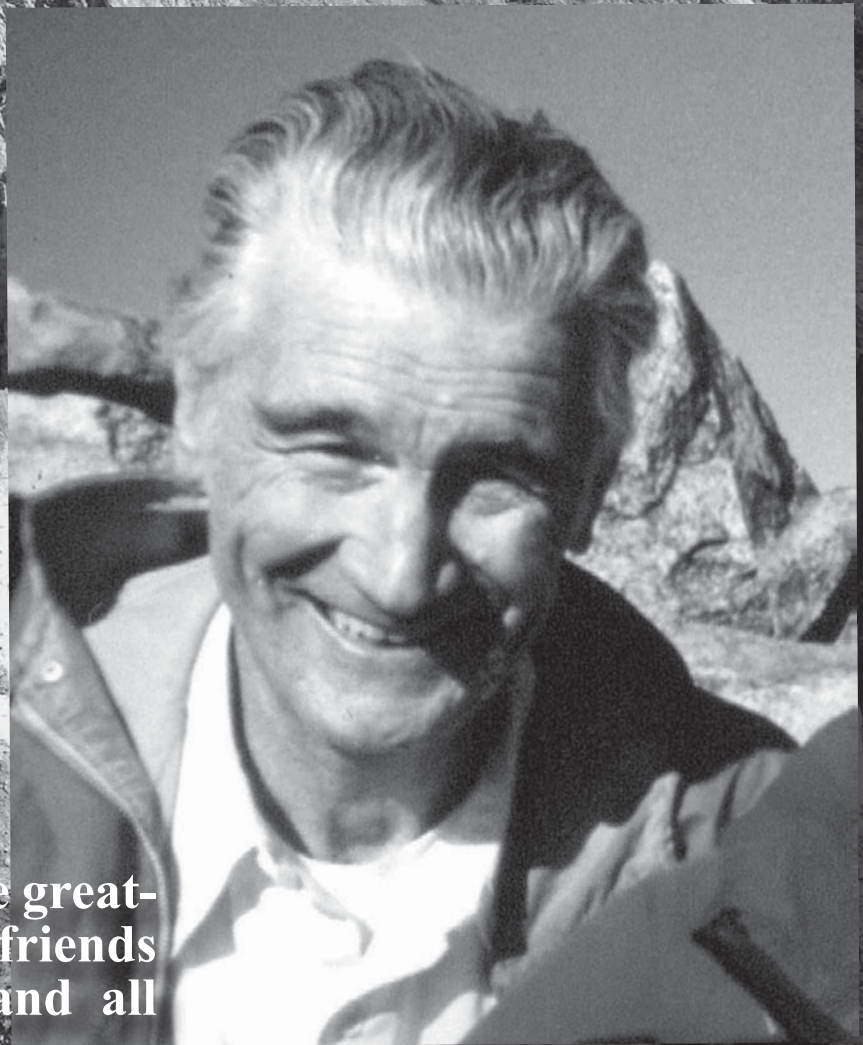




# The Sierra Echo

VOLUME 51 | NUMBERS 1 & 2  
JAN - MAR & APR - JUN 2007



“Duane was one of the greatest of our leaders and friends in the Sierra Club and all climbing sections”

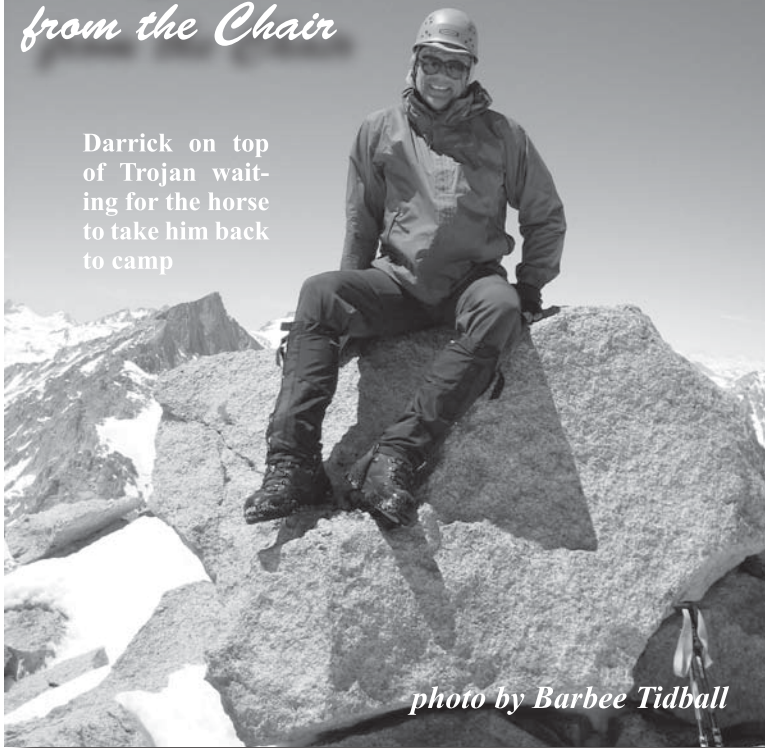
*Mary McMannes*



# ECHOS

*from the Chair*

Darrick on top of Trojan waiting for the horse to take him back to camp



*photo by Barbee Tidball*

by **Darrick Danta**

**A**s any peak bagger knows, the views from the top usually are the best. So, I figured that to get a good perspective of SPS, the best place would be from the Chair's seat; not that it's such a lofty position, but at least it forces you to look into all the corners. And as peak baggers also know, having arrived at the top marks not the end, but the beginning of the real work.

As this is my first such column, introductions are in order. I am Darrick Danta. Normally when I introduce myself at a Sierra Club event I get a quizzical look, then the inquiry as to whether I'm related to Randall. Yes, I am proud to be the younger brother of my rightfully famous sibling; and no, I am not his son, as one person once assumed, and certainly not his father as some may think if you saw us side-by-side and compared hair (which in my case is mostly lacking). So, while I certainly don't mind being "Randall's brother," it would be nice to contribute to SPS in a meaningful way so I can go back to just being "Darrick." And since SPS and I both celebrated our 50th year of existence last year, I figured this would be as good a time as any to take the reigns.

My first duty as the new Chair is to thank the past Board members. My predecessor Gary Schenk deserves much appreciation for holding SPS together during a particularly difficult time; he also served as Secretary for three terms previous to becoming Chair and continues to attend Board meetings to lend support and continuity. Reiner Stenzel served as Vice Chair for three terms and also as Outings Chair, ably completing the difficult task of keeping track of all the SPS trips as well as keeping the entire outings program going steady. Mary Jo Dungfelder served as Secretary, not only keeping Meeting Minutes, but also keeping track of member achievements and other official SPS business. Finally, Henry Arnebold marked his fourth year as Treasurer, the longest stint ever for a Board Member. Each of these individuals deserves our gratitude for a job well done. Since I served as the Alternate or 5th Member, and must report that I utterly failed in this position since I never once produced a fifth at any meeting, I deserve nothing.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the new Board Members. The new Vice Chair is Stephanie Gylden, while Alex Amies steps into the Secretary position, Henry continues as Treasurer, and Bob Beach takes over as the Alternate Member. We've already held two meetings and are looking into a number of important issues. I think this is a very strong Board committed to serving the SPS membership well. Please welcome these new members (see photos next page).

The state of SPS is good, but I think a few things bear closer examination. First concerns recruitment. Over the past year SPS has lost four members, and gained two. While we still have around 230 members, this trend does not bode well for the future of SPS. I will be visiting WTC classes and otherwise working to attract new members, but we all need to do a better job in this department.

One way may be to re-start the Membership Meeting program. Years ago, meetings were held in the DWP Building, but after losing this venue interest seemed to wane. Perhaps it's time to find a new meeting place or places and begin holding quarterly meetings with a presentation of some sort. We may want to team up with another climbing section for this, say DPS. Besides being fun, these events may help attract some new members.

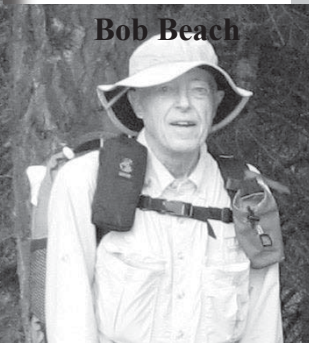
Another issue I'd like to take on is the development of an alternate SPS List. Now before you all get your bladders in a bundle, I'm NOT talking about touching the current List; it is what it is and will remain so. What I'm proposing is to have a subset of the current List, tentatively called the "Sierra Sampler" [credit to Patty Kline for the name] that would be a collection of around 100 of the most enjoyable peaks on the List. These peaks would be fun to climb, accessible in a weekend trip, and not too dangerous. We all know that some peaks on the list are enjoyable and/or rewarding to climb, while others are either far away, a bit of a drudge to climb, and/or are quite risky. My main aim in this is to have a sampler list that people can complete either on its own, or as one more step toward full List completion. For example, I've been climbing pretty steadily for the past six years, reaching over 30 peaks a season some years (which is good by my standards, but still paltry on the Mantle Scale!), but even at close to 100 under my belt I'm still a long way from Emblem Status or any sort of recognition. Given that I've almost died twice, Sara may not let me climb the more dangerous peaks, so I may never attain even Emblem Status, let alone complete the List.

So, this is some of what's rattling around in my brain these days. I welcome and greatly appreciate any comments you have. You can contact me at [darrick.danta@csun.edu](mailto:darrick.danta@csun.edu) or 9741 Reseda Blvd. #46, Northridge, CA 91324. Until next time, I wish you well.

# The New SPS Management Committee



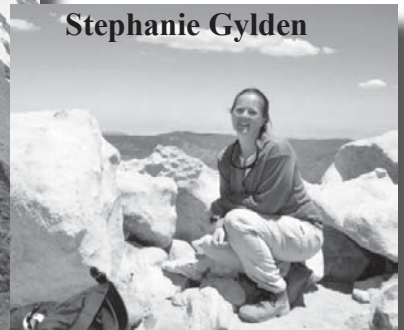
Alex Amies



Bob Beach



Henry Arnebold



Stephanie Gylden

## Front Cover

Photo -  
Sawtooth Ridge  
by Austin Post

Photo -  
Duane McRuer  
by Jerry Keating

## Ever Upward!

**Alex Amies**  
**Secretary**  
**Sierra Peaks Section**

Christine Bartell earned her Senior Emblem 7/24/06 on Castle Peak.

Ron Mitchell earned his 2nd Senior Emblem 7/24/06 on Mr. Lola. Ron finished the list in 1982.



Middle Palisade | photo by Tom Ross



# Duane “Mac” McRuer

**“We have basked in the brilliant glow of this irreplaceable star and he makes us all rich.”**

*From Duane’s Eulogy given by Doug Mantle at January 31, 2007 Memorial*

It would be the SPS who provided the standards, instructors, practices, and exams for third and fourth class climbs on rock and snow and the concomitant navigation. This process, diluted here and there in small ways, remains intact.

The folks who created and implemented all this tended to work in aerospace companies, had graduated from Cal Tech University, and took this task as seriously as they took building airplanes (and at times, spent as much time on the one as on the other).

***The Godfather of this transformation, Don Corleone himself, was Duane McRuer.***

Duane conceived the LTC system, wrote much of the LRB, organized and ran many of the snow, rock, and navigation practices and checkouts and, importantly, set the whole structure off on its own power, tapping various people on the shoulder, urging their involvement, encouraging their efforts.

A decade later, the club lost insurance for all but the



Left to right - George Hubbard, Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer, Bill T. Russell - 1990

*photo by Pete Yamagata*

most undemanding climbs. When the possibility to again do mountaineering arose, it was Mac who retooled the operation and sent it on its way yet again.

In the same way, Mac for more than thirty years quietly suggested recognition for our best leaders, hardest workers, and most conspicuous achievers. A short word from Mac at a committee meeting has led to more than one Versteeg Award winner.

He was no stranger to Awards. In his professional life there are not enough walls in the house to fill honors from such as the National Academy.

The Club awarded Duane the Chester Versteeg Outing Award in 1981, the Oliver Kehrlein Award (for outstanding work in the Chapter's outings programs - see below) in 1997, the Phil Bernays Award (outstanding service to the Chapter in fields other than conservation and outings), the Sierra Peaks Leadership Award, and almost uniquely, in 1998, Duane was given the Life-long Service Award "given to a senior member who has provided consistent long term service to the Angeles Chapter". No, Duane didn't suggest himself, behind the scenes or otherwise, for any of those.

*The above tribute taken from "Reflections" the 50th Anniversary Echo edition written by Doug Mantle*



**McRuer Wins Oliver  
Kehrleing Award**  
by Cal French

Duane McRuer of the Angeles Chapter, of California, has won the 1997 Oiver Kehrlein Award, the Club's top honor for outings leadership. For thirty years Duane has been an active leader in his chapter, especially in mountaineering. However, his great contribution has been in the development of hundreds of other leaders. His skills as an organizer in the largest chapter outings program are legendary. (*Excerpt taken SC Group & Chapter Outings Newsletter 1997, curtesy of Joe Wankum.*)

Mac was most certainly a Mmentor, especially on life; he was my life mentor, assuredly.

Mac made everyday life into something special, into a joyous ritual. It didn't need to be singing Christmas Carols in a snowstorm, although he did that too – it was everywhere, every time.

Give a stranger 10 minutes with Mac, and he would find something to compliment and would somehow encourage them toward being the best they could be. If they let him.

Whom here did he not encourage in some way? And if he could, he'd help you do it!

He was exquisitely sensitive to other people's feelings, their dignity. (In turn, while he didn't show it, he himself was quite sensitive.)

Conversely, Mac was not given to open emotional displays.

I did see him clench his fists in delight a couple of times or pound one fist with the other. He did that in summiting Granite Peak, a tough one, in Montana, his 49th State high point.

I fancy he did it quite often after beating out the competitors on a contract bid. Mac liked to win!

He finished and refinished lists including Sierra, Desert, HPS, State high points, counties...I calculate he made 1500 ascents.

*Taken from January 31st Eulogy*

- Doug Mantle -

# Remembering Mac

by *Tina and Tom Bowman*

It's true. As editors, Tom and I took the Roman pace out of the Leader's Reference Book. But there's still a lot of Mac in the LRB, no doubt about it.

He started it, after all, and although it's in its sixteenth edition, his mark on the book and our leader training program is unmistakable. Perhaps more people are like those of my students who ask, "Will this be on the test?"

than like Mac, wanting to know a subject inside and out, with all the curious little side details like the Roman pace. Anyway, to our shame, we caved in to the pressure to remove the Roman pace from the LRB. Alas. Still, when we first edited the LRB, Mac was instrumental in recrafting it. Even without the Roman pace.

My first outing with Mac was a famous trip to Moses and North Maggie, October 19-20, 1985, led by Mac and Doug Mantle, featuring Vi Grasso in costume as Tina Turner, singing and dancing after our Greek fete at the campfire. As we hiked up to North Maggie, Mac and I talked about Robert Graves, Greek mythology, and who knows what else. I'm

sure he'd remember—I swear he remembered everything he ever read or discussed, no matter what the topic!—but I don't remember the what else. I do remember being impressed by his mind and knowl-

edge of every subject under and beyond the sun. I can't imagine having a better hike up North Maggie, that's for sure.

Ah, those wonderful conversations with Mac! November 13-14, 1993, found us on a DPS trip led by Mac and Bill T. Russell. Hiking down from the summit of Manly, Mac and I talked about the

heptathlon and hot topics like throwing the javelin and hurdling. We gabbed our way from Mammoth to Tenaya Lake for Doug's 5 x SPS list finish on Clouds Rest, then from Tenaya to a campsite near Mono Lake for the post-hike celebration.

November 23, 1995, Thanksgiving, found me joining Mac for his 2 x HPS list finish along with Doug (4 x list finish), Bob Hicks (1 x, his triple list finish),





Gene Mauk, Don Sparks, Roy Magnuson. It was also a memorial HPS list finish for Vi to complete her triple list finish. Fine weather, fine friends, and a fine breakfast complete with champagne after the hike.

“How Many Times Have You Finished The List?” (DPS)

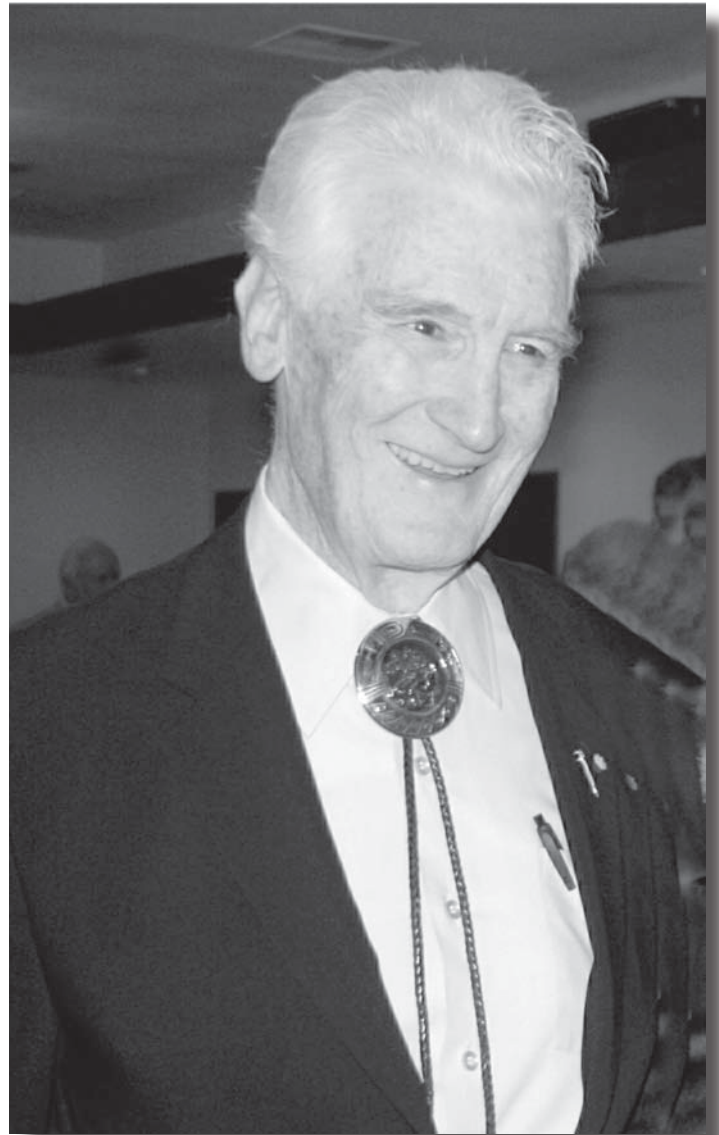


Mac took people under his wing—the term avuncular comes to mind. He was so interested in people and their beliefs and interests, not just history, literature, engineering, science, physiology, and more than I can name. When he learned Tom’s father was a theologian, he hit upon a whole new set of questions to be discussed! We felt privileged to be part of Betty and Mac’s circle of friends. They made us feel like family. Sometimes we learned about some of his great engineering advances, but he wasn’t one to tout his brilliance, which was obvious, or his many contributions in the professional side of his life. He always respected the achievements of others. When he learned that Tom was working with the National Academy of Sciences (Mac was a member of the National Academy of Engineering) on a new museum, Tom was suddenly an honored friend. He was happy to share information, so Tom and I eventually learned about pilot-induced oscillation and saw amazing videos of it happening.

At New Year’s Mac would always hold forth on some topic. New Year’s 2000 found us gathered round the table at the Mary Austin house in Independence. I’m sure Mac told us about some intellectual topic and

his curiosity about the coming century (he thought the biggest challenge would be replacing oil when it runs out), but it was then we learned of Mac’s love of Charlie’s Angels. Imagine a rocket scientist loving Charlie’s Angels! The mind boggles. (On the other hand, at Betty and Mac’s fiftieth anniversary celebration he said that he had realized something: “I’m a kept man . . . and I like it!”)

Mac was always behind things. He got the Leadership Training Program going. He made sure people got awards. He was the mastermind. When he retired from the various Sierra Club positions, he was still very active in the background. ***He was the patriarch--the revered, distinguished, beloved Mac.***



# *“Duane Torrance McRuer has passed from us, one of our noblemen”*

by *Mary McMannes*

DPS List Finish on Stepladder - 1999

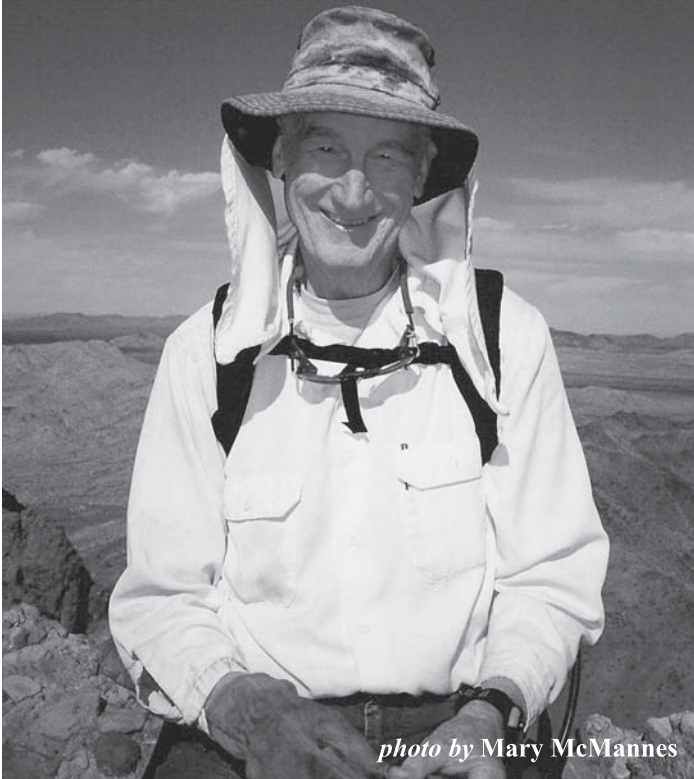


photo by Mary McMannes

Indeed--extraordinary climber, hiker, scientist, philosopher, he graced our presence for 81 years. When someone said, “Show me men like our mountains,” I’m sure he was thinking of Duane. He met all of our expectations and more. At his 75th birthday gala held at Caltech, I sang him a song, (in my best Ethel Merman imitation). “There is nothing like our Duane.. nothing in the world. There is nothing you can name that is anything like our Duane!” How true--there was nothing like our Duane, affectionately known as Mac.

At 6’4”, a member of NASA, recipient of awards and fellowships from prestigious organizations (too many to name), Mac towered above men, both physically and

intellectually. In the first few years of our friendship, I was awed by his presence, perhaps a little frightened. He was a genius, and I was a high school English teacher and often a nervous nelly on the harder peaks. Mac and Doug Mantle were a pair, indeed. I called Mac the presiding king, and Doug, the crown prince. They had their rituals on the trail, Doug would hum a few bars of a classical piece or show tune, and Mac would finish it. As Mac loved lists, he loved quizzes and lectured in the wilderness on an incredible array of subjects as we hiked up and down the great peaks or rested at evening campfires. One M.I.T. professor said it well, “My son Eric is of the opinion, Mac knew everything. I think the event that impressed him the most was at a campfire where he and Mac discussed *The Illiad* in depth for a long time. He did not expect that from an engineer.” Mac could talk on a multitude of subjects more informed than anyone I’ve ever known. If he didn’t know an answer, well, he’d be creative. Once camping with George Toby, they saw tiny birds scurrying across the road. “Mac, what kind of birds are those?” asked George. Mac looked at them and said, “Oh, they’re mini-quails.” He’d laugh when telling the story as he had no idea what they were. But George trusted Mac to know all things, so he took him at his word.

In later years, Mac, Gene Mauk, and I climbed Baldy often. There was always a quiz at the beginning of the hike. “Mary, name the four horsemen of Notre Dame.” “Mary, in the U.S. Capitol, there is a Hall of Statues. Who are the two from California?” He especially loved military lore and history and was proud of his Naval service. I was accused of being a Marcus Aurelius drop-out since M.A. rose early to fight battles, and I hated to get up in the mornings. We underlings were thrilled if we got any answers correct. We’d squeal in delight, and he would give us the Mac smile of approval. At his bedside, the day before he left us, Mac called me in for a last private conversation. Although



weak and exhausted from his courageous battle, his eyes twinkled, and he craftily smiled. “Mary, I’m giving you one of my prized bolos, but you must pass a quiz.” Sure enough, he asked me to name California’s state bird, mammal, flower, gemstone, and rock. He hinted that the gemstone was in the bolo, the benitoite found only in Russia and Benito County, California. He was parting this earthly life but wanted to leave a lasting image of the tradition we always shared between us. Mac was the teacher until the very end.



Give Mac a list or a new techno toy, and he was ecstatic. He finished the DPS list twice plus HPS, SPS, 49 High Points of the States, he was working on county high-points, state museums and historical sites lists. There wasn’t a list he didn’t like. Life was a constant learning experience for him, and the love of his life here and abroad. He never stopped learning and had an insatiable thirst for gathering and sharing information. Always the teacher, our Abba. I remember one starry night in the desert when Mac brought out some telescopic apparatus and made us lie on our backs while a tape played pointing out constellations and heavenly beings. I never did figure out what we

were looking at--but I said, “Ooooooh and ah..” with the rest of the lookers. Mac was in his element, indeed. Even in his final days, he was charged and recharged with constant visits to Wikipedia.

Mac was a genius, but he liked us little guys. Many climbers and hikers have written me emails about their personal exchanges with him. Health issues (hip and knee surgeries, cancer) were his expertise, and he didn’t offer merely sympathy but rather life-saving advice about the best doctors and latest medical procedures. In spite of being a busy busy man, he had time for all of us. He made time for all of us.

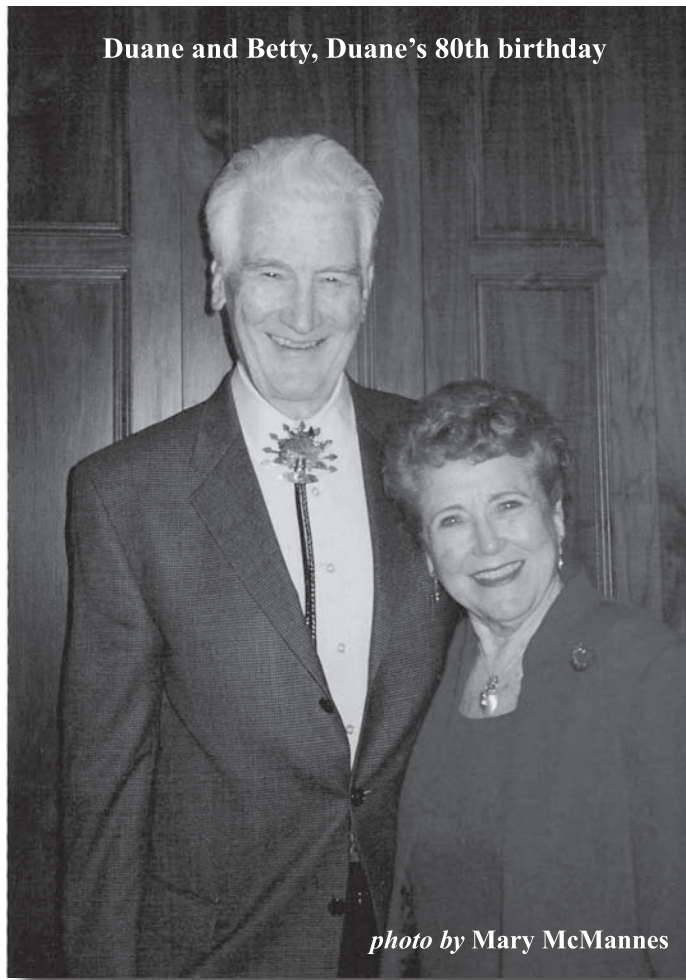
Even though named a Distinguished Alumni of Caltech and holding court with Nobel nominees and recipients, he liked being around us. I went to a Fab Four concert (facsimiles of the Beatles) with Mac and Betty. We sat together, and I couldn’t get over that Mac was bobbing his head, snapping his fingers, and singing all the words with the rest of the leftover aging sixties’ teenagers. Later, December 31, 1999, we gathered to ring in the millennium, and Doug Mantle was quiz master for the evening and had appropriate twentieth century quizzes. My favorite photo is Mac’s sheepish grin when admitting that “Charlie’s Angels” was his favorite T.V. show from the last century.



Duane liked scoops and tales as well as the rest of us. We climbers share a history of stories, follies, and foibles along with our heroic efforts and climbing accomplishments. Some days, we are heroic and other days, utter buffoons. Despite our moments of poking fun and spoofing about the way we were, Mac knew our strengths and never failed to point them out. He had a compliment for everyone--he was proud of all of us and what we had added to the mountaineering commonwealth.

And so I say farewell and goodbye, dear Mac. I was blessed to have you as my mentor, good friend, and confidant. You came into the world and left it a far better place. As I told you in our last meeting, you'll be just around the corner and a little bit ahead of us. "Mac, we'll meet again in a twinkling of an eye." Thanks for the laughter, the insights, the knowledge which you constantly imparted to me. I once sang, "Oh, what would we do without our Duane?" Cuno Ranschau said, "If he wasn't King Midas and turned everything to gold, he sure made everything better, much better." A fellow Scotsman's marker reads, "Here he lies, where he longed to be. Home is the sailor, home from the sea, and the hunter home from the hills." And for our climber, he's home from the mountain and the smouldering campfire. Brilliant yes, heroic, truly. It was our privilege to accompany Mac on his fabulous unforgettable life journey.

- Mary McMannes-



Duane and Betty, Duane's 80th birthday

photo by Mary McMannes

Duane McRuer was a great and important man and a famed leader, both in the Sierra Club and in his vocation as a distinguished aeronautical engineer, a former Hunsaker Professor at MIT and co-founder of Systems Technology.

- Mary Ann Webster -

#### MEMORIAL HIKES FOR DUANE McRUER

##### June 1-3 Friday-Sunday Sierra Peaks

Exploratory climb, Caltech Peak (13,813) M: A tough haul over Shephard Pass peak to be proposed for list addition. Leaders: Doug Mantle, Tina Bowman

Oct 14 Sunday Mount Baldy (10,064'): Join us on what would have been Duane's 82nd birthday. From Manker Flat to the summit via the Ski Hut, the hike will be 8 miles rt, 3900' gain. Strenuous, moderately paced. Option to ride ski lift (\$10) and potluck to follow. Meet 8 AM at Manker Flats, 9AM at the ski lift, or 7:15AM at the parking lot at the corner of Mills & Mt. Baldy Rd. Bring food, water, good hiking shoes, good memories to share. Email Mary Mac for additional info. Ldrs: Doug Mantle, Mary McMannes, Tina Bowman, Gene Mauk, Mike Manchester, Bob Hicks. Honorary Ldrs: Betty & Lara McRuer

## Outings Sign-up

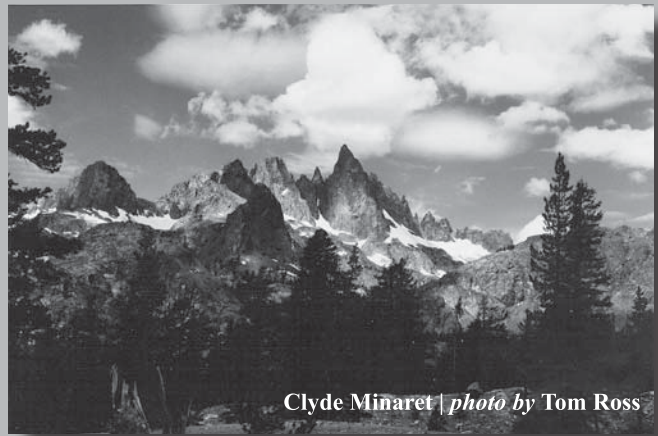
Email contact info for the ldrs of these trips appears on page 15. To apply as a participant on an outing, send a SASE (or email if requested), SC member number, experience resume, conditioning routine, home and work phone numbers, email address (if applicable), rideshare information and, **for restricted 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. 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%20medical).



# In Memory of Bill Feldmann

by Barbara Lilley

Bill Feldmann, active with the Angeles Chapter in the mid-sixties to the mid-eighties, passed away on Jan. 1, 2007, from a massive heart attack while bicycling near his Palmdale home. He retired a few years ago and, with a second home at Mammoth, continued to be an avid skier, hiker and fisherman. He was 69.



Clyde Minaret | photo by Tom Ross

# Outings

**March 31 | Sat**

## **Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar**

Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC Registrar for enrollment in Apr 14 seminar. Next seminar: Fall 2007. Registrar: STEVE BOTAN

LTC

**Mar 31 | Sat**

**E/M: Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff:** This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock must be pre-arranged. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable rock climbing experience. Helmet, basic climbing gear, and completed medical form required. Send or e-mail climbing resume, SC#, address and phone # to ldr: Ron Hudson, Assts: PAT MCKUSKY, ALEX AMIES

LTC

**April 1 | Sun**

## **MR: Mt Baldy (10,064') Snow Climb**

Strenuous 3900 feet of gain, 8 miles starting on the Ski Hut trail. Restricted to SC members with ice axe & crampon proficiency. Helmets are required. Two copies of completed medical form required. Group size limited. Send sase/esase, mountaineering resume showing relevant experience, SC number and contact information to Leader: TOM MCDONNELL, Co-Leaders: DON CROLEY, ED COTTONE

**Sierra Peaks and WTC**

**April 14 | Sat**

## **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 Mar 31. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2007. Registrar: STEVE BOTAN

LTC

**Apr 21-22 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS**

**I: Indian Cove Navigation:** Navigation noodles at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresh, altimeter, campfire. Sun for checkout. To receive homework assignment, send sase, any navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare, H&W phones, email to Ldr: HARRY FREIMANIS, Asst: BOB BRADSHAW

**April 21-22 | Sat - Sun**

## **M/ER Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice**

Demonstrate your skills to receive an M or E snow checkoff or sharpen snow climbing skills. Restricted to Sierra Club members w/prior ice axe, crampon, rope training/experience. Eastern Sierra site (Onion Valley) depending on snow conditions. Helmets, adze cover, and 2 completed medical forms required. Email or send 2 sase, SC #, resume of snow climbing/training, H&W phones to Leader: TOM MCDONNELL, Co-Leader: RANDALL DANTA

**SPS, LTC, DPS and SMS**

**April 28-29 | Sat -Sun** **SPS, LTC and DPS**  
**M/E Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice**

For M&E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with prior basic training with the ice axe. Two copies of the completed medical form required. Send SC #, climbing resume, SASE or e-mail, to Leader: NILE SORENSON, Co-leader: DOUG MANTLE.

**May 12 | Sat** **LTC, WTC**

**I: Mt Lowe (5603') Beginning Navigation Clinic:** 4 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. Send sase, \$25 deposit, (Sierra Club--refunded at trailhead), H&W phones to Ldr: Diane Dunbar, Co-Ldr: RICHARD BOARDMAN

**May 12-13 | Sat - Sun** **SPS**

**MR: Spanish Needle (7,841') and Sawtooth Peak (8,000')** Climb these 2 peaks in the Southern Sierra. The trip will be 2 day hikes with a car camp and happy hour on Saturday night. Climb Spanish Needle on Saturday, - class 3 rock. Climb Sawtooth on Sunday via a class 2 route. Participants should have experience on class 3 rock. Restricted to Sierra Club members who supply two copies of the completed medical form to Leader. Helmets are required. Send e-mail with experience and SC number to Leader. Leader: ALEX AMIES, Assistant: RON CAMPBELL

**May 19 | Sat** **SPS, HPS and WTC**

**M: Big Iron (8003') via North Ridge**  
A seldom-led, adventurous route pioneered by Bill T. Russell, up East Fork and Fish Fork of the San Gabriel River, with 30+ significant stream crossings, followed by a bushwhack and a steep (including some class 3) climb up a north ridge to summit, down usual (steep) south ridge route, blessedly ending with 5 miles on trail, approximately 7000' total gain, 20 mile loop. Predawn start, possible after dark finish. Send sase or email to Leader with telephone and relevant experience. Leaders: ASHER WAXMAN and ERIK SIERING.

**May 20 | Sun** **LTC, WTC, HPS**

**I: 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, any navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones, email to Ldr: HARRY FREIMANIS, Asst: PHIL WHEELER

**May 26-May 28 | Fri-Sun** **SPS**  
**MR Mt Baxter (13,136')**

Sawmill Pass trail backpack to climb this classic snow climb peak. Day 1 approx. 5000' gain and 8 miles to camp near Sawmill Lake. Day 2 climb Baxter cross country travel, snow climb with 3rd class chute to summit. Day 3 home. Restricted trip with ice axe, crampons, helmets and snowshoes required. Participants must have experience snow camping and be comfortable on class 3 rock and snow

and experienced with ice-ax and crampons. Send email with recent experience and conditioning, SC#, and two completed medical forms to Leader: BARBEE TIDBALL, Co-Leader: LARRY TIDBALL

**May 26-28 | Sat-Mon** **SPS, WTC**  
**MR: Split Mtn (14,058')**

Snow climb Split Mtn (CA 14er and an SPS Emblem peak) via the North Slope from the Red Lake trailhead (4x4 required) on Memorial Day weekend. This will be a strenuous three day trip requiring good fitness and experience with an ice axe and crampons and on 3rd class terrain. Ideal for potential M leaders and those looking to gain M experience to lead WTC. Mail the \$5 permit fee once accepted as a trip participant. Restricted to Sierra Club members with appropriate experience. Send esase/sase and medical form to Ldr: JENNIE THOMAS (jenniet@uci.edu), Asst: TOM MCDONNELL

**Jun 1-3 | Fri-Sun** **SPS**

**M: Caltech Peak (13,813) Exploratory climb**  
A tough haul over Shephard Pass, Friday, then to the peak to be proposed for List addition on Saturday, out Sunday. Required: crampons, ice axe. This trip in memory of Duane McRuer. Send resume/qualifications to Leaders: DOUG MANTLE, TINA BOWMAN

**June 2-3 | Sat-Sun** **SPS**

**MR: Mt. Dade (13,600'+)**  
Saturday pack in to camp at Treasure Lake (4 miles, 1000' gain). Sunday climb Dade via Hourglass couloir (up to 40 degree slope) and pack out. Ice ax, crampons and helmet required. Restricted to SC members who supply 2 copies of completed medical form to Leader. E-mail with experience to Leader: STEVE CURRY, Assistant: ASHER WAXMAN

**Jun 8-10 | Fri-Sun** **LTC, Harwood Lodge, WTC**

**C: Wilderness First Aid Course:** Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Includes lodging, meals, practice first aid kit. CPR within previous 4 years required to enroll. \$190 with SC#/\$200 non-member (full refund thru May 5). For application, contact Ldr: STEVE SCHUSTER

**June 9-10 | Sat-Sun** **SPS**

**ER: Red Slate Mountain (13,163')**  
Climb this peak situated in the Convict Lake area of the Eastern Sierras via the North Couloir Route. A strenuous backpack and class 4 snow climb. On Saturday pack in from the trailhead to camp. Attempt the summit Sunday and pack out. Experience with class 4 snow and strong fitness required. Helmets required. Restricted to SC members who supply 2 copies of the completed medical form to Leader. Send e-mail with conditioning, experience, Sierra Club number. Five dollar permit fee required at trailhead. Leader: ALEX AMIES, Assistant: NILE SORENSON

**Jun 16 | Sat** **LTC, WTC, HPS**

**O: GPS Class: Intro to Global Positioning System** at Eaton Cyn Nature Center, Pasadena. Start 9AM indoors, no registration at door, apply early. Includes features, selection, operation, use with maps (provided) in field,



hands-on field practice in afternoon. Bring a GPS, but we have loaners. Send sase, phones, email, GPS experience & model, \$15 (LTC-no refund later than 5 days prior) to Co-Ldrs: HARRY FREIMANIS, PHIL WHEELER

5 rock. Send email OR sase with conditioning, experience, SC#. \$5 permit fee at trailhead. Ldr: ALEX AIMES Co-Ldr: RANDALL DANTA,

**June 23-25 | Sat-Mon** **SPS**  
**I: Kern Peak (11,510')**

SPS introductory trip in southern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Moderate and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack 9 miles, 1500' of gain to camp at Redrock Meadows at 8600'. Sun climb class 2 Kern Pk in 8 miles, 3000' gain round trip, all x-country. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Monday backpack out 9 miles, 800' gain (With ups and downs). Send sase, recent conditioning, H&W phones, ride share info to Leader: PATTY KLINE, Assistants: JOE WANKUM and GARY SCHENK.

**Jun 30-Jul 1 | Sat-Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**I: Kern Peak (11,510')**

Explore the meadows and creeks of the Southern Sierra and visit Jordan Hot Springs in this long loop backpack. Saturday hike from Blackrock to Jordan Hot Springs for lunch, 6 mi, 2400' loss, then 3.5 mi, 2300' gain to camp at Redrock Meadows. Potluck happy hour Saturday night. Sunday climb Kern Peak, 4.5 mi, 2800' gain. Return to camp and pack out, 8.5 miles, 1600' gain for a total of 13 mi, 4400' gain for the day. Send sase or email (preferred) with experience & conditioning, H&W phones, carpool info to Ldr: BETH EPSTEIN, Co-Ldr: KIM GIMENEZ

**Jul 7-8 | Sat- Sun** **SPS**  
**MR: Mt. Abbot (13,704'), Mt. Dade (13,600')**

Join a fast-paced climb. Sat. hike from Rock Creek to camp at Treasure Lakes; climb Dade via The Hourglass (7.5 mi, 3,750' gain). Sun. climb Abbot via Southeast Buttress, hike out (7.5 mi, 2,550' gain). SC members only. Medical forms, helmets, ice axe & crampons. Send e-mail or sase, conditioning, and experience to Ldr: DARRICK DANTA, Asst: TINA BOWMAN

**Jul 8-9 | Sat-Sun** **SPS**  
**I: Mt. Langley (14,026')**

Moderately strenuous backpack to bag the southernmost 14er in the United States. Saturday morning pack into Long Lake from Cottonwood Lakes trailhead, 7 mi. 1500' gain. Have a Happy Hour Sat. night. Summit on Sunday, 8 mi. rt with 3600' gain. Break camp and hike out. Send 2 sase or 1 sase & email with recent conditioning, recent experience & altitude experience to Ldr. MIKE DILLENBACK, Asst: ROD KIEFFER

**Jul 13-15 | Fri-Sun** **SPS**  
**ER: North Palisade (14,242') & Starlight**

Climb two 14,000' peaks in the Palisades. This will be a strenuous backpack and class 4/5th rock climb with the likelihood of some snow. Friday pack in from the South Lake trailhead over Bishop Pass to camp. Saturday climb the class 4 Southwest chute up North Pal, make the traverse, attempt to climb the 5th class Milk Bottle, descend Southwest chute. Sunday pack out. SC members with strong fitness and experience on snow and low class

**Jul 21-22 | Sat-Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**I: Four Gables (12,720'), Pilot Knob #2 (12,245')**

Sat backpack over Piute Pass to camp (7.5 mi 2565' gain), climb Four Gables (xc 2.7 mi 1314' gain via South slope). Sun climb Pilot Knob #2 (xc 3.3 mi 1184' gain via E saddle) and backpack out. \$5 permit fee Send email or SASE, recent conditioning / experience, H&W phones, and ride share info to Ldr: DOUG OWENS, Asst: ANNE MARIE RICHARDSON

**Jul 21-22 | Sat-Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**I: Mt Goode (13,085'), Mt Johnson (12,871')**

Sat backpack from South Lake to near Saddlerock Lake (5 mi, 1500' gain); climb Goode (4 mi rt, 2000' gain, class 2). Evening happy hour at camp. Sun climb Johnson (3 mi rt, 2500' gain, class 2), hike out 5 mi. Send email or 2 sase with phone #s, address, experience and current conditioning, carpool info, \$5 permit fee to Ldr: KATHY RICH, Co-Ldr: RON HUDSON

**Jul 21-23 | Sat - Mon** **SPS**  
**I: Cirque Peak (12,900')**

SPS Introductory trip in the eastern Sierra for prospective SPSers and WTC students. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Saturday backpack from Horseshoe Meadows to Long Lake at 11160' (6 mi, 1200' gain). Saturday legendary community happy hour. Sun climb class 1 Cirque peak (5 mi rt, 1800' gain). Sun legendary community happy hour. Monday hike out 6mi, 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: GREG DE HOOGH

**Aug 3-5 | Fri-Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**MR: Mt. Brewer (13,570'), North Guard (13,327')**

Friday backpack over Kearsarge Pass to camp, 12 mi, 4000' gain. Saturday climb Brewer, North Guard, 7 mi, 4900' gain. Sunday out. Recent experience on class 3 rock required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Medical form and helmet required. Send e-mail or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning and climbing resume, rideshare info and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL, Asst: TOM MCDONNELL

**Aug 4-5 | Sat-Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**I: Silver Peak (11,878')**

Backpack in the Western Sierra on Saturday from Lake Thomas Edison to Devil's Bathtub (4.75 mi, 1500' gain). Sunday climb class 2 Silver in 7-mile round-trip and 3,300' of gain, all cross-country, then pack out to cars. Send email (preferred) or SASE with conditioning/experience to Ldr: PAUL GARRY, Asst: EDD RUSKOWITZ

**Aug 4-5 | Sat-Sun** **SPS**  
**I: Matterhorn Peak, (12,264'), Twin Peaks (12,323')**

Sat. hike in approximately 4 miles, 3800 gain, and set up camp near Horse Creek Pass. Sunday climb the peaks,

approx. 5 miles roundtrip, 3000 gain. Mon hike out 4 miles, 3600 loss. Send conditioning and experience e-mail or sase to: Leader: VIRGIL POPESCU, Co-leader: PAT ARREDONDO

**Aug 11-12 | Sat – Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**I: San Joaquin Mtn (11,061’), Bloody Mtn (12,552’)**

Climb as day hikes class 2 peaks near Mammoth. Sat San Joaquin (3500’ gain, 9 mi rt) via xc route from the east. Car camp Sat night in local forest. Sun climb Bloody via Laurel Ck (4000’ gain, 9 mi rt) via trail and xc. Send email or 2 sase with phone #s, address, resume with experience and current conditioning, carpool info to Ldr: KATHY RICH, Co-ldr: RON HUDSON

**Aug 11-12 | Sat-Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**I: Trail Peak (11,605’), Muah Mountain (11,016’)**

Gourmet backpack: Join us for Decadent Wilderness Weekend V. Sat backpack 7 mi, 1600’ via Trail Peak to Diaz Meadow for 5-star dining experience. Sun work off those calories with 1 mi, 1200’ gain to Muah. Send e-mail or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning and your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL, Assts: GEORGETTE RIECK, ED COTTONE

**Aug 17-19 | Fri-Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**I: Mt. Eisen (12,160’+), Lippincott Mtn. (12,265’) & Sawtooth Peak (12,343’)**

Fri. backpack from Mineral King over Glacier Pass & Black Rock Pass xc & on trail to camp at Little Five Lakes (8.75 mi 5274’ & 2670’ loss). Sat. climb Mt. Eisen (1.4 mi 1600’ gain via SE ridge), return to camp and continue to Lippincott (2.5 mi 1730’ gain). Sun. climb Sawtooth Peak from Glacier Pass (1.25 mi and 1344’ gain via NW ridge) and out. Strenuous. \$5 permit fee. Send email or SASE, recent conditioning / experience, H&W phones, ride share info. Ldr: DOUG OWENS, Asst: DARRICK DANTA

**Aug 18-20 | Sat- Mon** **SPS**  
**I: Bloody Mtn. ( 12,552’)**

SPS intro Trip geared to new and prospective SPSers and WTC students. Moderate backpack for class 2 peak south of Mammoth. Sat backpack 8 mi, 2600’ gain to Dorothy Lake. Sunday climb Bloody in 8 mi rt, 2800’ gain, some xc. Mon backpack out 8 mi, 2600’ loss. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Send \$5.00 for permit fee along with SASE or e-mail plus conditioning and high altitude experience, home, work, cell phones, ride share info to Ldr: PATTY KLINE, Asst. KENT SCHWITKIS

**Aug 18-19 | Sat-Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**I: Mt. Morgan S. (13,748’)**

A great climb to spellbinding views. From Rock Creek Lake near Tom’s Place, we’ll pack in 4 mi. with 1200’ gain to camp at Francis Lake. Climb peak 8 mi rt, 2900’ gain, happy hour Sat evening then pack out Sun. Send experience, conditioning, phones, email, rideshare info via email or sase to Ldr: MELISSA KANE Asst: EDD RUSKOWITZ

**Aug 25-26 | Sat-Sun** **SPS, WTC**  
**I: Mt. Mallory (13,850’), Mt. Irvine (13,770’)**

Backpack from Whitney Portal 4 mi, 3500’ to camp near Meysan Lake, followed by happy hour and sound sleep. Climb Mallory and Irvine Sun and pack out. Good conditioning a must. Send 2 sase or email, \$5 permit fee if confirmed, conditioning, experience (including WTC group information if applicable), H&W phones and rideshare info to Ldr: EDD RUSKOWITZ, Co-Ldr: RON CAMPBELL

**Aug 25-26 | Sat-Sun** **SPS**  
**I: Iron Mtn (11,149’)**

Moderately paced introductory trip geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Sat backpack from Devils Postpile to Anona Lk., 9100’, 6 mi, 2100’ gain . Sun cl 2 climb of peak, 3 mi rt, 2400’ gain, and backpack out, 6 mi, 500’. Send SASE, recent conditioning, rideshare info, phone, email, \$5.00 permit fee, payable to Ldr: ED LUBIN. Co-Ldrs: MARLEN MERTZ, WAYNE VOLLAIRE

**Aug 25-26 | Sat-Sun** **SPS**  
**I: Split (14,042), Prater(13,471), and Tinemaha (12,520):**

Strenuous, Sat bkpk to Red Lake, 5 mi, 4000’. Climb Tinemaha, 1.5 mi, 2000’. Sun climb Split class 2, 2 mi, 3500’ gain, then Prater, 1.5 mi, 900’. 4WD may be req’d on trailhead road. Req’d comfort on class 2 rock, moderate to fast paced trip. SASE or preferred email SPS/peak climbing experience resume and conditioning details to Ldr: GREG MASON, Asst: TOM MCDONNELL

**Aug 25-Sep 1 | Sun-Sat** **SPS**  
**MR: Mt Kaweah (13,802’), Black Kaweah (13,720+’), Red Kaweah (13,720+’),**

and others. Join us for a week climbing the Kaweahs and other possible peaks, such as **Mt Eisen (12,160+’), Lippincott Mtn (12,265’), Kern Pt (12,730+’) and Picket Guard (12,303’)**. The trip starts and ends in Mineral King. Heavy packs, lots of gain to start. Open to SC members with appropriate experience and conditioning. Participants must submit a medical form. E-sase or sase to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN, Co-Ldrs: TOM BOWMAN, BARBEE TIDBALL, LARRY TIDBALL.

**Aug 30 - Sep 3 | Thurs-Mon** **SPS**  
**I: Mt Pinchot (13,494’), Mt Wynne (13,179’), Arrow Pk (12,959’), Pyramid Pk (12,779’)**

Backpack first day strenuous 6000’ gain, 9 mi via trail over Taboose Pass. Hike to Marjorie Lake & climb Pinchot and Wynne (3700’ gain, 7 mi for the two). Move camp 4 mi to beautiful Bench Lake for Arrow and Pyramid (5000’ gain, 7 mi for the two). Return to cars Mon. All peaks class 2. Send email or 2 sase with phone #s, address; include detailed resume of experience and current aerobic conditioning program. Ldr: RON HUDSON, Co-Ldr: KATHY RICH

**Sep 7-9 | Fri-Sun** **SPS**  
**I: The Needles et al.**

in Giant Sequoia Nat’l Monument: Leisurely paced ascents of several panoramic unlisted peaks with 2 nights of extended happy hours. Part of “old-timers” series, this outing will emphasize renewing acquaintances with longtime climbing friends & welcoming newcomers.



Camp 2 nights at Quaking Aspen. Sat. climbs of **Jordan Pk (9115')** and **The Needles (8254')**. Sun a quick scamper up **Dome Rock (7221')**, then climb of **Mule Pk (8142')**. Mileage and gain depends on forest road conditions. Send sase with H&W phones and e-mail address to Asst Ldr: JERRY KEATING, Ldr: GORDON MACLEOD, Asst Ldr: BARBARA LILLEY.

**Sep 8-9 | Sat- Sun** **SPS, Long Beach**  
**I: Agassiz (13,893') & Goode (13,085')**

Moderate trip. Sat backpack from South L./Bishop Pass trailhead at 9,800' to Bishop Lake, 4 mi, 1700' to camp. Climb Goode, 2 mi, 1600'. Sat happy hour. Sun climb Agassiz via Bishop pass, 2.5 mi, 2500' gain via class 2 and out. Moderate paced trip. SASE or preferred email climbing experience resume (WTC OK) and conditioning to Ldr: GREG MASON, Asst: WAYNE VOLLAIRE

**Sep 8-10 | Sat- Mon** **SPS**  
**I: Mt. Baldwin (12,615')**

SPS Intro Trip geared to new and prospective SPSer's and WTC students. Moderate backpack for class 2 peak south of Mammoth. Sat backpack 6 mi, 2500' gain to Mildred Lake at 10,000'. Sun climb Baldwin in 5 mi rt, 2600' gain. Monday backpack out 8 mi, 2500' loss. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Send sase, \$5.00 permit fee per person, conditioning and high altitude experience, home, work, cell phones, ride share info to Ldr: PATTY KLINE, Asst: KEITH MARTIN

**Sep 14-16 | Fri-Sun** **SPS**  
**MR: Mt Fiske (13,508'), Mt Huxley (13,086')**

Friday Backpack from Lake Sabrina to near Echo Lake (7 mi, 3000' gain). Class 3, ice ax & crampons may be needed) and climb the peaks (about 8 mi rt, 4000' gain, class 3). Mts Wallace and Haeckel may also be climbed. Return to cars Sunday. Send email or 2 sase with phone #s, address, \$5 for permit fee, resume of experience and current conditioning, carpool info to Ldr: RON HUDSON, Co-Ldrs: BARBEE AND LARRY TIDBALL

**Sep 21-28 | Fri - Fri** **SPS**  
**MR: Tunemah Pk (11,894'), Finger Pk (12,404'), Black Crown Pk (12,323')**

Climb remote SPS peaks, explore obscure canyons. Must have excellent conditioning, comfort on exposed class 3 rock (on Black Crown Pk), & a positive attitude. 2-day approach from Wishon Reservoir via Coyote Pass, camp at Blue Canyon. Climb peaks along the length of the White Divide, return via N. Fork Kings River. Shuttle at Courtwright Reservoir. Be prepared for 7 strenuous days: total 65+ mi, 21k'+ gain. Restricted to SC members. Send email w/ recent experience and conditioning, SC#, medical form to Ldr: JEFF DHUNGANA, Co-Ldr: DOUG MANTLE

**Sep 22-23 | Sat-Sun** **SPS**  
**I: Florence Pk (12,423'), Vandever Mtn (12,520+')**

Join us for 2 day hikes in the Mineral King area. Sat 10+ mi, 4,500' gain. Sun 8+ mi, 4,100' gain. E-sase or sase to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN, Co-ldr: MARY MCMANNES.

## **First Aid Requirements for Leaders I Rated and Above**

To lead any Sierra Club outing at the "I", "M", or "E" level (restricted or non-restricted) both leaders must have taken WFAC\*, a 3-day, 30-hour course.

## **Restricted Mountaineering Outings Leader Requirements** (for restricted M and E outings using ice ax, crampons and ropes)

**Leaders wishing to lead mountaineering outings must:**

1. Be a certified leader and be current in at least a 16-hour refresher course, (WFAB\*\* would suffice) in the last 4 years.
2. Have a climbing resume\*\*\* on file at the Natinal Office, to be updated every 2 years. Send to Barbee & Larry Tidball at [lbtidball@earthlink.net](mailto:lbtidball@earthlink.net), outings chairs.

### **First Aid Requirements for 2007:**

To be current to lead mountaineering outings (restricted M&E trips), one leader must be current in a 16 hour refresher course in the last 4 years, the other leader must be current (also within the last 4 years) in a 4 hour Standard First Aid course \*\*\*\* or more advanced training. Check LTC website for other possible courses to fill this requirement ([www.angeleschapter.org/ltp](http://www.angeleschapter.org/ltp) [LTP Activity Schedule]).

## **\*\*\*Climbing Resume**

**Climbing resumes should be updated every two years and include:**

1. Contact info (address, phone #, e,mail)
2. Date of Resume
3. SC member # and expiration date
4. First aid training and currency (type of class, such as Wilderness First Aid, and when taken)
5. Recent training, if any, with some detail about training, sponsor, and date
6. Recent relevant climbs - where and when, type of climb (rock, snow, canoneering), level or difficulty, nature of participaiton (lead climber, follower, top-roped)

## **Wilderness First Aid Course** **\*(WFAC)**

[www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org](http://www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org)  
(3 day), 30 hour course - must be taken by all leaders "I" rated or above

**June 8-10 2007 - sign up early**

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## **Wilderness First Aid Basics** **\*\* (WFAB)**

(2 days), 16 hour course for students who have submitted proof of CPR training or the Airway/Breathing Skills Session course mentioned below; next WFAB class scheduled:

**November 3-4, 2007**

Note: Students must complete the Airway/Breathing Skills Sessions (1 evening 4 hour course) unless they submitted proof of CPR with their application for WFAB; next Airway/Breathing Skills Session is scheduled:

**November 2, 2007**

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## **\*\*\*Standard First Aid**

Check Leadership Training Committee (LTC) website [www.angeles.sierraclub.org/ltp](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/ltp) [LTP Activity Schedule] for Red Cross courses. Some Red Cross courses given at UCI.

### **Other SoCal Providers** **(not necessarily an endorsement)**

Wilderness Medicine Institute  
[www.nols.edu/wmi](http://www.nols.edu/wmi) 800-710-NOLS

Wilderness Medical Associates  
[www.wildmed.com](http://www.wildmed.com) (888) 945-3633

Adventure Risk Management (951) 659-4090  
[www.adventureriskmanagement.com](http://www.adventureriskmanagement.com)



# WILDERNESS PERMIT INFO

## INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Website [www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo)

*Pick up permit closest to departure trailhead*  
Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center  
Lone Pine, CA  
(760) 876-6200

White Mountain Ranger Station  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(760) 873-2500

Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
(760) 924-5500

Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center  
Lee Vining, CA 93541  
(760) 647-3044

## SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST

Website: [www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia)

Cannell Meadow Ranger District  
P.O. Box 6  
Kernville, Ca 93238  
Phone: 760/376-3781  
Fax: 760/376-3795

Tule River Ranger District  
River Ranger District  
32588 Highway 190  
Springville, CA 93265  
Phone: (559) 539-2607

## YOSEMITE NATIONAL FOREST

Website [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose)

Reservation requests for summer trips (mid-May through September) are accepted from 2 weeks to 24 weeks in advance online or by writing to:

Yosemite Association

PO Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389.

By phone: reservations for summer trips are accepted by calling (209) 372-0740 (8:30 am to 4:30 am, M-F)

Obtain your free permit from the *Wilderness Permit Station nearest your departure trailhead*. Call (209) 372-0200 for permit station locations and hours

If entering park from Cherry Lake in the **Stanislaus National Forest** to Kibbie Lake and Lake Eleanor in Yosemite, you must get your permit from the Stanislaus National Forest Ranger Station on Highway 120 in Groveland. Call (209) 962-7825

If entering the park from Chiquito Pass in **Sierra National Forest**, permits for the whole trip must be obtained from the Forest Service in North Fork. Call (559) 877-2218

## KINGS CANYON

Website: [www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia)

47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9700  
Phone (559) 565-3708 for permit location pick-up  
Fax (559) 565-4239

## SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY

Website: [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra)

Ansel Adams Wilderness – North  
Bass Lake Ranger District  
57003 Road 225  
North Fork, CA 93643  
Phone: (559) 887-2218

Ansel Adams Wilderness – South  
John Muir, Kaiser and Kinkey Lakes Wilderness  
Pineridge/Kings River Ranger District  
P.O. Box 559, Prather, CA 93651  
(559) 855-5360

IN HIGH PLACES

# PUNTA LA MARMORA

SARDINIA, ITALY

by Burton “Danger” Falk



Yeah, you read the by-line right--Danger is my middle name. I live for it; I thrive on it. My entire being is ever alert to spring into the jaws of any precarious situation. To me, living on the edge separates the men from the boys; it's what gives life its zest.

Take our recent trip to Italy for instance, where I rented a car and braved the local traffic. What's so dangerous about that, you scoff? Well, Italy is a country where stop signs are considered only as suggestions, where lane lines are meaningless, where being courteous will get you honked at, and where being timid will get you nowhere—that's what. I also consumed several local specialties, which, due to a slight language problem, I had mistakenly ordered. Indeed, I downed pasta topped with such frutti de mare as shaved, dried mullet roe (bottarga), sea urchins (ai ricci) and sardines (sarde). One morning, I even suggested an action-packed, interest-filled trip (my definition) for the following summer to my wife, Jo, a trip even more exhausting (her definition) than the one we were already on. That, however, probably should be classified as dumb rather than brave.

And, throwing all caution to the wind, I planned to climb Punta La Marmora, the 6,015' high point of the Italian island of Sardinia.

Sardinia, to refresh your memory, is the second larg-

est island in the Mediterranean—just a tad smaller than Sicily, lying 112 miles to the west of mainland Italy (actually, it's 6 miles closer to N. Africa than it is to Italy), and a long stone's throw south of France's Corsica. Due to recently uncovered evidence, experts now believe that people have lived on the island, originally as hunter/gatherers, for 120,000 years. Much later, circa 5500 BC, the islanders could be found abiding in cave dwellings, raising crops and practicing animal husbandry. By 1,500 BC, they had settled in small villages, and were busy building—perhaps for defensive purposes—distinctive bee hive-shaped stone towers called nurages, the ruins of 7,000 of which may still be seen today. The Mycenae Greeks, about 1,200 BC, were the first to colonize Sardinia, however they were replaced, circa 1,000 BC, by the Phoenicians, who in turn, in 500 BC, were succeeded by the Carthaginians of North Africa.

The Romans took control of the island in 238 BC, but much like the Phoenicians and the Carthaginians, they were unable to tame the hostile natives of the interior—an area called Barbagia, which includes the Su-



pramonte and Gennargentu mountain ranges, the latter the home of 6013' Punta La Marmora, Sardinia's highpoint.

After the fall of Rome, the Vandals moved in (456 AD), followed in the early 6th century by the Byzantines, and then in 711 the island became subject to raids by the Arabs. In the 12th and 13th centuries, control of Sardinia was vied for by Pisa and Genoa, and in 1323 the Spanish arrived on the scene, overwhelming the locals with onerous taxes. Due to complex intra-European politics, the island's history became even murkier in the 18th and early 19th centuries, however in 1861 Sardinia at last became a part of the Kingdom of Italy, the precursor of today's Italy. The fact is that the Sardinians have a long history of being subjected to control by others, most of whom were interested only in what they could take from the island. No wonder, even today, Sardinians look on outsiders with suspicion.

As for me, I knew that Sardinia's mountain region was considered dangerous long before I arrived on the island. The Lonely Planet Guide to Sardinia, for instance, states that banditry has been long known in various parts of Nuoro province, in which Punta La Marmora is located, mentioning that in the 1960s, some locals "hit upon another money-making venture—kidnapping. Bandits would grab a member of a rich family, secrete them away in some inaccessible and mountainous corner of the province and demand healthy ransom. Frequently the kidnap victims were killed, sometimes after torture."

Even today the national government in Rome considers Nuoro and its surroundings to be "a difficult region." Indeed, although there appear to be an inordinate number of police and carabinieri in the area, neither apparently makes much impact. Feuds in the mountains are often settled by shotgun, "the locals rarely say(ing) anything to the authorities, in whose protection they have little confidence."

**M**y travel agent, an Italian-born American, was aghast at my plan to drive a rental car into the mountains and climb solo. He insisted that I hire a car and a driver, and, furthermore, that I equip myself and the driver with a walkie-talkie

in case I should be accosted (I followed his advice on the former, not the latter). On the voucher issued for the excursion, he disclaimed liability for any harm that might befall me during my climb.

In spite of it all, however, at 9 a.m. on Friday, August 19, 2005, in front of the Su Gologone Hotel, located just outside the small town of Oliena, I met my guide, Johnnie, climbed into his Land Rover, and, fearlessly, we set off on a 2-1/2 hour drive to the Punta La Marmora trailhead.

**T**he late summer sky was a bright blue that morning, the temperature was pleasantly warm, and there was virtually no traffic on the two lane road that wound through well-tended olive groves and vineyards. Immediately to the east, the limestone cliffs of the Supramonte range soared skyward above gentle oak-covered foothills. Far to the west, across a wide valley, the white buildings of the city of Nuoro, population 37,000, could be seen splayed across a ridge top. It was a drop-dead beautiful day, and I was in an extremely good mood.

As our elevation gradually increased, the crop-based agriculture gave way to that of animal husbandry: cows, sheep and pigs. Cork oaks were prevalent, too, the barks of which had been cut away for the manufacture of wine corks. Surprisingly, this practice doesn't kill the trees, and, in fact, a new layer of cork eventually forms, which itself can be harvested every ten-years or so.

I noticed, too, that virtually every road sign had been riddled with bullet holes, most of which appeared to be caused by large caliber ammunition. But, of course, I wasn't worried.

After a brief stop at the single chair lift on the east facing slopes of 6,000' Bruncu Spina, Sardinia's only ski area, we drove up a nearby, unsigned dirt road to the antenna-filled summit of the same mountain, the northern end of the same ridge on which, three miles to the south and a mere 13' higher, Punta La Marmora is located. Alighting from the Land Rover and taking a closer look at the topography, I could see that there was a deep saddle between the two summits, accounting for the hour and a half time it was said to be neces-

sary to reach the highpoint. I noted also that, although the elevation was only 6,000', we were already above timberline.

Although my travel agent had arranged for my driver to wait in the car while I climbed the mountain, Johnnie, about 30, who is usually employed by the Su Gologone Hotel as a guide for hikes in the Supramonte Range, decided to join me on the climb. In fact, because he was such a strong hiker and since the trail was so obvious, I told him to take off at his own rapid pace—that I would catch up with him on the summit.

And, an hour and a half later, at 1 p.m., the peak was mine. I took a few photos of the giant cross that has been erected on the summit, chatted with the young German couple whom I had followed up the trail, downed a snack and then we started back. Following an alternate trail below the west side of the ridge, Johnnie and I reached the Land Rover at 3 p.m. Because of the 1,000' saddle involved, we had, going and coming, gained 2,000' of elevation.

**P**unta La Marmora and Bruncu Spina are part of the Monti de Gennargentu, i.e., the Silver Saddle Mountains—the silver derived from the snow that covers the peak in the winter, the saddle because of the notch we had just negotiated. Unlike the majestic limestone massif of the Supramonte Mountains, the peaks of the Gennargentu are worn by erosion and granitic in makeup. They seem rather shopworn, in fact.

Driving back to the hotel, we took a short cut—a one lane road, on which we didn't meet a single car—thereby cutting an hour off our return. Arriving at the hotel about 4:30 p.m., I thanked Johnnie, got out of the car, and stood there for a few minutes pondering the day's events. Oh sure, I felt the glow that comes from climbing a worthy peak, but, on the other hand, I missed that familiar adrenalin rush that always comes after being accosted by a band of bloodthirsty kidnappers.

That evening, Jo and I enjoyed an excellent dinner at the luxurious garden hotel, a meal that included a basket of pane guttiau, wafer-thin, crispy bread, drizzled with olive oil and sprinkled with sea salt; culurgiones, a Sardinian-style ravioli filled with pecorino cheese

and immersed in tomato and herb sauce; and for main course a choice of roasted wild boar, lamb or suckling pig (we opted for the latter, which was outstanding). For dessert, we could choose from a large selection, including seadas (light pastry filled with ricotta and drizzled in honey), gueffus (almond biscuits) and crema catalana (a caramel crème).

Since Jo doesn't drink and I'm too cheap to buy a whole bottle of wine for only a couple of glasses, I ordered a small pitcher of the local red, a wine produced from the highly touted Cannonau grape. Unfortunately, although the price was right, the wine itself was disappointing, the only sour (pun intended) note of the evening

By the way, according to Johnnie, the hotel's unusual name, Gologone, comes from sound the giant spring, located on hotel grounds, makes as its waters bubble up from below—i.e., it's similar to our word gurgle.

The next morning, still hungering for peril, Jo and I set off on the most dangerous event of our six-day Sardinian excursion. Specifically, we drove to the small mountain town of Orgosolo, population 4,900, home not only of Sardinia's most notorious bandits, but also famous for its murals (murales), painted on many of the town walls, most of which address social and political issues (including much anti-American, anti-Bush sentiment).

And sure enough, because of the area's high rate of unemployment, the town was filled with sullen, unshaven men sitting around, all looking quite bandit-like. In sharp contrast, a few well-dressed dilettantes were traipsing up and down the narrow streets taking photos of the murals. It occurred to Jo and me that the locals, scornfully eyeing the day-trippers, were probably yearning for the good old days when kidnapping one or two of the visitors would have been considered a good and proper way to make a living.

Prior to the climb, upon our arrival in Sardinia, we spent two nights on the south coast in Cagliari, the island's capital and largest city. Although certainly not comparable to Rome, Florence or Venice in terms of interesting things to do and see, we did enjoy the city's Marina district, a jumble of buildings set among a maze of nar-



row streets, home to many funky stores and several excellent trattorias (we recommend the Dal Conte). The medieval Castello (castle) on the hill above the city, complete with two Pisan towers, was also well worth our visit.

Surprisingly, we met very few Americans during our six days in Sardinia. In fact, although the island's excellent beaches were jam packed—leaving the interior virtually untouched—it was our impression that most all the visitors came from mainland Italy. Indeed, at the ports of Golfo Aranci, Olbia and Palau, which serve as gateways to the high end resorts along the Costa Smeralda, on the northeast corner of the island, and at Cagliari, in the south, a procession of ferries arriving from Civitavecchia (Rome), Genoa, Livorno, Naples and Palermo disgorged instant traffic jams onto the Sardinian streets

and highways with alarming regularity.

Similar to the Costa Smeralda (a resort area developed by Aga Khan IV and several other moneyed investors), the south coast—the Costa del Sud—also possesses several excellent beaches, however as the many camp grounds there attest, the area caters more to the economy-minded vacationer. During our drive along the scenic two-lane south coast road, we could tell when we were coming up on one of the numerous pocket beaches by the half-mile of parked cars lined up along the roadside leading up to them.

And one final thought. Should you decide to visit Sardinia, our advice would be to do so in either the spring or the fall. As noted, the beaches are much too crowded in the summer, especially August.

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## Coming Soon!

**Bill Oliver's 3<sup>rd</sup> of his 4 part series. . .**

**“A Tribute to the Honorary Members of the Sierra Peaks Section - Past & Present: Norman Clyde, Glen Dawson and Jules Eichorn.”**



**Photo above: Sierra Club High Trip: July 13, 1934. The Mountaineers - Glen Dawson, Jack Riegelhuth and Ted Waller (L-R). Camped at Lyell Fork of the Merced. [Glen and Ted are in their 90s still living!]**

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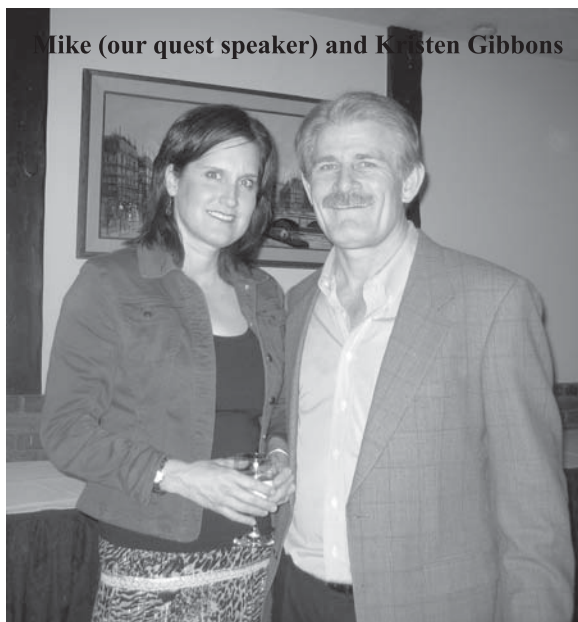
**LOOK FOR SPS 2007 ROSTER NEXT ISSUE**

# SPS BANQUET

*Celebrating 51 years!*

**F**ifty-five hearty souls gathered Saturday evening at Les Freres Taix Restaurant for the Annual Banquet, an auspicious number given that the Section was founded in 1955.

Some arrived promptly at 5:30 to be first in line for the no-host bar, while others preferred to make a fashionably later entry just before the dinner service began at 7. After enjoying salad, soup, entrée of beef, salmon, or pasta accompanied by complementary wine, followed by sherbet, all were ready for the next installment of the program.



Mike (our quest speaker) and Kristen Gibbons

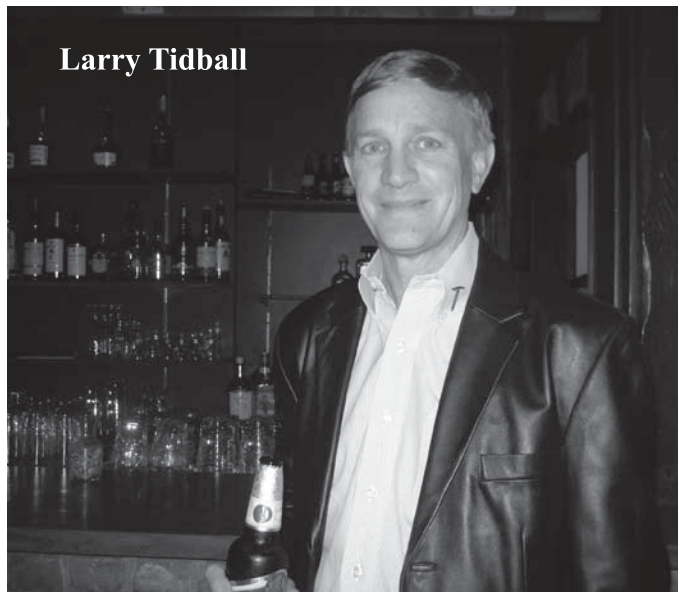


Barbee Tidball and Rich Gnagy

It was my pleasure to give recognition and thanks to last year's SPS Board. Serving as Chair last year was Gary Schenk, who could not be here this evening, preferring instead to climb a DPS peak. Reiner Stenzel served both as Vice Chair and Outings Chair. Mary Jo Dungfelder as Secretary, and Henry Arnebold kept the purse strings as Treasurer.

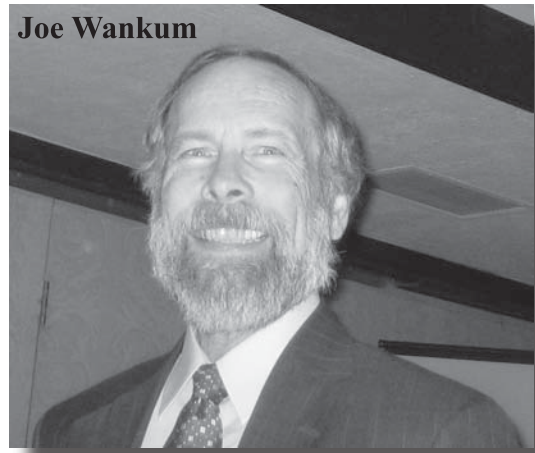
It was also my privilege to introduce this year's

Board. Stephanie Gylden is the new Vice Chair, Alex Amies the new Secretary, Henry Arnebold stays on as Treasurer, and Bob Beach is the 5th member.



Larry Tidball

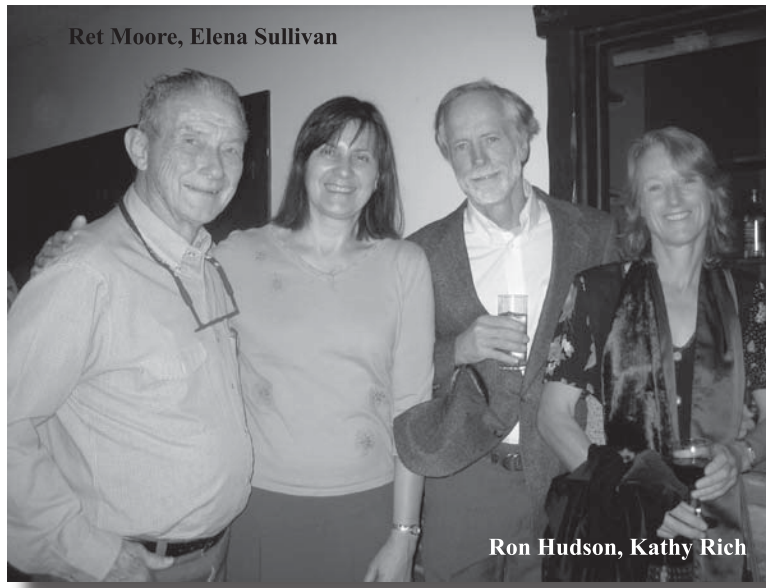
More recognition went to a few other individuals who give of their time and expertise to the SPS and Sierra Club in various ways. First of all are all the fine leaders who organize and lead trips. Leaders are the backbone of SPS, keeping it first and foremost a climbing section. Of course someone needs to be in charge of the outings program, and I'm happy to welcome Barbee and Larry Tidball as the new Outings Co-Chairs. Larry for many years was involved with the Safety Committee, while Barbee, along with Barbara



Joe Wankum

Sholle, edited the Echo for a number of years and continues to be in charge of Conservation. On the subject of the Echo, Edd Ruskowitz was editor last year, but taking over this year is Sara Danta. Larry Hoak deserves our gratitude as the SPS Web Master.

I also want to recognize the efforts of Joe Wankum and Doug Mantle in heading the Safety Committee, and the several individuals who hold the important safety check-offs: Harry Freimanis and Phil Wheeler for Navigation; Ron Hudson and Dan Richter for Rock; and Nile Sorensen, Doug Mantle, Tom McDonnell, and Randall Danta for snow. Finally, I



Ret Moore, Elena Sullivan

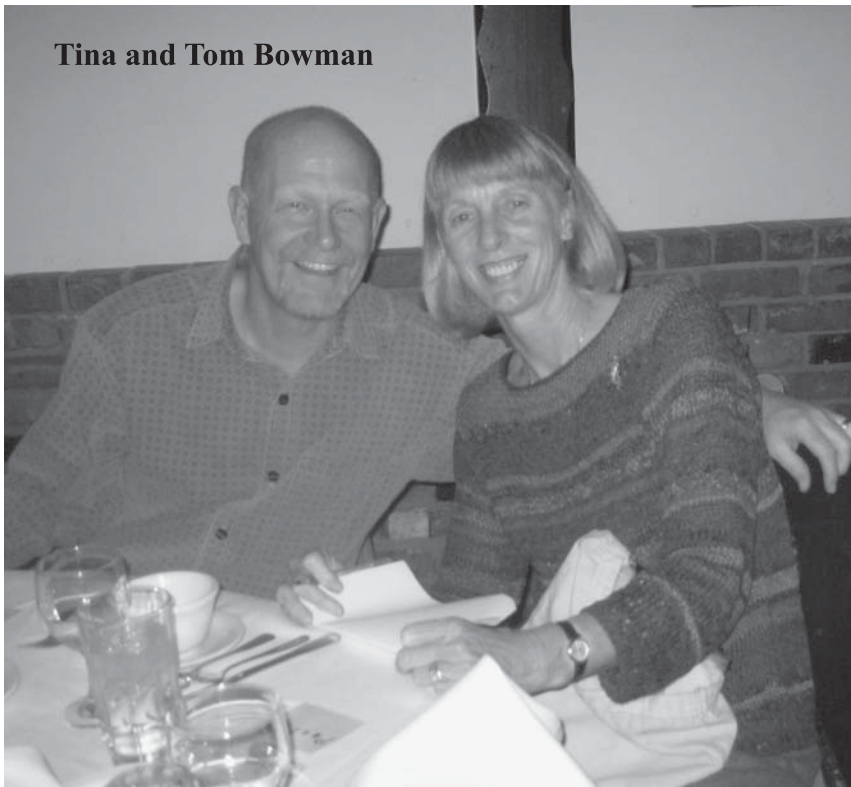
Ron Hudson, Kathy Rich

wish to acknowledge Tina Bowman for her dual roles as head of the Leadership Training Committee and Mountaineering Oversight Committee. Somehow Tina also finds time to



help out several of us struggling provisional leaders with advice, encouragement, and support. A warm round of applause was given for all these fine individuals. Those of you who I didn't acknowledge, it's now time for you to

Cheslick achieved Master Emblem Status, and Daryn Dodge reached both Senior and Master Emblem Status. Christine Mitchell earned her Senior Emblem, while Ron Bartell earned his second Senior Emblem; he completed the List in 1982. The most outstanding accomplishment of the year, though, was Tina Bowman's triple double List finish, and third Emblem status!



**Tina and Tom Bowman**

get involved!

We also welcomed two new members to our ranks: Kathy Rich and Doug Owens. John



**Mary McMannes & Henry Arnebold**

After a break, Patty Kline conducted the drawing for door prizes, which consisted of REI Gift Certificates. Winning the top prize was Mary Motheral; second prize was won by Sue Holloway; while Henry Arnebold won the third prize.

After the drawing, Patty introduced the evening's speaker, Mike Gibbons. See following page.

After thanks were given to Patty for organizing the Banquet and Mike for sharing his marvelous presentation, and a word from Barbra Lilly on the origins of the name Vinson Massif, the program was formally closed. However, many stayed on for further conversation or to chat with Mike.



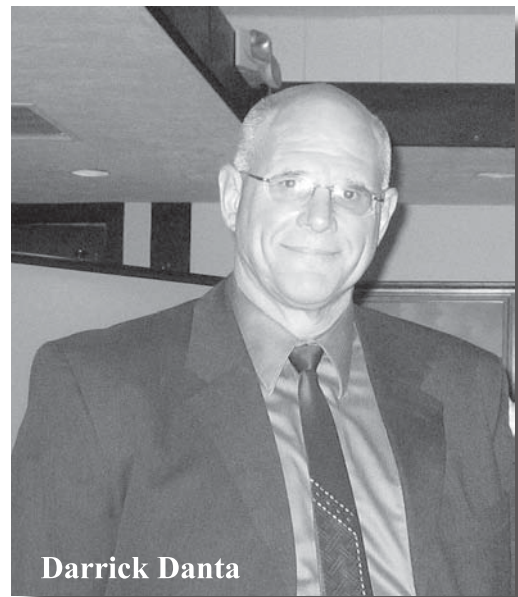
**Patty Kline**

**M**ike Gibbons presented his outstanding 40 minute video of his successful ascent of Vinson Massif in Antarctica. The video, accompanied by music and narration, walked us through the whole experience, from the jump-off point in Punta Arenas, Chile, to landing on an ice sheet, then to the flight to base camp near the peak. The video then followed the dozen climbers on their way up the slopes to different camps, culminating in a perfect summit day. Reflections by Mike and the other climbers capped off a wonderful adventure, the presentation of which we eagerly took in.

- Darrick Danta -



Dave & Carol Endres



Darrick Danta



Randall Danta



Nancy Keating & Mary Motheral

# “If you love being in the Sierra, you’ll love mule pack trips! All the joys of backpacking and more without carrying a pack!”

by Laura Joseph

*The Mule Pack section conducts camping trips in the Sierra, generally between Lone Pine and Yosemite on the east side of the Range, lasting between four and seven days. Because mules carry up to 55 pounds of each participant’s gear, food and supplies, you can enjoy the beauties and activities of the Sierra without the burden of a heavy backpack and with a greater variety of food, a larger tent, and other amenities not possible on a typical backpack trip.*

On the first day, mules carry our gear in while we hike to a campsite at an elevation of 9,000 to 12,000 feet in the scenic back country. We set up camp and, for the “layover” days, enjoy hiking, fishing, reading, relaxing, swimming, naturalizing, or whatever other activity the participant chooses. All activities are informal and unscheduled, although leaders typically plan some hike for those who wish to participate. In the evenings, we enjoy the traditional Mule Pack “Happy Hour” -- a potluck that often serves as dinner -- that includes goodies contributed by participants and wine provided by the Section. If regulations allow, a campfire is part of this event. On the last day, the mules return to pick up our gear and we hike out, looking forward to next year’s adventure.

Each participant must bring his/her own gear and food, tent, stove, water filter, and other equipment necessary on a camping trip -- and a chair for luxurious comfort.

Mule packs are great opportunities not just for people who love to backpack and appreciate the opportunity to be free of weight, but for:

- Couples who enjoy the outdoors but one of whom does not backpack
- Peak baggers (especially those who want to pick up some Sierra Peaks) or lake, pass baggers
- Photographers
- Fishers
- Folks who love to hike and camp but don’t like carrying a backpack
- People who love to enjoy the outdoors in relative comfort

Five trips are planned for 2007. For those who prefer long weekend trips, the season opens July 12 with a trip to Rush Creek in the beautiful Thousand Lakes area, near the John Muir trail with lots of opportunities for lake and pass hikes. This trip is lead by John Kaiser (who is knowledgeable about flowers) with Laura Joseph and Winnette Butler (Email Laura for trip info).



Three trips last a full-week. Sandy Burnside, Yvonne Tsai and Laura Joseph will lead a trip to Purple Lake. The John Muir trail, Virginia Lake, Ram Lakes, and Franklin Lakes provide many day hike possibilities. For those who love to explore, Laura and Sandy are known for their creative cross-country adventures (Email Yvonne for trip info).

Next on the calendar is a trip to Virginia Canyon, a spectacular area in the northeast corner of Yosemite. The trip is led by George Wysup — a legend in the Hundred Peaks section for being the 10th person ever to lead the list and the first to hike 200 peaks by three different routes each. This is the trip for serious hikers to choose. Laura Joseph, also a peak-bagger and mule pack regular, is co-leader (Email George for trip info).

“The Sandies” (Burnside and Sperling) will lead the trip to Crown Lake in the Hoover Wilderness. The Sandies trips are always popular for fun hikes and great Happy Hours (Email Sandy S for trip info).

The second short trip, led by Dave Cross and Christine Gutierrez, closes the season over Labor Day Weekend. This year they will head for a campsite below Vogalsang Peak in Yosemite Park (Email Christine for trip info).

The cost of the trips ranges from \$175 to \$250. Weight limit per person is 45 pounds on the short trips and 50 on the longer ones (plus whatever you want to carry yourself).

*Eric Blehm's book is now out in paperback*

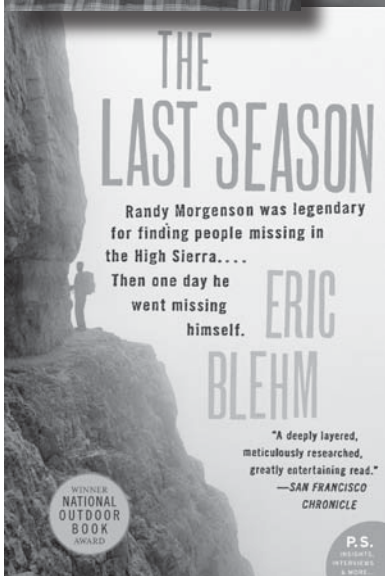


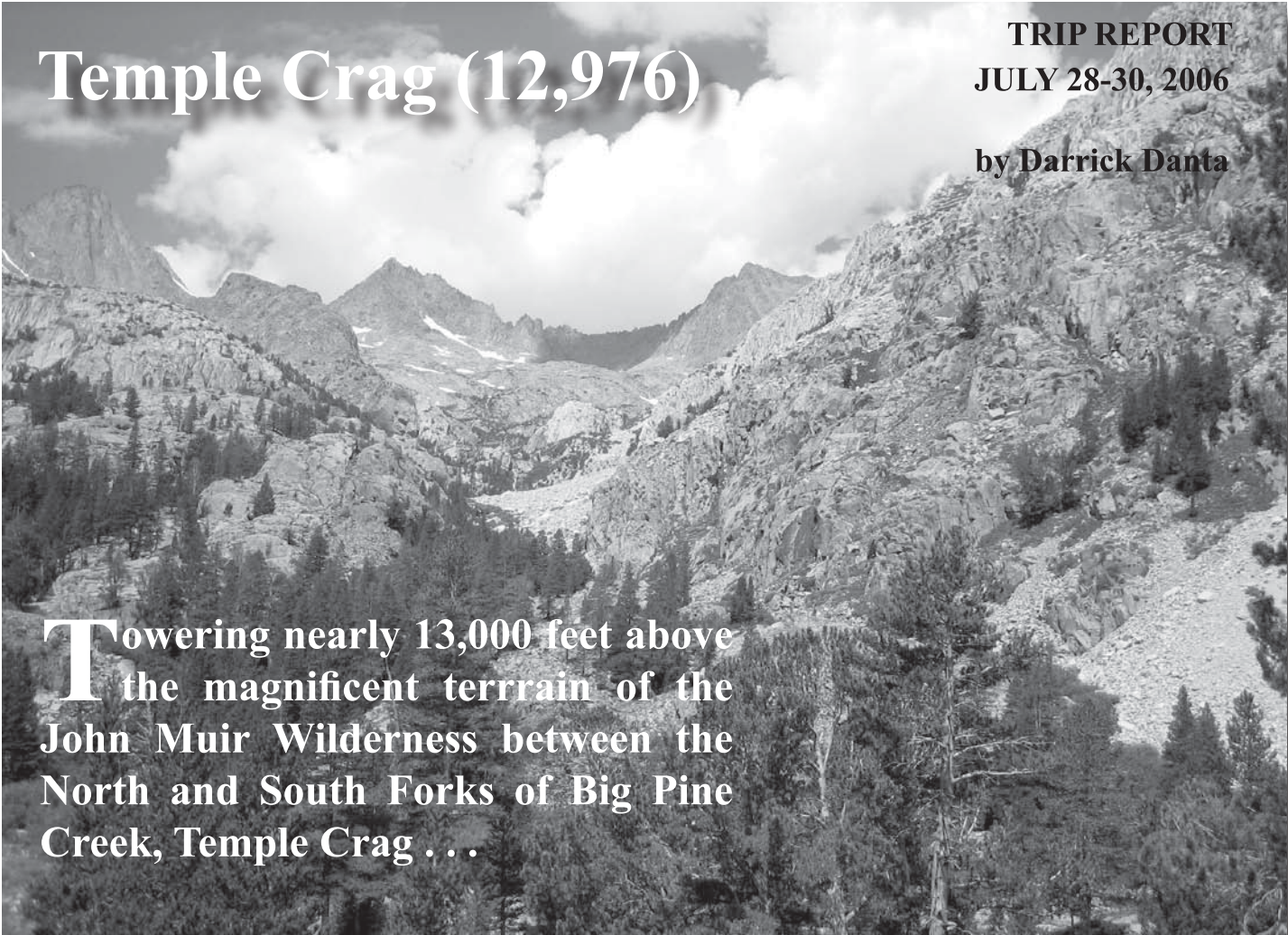
photo courtesy of Jackson Lynch

*The book has a new dedication to **Patty Rambert.***

# Temple Crag (12,976)

TRIP REPORT  
JULY 28-30, 2006

by Darrick Danta



**T**owering nearly 13,000 feet above the magnificent terrain of the John Muir Wilderness between the North and South Forks of Big Pine Creek, Temple Crag . . .

. . . elegantly punctuates one of the many spurs that burst from the main spine of the Sierra along the North Palisades. The mountain is quite rugged and offers many challenging climbing routes; its difficulty, though, is amply rewarded with splendid views of the many mountains and glaciers that sparkle so magnificently along this jewel of the Sierra.

After reading several trip reports, I choose to approach the peak from the southeast. The plan was to meet early Friday morning at the Backpacker Parking area, located near Glacier Lodge, then shuttle packs to the trailhead a mile further. Assistant Keith Martin and I left in the early Thursday afternoon, had a leisurely drive up and dinner, then spent a relaxing night at Upper Sage Flat campground. Participants Kathy Rich, Greg Mason, and Eric Lesser, though, got a later start owing to a concert performance given by Eric and did

not reach the parking area until around 3 am. While six of the ten assembled eyes next morning were somewhat blurry, all were in good spirits as we made preparations for the weekend's climb. Meeting up with Tom McDonnell, Nile Sorenson, Alex Amies, and Ed Cottle, who were setting off for Norman Clyde, was an added treat.

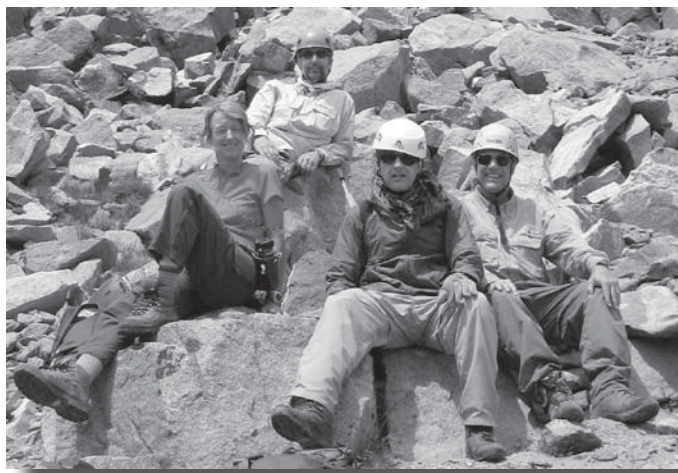
The first 1.6 miles of the trail roughly follows the South Fork of Big Pine Creek southwest over gentle terrain, crossing the stream twice over well constructed bridges. We stopped several times for Eric to identify many varieties of plant life along the way. The trail then climbs steeply to a pass, then descends somewhat to the vicinity of Willow Lake.

From the map this area appears rather typical of Sierra locales. I got some indication that the going would be-



come a little tougher from the trip reports, but what really had me concerned was the tone of Tina Bowman's voice when she described the area around Willow Lake and beyond. I've been round enough to know that her "a little tough" translates roughly to what in my vocabulary is "Horrible! Avoid at all costs!!" We soon found out why this is named Willow Lake: thick shrubbery clogs the entire lake, which must be missed by keeping well to the south and west. However, as soon as you get around the brush, there are streams to negotiate. In late July I would have thought that crossing the stream would be a simple operation; I was wrong. After searching for a good place to cross, a relatively wide, slower-moving section presented itself, so we donned our alternative footwear and waded through the cold, waist-deep water.

Once across the stream, you can either proceed up the valley on the right (north) on talus, or cross another stream and try and find a use trail that follows up the left (south) side. I opted to stay north of the stream, which proved to be slow-going, especially for those operating on only a few hours sleep. My plan was to head for a camp site at a small lake located directly south of Contact Pass at the 3400 meter contour, but while leading up I noticed a flat area just below a dome, which we quickly headed for and settled into. This spot, located at UTM (NAD 27) 11S 368467 4107115, is an excellent camp site, able to easily accommodate several tents. After sharing some soup and other goodies and reviewing knots and other safety basics, we called it a night.



**Left to right, Kathy Rich, Greg Mason,  
Eric Lessor, Keith Martin**

Energized and ready to go early next day, we made good time following a drainage toward Contact Pass and finally got a good look at the mountain. After surveying a few possible routes, we settled on an approach that skirted the base of a cliff to the west (left), then cut diagonally back (right) across the face before turning the corner (a tricky, exposed move, though easily accomplished) and dropping into a chute. From there you head north west up talus in the chute, which continually opens with gain. Eventually several steep pinnacles, the crags of this temple, are encountered, and the real fun begins.

## Most reports on Temple Crag describe the difficulty encountered in the "step-across" near the summit.

They don't exaggerate: this is a difficult bit of climbing, but it can be entirely avoided simply by down-climbing a short face, working around the culprit rock, then tip-toeing up the other side and thence up easy rock to the top. This section is solid 3rd class with enough exposure to warrant putting folks on belay. We all put on harnesses (helmets were already securely in place) and I set up an anchor and proceeded to belay using an HMS with Munter Hitch; Greg came first, and offered to place an intermediate piece of pro and biner with extension about midway to prevent pendulum in case of fall, which he expertly attended to and remained in place to aid as others worked their way across the danger zone. The rope I brought was only 75' long, which proved adequate, but in the event I would have preferred a full length version. While belaying, a solo climber came past, mentioning that he was out for a day hike and had just come up either the Moon Goddess (5.8) or Venusian (5.7) Arete; he didn't seem to care since even in approach shoes and no pro this was just another day hike for this Bishop guide.

After bringing everyone across, we completed the short walk to the summit, where we enjoyed stupendous views of the Palisades, Big Pine Lakes, Mt. Alice, and other features near and far. After repeating the belay across, we reassembled below the steep parts, enjoyed lunch, then retraced our steps down the chute, across



the face, then headed west to a lovely unnamed lake located southwest of the peak. The original plan was to also climb Gayley, so we continued heading south over talus around the buttress. We arrived at the point to begin the climb to the col with Sill around 3, found it to have much more snow than expected, so content with our successful ascent of Temple Crag we headed back to camp. That evening after another enjoyable Happy Hour we were regaled with an outstanding tour of the cosmos curtsey of astronomical guides Keith and Eric.

Sunday dawned clear and bright, so we packed and headed out. On the return I decided to try the south side of the stream. We were able to find the use trail, which made for much easier going but was a bit hard to follow in places. The problem, though, occurred when we got back to Willow Lake and had to negotiate the stream crossings. After scouting up the first stream encountered, fighting through thick brush (and Greg sinking up to his knees in muck!), we simply could not find a safe place to cross, so headed back toward the lake. Eventually, I decided to make one stream crossing in boots but with a fixed line for safety. This proved to be adequate since no one experienced mishap despite rushing water and unstable rocks underfoot. We then went around to the same place we crossed two days before, spent some time drying out boots and socks, found the trail, and headed out. We were at the road by mid afternoon, and enjoying dinner soon thereafter.

After having done it, I cannot recommend the Willow Lake route for climbing Temple Crag. Surely approaching from the north past Second Lake up to Contact Pass, or up the trail toward Palisade Glacier then over the ridge either north or south of Gayley has got to be easier than slogging up the South Fork. I also suggest bringing a full rope and enough gear to set a solid anchor (I needed a 20' cordellette, single and double length slings, a couple stoppers, and 3-4 carabineers.) However, this is a fine mountain well worth the effort; it also makes for a challenging M Provisional. Well deserved thanks go to Keith for agreeing to serve as my M Provisional Evaluator, to Greg for many helpful suggestions and assistance, Eric for sharing his knowledge of flowers, plants, and stars, and Kathy for route finding and non-stop enthusiasm.

## TRIP REPORT

# OLANCHA PEAK

## JUNE 10-12, 2006

by: **Patty Kline**

**M**ost of our group met at 7:30 am at the road head for Olancha Peak at 5800'. The road head has changed in the last few years. It is no longer 1/4 of a mile to the north of the corral where the road becomes a large, flattened bulldozed area of reddish dirt as indicated in my write-up. The official access to the Pacific Crest Trail, which is also the start of the trail to Olancha Pass, is now located behind a corral, not the bulldozed area 1/4 mile to the north where it has been before over 20 years. This road head makes much more sense because there is shade to park your car and a more direct trail route. The road beyond the corral deteriorates and small cars might have trouble driving there. After collecting our group from both old and current road heads, introductions, last minutes equipment checks, we were not off until 8:20 am, a big mistake. This was a typical hotter than hell day and a 6:30 am meeting time would have been better. The heat slowed us down on the hot and dusty climb to 9000' Olancha Pass. To get to the Sage Flat road head from Los Angeles, drive north on Highway 395 to Little Lake at the start of the Owens Valley. From here note your odometer and go 19.5 miles north to the signed Sage Flat Road. This turn off is easy to miss, but is just 5 miles south of the town of Olancha. Turn left (west) and go on this small road, keeping right at road forks on the most heavily used paved or dirt road, to the corral at 5.2 miles. Turn left (west) here. I don't know if it is ok to leave your cars for the trip at the corral area or not. We did and there was no problem. There is seasonal water in a stream below the corral, but it would be best to bring your filter.

There was water below the pass that we filtered and also at the pass, but in a dry year even in June, one would have to wait almost to camp to find water. At some time in June, all the sources of water dry up unless there is an exceptionally heavy snow year, the supply would last until July. These are all seasonal streams, which makes Olancha Peak a bring your own water day hike from the end of June on. The trail goes from the road head over Olancha Pass and then through Summit Meadow. About 1 mile from the road head there is a choice between the regular trail or the shorter, dustier Cow Trail. They both lead to Olancha Pass. We took the regular trail to Olancha Pass. From Olancha Pass we went through Summit Meadow and on to camp just south of the PCT near a nice stream at 9700'. South of the stream are good trees and level spots enough to accommodate a very large group. Being the leisurely trip that it was billed, we took our time arriving at camp at 6:30 pm in 10 hours with 3900' of gain and 8 miles. There was plenty of time to smell the roses and contemplate life. One participant, Ron Keith, especially wanted to go on this trip because his wife, Sandy Keith, was killed while climbing alone on Excelsior in August of 2005. Sandy had been on many of my trips and Ron wanted to go on one of them in memory of his wife. I miss Sandy. She was a great edition to all of my trips.

As soon as we set up our tents, happy hour started. We have awards for the best appetizers. Doug Owens won first prize, an REI bandana, for his smoked salmon. Yim Lincoln won second prize, a 2 ounce nalgene bottle, for her Chinese sauce and hot rolls. George Wysup got third prize, a 1 ounce nalgene bottle, for his fresh tomatoes.

The next morning, we left at 8 am for the peak. About 2 miles north of camp is a spectacular view of the Sierra. About a mile farther north the trail reaches a saddle below Olancha Peak, which is the high point of the PCT in the area. From here it is a 1500' gain to the top. We headed east towards the peak over the class 2 boulders with

a little class 3 at the top, bearing somewhat to the left. The views of Mt. Whitney and surrounding peaks were spectacular from the top of the peak at 12,123' there is a sheer 4000' drop off towards Owens Valley. It is interesting to note the top of Olancha Peak is part of the original erosional plain of the ancient High Sierra Range, also known as country rock. It has a flat top like Mt. Whitney, Mt. Darwin, Mt. Abbot and others; Glaciers were never here. After our leisurely pace from camp, we were on top at 2:45 pm, spending ½ hour on top. We took the class 1 route down for variety. The class 1 route is easy to find from the top. Head directly north and down from the summit ½ mile over gentle terrain to a sandy saddle. Turn west here and go through the trees, being careful to head gradually southwest to avoid hitting the PCT before it loses too much elevation. We go to the trail about 1/4 mile below and north of the saddle where we took off from for the peak. Time wise the downhill is a little faster, but I wouldn't recommend it for the ascent unless you find the sand in the area of the saddle enjoyable.

In keeping with the trip pace, we got back to camp at 6:45 pm with happy hour soon to follow. After filling up on the appetizers, some of us skipped dinner. George Wysup, two time winner, got first prize, an eight ounce nalgene bottle, for his club sandwiches. Brian Roche got second prize, a Black Diamond decorative carabiner, for his runny cheese.

On Monday we hiked out the 8 miles, getting out at 2:30 pm. This was a very enjoyable trip. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to George Wysup for assisting me and to all my participants, who made it such an enjoyable trip. The participants were Don Raether, Terry Sobel, Jim Davis, Ron Keith, Doug Owens, Yim Lincoln, Scot Stone, Mia Yang, Ron Goldfarb, and Brian Roche. I have always done it as a 2 day trip before. This was my 15th time on top of Olancha. You may ask, why so many times? Because it is there.

# Conservation Two-Liners

By Barbee Tidball

## Should we be Driving to the Sierra?

**What a question to put before the SPS membership, and right when we are all planning our climbs for the summer. Peak bagging after all is (of course) far more important than global warming.**

I have received recently a letter from Mars Bonfire (for a copy of the letter send SASE) in the letter Mars' echoed sentiments that I have heard from other conservationists with guilty consciences about their peak bagging travels. Mars noted that "According to the January 2007 issue of Consumer Reports we leave 5.5 metric tons of Co2 in the air by driving a car that averages 25 mpg for 15,000 miles." Mars' letter later suggested "Is there not a profound disconnect between the goals of the Sierra Club and the practice of the Outings Sections?" I can understand everyone's concerns, but I do not think staying home is the answer.

The Sierra Club has a strong climbing history and that climbing history has gone hand and hand with climbers desire to preserve the environment. John Muir, Joseph LeConte, Ansel Adams, and David Brower were

all climbers and conservationists. Today when I give the conservation lecture twice each year for the Leadership Training Program, I often start by asking for a show of hands as to how many aspiring leaders were first introduced to the Sierra Club through a conservation activity or an outings activity. At every lecture there has been an overwhelming show of hands indicating that they were introduced to the club through outings. Our early leaders experienced the grandeur of Yosemite and realized that it was a special place that needed to be preserved for future generations. Today's climbers continue to experience the wonder of the wilderness and natural places. The connection between this experience and preservation is essential.

In 2007 however, we have a new problem that John Muir in 1892 probably never even imagined, global warming. John Muir wrote to the editor of Century Magazine, "Let us do something to make the mountains glad." He never would have imagined that preservation and care directly of the land would not be enough. In 1892 who would have thought that indirect human impacts would cause the glaciers in the mountaineers to disappear, or acres of trees could die from a beetle and drought, or that the small Sierra mountain pika's home would be threatened by warm weather.

I agree with the conservation minded climbers, we do need to reduce our impacts on the global climate, but we do not need to save the Sierra, by not going to the Sierra.

Traveling 400 hundred or more miles to climb for a weekend is a long way and lots of Co2 put in the atmosphere. But that trip impacts the environment in many more ways than just by driving. The food we pack, and the clothing and gear we carry all have an impact.



When to the total green house emissions are looked at consumers in the United States contribute about 32% through transportation, 35% through their home and household operations and 12% through food consumption. In our home we are learning to conserve energy, but how, other than by driving less, can we save energy and reduce green house emissions on climbing trips?

The simplest solution would be for us all to move to Bishop, then our drive would be greatly reduced. That has worked for a few SPS members, but for many of us our homes and livelihood are directly tied to the places where we currently reside. Therefore we need to practice less drastic steps to reduce green house emissions while still going to the mountains. The first step is to reduce the direct emissions impacts from transportation. Purchasing a new fuel efficient vehicle is not always an economically viable choice, but you can reduce emissions by having your vehicle regularly serviced, keeping tire pressure at recommended levels and by driving slower. A drive to the mountains at 70 mph uses 30% more energy than the same drive at 50 mph and that also means more Co2 is released at the higher speeds.

Car-pooling is another very good way to reduce the impact of the drive to the Sierra. I remember when SPS trips all carried car pool lists and everyone really tried to share a ride. This year every climber should make it their goal when going on group trips not to travel alone.

The last option for transportation is to make the trip carbon neutral through donations. Air travel and land travel Co2 emissions can also be compensated for through donations. Groups like TerraPass ([www.terrapass.com](http://www.terrapass.com)), My Climate ([www.my-climate.com](http://www.my-climate.com)) or for larger conservation credits the Climate Trust ([www.climatetrust.org](http://www.climatetrust.org)) fund environmentally proactive programs through your donations off-setting the emissions you generate in your travels.

Indirect emissions (household and food) are harder to measure and control. Food production produces about 12% of total US greenhouse gas emissions. The impact is from food growing, preparation and shipping. Plan food for trips that is produced locally. Even a basic

rice and beans dinner can be prepared using California grown goods.

The energy used to produce, ship and retail tents, clothing, boots, sleeping bags etc. also contributes to global warming. Organic cotton is probably not the safest climbing clothing, but recycled fabrics are used to make fleece and other outdoor gear. Patagonia has their Common Threads Garment Recycling Program through which customers could return their worn out Capilene® Performance, Patagonia fleece, and Polartec® fleece from other vendors. We can also conserve by buying less since theoretically the less we buy the less that is produced. Unfortunately in today's shopping oriented society that may not work, so perhaps we should at least buy to preserve, even if it means buying more expensive products at times.

I'm not ready to give up my time in the mountains and I believe humans have as much of a right to experience wilderness as other animals do. I also believe humans have more responsibility to control their use of the environment. Lets plan trips to climb peaks in the Sierra and on every trip, try to protect the Sierra too.

## **Climbers Environmental Checklist Co2 Emissions**

- Service your vehicle
- Check tire pressure
- Carpool & donate to compensate for C02 emissions
- Drive slower
- Pack local foods
- Shop responsibly
- Recycle

# Management Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. Angeles Chapter Headquarters Offices Room 320, 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

1. Call to Order 7:45. Present: Darrick Danta, Stephanie Glyden, Larry Hoak, Bob Beach, Gary Schenk. Absent: Alex Amies, Henry Arnebold. Constitutes a quorum.
2. Announcements Darrick thanked outgoing officers for their service.
3. Selection of Officers Confirmed: Darrick, Chair; Stephanie, Vice Chair; Alex Amies, Secretary; Henry, Treasurer; Bob, Fifth Officer
4. Meeting schedule TBD at a later date.
5. Echo Editor Darrick unable to contact Edd Ruskowitz. Sara Danta has volunteered. M/S/P Sara will be the new editor. Darrick will so inform Edd and ask for Echo related material.
6. SPS Banquet Darrick has generated a flyer. Larry will put it on the web and try to get it on email to members. Gary has mailing labels and will send them to Darrick.
7. Webmaster Report Larry has examined web hit data and sent a summary.
8. Treasurers Report None. Henry absent. Darrick will ask for a report to be included in the minutes.
9. Other Business Dues are about to be due. Larry will put a notice on the web. Darrick will include a reminder in the banquet flyer mailing.
10. Adjournment Approx 8:45.

### Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. Angeles Chapter Headquarters Offices Room 320, 3435 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

1. Call to Order. Present: Darrick Danta, Larry Hoak, Garry Schenk, Henry Arnebold, Alex Amies, Bob Beach, Stephanie Glyden
2. Announcements. SPS Schedule has been updated. Darrick contacted the safety committee (Tina Bowman, Larry Tidball, and Joe Wankum). Joe provided a memo on Safety News for the SPS committee to review. Larry and Barbee Tidball are now the new outings chairs.
3. Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
4. Echo Update. The next issue of the Echo will be published this month (January). It has already been sent to the printers. Sara Danta is now the new editor.
5. SPS Banquet. Darrick will email members with a reminder to send in RSVP's for the banquet. Darrick will be the MC.
6. Webmaster Report. Larry reported that the last minutes and new outings have been posted to the web site. He also did considerable cleanup on the web site.
7. Treasurers Report. Henry reported that he collected \$135 for the echo. The total amount in the checking account is \$4,047.72 and the total amount in the savings account is \$4,904.83. These amounts have been generally flat over the past few years. He will submit a statement to Sierra Club National next month.
8. Business Items for 2007.
  - a. Recruitment
  - b. Web site
  - c. Leader training
  - d. Fun list. With the feeling that the entire list is an achievement that is too difficult for many people to hope to complete, Darrick proposed an alternative fun list composed of peaks that were accessible and fun to climb. Alex suggested a star system similar to climbing guides where peaks on the list could be starred based on accessibility and fun.
  - e. Invite appointed members to the next meeting.
9. Other Business. The next meeting will be on the 2nd wed of march at a location TBD.
10. Adjournment. At about 9pm.

# Other Business

## Other Info

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 of this newsletter. All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to **Sara Danta, Editor, The Sierra Echo**, preferably via email at [s\\_wyrens@yahoo.com](mailto:s_wyrens@yahoo.com). Mailing address is 9741 Reseda Blvd., Unit 46, Northridge, CA 91324. The Echo will also be available (*with leader contact info omitted*) as a PDF download at the SPS website.

## SPS TRESURER'S REPORT 4TH QUARTER 12/31/06

### Checking Account

Income:	Expenditures:
Echo-----\$135.00	None
Balance on 9/30/2006----3,912.42	
Income-----135.00	
\$4047.42	

### Savings Account

Balance on 9/30/2006---4,898.65
October interest-----2.08
November interest-----2.02
December interest-----2.08
\$4,904.83

# 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 51 | NUMBERS 1 & 2 | JAN - MAR & APR - JUN 2007

**The Sierra Echo is published quarterly by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter; this issue edited by Sara Danta**

Publication dates are Jun 15, Sept 15, Dec 15 and Mar 15. All text submissions for publication, including trip reports, articles, etc., can be submitted in electronic format such as MS Word, WordPerfect, email (electronic format is preferable), or through regular U.S. mail. Photos may be submitted as electronic files (jpeg, tiff or Photoshop in a resolution high enough for print media) or submitted 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 Sara Danta, 9741 Reseda Blvd, Unit 46, Northridge, CA 91324 or emailed to s\_wyrens@yahoo.com.**

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

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**Subscriptions** \$10 per year, due by April 30. Subscribing to the Echo is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Sustaining membership is \$25 per year and includes first class postage. Submit new subscription applications and renewals to the Section Treasurer Henry Arnebold, 2459 Escalante, La Verne, CA 91750; include your Sierra Club number. New applications received after Oct 1 are credited to the following year. Only one ECHO subscription is nec-

essary for multiple members of a family residing at one address. Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club or SPS are not tax deductible.

**Advertising** Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the following rates: Private trip announcements / \$1 for the first 4 lines and \$1 each additional line. Other announcements and product/service advertisements / \$1 per line or \$25 for half page space. Send copy and check to the Echo Editor, payable to SPS.

**Address Changes** Send to the Secretary Alex Amies, 192 Woodbury, Irvine, Ca 92620; email alexamies@yahoo.com. 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 and a SASE to the section Treasurer Henry Arnebold, 2459 Escalante, La Verne, CA 91750.

**Missing Issues** Inquires regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer Beth Epstein 4048 E. Massachusetts St., Long Beach, CA 90814.

**Awards** Send notification to Secretary Alex Amies, address above. Awards merchandise is available through Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr., Topanga Canyon, CA 90290 and include Emblem pins (\$15) and SPS section patches (\$2). Make checks payable to SPS. All prices include sales tax.

Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter  
Sierra Peaks Section  
3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 320  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904

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