

A Tribute
to the Honorary Members of the Sierra Peaks Section:
Norman Clyde, Glen Dawson & Jules Eichorn - Part IV

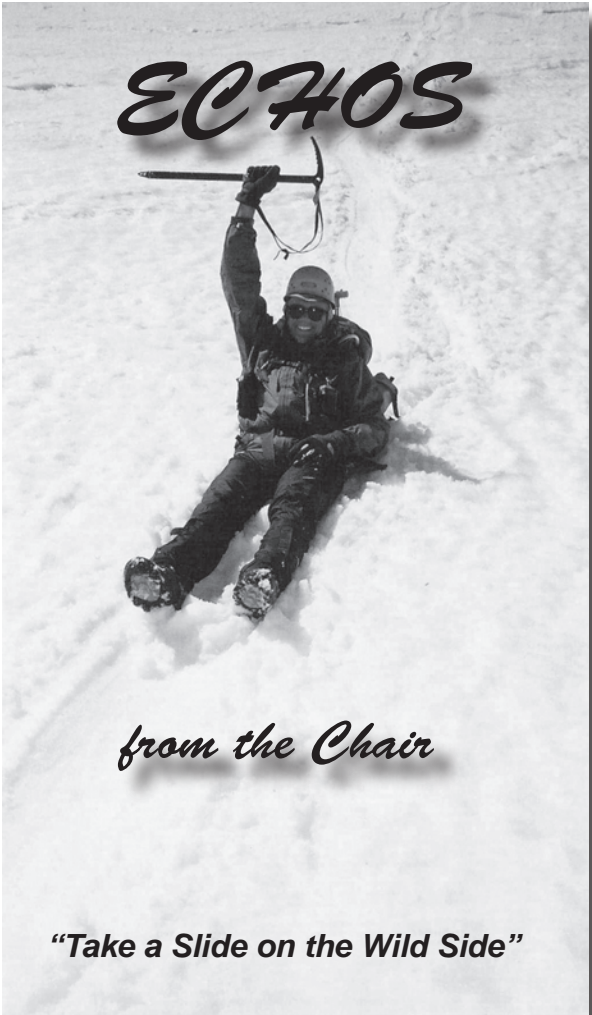
by *Bill Oliver*
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*Norman Clyde roping down.
Date and place uncertain.
Courtesy of Dennis Kruska.*

VOLUME 51 | NUMBER 4 | OCT - DEC 2007



The Sierra EC70



As the Sierra climbing season draws to a close, my hope is that you were able to enjoy your time in the mountains and with friends. I further hope that the season has been safe and free of injury.

But while it may be cooling down in the peaks, other SPS issues are heating up! Of course I'm referring to the matters under consideration, namely the proposal for listing Caltech Peak and creation of the Sierra Sampler list. Elsewhere in this issue you will find member statements concerning both items. The vote on Caltech Peak will be contained in the regular ballot to elect SPS Board Members; a final Sampler list will appear in the next Echo.

Please bring any concerns or suggestions to my attention as we go into last quarter of the year. And remember that we're always looking for individuals willing to run for the SPS Board. It's a great way to become more involved in the organization, so I strongly encourage you to consider running; just let me or Patty Kline know of your interest.

Best wishes and happy climbing, Darrick.

**Congrats to
SPS List Finisher
Brian S. Smith
#65**

**MEMORIAL HIKE FOR
DUANE McRUER**

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

Onward & Upward!

Alex Amies
Secretary
Sierra Peaks Section



New Members

Joseph Bell
Rudy Fleck
Greg Colley

Newly Recorded List Finisher

Brian S. Smith is SPS List Finisher #65 with Master Emblem #77.

Newly Recorded SPS Emblem

Ron Zappen

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 Datty Kline and make checks payable to SPS

Management Committee

Meeting Minutes and Other Business

Meeting Minutes SPS Management Committee
 Wednesday, June 13, 2007, 7:30 p.m.
 Ranger Station, Griffith Park

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|--|---|
| <p>1. Call to Order</p> <p>a. Present: Darrick Danta, Alex Amies, Bob Beach, Gary Schenk, Henry Arnebold, Stephanie Gylden, Sara Danta</p> <p>2. Announcements</p> <p>a. Received correspondence from Joe Wankum on safety committee. He requests that all leaders practice safety.</p> <p>b. Echo will be coming out this Friday. It will include a proposal for a fun list and a tribute to early Sierra climbers.</p> <p>c. Alex A to contact SF PCS with respect to co-sponsoring trips and requirements.</p> <p>d. Conservation messages encouraged at all trips. National currently looking for ideas on combining outings and environmental messages.</p> | <p>3. Treasurers Report</p> <p>a. Three new members: Joseph Bell, Rudy Fleck, and Greg Colley.</p> <p>4. Outings Committee Resolution</p> <p>a. There is a new national resolution to prohibit marking of routes with tape and leaving other traces of hiking activity in mountains. SPS committee supports it with the condition that an amendment specifically is added allowing summit registers.</p> <p>5. Caltech Peak</p> <p>a. Received a request for the addition of Caltech Peak from Doug Mantle after exploratory outing. Motion to present the request to the members for a referendum at the same time as the next election was passed. In preparation for this Darrick will solicit arguments for and against from members via email list.</p> <p>Next Meeting: To be determined.</p> |
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SPS Treasurer's Report 2nd Quarter 6/30/2007

<p>Income:</p> <p>Expenditures:</p> <p>Echo-----\$885.00</p> <p>Echo Printing-----\$45.30</p> <p>Computer & Software-----974.23</p> <p>Desk Top publishing classes----625.00</p> <p>Echo Mailing-----483.18</p> <p>Postage-----22.74</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$2,950.45</p>	<p>Balance on 3/31/2007-----5214.23</p> <p>Income-----885.00</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$6,099.23</p> <p>Expenditures----- (2,950.45)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$3,148.78</p> <p>Savings Account</p> <p>Balance on 3/31/2007-----4,910.88</p> <p>April Interest-----2.02</p> <p>May Interest-----2.08</p> <p>June Interest-----2.02</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$4,917.00</p>
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Delores Holladay lost her home

Long-time SPS member (double DPS list finisher) *Delores Holladay lost her home* in the fire that burned near Independence July 6 and 7. Donations can be made to help the six families who lost their homes, and it is possible to designate a specific family (**Delores**). Donations can be sent to the:

**Independence Civic Club
Attn: Fire Relief Fund
P.O. Box 482
Independence, CA 93526**

The fund has been established at the El Dorado Savings Bank in Lone Pine. If people have questions, they can contact **Nancy Masters at (760) 878-2053 or Mary Roper at (760) 878-2046.**

Submitted by Tina Bowman

Leadership Training Committee release

June 29, 2007

Contact: Ron Campbell, LTC Vice Chair
714-962-8521
campbellr@verizon.net

Club will offer outdoor leadership training Oct. 13

Interested in becoming an outings leader for the Club?

Angeles Chapter is home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet – thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions.

You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a class offered by the chapter Leadership Training Committee on Saturday, Oct. 13.

The class covers all the basics of leadership. Experienced leaders will tell you how to plan a trip, prevent problems on the trail and make sure that everyone – including you – has a great time. They'll also explain good conservation and safety practices. And they'll give you tips for getting your "O" rating quickly and then, if you choose, pursuing more advanced ratings.

The all-day class at the Griffith Park Ranger Station costs \$25. The application is on page 69 of the Angeles Chapter Schedule and also online at angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc.

Mail the application and check, payable to Sierra Club, to Steve Botan, LTC Registrar, 18816 Thornwood Circle, Huntington Beach 92646. You also can reach Botan by phone (714-963-0151) or e-mail (sbotan@pacbell.net).

Applications and checks are due Sept. 29.

Scholarships are available for those in financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Tina Bowman (tina@bowman-designgroup.com).

See next page for Leadership Training Committee Schedule of Activities.



Leadership Training Committee Schedule of Activities

Leadership Training Program Seminar

October 13, 2007, Location, Griffith Park Ranger Station (Sept. 29 deadline to register)

Wilderness First Aid

Nov 2-4	Wilderness First Aid Basics	Steve Schuster
Dec 2	Wilderness First Aid Bridge	Steve Schuster

www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org

Navigation Practices and Checkouts

2007

Sept 30	I/M, E P,C Grinnell Ridge, SBNF	Harry Freimanis
Oct 13	Beginning Nav.clinic Mt Lowe area	Diane Dunbar
Oct 21	I/M P, C Indian Cove, Joshua Tree	Harry Freimanis
Nov 17-18	I/M P, C Indian Cove, Joshua Tree	Harry Freimanis
Dec 1	Basic GPS Class, Eaton Cyn Nature Center	Phil Wheeler
Dec 8	Beginning Nav Clinic, Mt. Lowe area	Diane Dunbar
Dec 9	I/M P,C Warren Point, Joshua Tree	Harry Freimanis
Dec 15	Basic GPS Class, Eaton Cayn Nature Center	Harry Freimanis

2008

Jan 15	I/M P,C Warren Point, Joshua Tree	Harry Freimanis
Apr 19-20	I/M P, C Indian Cove, Joshua Tree	Harry Freimanis

Rock Practices and Checkouts

Nov 17	M/E P Mt. Rubidoux Rock Workshop/checkoff	Tina Bowman
Various Dates	M/E P Vertical Adventures	Ron Hudson - Chair

(This is not a Sierra Club activity, but can prepare candidates for rock checkoffs.)
www.vertical.adventures.com

Snow Practices and Checkouts

26 Jan 2008	M/E P, LTC Baldy Snow Practice	Nile Sorenson, Tina Bowman
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Environmental Awareness

Look at the Chapter's Schedule of Activities for outings sponsored by the Natural Science Section, some times co-sponsored by other entities such as the Hundred Peaks Section. Check also the LTC web site—see below—and [http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers//ltc creditiinfo 0607 11.doc](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers//ltc%20crediinfo%200607%2011.doc)

The LTC web site also has a calendar of events and information about training not offered by the Sierra Club: angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/

APPEAL IN FAVOR OF ADDITION OF CALTECH PEAK

In 1997 I wrote: “My friends would say there never was a list addition I liked. Indeed, when, years ago, Caltech was first proposed, I wrote ‘boys, you can’t be serious?’. Tim Treacy once summed up my view ‘don’t mess around with our sacred List’.”

Be that as it may, I suggest we elevate Caltech to List status.

I ask that we vote “yea” as an act of homage, demonstrating that in SPS we recognize our illuminati, their efforts and desires, showing we are not just peak freaks.

Bill T. Russell’s passing is the causative event here. He is among the most prominent of us to have departed, and he very much wanted to add Caltech to the List. In fulfilling his wish, we pay tribute to Bill, and to Mac, and thereby to all our “patriarchs”.

What happened in that 1997 election was unfortunate: a messy dispute about legalistic fine points with the Chair threatening to resign, and his committee urging him on. The peak lost by less than ten votes.

We want to do it right this time; we have led an official exploratory trip. Now, let’s check the rules: “7.1 Peak Addition Criteria – Peaks considered for addition to the List will be evaluated with respect to elevation, dominance of an area, view, climbing interest, proximity to other listed peaks, and other factors as deemed appropriate.”

So then, in order:

At 13,832 feet, Caltech would be among the very highest of our peaks.

View? As Mac wrote “there is no other location as well placed for sensational views of immense scope...”. Hey, even the main opponent of Caltech in 1997, while at the same time declaring that Caltech did not meet ANY of the criteria, stumbled by saying “the summit has an outstanding view...”.

Okay, it is not dominant. Yes, the normal route (southeast slopes) is mainly only Class 2 with a brief Class 3 section, although from the west it is solid Class 3 or worse (I did it in 1970 that way). True, it is close to several of the peaks on the King’s-Kern divide (just as those peaks are close to each other).

That brings us to “other factors”.

It would be the only peak officially named by SPSers (by 1967 Chair Dick Jali). Its first ascent was by our first honorary member, Norman Clyde, and the first east ridge ascent party was Andy Smatko, Arkel Erb, Tom Ross, and Gordon MacLeod, our first five List finishers, less Barbara Lilley.

Mac wrote that “for some of us, there are also sentimental reasons favoring Caltech Peak’s addition to the List”. Let me amend that for 2007. For ALL of us, now, there are sentimental reasons for favoring Caltech Peak’s addition to the List.

Doug Mantle

LETTERS AND COMMENTS PRO AND CON ON THE POSSIBLE ADDITION OF CALTECH PEAK

BASIS FOR OPPOSING CALTECH PEAK'S PROPOSED LIST ADDITION

1. First a confession--in light of the peak's name: I should admit to earning two graduate degrees from Caltech in the early 1950s, and furthermore, I believe that the institution deserves its reputation as one of the nation's outstanding scientific and engineering universities. And yes, I'm a card-carrying Lifetime Member of the Caltech Alumni Association.

2. And yes, indeed, I was a member of Andy Smatko's private party, which also included Arkel Erb and Tom Ross, to make the second ascent of Caltech Peak on 22 June 1963. **(footnote not included)*

3. As I say in the footnote, I was deeply impressed by the TRIP, but I was disappointed by Caltech Peak itself and was puzzled why such a **minor appearing peak** had been selected to commemorate the **distinguished** California Institute of Technology--especially in light of the nearby presence of more imposing summits; namely: **University Peak**, named for the University of California at Berkeley, **Mt. Stanford** for Stanford University and **Trojan Peak** for University of Southern California. I believe the other members of Andy's party perceived the peak in that way also. I think that Doug Mantle's comment: *"Indeed, when, years ago, Caltech was first proposed, I wrote 'boys, you can't be serious?'"* expresses the same impression our party had obtained.

4. In evaluating Caltech Peak with regard to the criterion of "**elevation**", note that there are **six higher** summits **within five miles** of the peak: Mt. Williamson, Mt. Tyndall, Mt. Keith, Mt. Stanford, Trojan Peak, and Junction Peak, with Stanford and Junction lying within 1.5 miles.

5. In recent years, an objective and quantitative measure of the "dominance of an area" has come to be recognized: "Prominence", which has been adopted by hundreds--if not thousands--of "peakbaggers" worldwide for ranking summits on their intrinsic merits. *A useful definition of "prominence" is: the difference in elevations of the peak and the lowest saddle along the ridge connecting that peak with the next higher summit.* Under this definition, there are ten summits within 5 miles of Caltech Peak with higher prominences. Four have prominences greater than 1000': Mt. Keith with 1902', Mt. Williamson with 1645', University Peak with 1123', and Mt. Tyndall with 1093'. The six other summits vary from 944' for Mt. Ericsson down to Mt. Jordan at 614'. Nearby Mt. Stanford [only a mile away] stands at 850', while Caltech Peak's prominence is 512', just making the cut for 500' prominences. Be aware that there are over four thousand summits with prominences greater than 500' in California. [Reference: www.peaklist.org]***(footnote not included)*

In summary, not only is Caltech Peak lower in elevation than five other summits in the area, but also, as the preceding analysis shows that--**by an objective and quantitative measure of prominence**--the peak has significantly less prominence, ranking 165th in prominence in the Mount Whitney Group alone and **placing it just 3% above the bottom of the group**, while Mt. Keith ranks 2nd, Mt. Williamson 7th, University Peak 26th and Mt. Stanford 58th. [The web site's definition of the Whitney region's geographical extent is greater than conjured in our SPS minds.]

6. The argument that the view of the SPS listed peaks to the south from the top of Caltech Peak is just outstanding ignores that the same [or more] summits can be viewed from Mt. Stanford, and moreover, the argument ignores that Stanford also affords views of the numerous northern Listed summits denied to Caltech Peak by the Kings-Kern Divide extending east and west from the Mt. Stanford ridge area.

7. The argument that honorable, illustrious SPS leaders, who also just happen to be alumni of Caltech, have argued in favor of the peak in the past should be the driving reason for the adding the peak is just plain emotional and is not, in itself, justification for adding the peak to our beloved LIST.

Gordon MacLeod

CAL TECH PEAK ARGUMENT CONTINUES

Surprised and shocked to read in the Echo about Duane. I met and talked with him many times, and shared many mountain experiences. He will be greatly missed.

However, I am delighted to see there will be a climb of Caltech Peak on Jun 1-3. Since there have been many Caltech grads, including greats like Duane and Bill T. Russell, active in the SPS over the years, this peak would be a very suitable memorial to all of them, and I have long agitated to have it added to the SPS List.

There is also a special interest for me, since I was very active in getting this peak named "Caltech Peak". In the Spring of 1961, I was looking at my then-new 15-min quads of the Sierra, including the Mt. Whitney quad, and noticed there was an area where peaks were named after universities (e.g, University is named for Cal/Berkeley, Trojan is for USC, Stanford is for Stanford (university, the peak for Stanford the man is north in Pioneer Basin); and in this area there was an unnamed summit, then listed as Point 13832. It was the highest un-named point in this area. So, why not climb it and name it for Caltech?

So, a group was formed, with myself, Ted Matthes (in my class at Caltech), Jim Eder (also from Caltech, and active in the SPS for a while), and Mike Raudenbush, who was quite active in the SPS in those early days). We did our climb on 24-25 June 1961, on the same route proposed for this year's June Climb. We reached Shepherd Pass, with time to summit Mt. Tyndall also! We were giants in those days!

The next day, we left our camp (at first water North of the pass), went around the south end of Diamond Mesa, and scrambled up our peak from the east. On the summit, we found we were the third recorded ascent, with the first having been made in 1926 by (who else?) Norman Clyde!

The descent was strenuous, but uneventful (Mike did not do the summit). Then the paperwork began. After several exchanges with the Board of Geographic Names of the Dept of the Interior, with information and support from Caltech, the Board approved the name "Caltech Peak" on 14 December 1961.

There have been several enthusiastic excursions by Caltech people into the area since, and they all seem to like the idea of Caltech "having its own mountain".

Rick Jali

"WHAT--Caltech Peak is being proposed as an addition to the SPS List again, for the THIRD time? (It was defeated the first time in 1979.) In the 1997 election, it lost by NINETEEN votes. The reasons why it should be defeated in 2007 are the same as in 1997. (Ref: Sierra Echos, Nov.-Dec. 1997, not among the criteria that make a peak worthy enough to be added to the SPS List!)

And it appears to be another "railroad job" as well. The peak was scheduled and led in haste. The trip did not appear in the Angeles Chapter schedule, only in the Echo. Only the leaders went on the trip, and it is not clear that the Echo in which the trip was scheduled reached the membership in time for anyone else to participate!

Barbara Lilley

CAL TECH PEAK ARGUMENT CONTINUES

I just read Doug Mantle's reasons for elevating Caltech Peak to list status. I certainly believe him when he says that at 13,832 feet, Caltech Peak has a commanding view of the Sierras. This is one of several conditions in the SPS by-laws for SPS list status. As a multi-list finisher (I keep seeing "7x" lately in summit registers next to his sign-ins), Doug's recommendation for listing Caltech Peak alone will be very influential in my eventual decision. I have occasionally gazed upon a Sierra peak not on the list, but thought it was worthy. And then I would think to myself "WWDS" (what would Doug say).

However, and you knew the however had to be coming, it can be argued that the only reason Caltech Peak is up for a vote is because of its name. As I understand, Caltech Peak was alma mater of one or more of the original supporters, which appears to be the main reason, if not the only reason, it was decided to bring the issue of Caltech Peak up for list status 10 or so years ago. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Bill T. Russell or Gordon MacLeod, I have read they were wonderful people and a huge inspiration to the SPS and the Sierra Club. However, I would have a hard time believing even they would have pushed for list status if the peak was actually named "UC Davis Peak", for instance (my alma mater).

I say it's the name that is driving this issue because I have seen Caltech Peak from nearby surrounding peaks and have even camped at its base; it is just not a prominent-looking peak. It appears to be more of a bump on a ridge, though a very high ridge. The other difficulty is that it seems to be a lower satellite summit of nearby Mt. Stanford. Starlight Peak suffers from a similar dilemma, sitting there next to its higher, more prominent, neighbor North Palisade. And yet, no one seems to be recommending Starlight Peak for list status.

Because Caltech Peak does not meet some of these conditions in the by-laws for list status, it is more of a political decision to consider the peak. If the by-laws said a peak can be added to the list to honor an influential person's wishes, then I would more strongly consider adding the peak.

On a more personal level, as I am nearing the end of The List, I have developed my own short list of non-SPS peaks that I believe would be good additions to the SPS list. Unfortunately, I never considered Caltech Peak on my short list. I truly wish we could be talking about one of these peaks on my short list instead.

Anyway, this is ultimately a democratic decision by the whole club. And the vote of well-informed club members cuts through any political reasons or possible deficiencies of by-law conditions for list addition. I am not convinced yet to vote no on this issue and hope to discuss the topic with other SPSers in the near future. If Caltech Peak does receive a plurality of yes votes, I know I can look forward to climbing another Sierra peak with expansive views. In fact, I already have plans to hike into the Great Western Divide region next year and have no misgivings about spending a little extra time to visit Caltech Peak set in the middle of that magnificent region.

Daryn Dodge, SPS Northern Cal Representative

I agree, let's add the peak to the list. When Tina Stough Bowman first proposed the addition I voted in favor of it (was that 10 years ago, already??). At 13,800 it's a nice peak although it cowers in the shadows of nearby Mt. Stanford and Trojan Peak. University Peak of course is off by itself, in its own world. Sentimental

value? for some people I suppose; if we were considering Sacramento State College Peak, I would gleefully jump into the fray on the Pro side.

Frankly, I think we should consider major surgery to the List rather than to add one more peak. To include Mighty Mount Elwell at 100 yards off the Pacific Crest Trail at one end of the List and Smith Peak within 20 minutes hike of the parking lot at the other end makes the List less than sacrosanct in my opinion. In my opinion we should consider trimming the List to what I call Norman Clyde's List: If those peaks were good enough for Norman Clyde's mention, they should be good enough for the rest of us.

My source is a book in my library, inherited from my Dad: *Close Ups of the High Sierra* by Norman Clyde, Walt Wheelock ed., La Siesta Press, Glendale, 1962. Wheelock includes several of Clyde's articles published in *Touring Topics* in 1928 and 1929. Clyde entitles his articles: 14,000 Foot Peaks, 13,500 to 14,000 Foot Peaks and so on.

He mentions peaks by name where there is a name and where there is none, by elevation with reference to a named peak. By my count he lists 99 peaks, most of which are on the SPS List. Some are not, he mentions one peak by elevation: Peak 13,016, near Lone Pine Peak, another he calls Gray Kaweah. I guess Gray Kaweah must be the high point between the Red Kaweah and the Black Kaweah. None of the peaks on Clyde's list is a scoffer-- no Elwell, no Smith-- quite the contrary-- they're all pretty impressive.

John T. Dodds

I would like to submit a statement in favor of list addition. I've only done 25 SPS peaks (long weekend trips led by Cuno Ranschau and Dave Dykeman, where I only bagged half the peaks, showed me that I was not in the kind of shape that most SPSers are). But I knew Bill T. Russell and Duane McRuer quite well. I had children in 1990, 1994, and 1998 and I have been too busy to climb peaks for a while. Well, here goes with my statement:

I am in favor of adding Caltech Peak to the SPS list. It would be a way of honoring a relatively small school (800 undergrads) which has unusually strong ties to the Sierra Club and mountaineering.

Duane McRuer and Bill T. Russell deserve to be remembered for their exceptional judgment, creativity, and analytic ability, and listing this peak would be one way to do that. Duane was the navigation checkout leader when I earned my "I" rating at Joshua Tree, and I still remember having my brain poked and prodded using the Socratic method (he never did tell me which gully he thought was the "right" one, he wanted me to learn navigation well enough so that I would be confident in my answer no matter what he thought). My best memory of Bill T. was a trip from the Angeles Crest Highway, over Williamson, and all the way down Pleasant View Ridge to the desert, just because it would be a fun challenge to do those peaks in a way that no one had done before.

Other Caltech connections that I am aware of include Professors Chuck Wilts (EE, climber's guide to Tahquitz) and James Bonner (Biology), and engineering undergrad Virgil Shields (BMTC, RCS, Chapter Chair). Bob Kanne (Caltech MS Chem, Chapter Chair 1988,89)

Bob Kanne

COMMENTS RE ADDING/DELETING LISTED PEAKS

I voiced my opinion of Caltech Peak after climbing it in 1974 and don't want to restate that view here but rather urge the SPS membership and the Management Committee to reflect on the value of a qualifying list that has encouraged our climbers to explore all parts of the Sierra Nevada. Admittedly, there are some peaks on the list—particularly in the extreme north and south—that are not the most exciting, but they are dominant in their areas. They often are easier to climb than the more lofty summits in the central part of the range, but they acquaint our list-oriented members with the full scope of the range and allow newcomers to develop their climbing skills before undertaking more difficult ascents.

When he was the section's chair in 1977, Bill T. Russell asked me to form a select committee to evaluate four peaks that had been suggested for addition to the qualifying list. Bill T. specifically asked for "some philosophical basis" and declared, "I personally think that the standards for adding peaks should be different than used to retain current peaks."

The peaks under consideration then were Shinn, Graveyard, Columbine and Shakspere. Serving with me on the select committee were Ron Jones and Gordon MacLeod. Of the four peaks, only Shinn was recommended by our committee, and that was based on its being the highest, most dominant peak in an area new to the SPS, the area's not being overused, the climb's being reasonably interesting over Class 2-3 slab terrain, and the summit's offering a fine view. Shinn had been led on a scheduled trip starting at Florence Lake, but it was turned down by the membership, 57-53. Maps of that era showed a Jeep road to the west, and that led to Shinn's defeat even though it was unlikely any climber would try that approach.

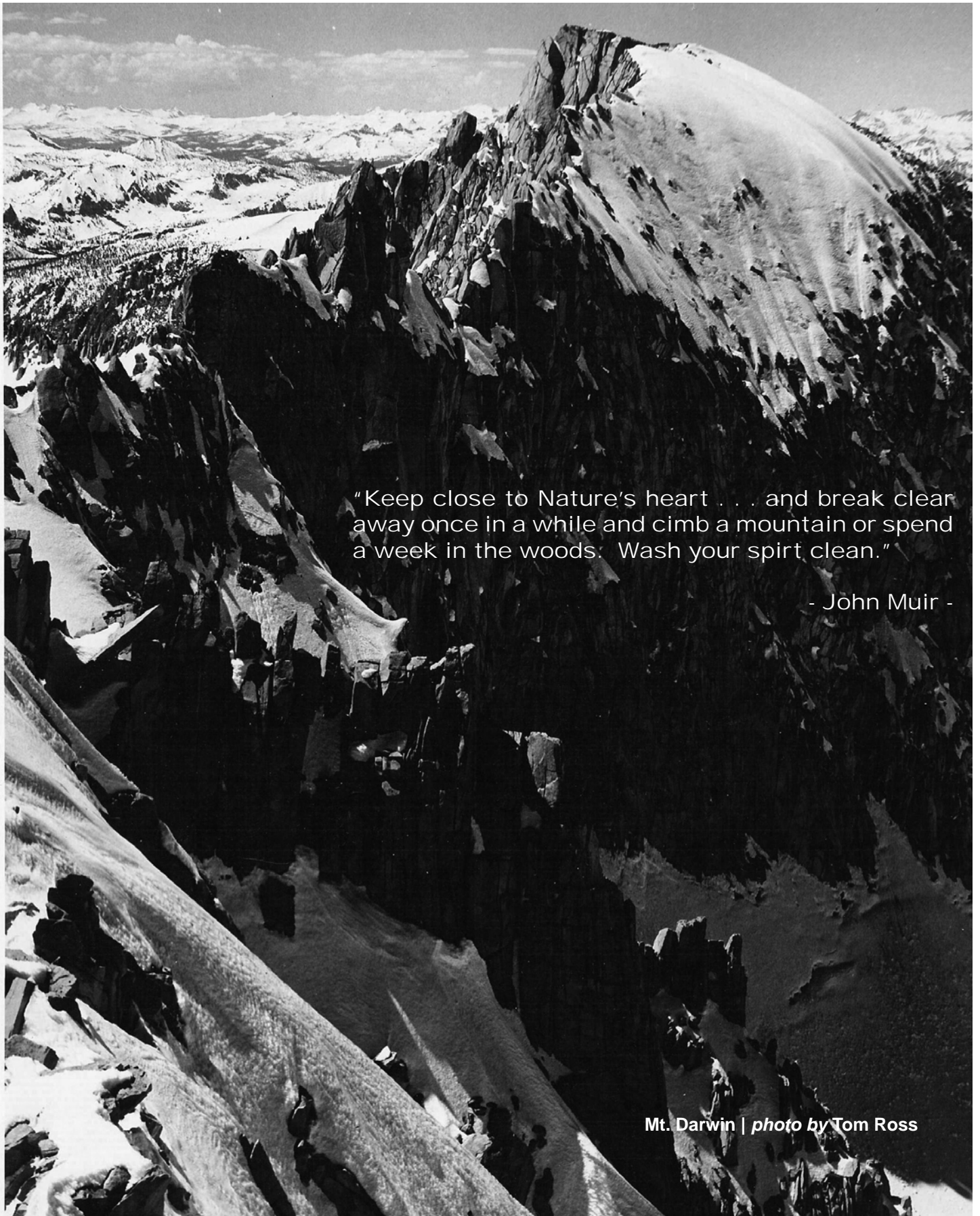
The Management Committee concurred with the select committee's advice that although Graveyard, Columbine and Shakspere each offered some interesting climbing, none was the dominant peak in its respective area. Silver was the dominant peak near Graveyard, several on the main crest dominated Columbine, and Observation overshadowed Shakspere. The Management Committee also concurred with the select committee's recommendation that the criteria for peak list changes be refined, and Bill T. led the way in getting those changes made.

Now, regardless of the outcome of the coming election, let's give more thought to exploring new areas of the Sierra and finding challenging summits plus greater solitude. And let's be mindful that once a person completes the list he or she has set foot in all parts of the range.

Jerry Keating

I joined the SPS about 1963 and was one of the early Senior List qualifiers and I am the second-oldest list finisher at the time of completion (couldn't wait long enough to beat Ret Moore). I might suggest that we already have enough notable peaks well spread throughout the Sierra that we do not NEED to add another peak in a yet to be identified area devoid of peaks on the SPS list. On the other hand, interest in the SPS list might be indicative of renewed activity within the section. Adding or substituting a peak or two might get result in more membership participation within our rather quiet section.

Ron Jones



"Keep close to Nature's heart . . . and break clear
away once in a while and cimb a mountain or spend
a week in the woods. Wash your spirt clean."

- John Muir -

Mt. Darwin | *photo by* Tom Ross

Here's my 2 cents worth, though I can't comment on the 40 SPS peaks I have not climbed yet.

Section 1 - looks good. **Section 2** - In the world of interesting peak climbs, I'm not sure I would put Angora in that world. **Section 3** - some of these I still need to climb, so can't comment. **Section 4** - looks good. **Section 5** - looks good. **Section 6** - Boo Hoo! I liked Silliman and Lippincott. How come no one talks about the difficult class 3 summit block move on Mt. Stewart? That alone might disqualify it. **Section 7** - OK. **Section 8** - West Vidette was not that interesting of a peak, neither was the nearest route. **Section 9** - Black Mtn is a seriously steep snow climb. You sure you want it on the list? And Diamond by its regular route has some ugly loose rock if its a low snow year. I would trade one of these to get Bago back on. Bago was a fun dayhike. **Section 10** - OK. **Section 11** - OK. **Section 12** - Disappointment Peak? Really? That's a tough one. Difficult to get to too. **Section 13** - OK. **Section 14** - OK **Section 15** - OK. **Section 16** - looks good. **Section 17** - Yikes! Royce was the much better climb and view than Merriam. I would switch those two. **Section 18** - Lose Izaak Walton, keep Silver. Izaak Walton just looks like a bump on the ridge. And Baldwin was such a cool dayhike, keep it. **Section 19** - OK. **Section 20** - OK. Wish Mt. Hoffman could be on the SPS list here. **Section 21** - OK. **Section 22** - Excelsior was such a nice dayhike. I'm going to cry openly if its left off. **Section 23** - Black Hawk was neat geologically, but it is awfully unnoticeable until you are actually on it. I'm torn on this one. And bummed Round Top is not here. **Section 24** - looks good

Please excuse my brutal honesty in some cases. I really do like your Sierra Sampler idea.

Daryn Dodge
SPS Northern Rep until the time being

I like the Sierra Sampler list! It gives some of us weaker climbers a chance to have an obtainable goal as I know I can't/won't complete the official SPS List.

Your're doing a great job!

Pat Arredondo

About the Sierra Sampler List, what about adding Lamont Peak? That's a classic peak for both first peak and list finish. It's definitely fun.

Gary Schenk

As a new member of SPS, I enjoyed reading your "Sierra Sampler: Draft II" article. It's a great idea and still an impressive set of hills. "Sampler" doesn't quite do them justice. I suggest "Pilot Peaks" or "Scout List". Or...? Great job. All the best.

Anonymous

You've got to initiate the sierra sampler. I totally agree with your write up in the latest echo. To generate more interest in the club....yearly goals must be available. The Sierra Peak list and emblems are really brutal... You guys are special who attack these peaks. For the more causal climber, I think it would be great to be recognized for the 25, 50, 75, 100, 150, and 200 peaks...plus a Sierra Sampler. 25 peaks on the SPS list is huge and it takes a while to do it.

I really don't think the SPS would be bursting at the seams with tons of paperwork to record these divisions as it still takes 2 or 3 years for most to climb 25 SPS peaks and this would really excite people into going for more SPS peaks. It's human nature... I love climbing, but at the same time I love little accomplishments to share with other climbers along the way. So while, for example, you may have completed the list, I can jump in and excitedly share well, I've gotten to the 25 peak mark!! and that's fun.

I hope the SPS administration would consider some of these options because the list is so daunting and frightening for many to even begin... and to start slow and gently would be a great way for the basic hiker to work towards the great accomplishments of the Danta's, Mantles, etc.... of the club (you guys are impressive!!)...So thanks for letting me input.

Shane Smith

Your list looks good, following the ideas of its creation. I follow the idea of providing something with an emphasis on a list goal or guide of something at a lower scale that is realistic for larger population of outdoor advocates, reduce the fear and danger factor, and try to save life and limb.

It is unfortunate about leaving out the remotest and thus some of the nicest parts of the Sierra. (as Big Arroyo, Upper Kern Drainage, Kings-Kern Divide, Black Divide, Milestone Basin, Ionian Basin). I hope Clyde, Farquar, Smatko and others don't roll over in their graves. But within the constraint of 2-3 days for the average peak as-piree, that is what results. I wonder if classics such as Kaweah and Goddard could be included with a specific qualification about the time necessary. Perhaps the list could be grouped into hikes of a few hours, a day, a few days, 5 days, a week. I believe most peakbaggers would have their sights on such remote and safe classics and areas anyway, and at least occasionally find the multiple days to go into the interior to do them. Even if this is only once per year, they are likely to still get them done if there are not too many of those far away ones. I guess that if remote ones I have indicated were added, a number of paired ones in the south would need to be deleted to make 100.

Ron Hudson

Speaking as one of many SPS members who will never finish the list, I think that's a wonderful idea! I'd suggest that the MC should settle on some criteria for this new sub-list, then turn it over to a small group to select the appropriate peaks. Here are my thoughts on the criteria:

1. Every peak on the sub-list should also be on the main SPS list.
2. Every area on the main list should be represented on the sub-list.
3. Every peak on the sub-list should have a 2nd or 3rd class route to the summit.
4. Peaks on the sub-list should be chosen so that each peak on the sub-list can be paired with another in a 3-day backpack.
5. The sub-list should be large enough to be a challenge but small enough to be achievable within five to 10 years. I'd suggest 100 peaks, following the HPS example.

Ron Campbell

The Book Corner

Geology of the Sierra Nevada
By Mary Hill
Revised edition
University of California Press, 2006

by Ron Campbell

Geology turns our usual sense of time upside down. A million years in geological terms is scarcely a blink of the eye.

But for those who write about geology the past 30 years have been as eventful as the day T. Rex met the asteroid.

When Mary Hill first published *Geology of the Sierra Nevada* in 1975, geologists were just beginning to grasp plate tectonics; she devoted a single slim chapter to the subject. Now, a generation later, she has rewritten and expanded her book, bringing plate tectonics front and center.

The result is a welcome addition to the mountain-lover's library.

At 394 pages the new book is more than double the length of the old. New features include nearly 100 color plates, a few of them extraordinary, a glossary of geologic terms and chapters on explorers, Mono Lake and the origins of Yosemite Valley.

The most important change, however, is the integration of plate tectonics into the story of the Sierra. Part of that story – the waves of island arcs that slammed into what is now California – is familiar turf to readers of John McPhee's *Assembling California*. But this book goes much far-

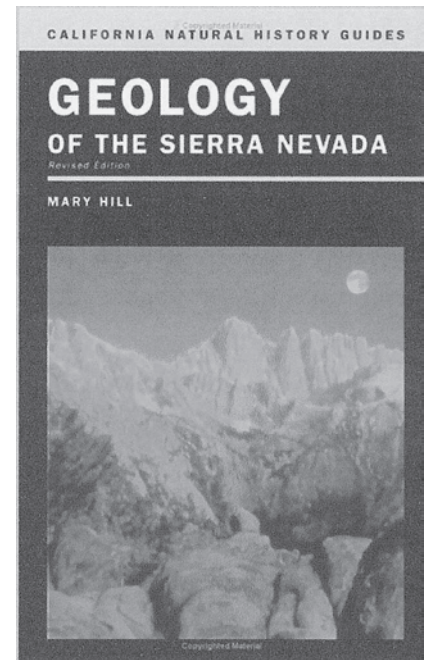
ther in explaining how plate tectonics made the Sierra: why, for instance, the Kaweahs are metamorphic instead of granitic and why there are so many caves in the center of the range.

Hill has gone well beyond rock-and-hammer geology to tell the human story of the Sierra. Here is Josiah Whitney, proud and stubborn, determined to give California the scientific geological survey it needed rather than the mining survey the Legislature wanted. Here are Clarence King and Richard Cotter embarking on their excellent adventure – a six-day hike through unexplored territory from Mount Brewer to Mount Williamson, past an unprepossessing mountain that King named Sheep Rock and out Kern Canyon. Here is King, seven years later, realizing that the scorned Sheep Rock was really Mount Whitney – and that three fishermen from Lone Pine had beaten him to the top. And here is John Muir, Whitney's nemesis, scaling peaks that Whitney pronounced unclimbable and finding glaciers that Whitney said did not exist.

Hill devotes a chapter to "The Yosemite Problem," the public quarrel between Whitney and Muir over the origins of Yosemite Valley. Whitney argued that the valley was created by faulting; Muir said glaciers molded it. Whitney refused to take Muir seriously, calling him a "mere shepherd." For his part Muir was far too enthusiastic, claiming that glaciers had once covered all of California. Hill delivers a measured but entertaining account of this controversy.

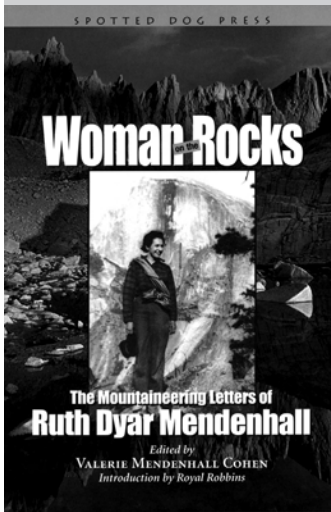
More than a geological field guide, Hill's book is also a call to action, to save mountains that are far, far older than humanity yet need its protection. She ends her book with these words:

"Some say that the time spent in the mountains is not subtracted from our allotted three-score-and-ten. So cherish the Sierra, and it will generously reward you."



Angeles Chapter Climber, One of America's First Women, Subject of New Book

by Wynne Benti



"In 1969, over the July 4th weekend, I was camped at Long Lake up in Little Lakes Valley next to the RCS group when in late afternoon John and Ruth returned from a climb. You would have thought it was some famous movie stars the way everyone stood and welcomed them into camp. It was a scene I have never forgotten." — Mark Goebel, The Ski Mountaineers

In the early 1930s, the opportunities for women to climb, or join men on their mountaineering expeditions, were essentially non-existent. Ruth Dyar Mendenhall broke that barrier to become one of California, and America's, first and most important women mountain climbers. Though her name is immortalized on mountain routes and summits, Mendenhall is unknown to most Americans. However, her climbing career began in the mid 1930s with a visit to Independence where she saw the Sierra Nevada for the first time.

The letters collected in **Woman on the Rocks: The Mountaineering Letters of Ruth Dyar Mendenhall** (published by Spotted Dog Press, Bishop CA) document Mendenhall's fifty-year mountaineering career. Though her desire to become an accomplished mountain climber

was often at odds with the traditional role of wife and mother, Ruth and husband, John Mendenhall, made numerous first ascents in North America including what are now considered to be some of the Sierra Nevada's most classic climbs: the Swiss Arete, Mount Sill (1938), Third Needle, Mount Whitney (1939), North Peak, Temple Crag (1940), Southeast Butress, Mount Whitney (1941), Lower Cathedral Spire, Yosemite (1948), the North Face of Mount Williamson (1957) and Mt. Mendenhall (12,227-ft). During those years, the competition with other climbers to establish new routes was so great, that secrecy was paramount. The couple often left directions to their locations in sealed envelopes, instructing their young daughters that under no circumstance were the envelopes to be opened unless the Mendenhalls did not return by a certain date.

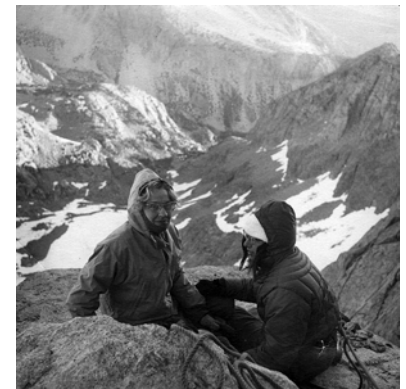
Chapter introductions set the scene by providing an in depth and historical look at Mendenhall's life within the California climbing community during the Depression and World War II. Born In 1912, south of Spokane, Ruth Dyar traced her ancestry to Stephen Hopkins, whose first voyage to the New World ended in shipwreck in Bermuda, and inspired Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Eventually Hopkins made it on the *Mayflower* and helped settle the Plymouth Colony. Ruth graduated from the University of Washington, magna cum laude, in journalism at the height of the Great Depression. Unable to find work in Washington, she moved to Los Angeles with "\$40 dollars borrowed from relatives and 25 cents of my own cash." She and a cousin joined the Sierra Club's Ski Mountaineers and Rock Climbing Section, where she eventually met John Mendenhall, son of Walter Mendenhall, the "colorful" editor and president of *The Van Nuys News*, predecessor to today's *Daily News of Los Angeles*.

For forty years, Ruth edited the Ski Mountaineers' newsletter, *Mugelnoos*, and for several years, the *American Alpine Club News*. She was elected to the American Alpine Club's board in 1974, and was awarded the Angelo Heilprin Citation for Service.

In 1987, Ruth wrote, *Women on the Rocks, Way Back Then*, an article about the history of women climbers in California. She noted that with the passage of time, she had advanced in status from climber to pioneer woman climber, writing: "We didn't think of ourselves as women climbers, but as women who liked to climb."

Woman on the Rocks is edited by Ruth's daughter, Valerie Mendenhall Cohen, who is perhaps best known for her large format watercolor landscapes, that include imagery of musical notes swirling around bristlecone pines. A graduate of UCLA and UC Riverside, Valerie spent her summers climbing at Yosemite's Camp 4 where she met husband, writer, Michael Cohen (*The Pathless Way: John Muir and the American Wilderness; The History of the Sierra Club 1892-1970*). Valerie has worked as a ski patroller, and law enforcement ranger in Yosemite and Grand Teton.

Meet Valerie Mendenhall Cohen on April 15 at the Ski Mountaineers' monthly meeting.



Valerie Mendenhall (left) and Ruth Dyar Mendenhall after a night out on Clyde Peak, July 1966 (*The Mendenhall Collection*)

Conservation Two-Liners

and related environmental news

by **Barbee Tidball**

I just spent a couple days in the Western Sierra, it is enlightening to camp in the Forest Service and/or State Park campground. As peak baggers, who carry it all on our backs, we forget at times that we are not the typical Sierra - wild lands user.

Remembering that Leave No Trace education applies not only to wilderness but also to forest lands, park lands and all outdoor areas in the Sierra is important. If you have ever wondered why the simple lessons are repeated over and over again, just visit a popular Sierra get-away. At a campground or at least lands located with road access there will be toilet paper under rocks, beverage cans and water bottles litter, trees and shrubs mutilated for kindling, the list goes on. Before we congratulate ourselves for good wild lands ethics, lets also consider when did we pass this knowledge on to someone who doesn't visit the Sierra as often? Spread the word, education does make a difference.

*"We may love a place and still be dangerous to it."
Wallace Stegner*

The Inyo County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to oppose the California Wild Heritage Act. Is Mono County close behind?

Inyo Resolution: "Now, therefore, be it resolved, this 19th day of June, 2007, that the County Board of Supervisors will not support the "California Wild Heritage Act of 2007" or companion bills, or future iterations or revisions because the vast majority of the Inyo National Forest is already "roadless" or wilderness and there is no rational justification for additional wilderness designation in an area which has adequate acreage designated wilderness.

Be it further resolved, the County Board of Supervisors, opposes legislation which expands the "wilderness system" in County and the National Forest, that denies the public access and historic use of its public lands; and

Be it further resolved, that the County Board of Supervisors directs staff to actively represent the County's opposition to the California Wild Heritage Act of 2007, and any companion bills throughout the legislation process, particularly in the congressional committee markup, hearings and amendment processes."

The Ministry of Truth Strikes Again and Again (except on Tahoe region information only)
by Carl Pope June 29, 2007

Lake Tahoe CA - Communities at South Lake Tahoe have been devastated by the Angora Wildland Fire which has scorched 2,500 acres and destroyed more than 200 buildings. The Tahoe basin's forests, overgrown from decades of well-intentioned fire suppression, need to be thinned of small trees and brush, particularly in the vicinity of homes in the urban-wildland interface. Climate change and beetle infestations have exacerbated the problem. While many good projects have gone forward, the problem is huge and much work remains to be done.

So, what has been the response of the timber industry's allies in Congress and in the media? Blame environmentalists. Senator Larry Craig announced that the problem was resistance in local communities to clearing out this brush. "We tried and weren't allowed to, and they lost their homes," Craig said. "I don't know if I want to smile, or I want to cry." *The Lahontan Valley News* claimed that the problem was the Sierra Club's opposition to logging on the national forests—as if we had blocked timber sales in the back yards of Tahoe homeowners. Homeowners in one Tahoe subdivision claimed the problem was the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

The reality is simple—and tragic. It costs money to clean brush, thin understory, remove downed wood and eliminate fire dangers around homes. Senator Craig has repeatedly rejected appeals by the Sierra Club to make such community protection zones the first priority for the Forest Service budget—and the overwhelming bulk of the Forest Service funding still goes to subsidizing timber activities in the back country, far from homes, or fighting fires when it is too late. Very little goes to community protection, and the Forest Services continues to battle to cut down the remaining, fire-resistant, old-growth forests. As long as that continues to be true, there will be a fire next time. If we want to end these tragedies, we need to invest more in stopping them than we do in encouraging them. It's that simple, but the Ministry of Truth would like to tell us that spending our money miles from communities is the way to protect them.

The Bottled Water Lie

As Soft Drink Giant Admits Product is Tap Water, New Scrutiny Falls on the Economic and Environmental Costs of a Billion Dollar Industry. The soft drink giant Pepsi has been forced to make an embarrassing admission: its bestselling Aquafina bottled water is nothing more than tap water. Last week, Pepsi agreed to change the labels of Aquafina to indicate the water comes from a public water source. Pepsi agreed to change its label under pressure from the advocacy group Corporate Accountability International, which

has been leading an increasingly successful campaign against bottled water.

In San Francisco, Mayor Gavin Newsom recently banned city departments from using city money to buy any kind of bottled water. In New York, local residents are being urged to drink tap water. The US Conference of Mayors has passed a resolution that highlighted the importance of municipal water and called for more scrutiny of the impact of bottled water on city waste.

The environmental impact of the country's obsession with bottled water has been staggering. Each day an estimated sixty million plastic water bottles are thrown away. Most are not recycled. The Pacific Institute has estimated twenty million barrels of oil are used each year to make the plastic for water bottles.

Economically, it makes sense to stop buying bottled water, as well. The *Arizona Daily Star* recently examined the cost difference between bottled water and water from the city's municipal supply. A half-liter of Pepsi's Aquafina at a Tucson convenience store costs \$1.39. The bottle contains purified water from the Tucson water supply. From the tap, you can pour over 6.4 gallons for a penny. That makes the bottled stuff about 7,000 times more expensive, even though Aquafina is using the same source of water.

Southern Sierra Volunteer opportunity with the BLM

Nov. 29-30, 2007. Need Groups and Individual Volunteers! Marijuana Farm Cleanup, Owens Peak Wilderness. Contact: Marty Dickes.

April 26-28, 2008. Need Groups and Individual Volunteers! Marijuana Farm Restoration, Owens Peak Wilderness. Contact: Marty Dickes.

If you are interested or have any questions, please call Marty Dickes, Wilderness Coordinator, BLM, Ridgecrest Field Office

MORE Conservation

June 1, 2007

Dear Outing Leaders –

We need your help.

One of the goals of the Outdoor Activities Governance Committee is *“to champion conservation campaigns through outdoor activities”*.

We know many of you are already conducting outdoor activities to support your conservation campaigns. We’d like to hear about them and learn from your experiences. Whether it’s a bus trip to a confined animal feeding operation, a hike to an overlook to see smog and poor air quality, or a boat trip to investigate water quality issues, tell us your stories.

We’ll collect these stories, combine like elements and create easy to use templates that can be used in conservation campaigns clubwide.

Please send your story to conservation.outings@sierraclub.org. We’d like to know the who, what, where, when and how of your event:

- Who went and how many
- What type of outdoor activity you held; i.e., day hike, bus tour, service, etc.
- Where you went
- When you went (date)
- How you tied it in with your conservation campaign

Don’t want to take the time to write it down? Send us your phone number and a good time to contact you and we’ll get the info by phone.

Thanks in advance for your help

Tom Libby, Chair
Phil Wheeler, Vice Chair
Outdoor Activities Governance Committee

Jill Workman, Chair
Americas Wild Legacy CIC

Robin Mann, Chair
Safe and Healthy Communities CIC

Steve Crowley, Chair
Smart Energy Solutions CIC