state and federal agencies have expressed interest in acquiring the project lands. SRVA and its partner organizations have stepped forward to help facilitate the potential deal. Options include an exchange of the proposed development land with comparable land closer to the town of Lone Pine and existing infrastructure. Other options include a straightforward buy out of the developer's interests on the property."

For more information visit [www.savethemountain.org](http://www.savethemountain.org).

### AUBURN DAM IS CONSIDERED AGAIN!

Some bad projects just never seem to go away. House Republican Conference Secretary John T. Doolittle (R-Roseville) announced that the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee has approved over \$187 million for water conservation, flood control, and watershed restoration projects throughout Northern California in the Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07) Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. Included in the measure is \$3 million to fund a feasibility study for a multipurpose dam on the American River at Auburn and \$1 million to assess the feasibility of relocating Highway 49 where it crosses the American River between Auburn and Cool, California.

### TRIP REPORT

## South Guard

MAY 6-8, 2006

by GREG GERLACH

I drove up to Lone Pine Thursday afternoon, picked up my permit from the Mount Whitney Ranger Station, then spent the night at the Tuttle Creek campground located just outside of town. The campground fee is a very reasonable \$5.00 per night, and the campground always seems to have vacant spaces.

The next morning I drove up Highway 395, turned west onto the Onion Valley road and was soon parked at the trailhead and ready to go. A bear had trashed a car the previous night while feasting on a meal of freeze-dried food and peanuts from the vehicle's trunk. I went back to my car to take the Advil out just to be on the safe side. I was on the trail and hiking towards Kearsarge Pass at 8:30 a.m. I continued up the trail and over the pass to the John Muir Trail, then to the Bubbs Creek trail. A ranger, who checked my permit while I was hiking along Bubbs Creek, had already heard about the damaged car in Onion Valley. I left the Bubbs Creek trail, crossing the knee-deep water of the creek along the way, as I made my way towards East Lake. Once past the lake, the trail to Lake Reflection is easily lost. It saves time and effort to look for the ducks, especially across the boulder field located close to where the Harrison Pass trail is supposed to be. I crossed the outlet stream at Lake Reflection on a precarious logjam to the other side, where I had my choice of several nice campsites. The 16-mile hike to Lake Reflection took me about 8 1/2 hours.

On Saturday morning I was up early and on my way to South Guard (13,224') at 6:50 a.m. I passed Lake Reflection on its northwest side, staying about 50' above the water level before dropping back down to the lake near the inlet stream. I continued up the valley towards Longley Pass, staying mostly on the north side of the stream. I passed Lake 11,459' along its north shore, then proceeded west towards the pass. I switchbacked up to the pass, bypassing the snow cornice around its north side. From Longley Pass, I headed towards the low saddle just north of South Guard, then followed the ridge to the summit. It took me 4 hours to reach the top from Lake Reflection and the route is mostly class 1 except that the final summit area is class 2. Also, the summit register, placed in 1990, is 2/3 full and I was the first and only person to reach the top so far this year. After signing the register, I followed my ascent route back to Lake Reflection. I packed up my gear and was on the trail heading towards Onion Valley at 2:00 p.m. I passed the small lake located just north of Lake Reflection on its west side to avoid the logjam, then made my way across the stream and over to the East Lake trail. I hiked down the trail, passing East Lake and Junction Meadows along the way, then decided to call it a day at the junction of the Bubbs Creek and John Muir trails at 6:00 p.m.

On Sunday morning I packed up my gear and was on the trail at 7:15 a.m. I hit Kearsarge Pass at 9:15 a.m. and the car at 11:00 a.m.

Trip statistics: 37.6 miles and about 10,500 feet of elevation gain.

# MT. VESUVIUS

## CAMPANIA, ITALY

Burton “CARPE MONTANVS” Falk

We were rounding a curve on Italian highway A2, two or three hours southeast of Rome, when the outline of Mt. Vesuvius suddenly loomed up before us. There were eight of us squeezed into the big Ford diesel van—our three grandkids, a son, two daughter-in-laws, and Jo and me—plus a jumble of luggage. Although we were scheduled to continue on to Positano on the Amalfi Coast that evening, we planned

to return the next day to climb the mountain and to visit neighboring Pompeii. In the meantime, to test the grandkids’ grasp of history, I asked them what, in their opinion, was the most famous volcano in the world. Soon everyone in the van was involved in the discussion, and although not able to agree on any one single volcano, we came up with, in no particular order, our list of the world’s five most famous active spouters. See if you agree: Mauna Loa/Kiluea, Krakatoa, Mt. Fuji, Mt. St Helens and Mt. Vesuvius.

The point is that, almost two thousand years after its epic eruption, Mt. Vesuvius remains quite well-known.

Located two-thirds of the way down the west coast of the Italian peninsula, 11 air miles east of Naples, 16 air miles NNE of Sorrento, and rising 4,202’ (1,276 m) above the shores of the Gulf of Naples, Mt. Vesuvius is the only active volcano on the European Continent (Etna and Stromboli, also active, are on islands off the Italian coast). The volcanic activity in the Vesuvius area (including the nearby Phlegraean Fields, where in mythology the giants fought the Gods) dates back two million

years, and is caused by subduction of the African plate, sliding northward beneath the Eurasian Plate at about one inch per year, a process which is slowly closing the Mediterranean Basin. Indeed, an ancient, much larger peak, Mt. Somma, once formed where Mt. Vesuvius now stands, eventually reaching 10,000’ in elevation. Seventeen thousand years ago, however, that peak blew up in a spectacular eruption, leaving only the arc-shaped north-eastern rim of its caldera still standing. Not long afterward, Mt. Vesuvius began to grow in the very middle of the Somma caldera, erupting every so often, but most notably in 79 AD, at which time the Roman cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae were destroyed. Since 79, at least sixteen less devastating Vesuvian eruptions have been recorded, the most recent having taken place in 1944, during World War II.

The August 24, 79 AD eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, however, is the main reason why the volcano remains renowned today. And, as luck would have it, two Romans of note were nearby at that fateful time, one of them setting off to get a closer look at the phenomenon, the other one staying behind in safety to write letters in which he accurately described the event..

Pliny the Elder (23-79 AD), an industrious Roman General and the author of the world’s first encyclopedia of natural science—the 37-volume *Naturalis Historia*—was that summer in command of the Roman fleet stationed at Misenum, just west of present day Naples. Observing the first stages of the eruption, he, ever curious, decided to see for himself what was going on. Arranging for a few ships to accompany him, he set sail for Pompeii, across the Bay of Naples.

Meanwhile, his nephew and ward, Pliny the Younger (62-113 AD), remained in Misenum, where he observed the following: “(the eruptive plume’s) general appearance can best be expressed as being like a pine rather than any other tree, for it rose to a great height (one estimate is 66,000’) on a

sort of trunk and then split off into branches. I imagine because it was thrust upwards by the first blast and then left unsupported as the pressure subsided, or else it was borne down by its own weight so that it spread out and gradually dispersed. Sometimes it looked white, sometimes blotched and dirty, according to the amount of soil and ashes it carried with it.” In recognition of the younger Pliny’s description, this type of event is now known as a Plinian eruption. The May 18, 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens, in fact, has been classified as Plinian.

Young Pliny goes on to describe what his uncle probably encountered off the coast of Pompeii: “Ashes were already falling, hotter and thicker as the ships drew near, followed by bits of pumice and blackened stones, charred and cracked by the flames . . . Meanwhile on Mount Vesuvius broad sheets of fire and leaping flames blazed at several points, their bright glare emphasized by the darkness of night.”

Turned away by the thick showers of hot cinders, pumice and rock, Pliny the Elder landed instead a few miles further south at Stabiae (present day Castellamare), where he and his friend, Pomponianus, took shelter in the town’s bath house.

Soon, however, according to P. the Younger, “the courtyard giving access to (my uncle’s) room was full of ashes mixed with pumice-stones, so that its level had risen, and if he had stayed in the room any longer he would never had got out. . . . (Pliny the Elder and his friend) debated whether to stay indoors or take their chance in the open, for the buildings were now shaking with violent shocks, and seemed to be swaying to and fro as if they were torn from their foundations. Outside on the other hand, there was the danger of falling pumice-stones, even though these were light and porous.”

P. the Elder and Pomponianus decided to make their way back towards the beach with pillows tied on their heads to protect them from the rockfall. By that time, however, there was so much ash in the air that the party could barely see through the murk and needed torches and lanterns to find their way. They made it to the beach but found the water too violently disturbed from the continuous earthquakes for them to escape safely by sea. Pliny the Elder then “suddenly collapsed, I imagine because the dense fumes choked his breathing by blocking his windpipe

ON THE RIM OF VESUVIUS, STARING INTO THE GAPING, FOGGY MAW.



which was constitutionally weak and narrow and often inflamed . . . (two days later) his body was found intact and uninjured still fully clothed and looking more like sleep than death.”

Back in Misenum, Pliny the Younger continued: “We also saw the sea sucked away and apparently forced back by the earthquake: at any rate it receded from the shore so that quantities of sea creatures were left stranded on dry sand. On the landward side a fearful black cloud was rent by forked and quivering bursts of flame, and parted to reveal great tongues of fire, like flashes of lightning magnified in size. . . . We had scarcely sat down to rest when darkness fell, not the dark of a moonless or cloudy night, but as if the lamp had been put out in a closed room. You could hear the shrieks of women, the wailing of infants, and the shouting of men; some were calling their parents, others their children or their wives, trying to recognize them by their voices. People bewailed their own fate or that of their relatives, and there were some who prayed for death in their terror of dying.”

The eruption is thought to have lasted approximately 19 hours, during which time the volcano ejected about 1 cubic mile of ash and rock. The rim of the caldera of the ancient Mt. Somma protected the towns and villages lying to the northeast of Vesuvius, however Pompeii, Herculaneum, Stabiae and other towns to the west, south and southeast were in the direct path of the destruction. In Pompeii alone two thousand people are believed to have died, the vast majority as the result of suffocation by volcanic ashes and gases. Bizarrely, some of the Pompeian dead were immortalized—their bodies having left cavities in the hardened ash which were later filled with plaster—in casts presenting them much as they appeared at the time of their death.

Herculaneum, a seaside city with a population of about 5,000, which lay much closer to the crater, was buried under 75 ft. of ash deposited by a series of pyroclastic flows and mudflows. Due to the absence of bodily remains it was long believed that its inhabitants had escaped, but in the 1980s hundreds of skeletons were discovered in the former beach-side boat yard, where they had taken shelter. Many of the victims were carbonized by the intense heat, which reached temperatures of up to 750°. Some

(continued next page)



MT. VESUVIUS AT PEACE... FOR NOW.

(continued from previous page)

of the victims were found with the tops of their skulls missing—their brains having exploded.

In total, it is estimated that as many as 10,000 people were killed during the event of 79 AD.

Survivors and looters carried out extensive salvage operations after the eruption, but Pompeii and Herculaneum were never rebuilt. The towns' locations were eventually forgotten and remained so until their accidental rediscovery in the 18th century.

To climb the still smoldering Mt. Vesuvius today is both easy and popular—the locals, in fact, claim that Vesuvius is the most visited volcano in the world. Arriving either by car or bus at the 3,280' parking lot on the peak's western slopes, and after paying an entrance fee of 6 Euros (\$7.20) each, a mere 20-30 minute hike up a broad cinder path will lead one to the 3,800' southwestern rim, overlooking the 1,300' wide, 650' deep crater.

Unfortunately, on the warm August day that we climbed Vesuvius, a dense cloud was clinging to the mountain top. After staring blankly into the fog-filled crater for a few minutes and then perusing a huge array of postcards at the rim-side souvenir shop, we hiked counter-clockwise about a third of the way around the crater, until we reached the trail's end, where a sign, a fence and the proprietor of yet another souvenir shop all indicated that we could go no farther. What a disappointment! The fact is that the volcano's north rim 4,202' highpoint—which is subject to change in elevation during every new eruption—is currently out-of-bounds to peak baggers.

Retracing our steps back around the south rim trail, our fortunes improved a bit when a stiff wind came up, and, as if by magic, the cloud cover lifted. For a few moments we could view not only the bottom of the crater, where disappointingly little if any steam was arising, but also, off to the west, the waters of the Bay of Naples glinting in the bright afternoon sunlight. We took a few photos, hiked down to our van and then headed for Pompeii, which, were this not a climbing journal, would be worthy of several pages on its own.

All and all, it was a fascinating day, and Jo and I would like to think that, as a result of it, our grandkids (ages 10, 13 and 15 at the time) packed away a repository of fascinating memories. I mean, who knows? Maybe, years from now, a sudden recollection

of gazing down into the crater, or strolling the 2,000 year old streets of Pompeii, or downing an icy lemon granite (i.e., slurpee) on that hot August afternoon will suddenly pop into one of their minds. Maybe they'll even think of their kindly GramJo or the old guy to whom she was married for so long—the one that was always anxious to climb a mountain. Maybe not. One thing we are sure of, however—they'll never forget those creepy plaster body casts on display in Pompeii.

So what lies in the future for Vesuvius? Well, experts warn that although the volcano is in a quiescent phase at present, the surrounding urban areas remain in great peril. Indeed, reporting at the 32nd World Geological Conference held in August 2004 in Florence, Italy, the University of Rome's Franco Barberi described Vesuvius as the world's most dangerous volcano. (Mt. Rainier, also active and also looming over a densely populated urban area, must be in second place.)

"The volcano is quiet, there is no warning sign of an imminent eruption. But we have to be prepared," Barberi said. "Most probably, the next one will be a sub-plinian eruption, similar to the 1631 eruption." (At which time the lava flow killed about 3,000 people, making it the worst eruption since 79 A.D.)

The population density in the high risk area around Vesuvius, in fact, has grown to be 20,000 to 30,000 per square km. During an explosive eruption, those living in this "red zone" would have less than 24 hours to evacuate the area. Furthermore, it is estimated that during the first 15 minutes of a medium- to large-scale eruption an area with a 4 mile radius of the volcano could be destroyed. If so, this would affect an estimated one million people.

Yikes! And here I thought that residing here in Palm Desert, a couple of miles from the San Andreas Fault, was living on the edge.

**ODDS & ENDS** Today, large portions of the fertile lower slopes of Mt. Vesuvius are covered with vineyards that produce grapes for the popular Lachryma Christi (Tears of Christ) red wine (occasionally available at Trader Joe's).

In 1880 a funicular railway was built to carry tourists to the top of Vesuvius. Although destroyed by eruptions on three occasions—and not replaced after the 1944 activity, at its onset it became the inspiration for the ever popular song, "Funiculi, Funicula."

The ore of 79 AD has been mined by several novelists, most notably in 1834, by Edward Bulwer Lytton, who wrote *The Last Days of Pompeii*. Unfortunately, this book, overly embellished and antiquated, makes for difficult reading today. Lytton may be even more famous for yet another novel, Paul Clifford, which began with the phrase, "It was a dark and stormy night..." the main motivation behind San Jose State University's now 23 year-old contest, challenging authors to submit similar bad openings for imaginary novels.

A newer (2003), considerably better novel, *Pompeii*, by Robert Harris, described as a "carefully researched modern thriller set in August A.D. 79 in Campania, telling a story of corruption, politics, love, Roman superstition, slavery, and engineering, all set against the power of Mt. Vesuvius," is currently available at your local book store. Although exciting and engrossing for the most part, I was disappointed with what I considered to be its weak ending.



Ever wonder if there are any new SPS Outings recently announced that might be interesting? Need some quick guidance on Outings Leader materials? Want to recruit participants for a private outing? Need current information on Wilderness Permits or Food Storage requirements?

Since October 2005 your SPS Website has been upgraded to provide additional services and mountaineering information, and you are encouraged to visit the Website on a regular basis as news and information about the Section is posted as it develops. The home website address is [angeles.sierraclub.org/sps](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps). Generally, new material is highlighted with a "new" icon for two to three weeks after posting. Access to the internet and the SPS Website can be gained by those without internet service by going to your local public library and using the facilities available to the public.



The Website has been upgraded and made more relevant by the real time posting of Outings and outings changes. It is no longer necessary to wait for the quarterly publication of the Echo to have a current and complete listing of all upcoming SPS sponsored and co-sponsored Outings together with e-mail contact information for the Outings Leaders. The Outings page can be accessed by clicking on the link **Outings** on the SPS Home Page. As an additional service to SPS Leaders, a complete listing of resource information for Leaders can be accessed by clicking on the link **Leaders Materials and Guidance** on the SPS Home Page.

The SPS E-mail News Service (*Listserv*), another recent addition, is available for your use to communicate with other SPS members about items and developments of interest in the SPS community. Currently, 102 SPS members have subscribed and you are encouraged to join them. The value of the service will increase with additional subscribers. SPS members can use the list to solicit information about and discuss current climbing and weather conditions in the Sierra Nevada. Trip leaders can use the list to fill vacancies on SPS trips. Discussion topics may also address Section and Sierra Club outings requirements and practices. The Management Committee may use the list to disseminate information of interest to the membership. Private trips may be posted to the list as a service to SPS members and

Echo subscribers. The E-mail page can be accessed by clicking on the link **E-mail News List Service** on the SPS Home Page.

Direct internet links are available to the various Sierra Nevada land management agencies to obtain the latest information about Wilderness Permits can be accessed by clicking on the link **Wilderness Permits** on the SPS Home Page, and Food Storage requirements can be accessed by clicking on the link **Wilderness Food Storage** on the SPS Home Page.

A tool to attract potential new members was put on the Website in the form of a slide show of some 60 images showing our Membership in action in the Sierra and scenic views of the Sierra. This feature can be accessed by clicking on the link **Slide Show** on the SPS Home Page. This feature was developed by Reiner Stenzel and has been adapted for use on the SPS Website.

Where possible, Trip Reports that are entered into the Trip Report Archives are now accompanied by photographs from the Outing. The current SPS Mountaineer's List and application form has been added to the Website and can be accessed by clicking on the link **Mountaineer's List** on the SPS Home Page.

Your Management Committee has authorized the posting of past issues of the Echo to the Website and this practice will begin on August 1, 2006 with a 30 day delay from the date of mailing for the Summer 2006 issue of the Echo. The feasibility of posting the back issues of the Echo from 1980 to the current date is being considered at this time. In the near future, the Website may undergo a re-design to freshen its appearance and increase the appeal of the Website to Members and potential Members. Your suggestions for upgrading and improving the Website are welcome and may be sent directly to the SPS Webmaster at the E-mail contact shown on the **Contact Us** page of the Website.

The Website is maintained through the use of Adobe Dreamweaver software and is best viewed on a computer monitor with a screen resolution of 1024 by 768 pixels. Access to a high speed internet connection, DSL or cable, will yield the best viewing experience. Some of the posted material is in the Adobe Acrobat format and you will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader to view this material. The Reader can be downloaded free of charge at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)



**SPS Webmaster, Larry Hoak, has been active in climbing activities in the Sierra Nevada since 1970, an SPS Member for many years and holds the Master Emblem.**

**SPS Tees**  
Front: **NORTH PAL**  
Back: **FULL SPS LIST**  
by geographic area  
with Mountaineer  
and Emblem Peak highlighted  
M, L & XL in Sand, Ash & Yellow  
**\$12 + \$3.50 shipping**  
(\$4 shipping when ordering  
2 or more shirts). Send your  
order to **Patty Kline** and  
make checks payable to  
SPS -or- save shipping  
costs and get your shirt  
at the SPS meetings!

# The Sierra Echo

Volume 50 | Number 2 | Summer 2006

The Sierra Echo is published quarterly by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter and edited by Edd Ruskowitz.

Publication dates are June 15 (Summer), September 15 (Fall), December 15 (Winter) and March 15 (Spring). All text submissions for publication, including trip reports, articles, etc., *must be submitted in electronic format* (e.g., MS Word, Word Perfect, email). Photos may be submitted as electronic files (jpeg, tiff or Photoshop only, in a resolution high enough for print media) or as prints or slides. If submissions are to be returned to you please include a return envelope with sufficient postage. All submissions should be sent to Edd Ruskowitz, c/o Picture Perfect Brochures, 1616 E. 4th Street, Suite 265, Santa Ana, CA 92701 or emailed to [hikinedd@yahoo.com](mailto:hikinedd@yahoo.com) Phone: (714) 564-9130.

*Deadline for all submissions is three (3) weeks prior to the publication date.*

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**ADDRESS CHANGES** Send address changes to the Secretary Mary Jo Dungfelder, 169 N. Lima Street, Sierra Madre, CA 91024. The Echo is mailed via 3rd class mail to all regular subscribers and will not be forwarded by the post office.

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*Was it not so long ago that the sparkle of laughter rang among the hillsides?*

*Yet she is a treasure, surely, for with an easy smile and grace,  
Drawn from some secret place,  
She charms beyond our measure...  
Giving freely from some special place she finds within:*

*From the nowhere she comes into view,  
... sometimes by design,  
..... sometimes by chance meeting,  
In the farthest reaches of the land:*

*But always with an aura of the mountain wildness about her,  
Draped in a perfume drawn from distant meadows,  
... From lofty peaks shrouded in snowy slumber,  
..... From serene desert ridgelines abiding peacefully until the earth is reborn in  
the welcome rain:*

*She is the joy of the mountain adventure, the very spirit of the tall summits:*

*She is vitality, the fullness of life:*

*She is Patty.*



— Tom Hill

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