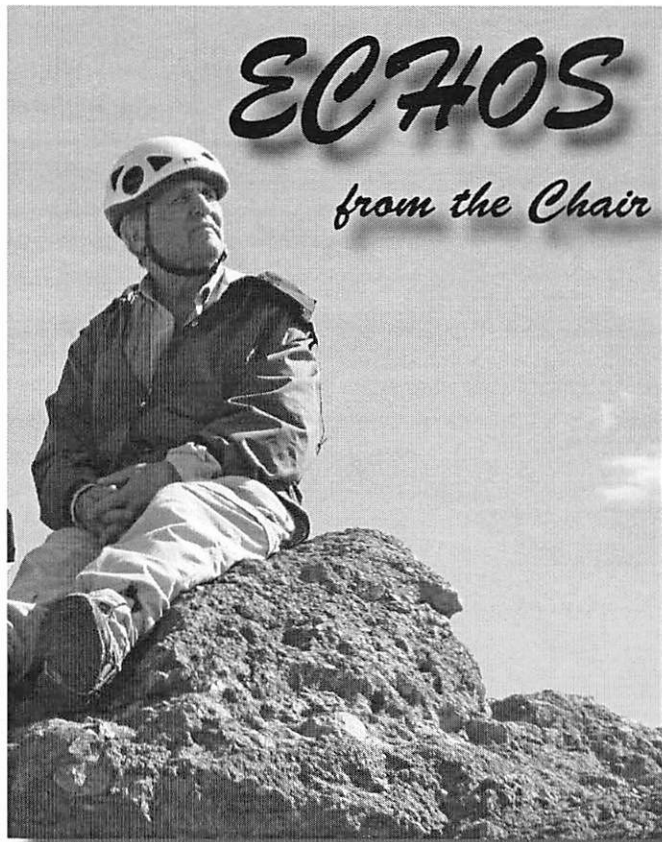


The Sierra ECHO

With Sierra Club National Headquarter's approval, we are now providing an electronic Echo. Details on page 3.

VVVVVV 52 | VVVVVV 3 | VVVV - VVVV 2008





by Virgil Popescu

I have read again the previous Sierra Echos and found similar concerns regarding meetings, membership, outings and the publication process. Accordingly, I will try to review these subjects and open future discussion and improvements.

Meeting, Membership: Due to very low attendance our general meetings have been eliminated. We shall con-

sider finding a new meeting place and restart quarterly meetings. These will be also our membership meeting program with attractive presentation which may create opportunities to meet new climb friends and encourage them to join us in the SPS. In addition, as part of attracting new members, our Management Committee held a presentation at WTC classes. Many thanks to Henry Arnebold (SG Valley), the Tidballs (Orange County) and Dan Richter and Kathy Rich (West L.A.).

Outings: The schedule of trips for late spring, summer and early fall looks impressive; at least 43 trips and more than half co-sponsored with WTC. Some are also co-sponsored with LTC, DPS, HPS and PVSB. If you are not already leading a trip, think of submitting one to the Tidballs to be published in the next Echo, it will help in planning our future outings. If you are thinking of becoming a leader, attend the next leadership training seminar on October 4th.

The Sierra Echo Publication: There has been continuous discussion with regards to taking the Echo into the information age with an electronic version. Our Echo editor Sara Danta presented a detailed report at our last meeting regarding moving forward on this. This transition will eventually free up SPS financial resources to be spent on section membership and outings programs. We have also purchased website software in connection with this endeavor.

Our 2008 Sierra Climbing is underway, so best wishes and happy trails.

Virgil

Front Cover

Mt Goode from Bishop Pass Trail by Darrick Danta

**Last day for submission for next Echo: 08/23/08
Late submissions will roll over into the following issue.**

New Members and Accomplishments!

- Diane Dunber - New Member
- Lisa Barboza - New Member
- Eric Scheidemantle - New Member
- Harry Langenbacher - Emblem Status

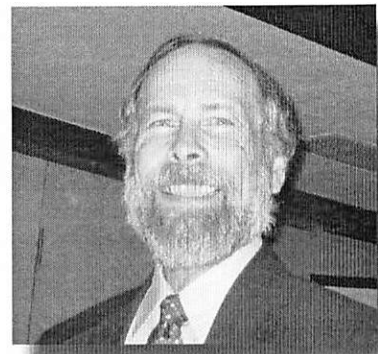


**Darrick Danta
Secretary
Sierra Peaks Section**

Congratulations to Joe Wankum for winning the 2008 CHESTER VERSTEEG OUTINGS AWARD

The CHESTER VERSTEEG OUTINGS AWARD is the highest outings leadership award conferred by the Angeles Chapter. It is awarded to a Sierra Club member who has provided long-term and outstanding leadership in furthering the enjoyment and safety of the outings program.

Many accolades to Joe!



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING ELECTRONIC ECHO

SPS members who have an email address on record have received or are receiving this Echo edition electronically via a link. All members who have received this Echo edition electronically will also receive a hard copy the same as the non-email people, for this edition only. Future Echo editions will be sent electronically to members who have an email address on record. For all other members who don't have an email address, we will continue to send a hard copy as usual. Any member who is/has received this edition via a link and desires to continue to receive the Sierra Echo in hardcopy format through the US Mail, should send an e-mail to the SPS editor s_wyrens@yahoo.com, or leave a message for the SPS editor at 818-349-6019 by August 15, 2008 requesting continued mailing of a hard copy. If you take no action, the Sierra Echo will only be sent electronically to members with an email address on file.

We are very excited about this endeavor! The Rocky Mountain section among several other sections around the country have already implemented this method for sending their newsletter out electronically!

SEYMOUR 'SY' OSSOFSKY 1927-2008

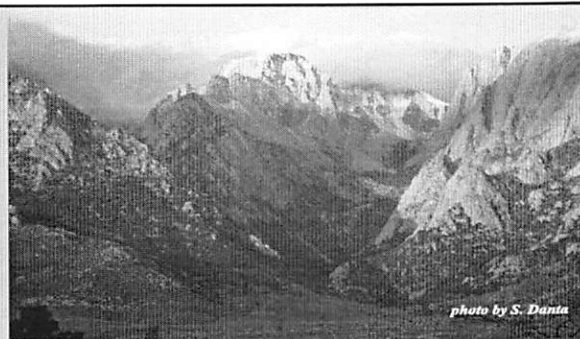
Sy Ossofsky lived in Los Angeles before moving to Bishop and was an SPS officer, emblem holder (#80) and climbing leader. He served as SPS Alt. Officer in 1965. In the 1960s, Sy also chaired the Rock Climbing Section (1963) and the Ski Mountaineers Section (1965-68).

Following was drawn from the Inyo Register website Seymour 'Sy' Ossofsky:

Friends and family are saying goodbye to Bishop resident and Sierra mountaineer Seymour "Sy" Ossofsky. Born November 16, 1927 in New York City, the son of the late Lilly and David Ossofsky, Sy died on March 21, 2008. He was 80. He was raised in the Bronx, New York City's northernmost borough. He served with the Navy during World War II as a radio operator of a PBM/Y squadron in the Pacific. After the war he attended Brooklyn Polytechnic where he received a degree in Electrical Engineering. Sy worked for ITT and then for Hughes Aircraft Co. He retired in 1970 and moved to Bishop with his family to be near the mountains where he spent most of his free time.

Sy was an avid mountaineer and made numerous first ascents and passed his love of the mountains on to his sons.

Submitted by Jerry Keating



Management Committee

Meeting Minutes and Other Business

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

Approved Management Committee Meeting Minutes
Held Thursday March 6, 2008
at the home of Virgil Popescu

Call to order: 7:03 pm.

Members present: Henry Arnebold, Darrick Danta, Dave Endres, Virgil Popescu, Kathy Rich.

Guests: Sara Danta, Dan Richter.

Chair's Announcements:

1) The Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet will be held Sunday, May 4, 2008 at the Brookside country club. Attendance is encouraged.

2) The SPS has a recruitment slot available during WTC classes. A suggestion was made to distribute a list of introductory SPS trips to students. Henry volunteered to visit San Gabriel Valley WTC, Dave Long Beach, and Dan was available to visit a group too.

3) New requirements for Sierra club Leaders include the following: currency in First Aid; and completion of OLT 101 (the national Outings Leader Training material).

4) A proposal has been made to rename North Palisade in honor of David Brower. After much discussion, a motion was made and approved to support naming an unnamed Sierra Peak in honor of David Brower. The SPS Management Committee did not support renaming North Palisade after David.

Committee Reports:

1) Outings: Committee members discussed the slate of proposed trips. There was some discussion over the requirements for trip leaders, specifically if the leader needed to be an SPS member to lead for the section. A suggestion was made to change one of the submitted trips from O to I. All trips were approved with this change.

2) Treasurer's Report: At the end of the 4th quarter of 2007 funds on hand totaled \$1973.10 in checking, \$4,929.41 in savings.

3) Webmaster Report: The Webmaster requested information on new members since Jan. 2008, accomplishments since Jan 2008, Meeting Minutes, future meetings, decision on Sierra Sampler, new outings, new leader requirements, and list of Management Committee members.

4) The Sierra Echo Report: Sara Danta reported that the Tribute by Bill Oliver is now complete. Cost of Echo production was discussed, with the suggestion of creating an electronic version eventually to replace the paper version. An announcement will be made on the SPS Website concerning this.

5) The Sierra Sampler: The final version of the list was approved and will be posted on the Website and included in the next Echo.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

A PROPOSAL for a new SPS GEOGRAPHICAL EMBLEM

by Kathy Rich

SPS Geographical Emblem can be obtained by climbing 2 or more peaks from each of the 24 geographical areas.

Members are invited to make constructive comments for publication in the next Echo regarding this new emblem proposal. Send comments to Echo editor s_wyrens@yahoo.com (please indicate SPS Emblem in subject line) or via U.S. mail.

MEETING INFORMATION

The 2008 SPS Management Committee will hold meetings every other month at a location to be determined. Please contact SPS Chair Virgil Popescu at (818) 951-3251 or gillypopo@ca.rr.com for meeting times, date and place.

SPS Treasurer's Report 1st Quarter 3/31/2008

Checking Account

Income

Echo-----1,645.00
Banquet-----1,716.00
Merchandise-----39.00
Donations-----640.00
\$4,040.00

Expenditures

Printing-----1,070.12
Postage-----436.80
Website software-----173.19
Banquet-----1617.48
Banquet raffle-----100.00
Supplies-----49.22
\$3446.81

Balance on 12/31/2007-----1,973.04
Income-----4,040.00
6,013.04
Expenditures----- -3,446.81
\$2,566.23

Savings Account

Balance on 12/31/2007-----4,929.41
January interest-----2.09
February interest-----1.95
March interest-----2.09
\$4,935.54

SPS LEADERS - ACT BY JULY 1ST

SPS Leaders: In the next month we need you to refresh your leadership training. Under the new Sierra Club requirements all leaders (except those who became leaders after July 1, 2004) need to "refresh" OLT101 (basic leader training) by **July 1, 2008**, under the requirement of the national leader standards (every four years).

Send us an e-mail stating that you have completed the refresher requirements (no proof required!). Note: the self assessment test is fully optional and you do not need to do this test or report any results to anyone.

Please put a side one-hour this month to keep your leader rating current under this new Sierra Club requirement.

Note some of you may have already completed the refresher reading, if so we apologize for this duplicate notice. Otherwise all leaders please complete this requirement by **July 1, 2008**. If you lead for more than one group or section, you may have already done this refresher and notified another outings chair. Please let us also know you have completed this refresher so we can put you on the list as complete and not nag you any more.

SPS Outings
Larry & Barbee Tidball
lbtidball@earthlink.net

SPS TEES



Front: **NORTH PAL**

Back: **FULL SPS LIST** by geographic area with Mountaineer and Emblem Peak highlighted

M, L & XL in Sand & Ash

\$12 + \$3.50 shipping

**(\$4 shipping when ordering 2 or more shirts). Send your order to
Datty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive,
Topanga, Ca 90290 & make
check payable to SPS**

CST 2087766-40

Submitted by Virgil Popescu

LEADERS REFRESHER REQUIREMENTS

This is a summary regarding the new requirement for all Angeles Chapter Leaders, effective July 1, 2008:

A - First Aid Requirement (FAR).

The leaders must have completed First Aid Course within 4 years prior to the outings. CPR does not satisfy the requirement.

B - The leaders must update their knowledge of Club and Chapter Policy. The National Leader Standards require leaders to refresh their training at least every four years. This means reviewing (1) National policies **and also** (2) Angeles Chapter policies and completion of **OLT 101** and **Angeles Chapter Supplement**.

By using the WebPages, recommended by OMS, the leaders have the following options: (Note: At the beginning log in using the user name **clubhouse** and the password **explore**.)

1. a. Read the OLT 101 text at
<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/outings/training/intro/olt101/index.asp>
 b. Complete the OLT 101 self-assessment at
<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/outings/training/intro/olt101/SelfAssessment.asp>
 c. Read the Angeles Chapter OLT 101 Supplement at
http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers/OLT101AngelesChapSupp_20080215.pdf

2. a. Complete the OLT 101 Web-based training at
<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/outings/training/intro/olt101/wbt/index.asp>
 b. Read the Angeles Chapter OLT 101 Supplement at
http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers/OLT101AngelesChapSupp_20080215.pdf (This option may not work on all computers.)

3. a. Read the Outings Leader Handbook at
<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/outings/common/handbook.asp>
 b. Read the Angeles Chapter OLT 101 Supplement at
http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers/OLT101AngelesChapSupp_20080215.pdf

4. a. Read the first five chapters of the current Angeles Chapter Leader's Reference Book (available from the LTC Registrar)
 b. Read the Angeles Chapter OLT 101 Supplement at
http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers/OLT101AngelesChapSupp_20080215.pdf

5. Attend another Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Seminar. "The next seminar will be held Oct 4th at the Griffith Park Ranger Station Auditorium. We ask that those who wish to attend the seminar to update their training register for the seminar, and we will accept them as long as space is available (new leader candidates have registration priority). For those attending the seminar to refresh their skills, there will be no charge."

After completing one of the options, inform the Outing Chair for the record.



Leadership Training Committee Schedule of Activities

Leadership Training Program Seminar 2008

Oct 4 LTC Program Seminar Steve Botan



Wilderness First Aid www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org

Generally offered twice yearly in the Spring and Fall. Check above-mentioned website for details

Navigation Practices and Checkouts 2008

Sep 29	I/M/E P,C Grinnell Ridge	Harry Freimanis
Oct 19	I/M P,C Indian Cove, Joshua Tree	Robert Myers
Oct TBD	Beginning Navigation Clinic Mt. Lowe	Diane Dunbar
Nov 15-16	I/M Indian Cove, Joshua Tree	Harry Freimanis
Dec TBD	Basic GPS Class	Harry Freimanis
Dec TBD	Beginning Navigation Clinic Mt Lowe	Diane Dunbar
Dec 14	I/M/E P,C Warren Point	Harry Freimanis

Rock Practices and Checkouts 2008

Various Dates M/E P Vertical Adventures
(This is not a Sierra Club activity, but can prepare candidates for rock checkoffs.)
www.vertical.adventures.com

Snow Practices and Checkouts 2008

Snow travel, avalanche, and related training - Kurt Wedberg's Sierra Mountaineering
(This is not a Sierra Club activity, but can prepare candidates for snow checkoffs.)

Environmental Awareness

Look at the Chapter's Schedule of Activities for outings sponsored by the Natural Science Section, 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 website has a calendar of events & info about training not offered by the Sierra Club:
angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/



MOUNTAIN REGISTER REPORT

by Harry Langenbacher

It looks like one fifth of our peaks have need of a book and/or container, including 4 emblem peaks.

I have lots of books, one last good old SPS aluminum cylinder, some ammo boxes, and a couple of tin cans. I really need a better container supply, but we can no longer get more of the perfect containers - the SPS Cylinder. I have a bunch of tough little books suitable for always carrying with you, and small enough to fit in any container, so let me know if you want one. If you want to haul an ammo box up a needy peak, or anything else, please get in touch.

I tried to start off the season right. I carried 4.4 pounds of ammo box and register book up George Creek, and placed them on Mt. Barnard on Mother's Day, and dedicated it to the memory of a mother that climbed that peak with me before. Please check out my web site at summitregister.langenbacher.org for additional information on summit registers, and do what you can to help keep registers on our summits. Let me know, one way or the other if you find a register missing, or if you find a register in good condition, so no one will have to haul the 4 pounds up there only to find that someone else already filled the need, like happened to one of my volunteers last year. You can always contact me through <http://summitregister.langenbacher.org>.

Abbot Mt 13704 need book

Agassiz Mt 13893 need new container and book

Banner Peak 12936 need book

Bear Creek Spire 13720+ need book and pencil

Black Mtn 13291 need book

Cathedral Peak 10911 need container and book (climbed too often?)

Charybdis 13096 need container (rusty cans and spiral book there now)

Cirque Peak 12900 need book

Cloudripper 13525 need book

Dade Mt 13600+ need book

Dana Mt 13057 need book

Darwin Mt 13831 need register and container

Electra Peak 12442 need pencil

Gabb Mt 13680+ need book

Gayley Mt 13510 need pencil

Gibbs Mt 12773 need container and book

Goethe Mt 13264 need container and book

Highland Peak 10935 needs book and container

Irvine Mt 13780+ need book

Joe Devel Peak 13327 need book

Julius Caesar Mt 13200+ need container and pencil, better book

Koip Peak 12962 need book

Lamarck Mt 13417 need book

Leavitt Peak 11569 need book and container - old ammo box damaged, books ruined by water

Lion Rock 12360+ need book

McDuffie Mt 13282 need book and container

Mendel Mt 13710 need register and container

Milestone Mtn 13638 need original book taken by Ranger, contact Harry for details

Mokelumne Peak 9334 needs book - almost full

Morgan S Mt 13748 need book

Morrison Mt 12277 need book and container

North Guard 13327 Ammo Box taken by SAR, can be recovered from SEKI, contact Harry

North Palisade 14242 need pencil

Recess Peak 12813 need container

Red & White Mtn 12816 need book and pencil

Rockhouse Peak 8360+ need container and book. Retrieve

damaged cylinder with stuck lid.

Rose Mtn 10776 needs container and book

Round Top 10381 needs container and book

San Joaquin Mtn 11598 need container (book placed in a baggie)

Silver Peak 11878 need book and container

Split Mtn 14042+ need book

Starr King Mt 9092 need better container or plastic bags to stop water damage

Temple Crag 12976 need book

Thor Peak 12306 need container and book

Thunder Mtn 13517+ need container and book

Tinker Knob 8949 need book

University Peak 13589 need book and container (lid dropped down a crack)

Vogelsang Peak 11493 need LARGE book

Warren Mt 12327 need ammo box (cylinder is stuffed)

Young Mt 13176 need permanent container (has temporary one, with book)

Outings

June 7-8 | Sat-Sun

SPS

MR: Emerson (13,204') Intro to SPS M-rated trips w/ ice axe & crampons. Sat hike 2 mi from North Lake (9360') backpacking to just past Loch Leven Lake at 10,743' Set-up camp. Afternoon ice axe practice to refresh skills. Sun up early, climb peak 2461' gain on snow and 3rd cl rock. Hike out to cars after peak climb. Send SASE w/ conditioning, climbing experience, H, cell & W phones, ride share info, SC#, completed Medical Form and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: BARBEE TIDBALL, Asst: JOHN CHESLICK and LARRY TIDBALL.

June 7-8 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

MR: Mt. Conness (12590'), Mt. Dana (13,053): Visit the beautiful snowy reaches of upper Yosemite National Park. View Half Dome from the summit. Saturday hike 3.5 miles with possible snowshoe cross-country, 2470' gain to summit from Saddlebag Lake along East Ridge. Camp at Lake. Sunday drive to Tioga Pass, hike 3 miles crosscountry, 4000' gain to Mt. Dana. Participants must be Sierra Club members and be proficient with ice axe, crampons and moderate 3rd class rock. Send recent conditioning, experience, medical form and sase/ease to Ldr ERIC SCHEIDEMANTLE. Co-Ldr TINA BOWMAN.

June 13-15 | Fri-Sun

SPS

MR: Birch Mtn (13,602) & The Thumb (13,356) Fri. backpack from Birch Lake Trailhead to Birch Lake (5.5 mi, 4400 gain). Saturday, early start, climb southeast slope to The Thumb (2 mi. 2800 gain). Thumb to Birch Mtn (2 mi. -1300, 1600 gain) Descend 2850, 1.5 mi to camp. Sunday, Hike out to trailhead. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members only. Ice axe, crampons and class 3 rock experience is required. Send resume via sase or email (preferred) to Ldr: BRAD JENSEN, Asst: DAN RICHTER

June 14-15 | Sat-Sun

SPS

MR: Merriam Peak (13,103) Royce Peak (13,280') Sat backpack Pine Creek trailhead to Honeymoon Lk approx. 4 mi 3300' gain. Sun hike across Sierra Crest

to climb both peaks, cl 2, 3700' total elev gain from camp with snow (ice axe and crampons). Return to camp, pack-up and hike out. Send SASE recent conditioning H, cell & W phones, ride share info, SC#, completed Medical Form and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: BARBEE TIDBALL, Asst: TINA BOWMAN.

June 14-16 | Sat-Mon

SPS

I: Kern Peak (11,510') SPS Introductory trip in the southern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Moderate and enjoyable pace. Enjoy studying flora and fauna with naturalist Sherry Ross. Saturday backpack 9 mi, 1500' gain to camp at Redrock Meadows at 8600'. Sunday climb class 2 Kern Peak 8 mi rt, 3000' gain rt with considerable x-country. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Monday backpack out 9 mi, 1800' gain (roadhead higher than camp). Send SASE recent conditioning H, cell & W phones, ride share info to Ldr: PATTY KLINE, Asst: SHERRY ROSS.

June 21-22 | Sat-Sun

SPS

ER: North Palisade (14,242') Polemonium Peak (14,080') Climb these two rugged 14,000' peaks situated in the Palisades area of the Eastern Sierras with us via the U-Notch. This will be a strenuous backpack and class 4 / 5th snow and rock climb. Saturday pack in from the Glacier Lodge trailhead to camp. Sunday climb the U-Notch to North Pal, make the traverse, attempt Polemonium, and descend the same way. Sunday pack out. Restricted to Sierra Club members with strong fitness and experience on class 4 / 5th snow and rock. Send email with conditioning, experience, SC#. Medical form required. \$5 permit fee required at trailhead. Leader: ALEX AMIES, Co-ldr: TOM MCDONNELL.

June 28-29 | Sat-Sun

SPS

MR: Mt Ritter (13,143'), Banner Pk (12,936') Restricted to Sierra Club members with ice axe, crampon, exposed class 3 experience. Saturday backpack from Agnew Meadow to Ediza Lake, 7.5 mi, 1230' gain. Possible climb on Banner Pk, 6 mi

rt, 3660' gain. Sunday climb Mt. Ritter, 6mi rt, 3870' gain, and pack out. Medical form required. Send climbing resume, recent conditioning, sase/esase, H&W phones, SC#, \$6 permit fee to Ldr: ALEX AMIES. Asst: VIRGIL POPESCU.

July 11-13 | Fri-Sun **WTC, SPS**
MR: Mt. Ritter (13143'), Banner (12936'):

Climb a classic Sierra and SPS Emblem peak. Leave Agnew Meadows Fri, backpack 6 mi, 1100' gain to Lake Ediza. Sat hike 6 mi xc rt, 6000' gain from Lake Ediza up the SE glacier. Sun pack out. Participants must be Sierra Club members and be proficient with ice axe, crampons and high 3rd class rock. Send recent conditioning, experience, sase/ease to Ldr ERIC SCHEIDEMANTLE. CoLdr WILL MCWHINNEY.

July 19-21 | Sat-Mon **SPS**

ER: Mt. Sill (14,153') & Mt. Gayley (13,510') Ice axe crampons required. Backpack 8 mi 3100' gain to Sam Mack Meadow. Sun cross glacier ascend snow/rock in N. Couloir and climb 3rd/4th class face to summit of Sill, return to saddle and ascend Gayley (3800' gain for day). Mon pack out Send sase w/phones, ice axe/crampon and 3rd/4th class rock experience/conditioning, medical form, \$5 permit fee to LDR BARBEE TIDBALL, Co-Ldr: LARRY TIDBALL

July 19-20 | Sat-Sun **WTC, SPS**

I: Lone Pine Pk (12,943'): From Meysan Lakes Trailhead at Whitney Portal, Sat backpack 5 mi, 3600' gain to Meysan Lake, relax, enjoy group happy hour. Sun climb peak by class 2 route, 2 mi, 2300' gain to peak, then out. WTC or equiv reqd. Send email or sase with recent conditioning/experience to Ldr: JOSH HIBBARD. Co-Ldr: ANNE MARIE RICHARDSON.

July 19-21 | Sat-Mon **SPS**

I; Cirque Pk (12,900'): SPS intro trip in eastern Sierra geared to prospective SPS'ers and WTC students. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Sat. backpack from Horseshoe Meadow at 10,000' to Long Lake at 11,160' (6 mi, 1200' gain). Sun. climb peak, class 1 (5 mi rt, 1800' gain) and legnedary community hap-

py hour. Mon. hike out. Send SASE with \$5 permit fee, conditioning and high altitude experience, home, work, cell phones, ride share info to LDR: PATTY KLINE. Asst: KENT SCHWITKIS.

June 21-22 | Sat-Sun **SPS, WTC**
MR: Mt Gilbert (13,106')

Sat backpack from South Lake to upper Treasure Lake (3 mi, 1700' gain). Set up camp and practice snow skills. Sunday, early start to Gilbert (3 mi r/t, 2000' gain). Return to camp and pack out. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members only. Ice axe, crampons and class 3 rock experience is required. Send detailed resume via sase or email (preferred) to Ldr: KATHY RICH, Asst: DAN RICHTER.

July 26-27 | Sat-Sun **SPS**
I: Mount Johnson (12,871'), Mount Goode (13,085'), Chocolate Peak (11,682'):

Sat 8.5 mi and 3700' gain. Hike to Treasure Lakes from South Lake. Drop packs to summit Mount Johnson. Return to packs and continue east to Saddlerock Lake. Sun optional Mount Goode (4 mi roundtrip, 1900' gain), then out 4.5 mi on trail, stopping near Long Lake to climb Chocolate Peak (adds 2 mi, 900' gain). Moderately-paced but strenuous. Send esase, contact info, recent experience and conditioning to Ldr: ERIN O'NEILL. Asst: BOB BEACH

July 26-27 | Sat-Sun **WTC, SPS**

I: Cirque Peak (12,900'): Gourmet Backpack! Join us for Decadent Wilderness Weekend VI. Sat backpack 4 mi, 1300' via Cottonwood Pass to Chicken Springs Lake for 5-star dining experience. Sun work off those calories with 2.5 mi, 1700' gain to Cirque. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning and your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL. Assts: GEORGETTE RIECK, ED COTTONE.

Aug. 1-3 | Fri-Sun **WTC, SPS**

M: North Guard (13,327'), Mt. Brewer (13,570'): Fri backpack from Cedar Grove to camp at Sphinx Lakes, 8.5 mi, 5500' gain. Sat climb North Guard, 3 mi, 4200' gain, and, if possible, Brewer, 1 mi, 650' gain. Sun hike out. Happy hour both nights. Class 3 experience, helmets, medical form required; restrict-

ed to Sierra Club members. Medical form and helmet required. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning, climbing resume, ride-share info and \$5 permit fee to Ldr: RON CAMPBELL. Asst: TOM MCDONNELL.

Aug 1-3 | Fri-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Mt Langley (14026'), Cirque (12,900'): Strenuous backpack, led at a comfortable, relaxed pace to bag the southernmost 14er in the United States. S at morning pack in via Cottonwood Pass Trail, 7 mi, 2000' gain to small lake west of Cirque Peak. Summit Langley on Sun., 11.0 mi rt with 3600' gain. Optional summit of Cirque adds 700' gain on the return, followed by celebratory happy hour. Relaxed hike out to reach TH early afternoon Sun. Send email or 2 sase with conditioning, recent experience, altitude exposure, and WTC leader to LDR. GARY BICKEL, CO-LDR DIANE DUNBAR.

Aug 16-17 | Sat-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Mt Stanford #2 (12,838'): Sat backpack from Rock Creek to Hilton Lakes, 5 miles 1500' gain. Sunday it's on to summit 5 mi round trip, 2500' gain. Then pack out, 5 mi. to cars. Send SASE, or use e-mail, with info on Sierra experience, WTC leaders name, conditioning, and carpool info to Ldr: ED MORENTE, Asst: JOHN CYRAN.

Aug 16-18 | Sat-Mon

SPS

I: Red Slate Mtn (13,123'): SPS into trip geared to WTC students and prospective SPSers. Relaxed and enjoyable pace. Sat Backpack up McGee Creek to McGee Lakes at 11,040', 6.5 mi and 2900' gain. Sun climb class 1 peak 4 mi. rt. and 2,200' gain. Legendary community happy hour Sat and Sun. Mon. hike out. Send SASE with \$5 permit fee, conditioning and high altitude experience, home, work, cell phones, ride share info to Ldr: PATTY KLINE. Asst: JOE WANKUM.

Aug 22-24 | Fri-Sun

SPS/Wild Ad/NSS/PVSB

I: Royce Pk (12, 280), Merriam Pk (13, 103): SPS Intro Trip suitable for WTC students. Join leaders for moderately fast-paced 3-day backpack & climb in the John Muir Wilderness Area/Kings Canyon National Park. Start Fri. by hiking up to Upper Pine

Lake: 5 miles, 3000 feet of gain. Possible ascent of Julius Caesar (13200) 9 miles rt, 3,000 feet of gain if leaders feeling their cohones. Sat climb Royce and Merriam from Saddle between, 10 mi rt, 4000' gain. Sun backpack out and return to LA. While not for beginners, this trip is suitable for people who already have some other xc trips under their boots. Some naturalizing along the way as time permits. Send check for \$5 permit fee (payable to leader) and separate \$30 check returnable at trailhead (payable to Sierra Club), two 4x9 sase (or 1 sase & email), complete contact info, recent backpacking & climbing resume and rideshare info to Ldr: KEITH MARTIN. Asst: MARK MITCHELL

Aug 23 | SAT

SPS

ER: Mt. Humphreys (13,986'):

Strenuous 17 mi, 5000' gain dayhike via Piute Pass for a fast, small, skilled group to climb cl 4 emblem pk. Restricted to SC members on Mnteers List or equiv. Must complete medical form. Send recent experience and conditioning, carpool info, SC#, and e-mail or 2 sases to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN. Co-Ldrs: ALEX AMIES, TOM BOWMAN.

Aug 23-26 | Fri-Tues

HPS, SPS

I: Clouds Rest (9526') to Half Dome (8835')

17 mi, 3600' gn, 4800' loss. Strenuous but comfortably paced, unrushed 4 day backpack. From Tenaya Lake to Yosemite Valley. Must be comfortable with steep exposed route holding cables. Email or send SASE with H&W phones, recent conditioning to Leaders: DIANE DUNBAR, GARY BICKEL.

August 23-24 | Sat-Sun

SPS, WTC

I: Split (14,042') and Tinemaha (12,520'):

Come climb this 14-er and SPS Emblem peak. Sat backpack to Red Lake (5 mi, 4000' gain); climb Tinemaha (1.5 mi, 2000' gain, class 2). Sun climb Split (2 mi, 3500' gain, class 2), and pack out. 4-WD may be required on trailhead road. Send SASE or email (preferred) to leader with: contact information, carpool info, climbing resume with recent experience/conditioning. Ldr; KATHY RICH; Co-Ldr: RON HUDSON.

- Sept. 6-7 | Sat-Sun** **SPS**
I: Matterhorn Peak (12,264):
 Climb this emblem peak in Northern Yosemite on a two-day trip and enjoy the spectacular vistas of the Sawtooth range. Total 10 miles roundtrip, approx. 5,300' gain. E-mail leaders with conditioning and experience. Ldr: VIRGIL POPESCU, Co-Ldr: PAT ARREDONDO
- Sept 6 | Sat** **SPS**
I: Clouds Rest (9,926'):
 Scot Sullivan's List Finish Day hike of Clouds Rest in Yosemite National Park, near Tuolumne Meadows. 16 miles round trip and 2700' of elevation gain. Bring something to share for lunch on the summit. . Hikers should have good conditioning. Party goes only also welcome for post hike celebration/ pot luck dinner. Send SASE to: Ldr: LARRY TIDBALL Co-Ldr: BARBEE TIDBALL
- Sept 6-7| Sat-Sun** **SPS**
MR: Dragon Peak (12,927')
 Saturday backpack into the seldom-visited Golden Trout Lakes from Onion Valley (2.4 mi. and 2,200' of gain) on trail. Sunday cross-country climb up the south ridge of Dragon Peak and its unique 3rd class summit pyramid (1.5 mi. rt, 1,420 gain), return to camp and pack-out. Restricted to SC members with rock experience and comfortable with exposure. Send SC#, completed medical form, and climbing resume, email/sase, to Ldr: PAUL GARRY. Asst: VIRGIL SHIELDS.
- Sep 12-14 | Fri-Sun** **SPS**
I: Giant Sequoia Nat'l Monument II:
 Leisurely paced exploration of the most easterly sequoia grove in the Sierra, a look at another grove and climbs of two unlisted peaks coupled with two nights of extended happy hours. Part of an "old-timers" series, this outing will emphasize renewing acquaintances with longtime climbers and welcoming newcomers. Camp both Fri and Sat pm at Quaking Aspen off Cal 190 in Tulare County. Separate hikes Sat to two sequoia groves and a stroll up Dome Rock (7221'), total hiking 7.5 miles with 1500' gain. Separate climbs Sun of Baker Pt (7754') and Baker Pk. (7992'), total hiking 4.2 miles with less than 1000' gain and some CI 2 on Baker Pk. Afterward, consider hiking up Sunday Pk, once SPS listed but now HPS listed, and departing a different way in this scenic part of the Sierra. Send sase with H&W phones and e-mail address to Asst Ldr: JERRY KEATING. Ldr: GORDON MACLEOD. Asst Ldr: BARBARA LILLEY.
- Sep 13-14 | Sat-Sun** **WTC, SPS**
I: Mt Tom (13,652'): Strenuous climb to the top of massive Mt Tom out of Bishop. Sat backpack 4 mi, 2200' to camp at Horton Lake. Sun climb Mt Tom 7 mi round trip, 3700' gain, then pack out 4 mi. Send SASE or use e-mail, with info on Sierra experience, WTC leaders name, conditioning, and carpool info to Ldr: Ed Morente. Asst: John Cyran.
- Sept 27 | Sat** **SPS**
I: Muah (11,016'), Trail Pk (11,673'):
 End the SPS season with pleasant but long dayhike with the girls, Mary Mac and Tina. Moderately paced from Horseshoe Meadow, Muah is 12 mi. and 3,000' gain. Add Trail Pk, 3 mi. and 1800' gain. Join us for a pizza party in Lone Pine on Saturday night. Send email/sase, phones, recent conditioning to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN Asst: MARY MCMANNES
- Sept 28 | Sun** **LTC, WTC, HPS**
I/M/E: 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 navigation experience/training, rideshare info, H&W phones, prefer by Email to Ldr: HARRY FREIMANIS. Asst: ROBERT MYERS.
- Oct 19 | Sun** **LTC, WTC, HPS**
I/M: Indian Cove Navigation:
 Navigation noodles at Joshua Tree NP for either checkout or practice to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones, prefer by Email to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: PHIL WHEELER.
- Oct | TBD** **LTC, WTC, HPS**
I: Mt Lowe (5603'):
 Beginning Navigation Clinic: 5 mi, 500' gain. One

on one with an instructor, learning/practicing map & compass. Beginners to rusty old timers welcome. Not a check off. Resent no-shows require a \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead. Send large sase early with ck made out to Sierra Club, H&W phones to Ldr: DIANE DUNBAR. Co-Ldr: RICHARD BOARDMAN.

Oct 4 | Sat

LTC

Leadership Training Seminar:

Become a qualified Sierra Club Leader. Registrar: STEVE BOTAN

Nov 15-16 | Sat-Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS

I/M: Indian Cove Navigation:

Nav noodles at Joshua Tree NP for either checkout or practice to satisfy (I/M) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones, prefer by Email to Ldr: HARRY FREIMANIS. Asst: ROBERT MYERS

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. Mailing address is 9741 Reseda Blvd., Unit 46, Northridge, CA 91324. The Echo will also be available as a PDF download at the SPS website and via a link to all SPS members.

Outings Sign-up

Contact info for the ldrs of these trips appears in the main Sierra Club Schedule or, if signing up via our website, click on leaders name and a link will take you to leaders email address. 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, 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). **For all trips, standard or restricted, all participants** on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

The Sierra Sampler by Darrick Danta

Listed below, by region, are the 100 peaks that comprise the Sierra Sampler. While no mountain in the Sierra can be climbed without time, effort, and risk, these peaks represent a sub-set of the full SPS List that are relatively easy to get to, pose less danger than others on the List, are fun to climb and/or hold other qualities, and are drawn from the main areas of the range. The Sampler, which has been approved by the SPS Management Committee, thus provides a good introduction to the Sierra for climbers of varying degrees of experience and ability. Enjoy!

1. SOUTHERN SIERRA-5

Owens Peak
Lamont Peak
Sawtooth Peak (S)
Rockhouse Peak
Sirretta Peak

5. WHITNEY TO WILLIAMSON-4

Mount Young
Mount Hale
Mount Carillon
**MT WILLIAMSON

9. KEARSARGE PASS VICINITY-6

*University Peak
Independence Peak
Mount Gould
Mount Rixford
Mount Bago
Mount Cotter

13. MT GODDARD VICINITY-2

Giraud Peak
**MOUNT GODDARD

17. BEAR CREEK SPIRE AREA-3

Royce Peak
Mount Julius Caesar
Recess Peak

21. MT LYELL AND NORTH-4

Vogelsang Peak
**MOUNT LYELL
Koip Peak
Mount Dana

2. MINERAL KING AND KERN RIVER-4

Kern Peak
Vandever Mountain
Florence Peak
Sawtooth Peak (N)

6. KAWEAHS AND WEST-5

Alta Peak
Mount Silliman
Eagle Scout Peak
Mount Stewart
**MOUNT KAWEAH

10. BAXTER PASS TO TABOOSE PASS-3

Colosseum Mountain
Striped Mountain
Cardinal Mountain

14. NORTH PALIADES-3

Mount Agassiz
Mount Goode
Clouddripper

18. MONO CREEK TO MAMMOTH-5

Silver Peak
*Red Slate Mountain
Mount Stanford (N)
Mount Baldwin
*Mount Morrison

22. TIOGA PASS TO BOND PASS-6

Mount Conness
North Peak
Excelsior Mountain
Dunderberg Peak
**MATTERHORN PK
*Tower Peak

3. OLANCHA TO LANGLEY & WEST-4

** OLANCHA PEAK
Muah Mountain
Cirque Peak
Mount Langley

7. GREAT WESTERN DIVIDE-2

South Guard
** MOUNT BREWER

11. WESTERN MID-SIERRA-5

*Mount Ruskin
Kennedy Mountain
Mount Harrington
*Tehipite Dome
Three Sisters

15. EVOLUTION AREA-3

Mount Thompson
Point Powell
Mount Lamarck

19. RITTER RANGE AND VICINITY-3

**MOUNT RITTER
Banner Peak
San Joaquin Mountain

23. BOND PASS TO LAKE TAHOE-7

Leavitt Peak
Stanislaus Peak
Highland Peak
Round Top
Freel Peak
Pyramid Peak (N)
Mount Tallac

4. CORCORAN TO WHITNEY-5

Mount Mallory
Mount Irvine
**MOUNT WHITNEY
Thor Peak
Lone Pine Peak

8. KINGS KERN DIVIDE-2

*Mount Ericsson
Center Peak

12. SOUTH PALI SADES-4

**SPLIT MOUNTAIN
Birch Mountain
The Thumb
*Middle Palisade

16. HUMPHREYS BASIN AND WEST-4

Four Gables
Mount Tom
*Seven Gables
Mount Senger

20. CLARK RANGE AND VICINITY-4

Merced Peak
Red Peak
Half Dome
Clouds Rest

24. NORTHERN SIERRA-7

Granite Chief
Tinker Knob
Castle Peak
Mount Rose
Mount Lola
Sierra Buttes
Mount Elwell

by Darrick Danta

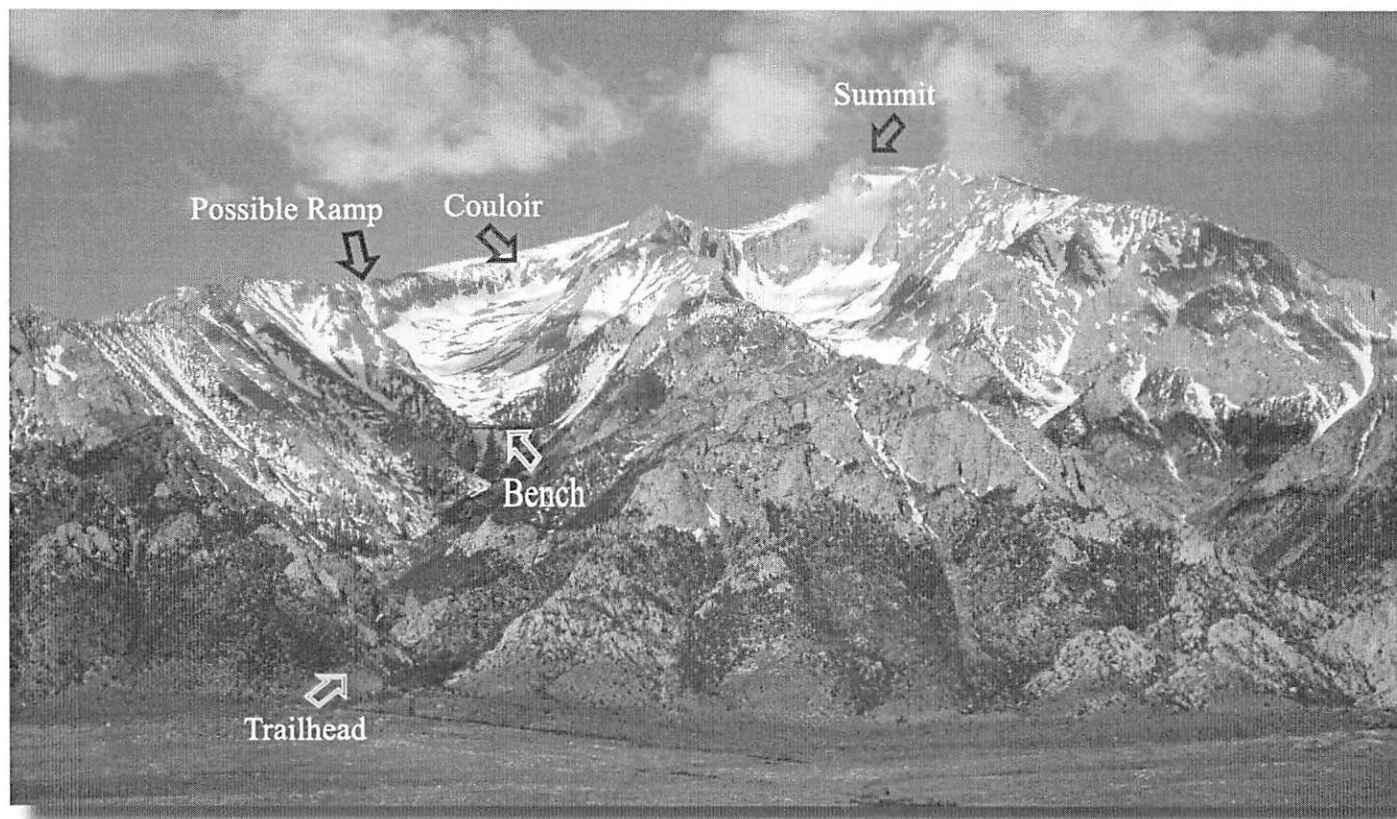
Williamson via South Fork Bairs Creek

As California's second tallest point, Mt. Williamson ranks high on many a peak baggers "to do" list. However, reaching the summit of this peak is complicated not only by the altitude and other mountaineering challenges that must be overcome, . . .

. . . but also by issues of access: the area is open for only a limited time each year, 12/15 to 1/1 and again from 4/15 to 5/15 for eastern approaches; and to 7/15 from the west. Choice of route thus becomes a more important issue than for many other peaks.

Williamson normally is climbed from four approaches: from Shepherd Pass via the Williamson Bowl (route is largely on trail, but involves some

cl 3 rock on the ascent); from George Creek (involves going mostly cross-country followed by a steep slope, but then moderate approach up the SE ridge to the summit); via the North Fork of Bairs Creek (which again involves a lot of cross-country travel, negotiating a rock notch, then ascending a steep couliar); or using the South Fork of Bairs Creek.





All dressed up and someplace to go: Will Duonola, Brian Roche, Dave Gonzalez, Asher Waxman, Tina Bowman

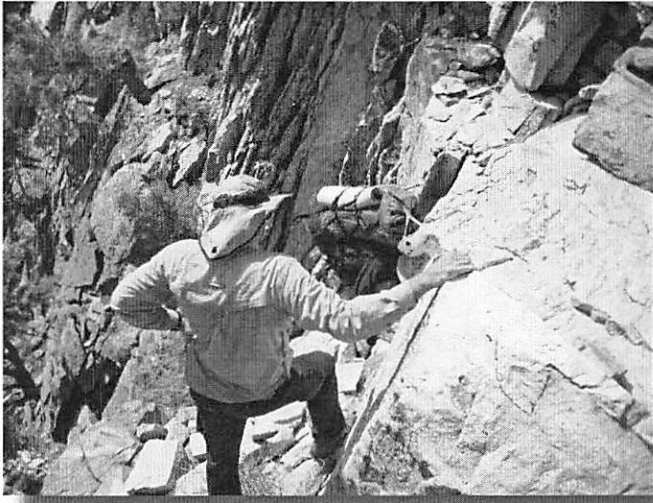
I had been up George Creek once, and did not want to repeat the experience; I also wanted to lead an M provisional snow climb, so dismissed the Shepherd Pass route as this probably would not have enough snow, and the North Fork of Bairs Creek since the couliar is steeper than M. This pretty much narrowed the choices to the South Fork, which had been recommended by a few folks.

So, having lined-up all the necessary approvals and permits, along with the best assistant there is, Tina Bowman, I sorted through an above normal pile of applicants and settled on the group. After scouting much of the way up, pouring over maps and Google images, and otherwise considering every conceivable angle, I concluded that the hike to camp wouldn't be too bad, that the route would go as M, that my ankle would be completely healed from a severe sprain incurred 14 months previously, and

that I would be in fine shape to scale a 14er. Well, I was wrong on all accounts.

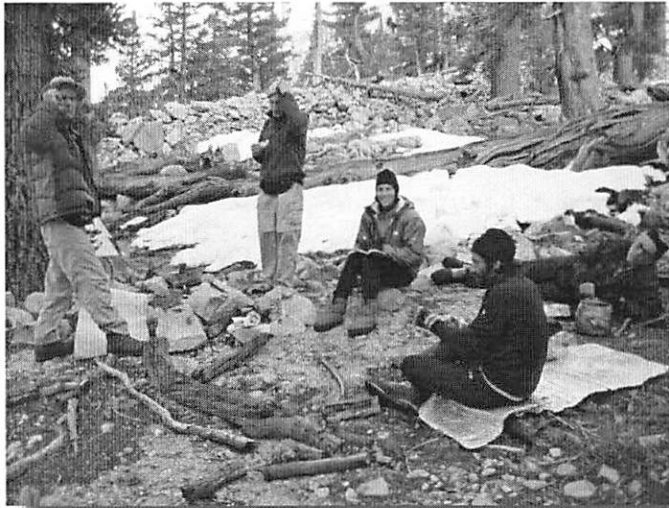
Given the potential problems navigating the road system, I decided to meet in Lone Pine and caravan to the trailhead. One participant withdrew at the last minute, so the remaining six fit into two vehicles for the ride, which goes around Manzanar, then through a few rocky patches, to a nice parking area just south of the Creek.

The first mile goes easily on a fairly good use trail, then you encounter the notch, which involves a short cl 3 section near the top. Afterward, the route becomes progressively indistinct and steep, in several places traversing talus, brush, and side hills. Eventually, we made it to a bench at 9600' that afforded fairly flat, snow free ground for camping; the only problem was the almost complete lack of



*Leader watches Will ascend the cl 3 notch;
photo by Dave Gonzalez*

running water despite gushing streams lower down (after considerable scouting, Brian was able to locate a trickle emerging from what should have been a vigorous stream). We set up tents, enjoyed Happy Hour, then spent a relatively warm and comfortable night.



*Camp
photo by Dave Gonzalez*

Next morning we were up early, and soon crunching our way up the cirque. At about 9:30 we had reached 12000' and could survey all the possible routes up the headwall to the SE ridge. None looked good: the slope was either over 35 degrees, and/or the rock looked over cl 3. At this point I was also



*Morning Climb
photo by Dave Gonzalez*

feeling the effects of too much altitude and too little conditioning, so after conferring with Tina we made the decision to turn back. Will, Dave, and Brian were feeling fit, and wanted to continue; after advising against it, I let them sign out, though augmented their amply gear supply with a radio and short rope. Tina and I waited until the three reached the ridge and could survey the route to the summit before heading back to collect Asher (who opted to stay in camp, having climbed Williamson twice before), pack up, and head out. The three climbers made the summit by early afternoon, and soon were back to the headwall.

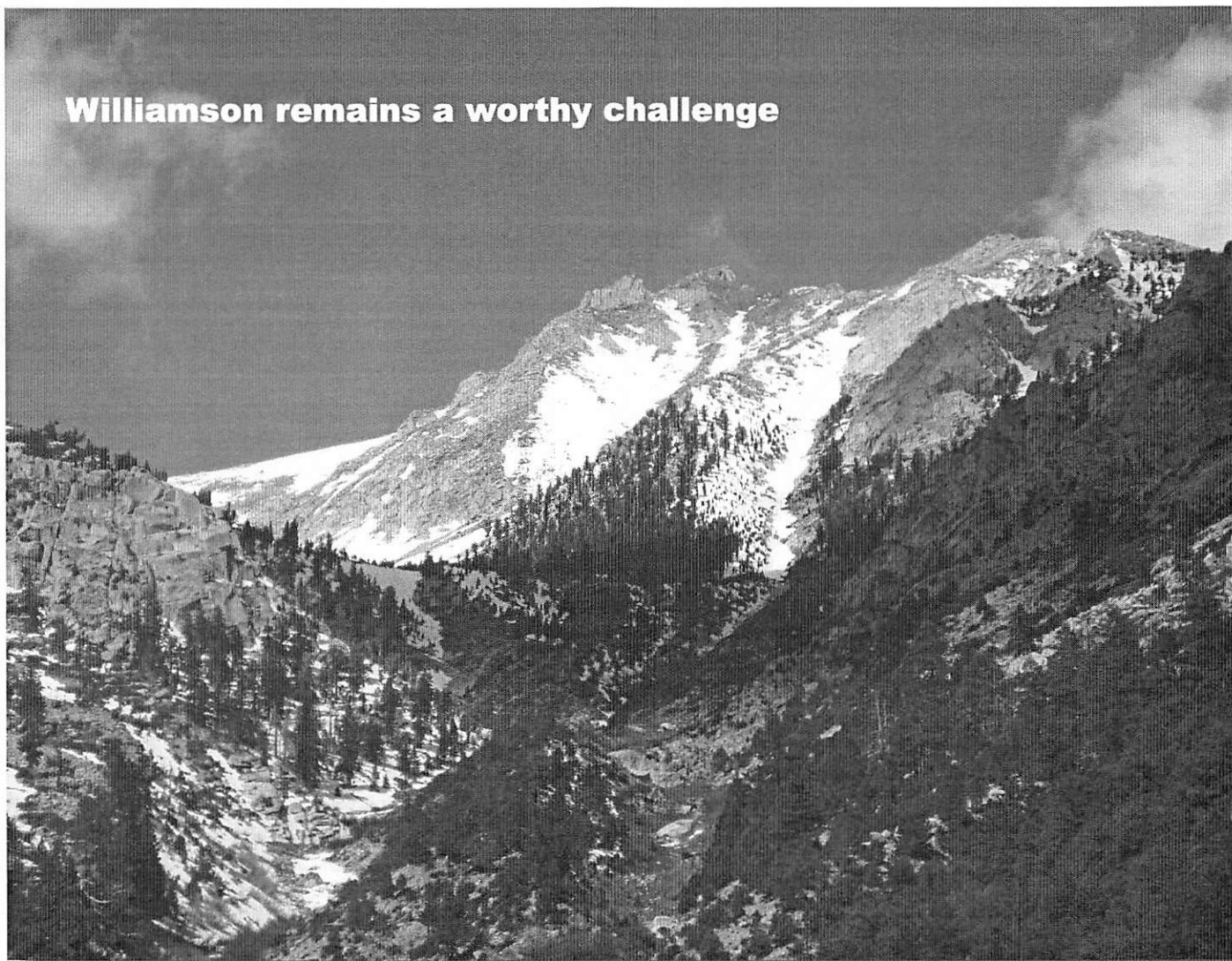


The steeper than expected cirque headwall

On the descent, Will had the very great misfortune to have a refrigerator-size boulder come loose and roll over his foot, severely injuring his ankle. Dave and Brian rushed to his aid, stabilizing his foot with an ice axe, then hauled him down to a protected area. After getting Will as warm and comfortable as possible, Dave rushed back to camp, packed, then somehow hiked out mostly in the dark. Brian also returned to camp, gathered bags, tents, and provisions, then rejoined Will for a long night. Dave was able to contact Search and Rescue and provide them with pin-point coordinates. Helicopter rescue was delayed due to strong winds, but they were able to get to Will around 10 in the morning. Brian and Dave were able to get

out safely with all of Will's gear.

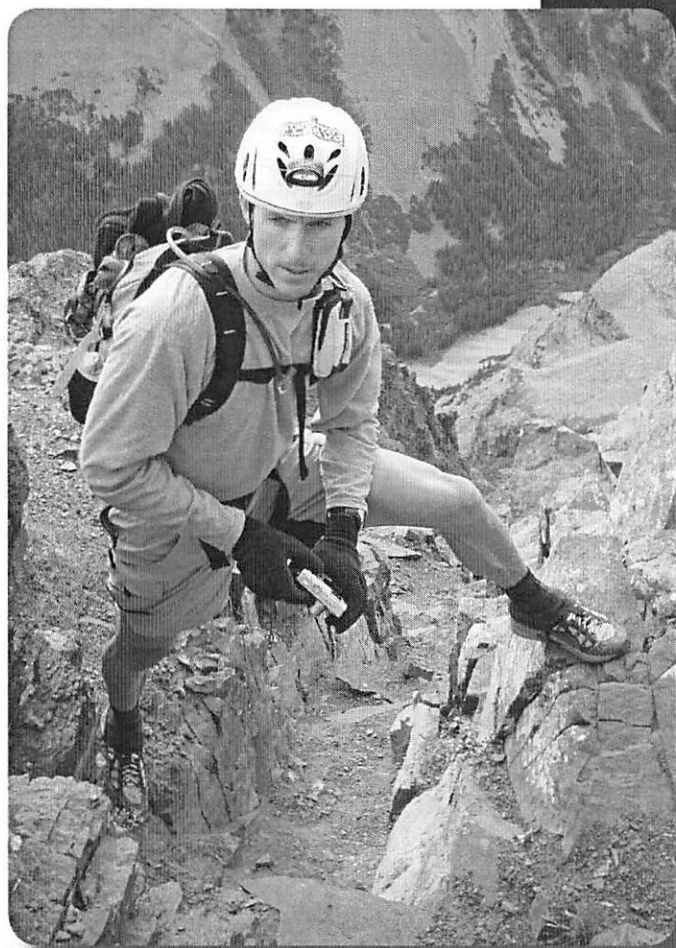
In retrospect, I can't endorse the South Fork of Bairs Creek for climbing Mt. Williamson: the route to camp is steep and brushy in many parts; and in low to moderate snowfall seasons the cirque headwall is above M. Upon viewing my photos from the trip I did notice a ramp that runs to the left of the main cirque, which may provide a good way to the ridge, but may also land in difficult rock. In high snow seasons, or earlier in the season, the headwall would no doubt be easier to negotiate. Just the same, the next time I try Williamson, I'll use the tried-and-true Shepherd Pass route.



The bench at center provides a good camp site.

Listening for Rocks While Ringing the Bells Adventuring High above Colorado

by Bill Oliver



High up the NE Ridge of N. Maroon Pk.

I knew instantly and instinctively that it was a bad sound – the sound of rock breaking free. Or maybe first I heard my partner just above me screaming

“Rock! Rock! Rock!” The sound and the voice were from the same instant – and now I needed to quickly focus on how to avoid being knocked off South Maroon Peak.

The Maroon Bells from Maroon Lake near Aspen is the iconic shot of Colorado – and I knew, even before moving to Colorado, that I had to climb these gnarly 14ers. While still getting settled in C. Springs, my first overnight trip was in early September 2002 - to capture the Bells at sunrise. I actually camped under the Bells in late August '06 on a “Colorado 14er Initiative” work crew weekend. We were part of an extended effort to reroute the trail ascending nearby Pyramid Pk (14,018). However, heavy rain with snow higher up hindered our effort. I was determined to return in '07.

Brett, thirty years my junior, is my best friend and one of my gnarliest adventure partners. We originally connected seven years ago when we were both working at my company in LA. He now lives in Boulder and maintains a heavy calendar of award-winning Adventure Races, meaning he is in super-serious good condition - and gets to carry the rope! Months earlier we had settled on “Ringing

the Bells” over the Labor Day weekend.

As the Maroon Lake TH is less than a couple of miles away, the Bells are most commonly climbed, singly or together, as a very early predawn-start dayhike. Our intent, however, was to climb them more “leisurely” with a very short two-night backpack. And doing it this way would allow us more time to just hang-out and catch-up.

Among mountaineers, the Maroon Bells are more commonly known as the “Deadly Bells.” The unique look of these peaks clearly reveals their sedimentary layers – sediments and not granite. The rock is notoriously loose and great care must be taken on account of it. I was quite bummed to notice the latest death occurring just a week before our trip. A young man from a small Colorado town fell while climbing South Maroon peak alone. I thought, “Gosh, he fell on the easy one!” His small town and young widow were in deep grief. I did not bring up with Brett this most recent fatality til after our climb, but he was fully aware of the peaks’ reputation.

Our backpack commenced in perfect weather from Maroon Lake (9580) about 11:30 Saturday morning, 9/01/07. Only an hour later we established camp in a grove just NW of Crater Lake (10,076). That afternoon I did a recon for the first mile-and-a-half of our intended path, as route-finding is so much easier in daylight than with a headlamp. We hit the sack early.

Maroon Peak (14,156 and commonly called “South” Maroon) is the “official” 14er. North Maroon Pk (14,014) is not counted among “the 54 Colorado 14ers,” as the saddle connecting it with its higher sibling is less than 300 feet deep, a quite arbitrary rule. I would be inclined to think that anyone claiming all the Colorado 14ers but without North Maroon must be some kind of candy-ass. ☺ The easiest route on Maroon Pk is the 3rd class South Ridge; the easiest on North Maroon is the 4th class NE Ridge. [Fourth class means there are decent hand and foot-holds (like 3rd), but very high exposure – so a fall would be very hurtful at a minimum. Many climbers rope up for 4th class; many climbers don’t rope up for 4th class – just depends on how confident/comfortable you are go-

ing unroped. Of course, these ratings can easily go through the roof if you happen to venture off-route!] Most people climb each peak separately, as running the connecting ridge, though only a quarter mile as the crow flies, is seriously gnarly (read low 5th class). That gnarly traverse was our goal: the classic route – subject, of course, to how we felt after first climbing North Maroon and what the weather was then up to.

Our alarm woke us at 3:40 am, as promised, and we were off by 4:30. Especially for technical routes, early starts are SOP for Colorado 14ers in summer, as you want to be on your way down before the typical mid-day thunderstorm rolls in. It was a calm, not too cool, and very starry night – and we were now committed. We were alone, seeing no other headlamps, which surprised me for such great weather on a grand peak over Labor Day weekend – whatever.

The recon paid off, and we made decent time in the dark, even through the slippery willow patches. By 6:00 it was certain that a new day would dawn and at 6:30, on schedule, sunrise arrived, though still hidden by distant ranges. Eventually, we had seen a group of three headlamps well ahead of us, from a party camped much higher than I had met on my recon.

You need to look at the pix of this trip in my online Adventuring Gallery for a more blow-by-blow account of our ascent of the NE Ridge of North Maroon, as well as the entire adventure.

<http://gnarlybill.smugmug.com/gallery/3427949#192131448>

The route-finding, at least in daylight, was generally straight-forward, although there were occasional errant cairns. It was more often hands-in-pockets climbing (except we had poles), but with some significant 3rd class thrown in and not very much 4th. As expected, we never had occasion to pull out our just-in-case 65-foot rope for this segment of the climb. About a half-hour below the summit we passed the three dudes, now descending, who had started ahead of us. The traverse was not on their agenda. Some 14ers are technically much

harder than others, but there are no easy 14ers - unless you're used to living full-time above 14,000 ft. For most mortals, it is a breathe-taking experience – sometimes rewarded with a breathe-taking view. At 9:20, a little under five hours, we achieved both the experience and the view at 14,014. All Right!

The summit was ours alone (with maybe a couple of low-flying angels). The weather had long since gone from a cloudless sky to a cloud-filled sky – not too dark but, for sure, not that all-time great. In a short while the top got a little crowded. Two guys arrived having just completed their traverse from South Maroon; then a guy-gal team finally caught up that had earlier been spotted behind us. More specifically, the latter two consisted of a lady guide and her client. The two guys had not used a rope on their traverse. The client said he was still up for continuing. Brett and I had intended to do the traverse all along, and we saw no decent reason to abort, and doing so would have been positively indecent.

Heidi, about 30 and quite attractive, grew up in Aspen and lives the gnarly life. In our winters she guides on South American peaks. Quickly establishing cordial relations, she didn't mind if we followed her as we all headed south at 9:50. [Hey, she'd done the traverse 3-4 times and it was our first.] She "short-rope" her client, belaying above him on the many short descents and ascents that make up the complex route down to the ridge saddle. Did I fail to mention that, yes, the rock was often rotten and loose. Most trip reports mention doing at least one rapp on this segment, but we only used the rope to lower our packs a couple of times. Being taller, Brett often went first on descent and then could "spot" me. Half-way down Heidi had gotten well ahead of us, but we were still generally in voice contact.

The traverse, unlike the ascent, does not have much in the way of cairns, and one generally just plays-it-by-ear as to which way to go. By the time we got to the saddle, Heidi was already outta-here and we never reconnected. The final ascent up to (South) Maroon Pk is much more straight-forward, just doing your best to pick the most direct, least loose path. Ahead we had seen four guys coming down on their

traverse, and we passed each other mid-way up.

Only a few minutes below our second 14er summit of the day, Brett was about 30-40 feet above me and everything was under control. Of course, it's always possible that things can go from good to bad in a very short time. I'm not sure now whether I first heard the rock breaking loose or Brett screaming "Rock! Rock! Rock!" What the heck, in any event the sound and the voice were only 3-4 nanoseconds apart – and I suddenly forgot how tired I was and became very narrowly focused on the fact that I was in the direct flight plan of a decent-sized and pretty mean-looking rock. Rats!

We were on fairly steep 3rd class terrain, and diving left or right was not an option. Nor was jumping up. That narrowed my choices to boldly standing there and just daring the rock to hit me – or unashamedly ducking in place as low as I possibly could. Guess which I did! For sure, I cursed that my summit pack was too full and probably sticking way out. The rock barely bounded over me, with many smaller rocks rudely knocking on my pack and helmet. But I just pretended I wasn't home and didn't answer.

I waited about eight seconds for everything to release – probably the eight longest seconds of Brett's life. Then I stood up and waved – and life was good again. As we reconnected, Brett said that was the first time he had ever cried in the mountains. [However, later that evening he changed his story, saying only that his eyes had gotten wet – whatever.] I was just glad that he was OK. In reaching across to a "good hold" with his right hand, a large rock suddenly pulled out - and he could not possibly hold it back or deflect it. The boulder bruised his right thigh a little in falling but he was able to hold on with his firm left hand. That evening I asked Brett how he would describe the size of the rock: Breadbox? Refrigerator? He quickly settled on suitcase-sized and that felt about right to me. It's always nice when everyone can agree on these things. ☺

12:12 and 14,156: Maroon Peak was ours alone. All Right! The traverse had taken about 2.5 hours. I

was kinda tired and briefly went prone on my back, having already seen the incomparable view from N. Maroon. Then less than ten minutes later Christin and Brian showed up, arriving via the South Ridge route. A young married couple from the Denver area, they had just achieved their goal for the day – and so had we!

By 12:45 we had taken another round of photos and were ready to descend back to camp – somewhat hastened by the fact that small hail had just briefly pelted us. I had originally thought that we might now reverse course, going back to N. Maroon and then down the way we had come up. (1) That meant following a route pretty familiar to us and also one significantly shorter to camp, and (2) some route descriptions describe the descent of the South Ridge as even worse than its ascent. Without further discussion, however, going back to N. Maroon had inexplicably lost its appeal - and we headed south.

The South Ridge route isn't actually along the ridge top itself, but rather stays on its west side for a very long while before finally crossing a notch to the east side. There are several surprisingly long, and certainly very loose, chutes to navigate. Although there are scattered cairns nominally marking any number of paths, the route-finding can be somewhat perplexing. We had headed off the summit ahead of Christin and Brian, but before very long, we graciously let them take the lead. [Hey, they had just done it and it was a first time for us.]

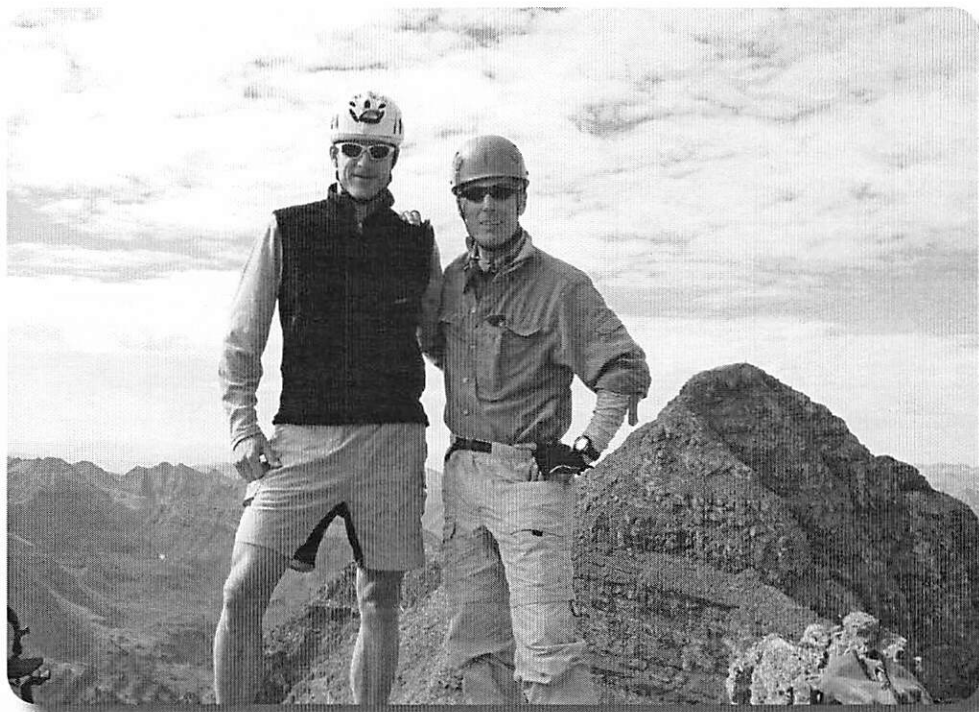
At one point in a steep, loose chute Brett was behind me and Christin ahead. [Yes, we had to move one-at-a-time.] Close to the bottom I became temporarily “stuck” in terms of prospective footholds. Chris-

tin, not having run ahead, offered to take my pack, which I gratefully lowered to her. Not all the angels were low-flying that day!

We finally crossed the South Ridge about 2:50, now facing a long and tedious but pretty straightforward 2500 ft descent down its east slope to W. Maroon Creek, which we reached in about 50 minutes. Our campsite was gleefully reclaimed at 5:30, making for a 13-hr day. Actually, Brett reclaimed it somewhat sooner and had already taken a chilly bath in Crater Lake, which gnarly action I chose not to duplicate.

Our Happy Hour treats were especially tasty. Hmm, we somehow failed to break camp in a pre-dawn start Monday morning. Although our climb was made more challenging by loose rock, it went well and we were rewarded with two grand and gnarly peaks. We were blessed with decent weather and were fortunate to connect twice with companions who knew the way better than we did. It was a grand adventure with a great friend.

Life is good. You be too.



*Summit of N. Maroon with S. Maroon in background
L-R Brett & Bill.*

TRIP REPORT

Lion Rock (12,360')

August 19-21, 2007

by Greg Gerlach

I left Los Angeles at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning for the 250 or so mile drive to the Lodgepole Visitor Center in Sequoia National Park to pick up my permit. I was surprised to see that the daily quota for the Crescent Meadows Trailhead still had openings for 20 more people out of a total of 30 spots. I drove to the Crescent Meadows road end after I picked up the permit and then started hiking up the trail at 2:45 p.m. I had originally planned to hike in only about 6 miles, but decided to push on to Bearpaw Meadows because I still had several hours of daylight left in the day. I arrived at the campground at the meadows at 7:45 p.m., set up camp and ate dinner in the darkness. The campground has piped in water, but the sign says that it must be treated. I read for a little while after dinner, then called

it a night at 10:00 p.m. The next morning I was up at 6:45 a.m. and hiking towards the peak by 7:45 a.m. I walked up the High Sierra Trail, turned left on the Elizabeth Pass Trail, then turned right on the Tamarack Lake Trail. I arrived at Tamarack Lake at 10:45 a.m. and studied the route from the west side of the lake. I decided on my route, then headed around the south side of the lake and proceeded in a generally easterly direction up talus and around and through cliff and brush. From the bowl just below the ridge, I turned north and headed up to the ridge just west of the southern most of the two peaks of Lion Rock. I dropped down to the other side of the ridge and went to the west side of the high point, then scrambled up to the top. The climb was mostly class 2 with class 3 near the top. It took me 3 hours to get to the sum-

mit from the lake. Also, I was only the second person this year to climb Lion Rock and the register was placed in 1958 and is a little more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full. I spent 15 minutes on top, then started down. The 3rd class rock that I originally ascended near the summit looked like class 4 when I went to down climb it, so I had to look for something easier. I went north along the ridge for 50-75', where I found some easier 3rd class. The decent from the top was very tedious, plus I strayed a little too far to the north just about the lake, which took some extra time to correct. In all, it took me 3 hours to descend back to the west side of Tamarack Lake. From there, it was easy trail back to Bearpaw Meadows. I arrived at the meadows at 7:30, ate dinner, read, then called it a night at 9:30 p.m.

The next day I was on the trail at 8:00 and back at the car in Crescent Meadows at 12:30 p.m.

Trip statistics: 32 miles and about 5500 feet of elevation gain.

"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. . ."

- Edward Abbey -



50 Highpoint List Completion

for Vic Henney and Sue Wyman Henney

“. . . Later that same year we climbed Mt. Rainer with a group of friends as part of our training for Denali the following year. . .”

Sue and I met in 1981 while climbing desert peaks in Arizona with a section of the Sierra Club called the Desert Peaks Section, a group that climbs a list of 98 desert peaks throughout the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. We were also both active in the Sierra Club's Sierra Peaks Section (247 peaks) and the Sierra Club's Hundred Peaks Section, a section that climbs peaks over 5000 ft. high in southern California, a list that currently consists of 276 peaks. We've completed each of those lists, the Desert Peaks list 3 times.

Our first highpoint, appropriately enough, was Boundary Peak, a peak on the Desert Peaks list. Boundary Peak represented the attainment of our Desert Peaks Emblem and along with Mt. Montgomery on the same ridge, is one of our favorite desert peak climbs. We have climbed Boundary Peak 4 more times since our original ascent in May, 1982. Later that same year we climbed Mt. Rainer with a group of friends as part of our training for Denali the following year. Denali was by far our hardest highpoint, again climbed with a group of fellow climbers from the Los Angeles area. We spent 25 days on the mountain, a lot of time waiting for breaks in the weather, but what an experience! Sue and I reached the summit at about 5 p.m. on a calm, almost balmy evening, July 10, 1983. It was the warmest part of the day at -15 F. We spent about 20 minutes alone at what seemed like the top of the world before heading back down the long descent to base camp at 17,200 ft.

We only climbed five more peaks in the 1980s: Elbert, Humphreys and Hood. We were quite busy throughout the 80's and the early 90's finishing the local lists noted above. In the 1990's we climbed 9 more highpoints and finished all of the western highpoints. In 2001, thanks to a college reunion in the Midwest and a family reunion in Hawaii, we garnered 6 more highpoints. In 2006 on a visit to family in the east, we climbed Mt. Washington in New Hampshire.

2007 was our big year. Sue took a semester off from teaching and I took four months off from work. Our initial goal was to finish the Colorado 14er list. 54 peaks over fourteen thousand feet. There are at least another 4 that appear on some people's lists, so we did those also. We did the last 15 this summer finishing in early September.

Then we began our quest for the remaining highpoints, all 28 of them. We started in Oklahoma and ended in Texas, all other highpoints being to the east of there. We successfully climbed Guadalupe Peak, completing our 50th highpoint, on October 12th on an absolutely perfect day.

It was a wonderful experience seeing so much of the country and we always made it a point to see as many non-peak points of interest along the way as we could. Sue and I climbed all of the peaks together. We never hired a guide, though we did climb Denali and Rainer with very competent friends.

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



David L. Underwood
6813 Mercedes Ave.
Citrus Heights, CA 95621