

SPS Management Committee THANKS Larry Hoak for his years of service as Webmaster. Larry has stepped down and the task will now be turned over to Ron Hudson.



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

THANK YOU LARRY!!
Your work has been invaluable.

Outings

The Sierra Peaks Section maintains a website at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps>.

Jan 9 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Warren Pt (5103'): Practice navigation for Sunday's checkoff on this 6 mile rt, 1300' gain hike in the pinyon pine and juniper region of western Joshua Tree National Park. We will take a cross-country route to Warren Pt and practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Co-Ldrs: ADRIENNE BENEDICT, ANN PEDRESCHI SHIELDS, JANE SIMPSON

Jan 10 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Warren Pt Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree NP for either checkout or practice to satisfy the Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To participate, send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: HARRY FREIMANIS
Jan 23 - Deadline to sign up for Banquet. See below:

Jan 30 | Sat SPS
ANNUAL BANQUET: Join your friends & make plans for a new year of climbing in the Sierra. PAUL GARRY, accomplished international mountaineer and SPS mem-

ber, will give a presentation of his climb of Cho Oyu, summiting in October of 2008. Coordinator, HENRY ARNEBOLD.

Jan 30 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, HPS
M/E: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Send sase or email with SC#, climbing resume, phone # to Ldr: NILE SORENSON. Co-Ldr: TINA BOWMAN

Feb 13 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, HPS
M/E: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Send sase or email with SC#, climbing resume, phone # to Ldr: NILE SORENSON. Co-Ldr: DOUG MANTLE

Mar 26-28 | Fri-Sun Natural Science, LTC, WTC, DPS, Long Beach

O: Desert Ecology Workshop: Explore important waterways on the borders of Mojave and Colorado Desert during spring wildflower season. Observe birds and other wildlife, flora, and human impact on the desert. Car camp at Whitewater Preserve near Palm Springs, ridge hike Fri, canyon hikes Sat/Sun, potluck Sat, LTC credit available. Send email or sase, phones, conditioning, rideshare, \$30 with SC#/\$35 non-member (Natural Science) to Ldr: SHARON MOORE. Naturalists: SHERRY ROSS, GINNY HERINGER. Assts: MEI KWAN, MARGOT LOWE

Mar 27 | Sat LTC

Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar:

Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC. Register for Apr 10 seminar. Ldr. STEVE BOTAN

Apr 10 | Sat LTC

Leadership Training Seminar:

Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. For info, see LTC p xxx. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is 3/27. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2010.

Apr 11 | Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

E/M: Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff: This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock must be pre-arranged. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable rock climbing experience. Helmet and climbing gear required. Email or send climbing resume, completed medical form (2 copies-include SC# on form), address and phone to: Ldr: RON HUDSON. Co-Ldrs: GREG MASON, PAT MCKUSKY

Apr 17-18 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Indian Cove Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: HARRY FREIMANIS

Apr 24-25 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, DPS

I: Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle in Mojave National Preserve: Join us for our eighth annual

journey through this jewel of the Mojave; preserved under the California Desert Protection Act, as a result of the efforts of Sierra Club activists and others. A basic to intermediate xc navigation dayhike workshop will be conducted out of the Mid Hills area in the pinyon and juniper forests at 5500'. Potluck and social on Sat. Limited to 14 participants. Send email or sase, to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Co-Ldrs: VIRGIL SHIELDS, HARRY FREIMANIS

May 8 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS

I: Beginning Navigation Clinic: Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome, and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead (Sierra Club) to Ldr: DIANE DUNBAR. Co-Ldr: RICHARD BOARDMAN

Apr 24-25 | Sat -Sun LTC, SPS, DPS

M/E: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: NILE SORENSON Co-Ldr: DOUG MANTLE

May 15-16 | Sat-Sun SPS

MR: Crag Peak (9480+) & Smith Mtn (9533)
Sat backpack from Hooker Meadows trailhead to Albanito Meadows (5mi, 1300') and set up camp. Head off west to Smith Mt (4mi RT, 1200'). If time allows, Jackass Peak too. Back to camp for happy hour. Morning start for Crag Peak (7mi RT, 1400') summit with class 3 knife ridge. Restricted trip. Sierra Club membership required. Med form required. Send experience resume via email to Ldr: GREG MASON, co-leader: VIRGIL TALBOTT.

May 21-23 | Fri-Sun LTC, Harwood, WTC

C: Wilderness First Aid Course: Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Fee includes lodging, meals and practice first aid kit. Proof of CPR within previous 4 yrs required to enroll. \$205 with Sierra Club #/\$215 non-member (full refund through 4/16). For application contact Ldr: STEVE SCHUSTER

May 22-23 | Sat -Sun LTC, SPS, DPS

M/E: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M & E

candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others wishing to practice. Restricted to SC members w/ some prior basic training w/ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN Co-ldr: TOM BOWMAN

May 22-23 | Sat-Sun **SPS**
MR: Dunderberg Pk (12,374') Excelisor Mtn (2,446')
Sat. snow climb of Excelisor, 8 mi, 2700' gain. Car camp at Virginia Lakes trailhead Sat eve. Sun: snow climb Dunderberg, 4 mi, 2700' gain. Send sase or email with experience and conditioning, ice axe exp, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: BARBEE TIDBALL. Co-Ldr: LARRY TIDBALL.

May 22-23 | Sat-Sun **WTC, SPS, PVS**
M: Sirretta Peak (9,977') and Taylor Dome (8,802')
Get some introductory M-level climbing in the Domeland Wilderness of the Southern Sierra. Sat backpack from Big Meadow to Sirretta Pass, 2.5 mi, 1700'. We'll pitch tents; then continue 1 mi, 500' gain to Sirretta Peak. Happy hour follows at camp. Sun pack out to cars, drive short distance to TD trailhead, then climb 5 mi rt and 1200' gain to Taylor Dome. Comfort on easy 3rd class required, WTC students welcome. Send esase (preferable – bholchin@cox.net) or 2 sase, recent experience and conditioning, carpool info to Ldr: BARRY HOLCHIN. Co Ldr: ERIC SCHEIDEMANTLE

Jun 5 | Sat **LTC, WTC,HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Heart Bar Pk (8332'): Practice navigation for Sunday's checkoff on this 7 mi rt, 1400' gain hike. We will take a xc route to Heart Bar Pk and practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email or sase, recent conditioning, contact info to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Co-Ldr: **JANE SIMPSON, ADRIENNE BENEDICT, ANN PEDRESCHI**

Jun 6 | Sun **LTC, WTC,HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Grinnell Ridge Navigation: Navigation noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level

navigation requirements. Send email or sase, navigation experience/training, contact info, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: HARRY FREIMANIS

Aug 1 | Sun **LTC, WTC,HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Mt Pinos Navigation: Navigation noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email or sase, navigation experience/training, contact info, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: KIM HOMAN

June 5-6 | Sat-Sun **SPS, WTC**
MR: Mt. McAdie (13,799 ft.): An impressive & beautiful peak on the southern end of the Whitney zone, usually overlooked when heading to Mt. Whitney. Sat, hike up the main Mt. Whitney trail to camp at Consultation Lake (5 mi, 3700ft.). Sun, climb snow & 3rd class rock via Arc Pass & McAdie's east side (2 miles, 2000ft.), pack out. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members with experience on exposed third class rock at altitude. Helmets, ice axe, and crampons required. Send SASE/ESASE with experience, conditioning, climbing resume, medical form, phone, & carpool info to Ldr: JOE SPEIGL Co-Ldr: ANNE MARIE RICHARDSON

Sep 26 | Sun **LTC, WTC,HPS, DPS, SPS**
I: Grinnell Ridge Navigation: Navigation noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email or sase, navigation experience/training, contact info, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Asst: HARRY FREIMANIS

Oct 29–Oct 31 | Fri-Sun **LTC, Harwood Lodge, WTC**
C: Wilderness First Aid Course: Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Fee includes lodging, meals and practice first aid kit. Proof of CPR within previous 4 years required to enroll. Fee \$205 with SC#/\$215 non-member (full refund through Sept 25). For application contact Ldr: STEVE SCHUSTER

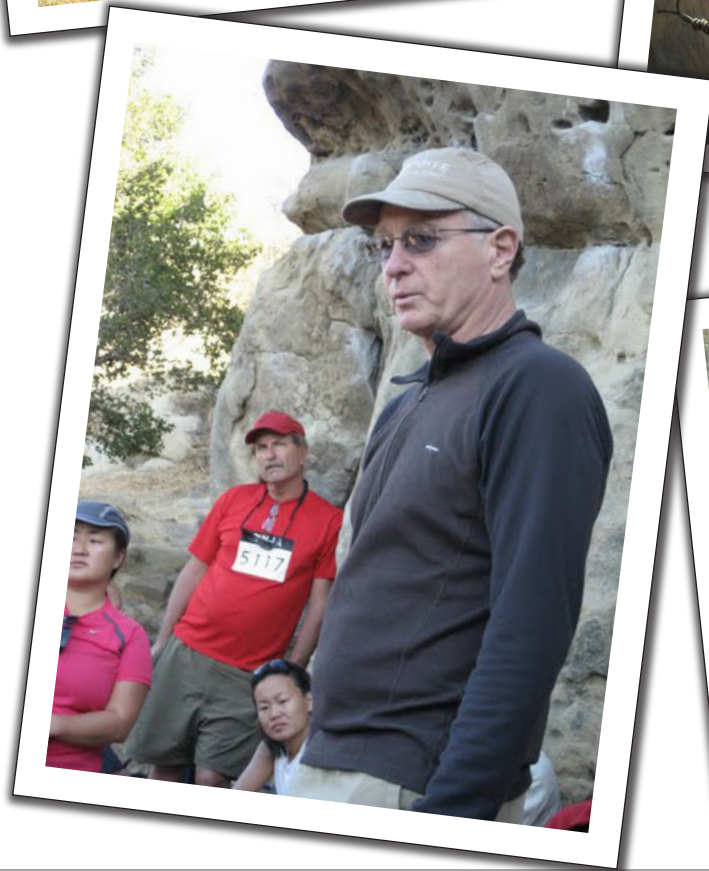
Contact info for the leaders of these trips appears in the main Sierra Club Schedule or, if signing up via our website, click on leaders name and a link will take you to leaders email address. To apply as a participant on an outing, send a SASE (or email if requested), SC member number, experience resume, conditioning routine, home and work phone numbers, email address (if applicable), rideshare information and, **for restricted trips only**, the medical information form. All 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 http://sierraclub.org/outings/national/participantforms/forms_medical.

AMP Advanced Mountaineering Program

Leaders Dan Richter
& Pat McKusky

2009

Stoney Point



Joshua Tree



by Daryn Dodge

Some List Finishing Observations and Statistics

At the start of 2009, I had nine peaks to go when the list finish date was set for July 25th on Cirque Peak. June arrived and still nine peaks to go. I wasn't leaving much room for error. In early June, I ascended Banner and Davis with Steve Eckert in winter-like conditions. We got the two peaks on the one good weather day of our trip. In late June, I did a solo trip to Newcomb, Chamberlin, Guyot, and Hitchcock in perfect, summer-like conditions. My creaky knees were still holding up,

so two weeks before the final peak Louise Wholey joined me for an ascent of Vogelsang, which I then followed up the next day with a solo hike to nearby Mt. Florence. I was now finally ready to finish on Cirque Peak.

Twenty-two climbers met at the Cottonwood Pass trailhead at 7 am on July 25th. It was a wonderful mix of climbers from the So. Cal. SPS and the S. F. Bay Area Loma Prieta Peak Climbing Section. Several of us are members of

both sections. The peak was reached around noon time, and everyone contributed to a potluck of food and drinks on the summit. Most were back at the trailhead by 4 pm. We all then headed for Corrine and Bill Livingston's home in Independence for more food and drinks. Corrine and Bill did an incredible job hosting the after-climb party, and everyone enjoyed the barbecued turkey and beef served up by Corrine and Bill's neighbor, Steve. Thanks Bill, Corrine and Steve!!

The list-finish group on Cirque Peak, July 2009.



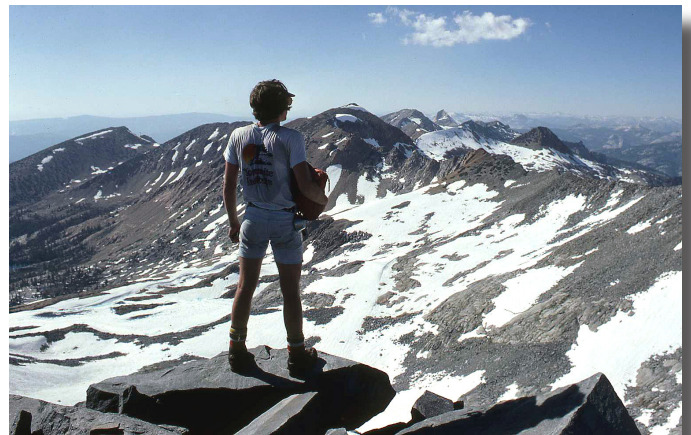
How it all began

*Daryn during climb of
Palisade Crest, August 2007.
Photo by Steve Eckert.*



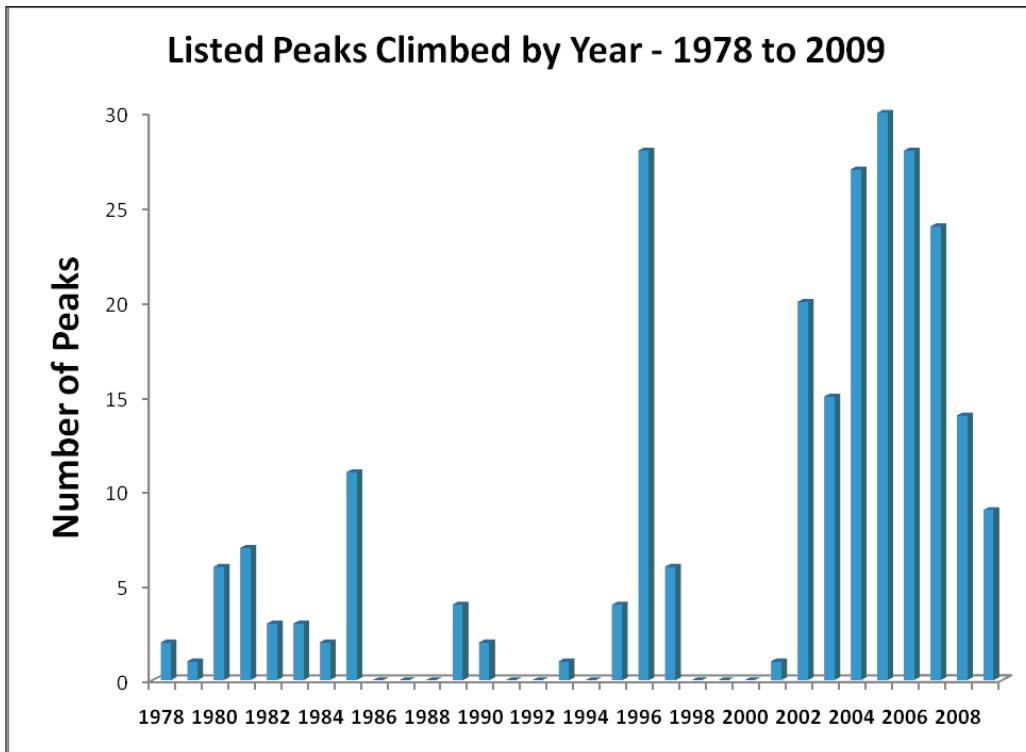
In June 1978, back when I was 18 and quite naive, four of us got together for a week-long backpacking trip in Yosemite. We thought we knew what we were doing, having gone on one overnight trip the year before with some adult chaperones. However, this was the longest most of us had gone without any parental supervision, and I, being the oldest, was supposed to be the responsible one that looked after the others (yeah, right!).

We found flooded trails near the outlet of Tenaya Lake on day 4 necessitating our first significant cross-country hike. Our goal was Cloud's Rest. Considering our map was almost useless (it lacked detail being a map of the entire Park with 200 foot contour lines), we still somehow made it to Cloud's Rest after a full day of whacking through trees and brush, trudging through snow and sliding over scree. But reach the summit we did, and so, climbed my first listed peak. The next evening after climbing Half Dome (List peak #2 for me), we battled black bears through the night after stealing back the last of the food they had just stole from us. But that's a story for another day. Anyway, the outcome of this memorable backpacking trip was that it made me a committed peakbagger.



*An early climb, Daryn on Merced Peak in July 1980.
Photo by Marc Landgraf.*

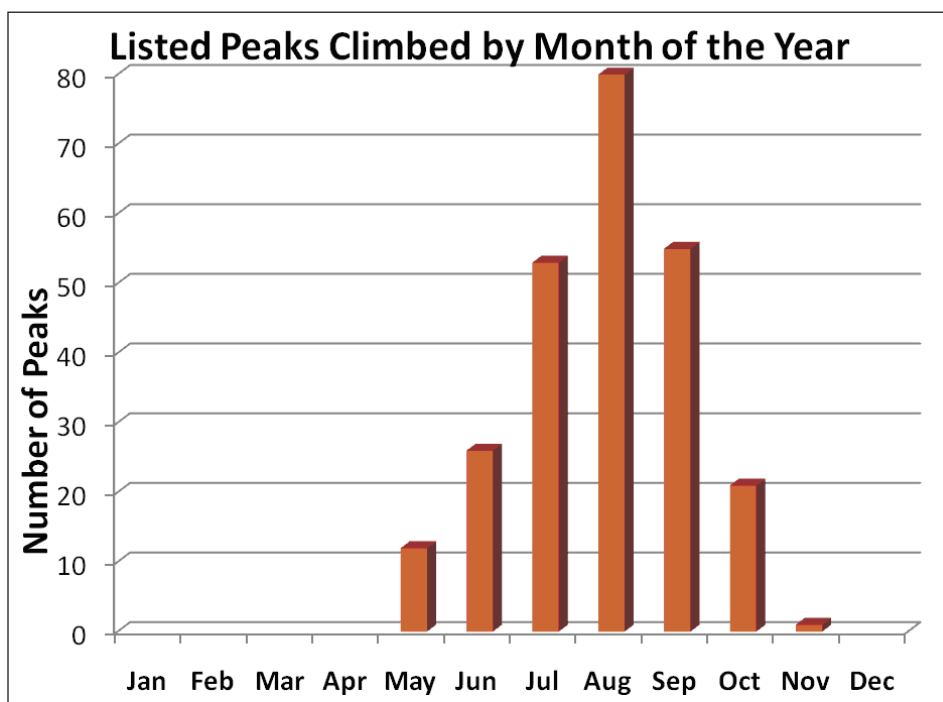
For the next several years, my buddies and I climbed Yosemite peaks both major and minor, including an amazing traverse of all the Clark Range peaks. Below is a graph of the listed peaks I climbed by year. On the graph, the jump in peak baggage in 1985 was a finally realized hike of the John Muir Trail where we climbed a number of peaks along the way. Actually, that trip was a merging of the JMT and Steve Roper High Route, which put us near a number of great peaks that the JMT misses. I had a lull in peak climbing from the late 80's to the mid-90's, which happened when I strayed a little from climbing and got more into bicycle racing.



However, in 1994, I discovered the SPS Peaks List and now had a real focus for my peak climbing goals. A knee problem from 1998-2000 resulted in almost no climbs during that period, but I could still ride my bike. Ultimately, tendons in my knees and ankles gave out from over-training and I had to give up the long-distance cycling for good in 2004. So I focused on climbing the list,

hoping that I could finish it before my legs (primarily the tendons) were finished with climbing too!

The second graph shows the peaks climbed by month of the year. It shows that I'm a blatant summer climber with no climbs from December to April. The single November climb I did was a Nov 3rd climb of Highland peak amid snow drifts on a cold, but sunny day.



Some Personal Stats

Peaks climb solo: 92. Solo climbing was a little scary at first. But I learned to enjoy it by the end. Solo trips left me feeling more in tune with my surroundings, and I liked the ability to set my own pace. But it's not something I want to do all the time! However, I must confess here that most of my solo trips actually consisted of climbing a peak no one else at base camp wanted to climb that day, or were dayhikes.

Peaks dayhiked: 67. My comfort limit for dayhiking peaks is about 16-20 miles round trip. Having said this, my longest dayhike was 27 miles during Bob Burd's Sierra Challenge...a 14-hour ordeal from Silver Lake to Electra Peak and back that left me with an inflamed tendon in my hip. Hence, the need for me to keep most dayhikes under 20 miles.

Peaks climbed on SPS trips: 33. All the SPS trips I've been on were wonderful experiences. I found joining the club was the best way to meet other like-minded climbers in which to occasionally organize private climbing trips. I have met a number of climbers who have become good friends, thanks to the SPS.

The Most Difficult SPS Peaks

The top five - Devil's Crag, Thunderbolt, The Hermit, Palisade Crest, Disappointment - were the most challenging for me. Most other List finishers probably have these peaks in their top 10. I found the summit block of The Hermit to be tougher than the summit block of Thunderbolt. I almost got to the summit of Thunderbolt (east side) without using aid, but I could not even get close to summiting The Hermit without aid from hand loops in a rope. My next five hardest may be different from what other climbers have observed. They are, in order, Mt. Clarence King (again, it's that summit block problem), North Palisade, Mt. Jordan, Clyde Minaret, and Thunder Mtn. Honorable Mentions go to Mt. Darwin (glacier side), Tehipite Dome, and Bear Creek Spire. Norman Clyde Peak and Mt. Starr King are not in the top 10. I've climbed Norman Clyde from the east and the west. The west-side approach is a nice route and goes class 3. Hard to get to the west side, but the

class 3 rating of this route dropped it out of the 10 toughest. Mt. Starr King is relatively easy in rock shoes on the NE route. Feels like class 4 with rock shoes; but more like class 5 with slippery vibram-soled boots.



Summit register on Devil's Crag #1.

Is it hard class 3 or easy class 4?

Evening dinners around the camp stoves often degenerated into long discussions about when does class 2 become class 3, or even better, when does class 3 become class 4. And is class 4 the same as class 5.0? For several peaks, the climb rating discussion was never resolved to everyone's satisfaction. So I choose to look at this timeless issue another way:

Hardest class 1 peak: Mt. Goethe. Never found anything resembling a trail up this peak. Just a bunch of big boulders over relatively steep terrain. And if you approach it via Alpine Col, it is one of the most mind-numbing, exhausting climbs I've ever done. The mass of huge boulders one has to climb over and around to get to Alpine Col wins my award of most tedious pass. Then I aggravated an old Achilles tendon injury descending this pass after climbing Mt. Goethe. Tendon injuries seem to come easy for me.

Hardest class 2 peak: Mt. Stewart. Did I miss an easier way up this peak? The summit pinnacle of Stewart is separated from the rest of the mountain by a sizeable gap. Coming off the summit necessitates jumping across this gap at a very steep angle. My adrenalin was really surging while in mid-air flight jumping the gap.

Hardest class 3 peak: Tehipite Dome (Steve told me there's an easier class 3 route, but I didn't find it) and Mt. Ruskin (east ridge, that crux move was difficult and airy!).

Easiest class 4 peak: Mt. Gardiner. Looks harder than it really is. The knife-edge is quite exposed in spots, but the holds were good. I just never felt that much in danger crossing the ridge to the summit. Maybe I am jaded by having climbed many harder class 4 peaks before finally getting to this one.

Easiest class 4 summit block: Center Peak. Well, I've climbed class 3-rated summit blocks that were harder than the class 4 summit block on Center Peak. Maybe I happen to be just tall enough to reach the hand and foot holds and make it seem easy.

The Shyest SPS Peaks

The second most common topic of conversation around the camp stove that was debated endlessly was whether some SPS peaks were really significant enough to be on the list. Personally, I could find legitimate reasons to keep every peak currently on the list. But some peaks are lesser than others. From my observations, some of the more lesser peaks, from lesser to less lesser, are: Four Gables (I guess the trick here is to find which bump on the ridge has the register), Mt Stanford (N) (more of a angle on a ridge than a real peak, but has a nice view), Black Hawk Mtn (a geologically unique peak on the list, but I couldn't see this low profile peak until I was actually climbing it. And it is in the shadow of nearby higher Relief Peak), Mt. Prater (a blip on the Sierra crest, but that delicate granite bridge near the summit was exciting), and Mt Issac Walton (I mistook nearby Pk 12,222 as Issac Walton, a nice peak that looks List-worthy).

Peaks to add to the list

There are several potential ones that could be added, but there are already plenty of peaks on the SPS list. So I'll name just one neglected peak: Mt Hoffmann in Yosemite.

Third Time's a Charm

It took me three tries to finally bag some peaks on the list. These bad-boy peaks include Mt. Darwin (wrong chute the first time, glacier too icy on second try, went earlier in season on third try and got up the glacier just fine...thanks Beth and Kim!), Colosseum Mtn (too much 4th class first time, too much unconsolidated snow on boulders the second time, finally got smart and climbed it from the west the third time), and would you believe Mt. Goethe (too lazy the first time, too tired the second time, took no for an answer the third time).

Except for a time I was nearly buried in snow on Lone Pine Pk, I can't remember having to revisit a peak because I was chased off it by bad weather. Certainly, there were some ascents dampened by cold, drizzly rain, but with little risk of lightning (climbs of Tunemah and Mt. Rose come to mind). And there were a few ascents in more threatening weather in which safety issues were kind of thrown out the window (a climb up Kern Point amid thunderclouds comes to mind here).

While on the subject of third helpings, I was really excited to get three SPS peaks in-a-day on three occasions. Never got more than three in one day because I was either too tired or not in the right position to climb more. The three in-a-day peaks were: North Guard/Brewer/South Guard from Sphinx Lakes, Corcoran/LeConte/Mallory from Sky Blue Lake, and Newcomb/Chamberlin/Guyot from Guyot Pass.

The Mystery of Andrew Ivan Small

You hike enough in the Sierras and occasionally you run across interesting stuff. Back in 1983 we were hiking down a remote basin north of Mt. Fiske when we spotted a backpack sitting against a boulder. On closer inspection it appeared to have been partially crushed from at least one winter of snow cover. Looking inside it, everything one would expect to find in a backpack was there, except a sleeping bag, insulate pad, and possibly a tent. There was also a wallet in one pocket with two weathered 20 dollar

bills. Inside the wallet was an expired driver's license for Andrew Ivan Small from Southern California. The backpack seems to have been there for several years! We turned the wallet in to the ranger station in Bishop when we finished our trip. Presumably the rangers sent the wallet to the address on the license, but we never found out what had happened to Andrew. To this day I still wonder.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge certain people that made a big impact on my climbing career. I would like to thank Tina Bowman and Doug Mantle for adding me to their SPS climb of Norman Clyde in 1997, even though it would result in my first rappel off a Sierra peak. Thanks Tina and Doug for a wonderful trip and a great memory. I would also like to thank Greg and Mirna Roach for leading an SPS trip to Milestone Basin in 1996, one of my favorite Sierra trips. They included me on the trip even though I was a newbie in the SPS, and it would result to my first roped belay on not one, but two peaks, Thunder and Jordan. I would also like to thank Steve Eckert for many great Sierra climbs and for taking the lead on some of the most challenging peaks, such as Devils Crag and Clyde Minaret. He was always up for climbing a peak I "needed" particularly when it involved a route he had hadn't done yet. This led to some interesting new routes and some of my most memorable climbs. And thanks to Alex Amies for coaxing me up Thunderbolt Peak. Climbing that 5.9 summit block on belay was the scariest ascent for me. I knew I could barely handle 5.5, and here I was trying 5.9!



Climbing buddies on Mt. Norman Clyde, Aug 2009. From l to r, Shane Smith, Lisa Barboza, Samantha Olson, Louise Wholey and Corrine Livingston.

I would also like to acknowledge some great climbing companions that I have joined forces with over the years to reach the goal of finishing the list. They include in no particular order: Scott Sullivan and Elena Sherman, Bill and Corrine Livingston, Lisa Barboza, Samantha Olson, Louise and Jim Wholey, Beth Epstein and Kim Geminez, John Cheslick, John Hooper, Linda and Larry Emerson, Larry and Barbee Tidball, Bob Burd and RJ Secor.



Climbing buddies on Mt. Giraud, Aug 2008. From l to r, Daryn Dodge, Corrine Livingston, John Cheslick, and Scott Sullivan. Photo by Weird Guy we met on the summit wearing torn cloths under leather studded with metal spikes.

In Remembrance

There are two climbers that are no longer with us that I have fond memories of. Patty Rambert was one of those special people who really stood out. She made friends easily and had a large group of climbing buddies from which to plan Sierra trips. We had some wonderful climbing trips and had several more in the works when she died in an accident in 2006.

continued next page



Patty Rambert on Arrow Peak in 2002, with Bob Wyca (center), and Young Guy from India who climbed a lot of Sierra peaks but then his visa ran out (right).

John Bees and I had a great 6-day climbing trip into Center Basin back in 2002. He was in remission from cancer at the time, but was inspiring in his determination even though he was not at full strength. It was to be one of his last long Sierra trips, as he had a recurrence of the cancer not long after the trip and died in 2005.



John Bees on summit of Mt. Keith in 2002.

Now What?

Several climbers have asked what I plan to do now. I enjoy the Sierras too much to stop climbing there, so I'll keep doing that, but definitely not at the pace I had been on for the last 5-10 years. I'll be joining Lisa Barboza and Corrine Livingston on some Sierra climbs as they near the end of the SPS list. I want to climb more peaks in the Western U.S. and perhaps outside the country. I had a wonderful trip to Mt. Gannett in the Wyoming Wind River Range in 2008 with Larry and Linda Emerson and Steve Eckert. Also, I now have that pesky DPS list to work on. Happy trails!



On the summit of North Palisade in 2006. Samantha Olson, Brian Roach, Lisa Barboza.

CONGRATULATIONS
Daryn!!

Mt. Humphreys, August 29, 2009

TRIP REPORT



photo by Tina Bowman

by Tina Bowman

Tina Bowman and Ron Hudson, Leaders

Five of us met for my third time leading Mt. Humphreys as a day hike (I vow it was my last). Fortunately, Ron Hudson agreed to co-lead when Tom McDonnell needed to stay home. My husband, Tom, was listed as a leader, but he was swamped with commitments. Aside from the leaders, we had these participants: Kathy Rich, Augie Medina, and Ted Tassop.

We started as planned just before 6:00 a.m., making our way toward Piute Pass. After three clothing breaks (!), we made it to the pass about 8:30 and took a break that was on the long side, given the day ahead of us. From the pass it was easy going to the highest of the Humphreys lakes, where we took another break before tackling the scree slope and

angling traverse to the notch below the summit (we were on the “normal” route of the southwest slope--all of the scree and loose crud--and northwest face from the notch, the fun part of the climb). We had put on helmets before the scree since so much rock is loose along that part of the route, and we donned harnesses at the notch.

From the notch we had some nice class three into a trough to a wall, where we exited to the right with one awkward move. We belayed one climber over this spot. We went around to the other side of the arête, where there was room for the group to wait while I climbed up the fourth-class pitch (I always get to one spot and forget the move for a bit) and set a belay. The plan was to tie into the middle of the rope so that one end could be retained by those below for easy retrieval. Somehow that plan got lost in the shuffle, so after Augie climbed, I had to throw the rope down, a bit of a challenge with the wind and my tendency to get a rope in a snarl simply by looking at it. Once the rope was down, we needed to flip it over the arête so that it followed the line of the climb. For the next three climbers, the telephering (however it's spelled) system worked fine. From the belay spot it was a straight shot to the summit for the other four—I didn't realize they were taking that way while I was busy belaying. I went around the corner and up the really easy way, which I had everyone take on the way down.



Tina Bowman and Ron Hudson

Ron had brought muffins to share in honor of Kathy's birthday several days earlier; unfortunately, the candle wouldn't stay lit. We enjoyed the outstanding views all around.



Summit from the notch



Kathy Rich and Ron Hudson coming up the third-class portion

Eventually we left the summit, climbing down to the belay spot and then a few feet below to our first rappel anchor, although we could have used the belay anchor. The last time I led the peak, the group did one 165 foot single-strand rappel past all the difficulties and I downclimbed the arête after untying the rope, reversing the route. This time I opted to rappel. We actually did three fairly short rappels down to quite easy going and back to the notch.



The group on top, minus Augie: Ron Hudson, Ted Tassop, Kathy Rich, and Tina Bowman

Because we were being very careful not to dislodge rocks and because sometimes the footing was dirt over rock and other such nasty stuff, going back down the scree was time consuming. Kathy was in the lead at this point till we reached one of the smaller lakes, where we stopped for water and a break. On we went toward the pass and then toward the chutes (more to the left) that are a shortcut to the Piute Pass trail. In the end, we went almost to the pass and down some ledges back to the trail, saving a little bit of distance.

By this point it was about 7:00—oh no! That five miles and a bit more back to the hiker parking area at North Lake was a long trudge. We had some moon-



Augie Medina, Ted Tassop, and Kathy Rich waiting for a rappel

light when we ran out of the last light of dusk, but lower down we were in forest, where the moon was little help. I gave in and turned on my headlamp at 8:35. Ron and I were bringing up the rear at this point. I'm quite slow in the dark, especially on a trail like this one with a lot of steps, rocks, and roots, even with a good headlamp. We were walking along the road, almost back to the parking lot when Kathy appeared to give us a ride back to the cars. Hooray! It was close to 9:40 at this point.



Ron rappeling

For comparison, last time I led the same day hike in August 2003, we started about 6:15 and got back just before 7:00 (the scree portion was better that year since the dirt was soft from recent rain). This first time I led it in early October 1997, we started about 6:30 and got back at 7:30 with a group of nine. This time we paid the price for some rather long breaks and extra time with the three rappels. It would have been better to carry the second fifty-meter rope, which I left in the car, and done one long rappel. Or I could have downclimbed after the others did a single-strand rappel.

My Avocet registered 5095' gain for the day, and I estimated the distance at about seventeen miles, which might be on the short side.

We were weary but happy climbers as we gathered to say our goodbyes and head our separate ways.

The Milestone Nine (Eight Is Enough for some!)

Cal Tech Peak, Mt. Stanford, Ericcson, Jordan, Genevra, Table, Midway, Milestone, Thunder

By Lisa Barboza

Photography by John Cheslick

Abstract: August 7-13. Participants: Corrine Livingston, Bill Livingston, John Cheslick, Shane Smith, Brian Roach, Lisa Barboza

Trip Abstract:

Day 1: TH to Tyndall Creek Camp

Day 2: Tyndall Creek Camp to Caltech Peak, Camp1 below Lake South America

Day 3: Camp1 to Stanford, Ericsson Peaks

Day 4: Camp1 to Dropoff, then Jordan and Genevra peaks, then to Camp 2

Day5: Camp2 to climb Table, Midway, Milestone

Day6: Camp2 to climb Thunder

Day7: Camp2 to TH

Nine Peaks, Seven Days – This was a seven day private trip with friends over Shepherd Pass, into Lake South America, and into some delightful lakes in the headwaters of the Kern River. Our intrepid climbers included John Cheslick, Corrine and Bill Livingston, Lisa & Brian Roach, and Shane Smith. In Yosemite on Thursday, we encountered 30F temperatures and driving snow – and all this in early August – Accordingly, we took along warmer clothing, but the weather turned out to be great! We were favored with near-perfect weather – there were clouds most afternoons, but it only rained (and just a bit) on our Thunder Mountain peak day. Corrine already had climbed Jordan – so Eight was Enough for her!

Friday: This was a mule trip; with a string of 4 mules packing in to Tyndall Creek, about a 15 mile, 6500 gain hike in. After a 4:30 AM wakeup, strong coffee, and oatmeal, we drove down the dusty road to the Symmes Creek corral, and saw the dull glow of a cigarette by the side of the road, hunched in a baseball cap. Cowpoke Darryl introduced himself as our pack driver, we met the mules – Nellie, Max, Calvin and George, and he sorted out our packs while

we drove the last few miles to the Trailhead. The TH was surprisingly crowded with cars – but we all found spots and were hiking by 6:00 AM. It was thankfully chilly (had snowed in Yosemite the day before) – and with only daypacks, the hike up to Shepherd Pass went quickly and was actually fun (in contrast with the usual dreaded hike up the hot, dry, dusty trail, with full packs). For extra fun, we found that the mules were not at all enthusiastic about the pass. In fact, Nellie, the smartest, had to be pulled (have you ever tried to pull a mule over a 12,000 foot pass?), spanked, cajoled, and ‘brute forced by shouting’ over the pass. Seemed that she didn’t like walking through snow on the trail with a significant drop-off. But she did eventually make it, as did the rest of the mules. Around 4:30 PM, daylight found us at the Tyndall Creek bear box for a delightful dinner and Happy hour. There was wine, Indian food, a sautéed veggie dish. We were visited by ranger Laura, who inspected our permit, and happily chatted with us.

Saturday – The mystery of the Cantaloupes- Up at 6:00 AM for a breakfast of oatmeal and coffee – and John ran by exclaiming that our 2 cantaloupes and

his dinners – were missing from the bearbox. – A most unusual event. But we all had plenty of food, and scraped together a set of meals – the rest of our stuff was carted down to town by Cowpoke Darryl and his string of mules. We got going by 7:00 AM and took the turnoff to Lake South America from the JMT. A few hours later, at 9:30 am, we were at the broad pass (12,150) Waypoint CTPASS, which forms the southwest shoulder of Caltech Peak – and we dropped our packs and side hilled, on west side talus, below the ridge to a shallow, scree filled west side chute which was obvious from the pass. This chute leads to the broad plateau of Caltech – and from there, after a false summit, we achieved the first peak of our 9-peak trip. Fine summit views showed us the Whitney complex, a hint of Stanford, and a great view of Junction Peak's chute. We also had a great view of Lake South America (inverse). A quick trip down, and we were at camp- Instead of camping at Lake South America, we camped at a smaller lake (12,002) Waypoint CAMP-1 just below it – less wind, no bugs, better camp spots, and a slightly less chilly lake to swim in – we all jumped in to get clean. The 2nd class chute that RJ climbed on a previous trip didn't look like too much fun – and we were glad we climbed Caltech from the pass.

Sunday – Stanford and Ericsson day – we left camp at 6:30 AM and began the climb to Harrison Puass, past Lake South America. There is a use trail that we followed, as well as switchbacks up the Harrison Pass. But this trail is seldom used. The Kings-Kern Divide is formed by these peaks and passes. North slopes drain to the Kings River; South slopes drain into the Kern.

Mt. Stanford: 13,963; South Ridge route: The highest peak of the nine; from the pass, we climbed the talus slopes to Gregory's Monument, named after Warren Gregory, early Sierra climber. Once on the broad flat plateau of Gregory's Monument, climb almost to the very top of the Monument. Drop, through a small cleft, onto the west side of the monument. Here the fun climbing starts – continue north on an 8 foot wide catwalk, which leads through another cleft, to a chockstone between the monument and the south summit block of Stanford. We carried a 30m

(8.1mm) rope and slings. Some in our party wanted a belay, so I scrambled down the 8 plus feet to the chockstone, and set up a belay (There is a fine and safe horn just above the chockstone). Some wanted a belay to get off of the chockstone as well – (but you can climb it easily with a mantle move between the chockstone and the monument wall). The chockstone is 12 feet high, 4 feet wide, occupies the gap between the monument and Stanford's south summit block.

(On the way back, we set up some webbing which enabled some to forgo a belay on the way back up). From there, you will drop down onto the east side, down a CL3 chimney chute, and then along a 1-4 foot wide narrow exposed ledge, and drop about 100 feet total. At the end of the ledge, there is a steep CL3 class climb up a chute back up to the south ridge, which looks difficult and almost impassable from afar, but goes well. Some wanted a belay. From there, you are on the razor sharp south ridge which leads to a low CL3 class scramble to the Stanford summit block. We reached the summit at 11:00 AM.



Stanford's CL3 chimney

This is a fine peak, with incredible views – and well worth the climb. As RJ says – it is shy, but needs more attention.

Mt. Ericsson: 13,608 East Face – There is an error in Secor’s book. Secor shows the summit being to the left of the right hand chute – it is actually on the right side of the chute. From Gregory’s monument, you will see two very obvious chutes leading to the ridge that forms Ericsson’s summit. The left chute goes to a low point on the ridge – don’t take it. The right hand chute is the best route. Shane, Corrine, and I headed down to Harrison Pass, and climbed the CL2 ridge to the right of the right hand chute. The chute was a good descent route – but not a good climbing route. We climbed up the ridge most of the way to the summit ridge. There are 2 notches in the NE ridge at the top of the right hand chute – we chose the right notch – don’t traverse to the right notch until you are almost at the ridge – the CL3 right notch leads to a chute that drops off the northeast side of the peak. Once through the right hand notch to the west side – you’re in CL2, which leads to a short section of CL3 to the summit. We summited at 2:30 PM. We found it easier to drop back to the east side for the final summit push as the west side summit block has a somewhat daunting slab. Ericsson has fine views, a wonderful register – and our second peak of the day. We descended down the chute, and were back in camp by 5:00 PM for a wonderful, brief, cleansing swim and dinner. Yes, this was a deluxe trip!

Monday – Move Camp, climb Jordan & Geneva. We decided to move camp to a set of lakes in the Kern River headwaters. Looking at the map – we would have to climb an additional 620 feet to get back to camp after climbing both Jordan and Geneva – so an easy decision. Six hundred and twenty feet below our last camp, we dropped our gear by the trail and a small lake at 11,380 feet (waypoint DRPOFF), and off we were to climb Jordan and Geneva.

Mt. Jordan: 13,344 – East Slope CL3 with CL4 Summit block. From our drop-off point, we went cross country across many small granite ridges, into small tarns, and finally found ourselves in the basin leading

to Mt. Jordan. We climbed the slabs to Lake 11,918, only to find it dry and forlorn. (Waypoint DRYLAK) But we had water. Jordan is climbed by going up the scree and talus to the saddle between the north summit and the higher south summit. Once near the saddle (which we found blocked with snow), and you don’t want to go to the saddle, you start an east side climbing traverse on CL3 ledges southwards, around a buttress, from the chute you climbed into a second, and then a third chute. At the top of the third chute, find a wide, sandy ledge that leads to CL3 climbing to the summit of the south peak. At the summit, there is a 5 foot step across a 20 foot deep gap to get to the true summit. I jumped across, scrambled up the CL4 Summit block and set up a belay. But there were already slings set up (by Bob Suzuki’s party, just a week earlier). We easily belayed everyone across the step (which if it were 2 feet above the ground, all would have found it trivial). We summited at 11:30 AM, enjoyed wonderful, exhilarating views, and down climbed back to the sandy ledge to have lunch at 12:15.



Mind the Gap

Mt. Geneva: 13,055 West Ridge ascent, East Face descent. Shane and I were ‘in the mood’ for a second peak. From Lucy’s foot pass, we stayed below the West ridge (CL2) to the summit. We summited at 3:00 PM. We wanted to avoid the PUDs (Pointless Ups and Downs) that we experienced on the way up the valley to Jordan, and decided to descend the East side chute. This chute is close to the peaks NE ridge, and you pass through a notch just east of the summit to get to it. You’ll find an inviting chute,

bordered on the north side (left) with slabs that look inviting but are too steep to friction on – and on the right side, loose sand and rock that requires care with rock fall. But in any event, we were down 1000 feet very quickly, to Millys Foot pass – and then just a two mile saunter through wonderful alpine country, dotted with tarns and meadows, back to our drop-off point to retrieve our pack items. From there, it was a 1.5 hour hike downhill 2.5 miles to our new camp at 10,670; we got there at 6:00 PM. The trail disappears on granite slabs occasionally, but stay close to the higher lake. Our campsite, at 10,670, proved to be a wonderful lake with a sandy beach on its north side, and it was warmer than the lake at 12,000 feet and made for an inviting dip. This campsite Waypoint CAMP-2, and lake is at the junction of the Kern Canyon trail and the trail from the JMT to Milestone Basin, and about 1/3 mile north of the poorly maintained Milestone Creek trail.

Tuesday – Table, Midway, and Milestone. Another early start, 6:30 AM, found us going down the trail and going up the poorly maintained trail up Milestone Creek. We got back to camp at 8:00 PM, in twilight.

Table Mountain: 13,630 Southeast Face. We took the north right hand fork at 3380 meters Waypoint N11089, and followed it up to a lake at 3500 meters, then to a larger lake at 3620 meters (there is some difference in the elevation of this lake), Waypoint LK11920. From here, the broad expanse of the South Face of Table blots out the sky. There is a brownish ledge that ascends from west to east gradually across the south face. You want to get on that ledge, Secor describe a v-shaped notch in the ridge with a small gendarme (very small) to its left - and says to start the climb just beneath this notch. Greg Roach says to take a bearing of 318 from the inlet end of Lake 3620, and to start the climbing from there. We found that by going slightly left of both instructions, we could zigzag up the south face on sandy CL2 and CL3 ledges, with ducks. This route is just to the left of a low 15' high chimney, if you follow the Secor and Roach descriptions. Eventually, you will climb 100 feet above the brown ledge, and gradually drop down 100 feet, below a vertical face, onto it. Follow

the ledge NNE until you get to a large buttress, and short snow chutes.



South face of Table

Here, find a keyhole, about 150 feet below the plateau (13,550), formed by several rocks forming a chockstone up a short chimney. Beware of falling rocks. Together, we passed our packs through the small keyhole, climbed the short chimney – from here, it is a scramble to the summit plateau. Once on the plateau, it's a third of a mile stroll across a pre-glacial landscape – mostly flat, to the cairn at the northeast end of the plateau. We summited at 11:30 AM, lolled on the summit, which is really an incredible place and would make a great dry camp if you could bring up a few extra liters and a sleeping bag. We were the first to summit this year.

On the way back down, in the keyhole, I passed my daypack through the hole – to nobody! It rolled off the sandy ledge below the keyhole, then off the mountain, down a 500 foot cliff – to be found in some future time – as a time capsule of the early 21st century. Oh well – it's just a pack. But, if you find, it, please let me know!

Midway Mountain: 13,666 East Ridge. John and Bill went back to camp (and John kindly lent me his daypack and a platy for water, and some food – poor packless Lisa!). Corrine, Shane and I descended Table Mountain and worked our way south around the moraines – we summited the easy CL2 route at 3:30 PM, then turned around, and went back down to the notch on the east ridge that leads to Milestone.

Milestone Mountain: 13,641 East Side. Shane was ahead of us, bounding across the slabs between Milestone and Midway. We went down the notch, CL2, across the slabs, up a talus slope to the notch just north of the pillar that forms the peak. We crossed over the notch, which went at CL2, down the west side and traversed along the west side on low CL3 to a gully on the SW side of the peak. From here, we could see the route up the summit pinnacle. We climbed 100 feet up the gully and found an easy CL3 route up to the summit. We summited at 5:15 PM. We wished for more time – the summit is surprisingly roomy. But time was running out – we descended quickly, and before we knew it were in the tarns and meadows, filled with lupine and summer wildflowers, on the way back to camp. We returned at 8:00 PM, tired, but happy (and one was quite relieved that we didn't have to go back up that drainage the next day for Milestone) that we had climbed all three peaks in one day. And of course, just in time for another swim!

Wednesday – Thunder Mountain: 13,588 Southeast Talus slope – another early day – but we left at 7:00 AM. We hiked north along the trail, stayed north off-trail at lake 3277, and turned west at the much larger lake 3335 up the un-named drainage SE of Thunder mountain to lake 3750. Thunder is 'way back in there – you have to hike 1 mile west of the large lake just to see fullness of the peak, nestled via a connecting ridge to the northern ramparts of Table Mountain. We went up the Southeast talus slope, staying on the rocky parts to avoid the sandy descent routes. We met Bill Wolverton – on the way down, saying that he couldn't find the route. Our hearts fell – but we kept climbing.

We were able to find the south summit – and once up to it, climbed to the very top of the south summit and over a small cleft that led to the west side of the summit ridge. Then, we dropped down 40 feet immediately on the east side to a small landing that made a good belay station. From here, climb the north side wall of the south summit and find

a small chockstone, about six feet long, that makes for an airy bridge to the middle summit block. You can easily step across it, but some wanted a belay, which I happily provided. From here, after 20 feet of traverse, there is one delicate, exposed CL3 move to a 100 foot long narrow ledge, about 1-2 feet wide, and exposed, which leads to the summit block proper. The summit block itself can be climbed either from the south face where there is a loose chockstone up a jam crack (someone had kindly left a sling-which we used) or up a 10 foot high jam crack up the southwest side. I climbed it first and set up a belay for Shane and Corrine (John had climbed it previously). Before you knew it – we were on the summit – our ninth peak in seven days! We summited at 12:30PM. The way back was uneventful, and I rapped down off the summit block to save time.

Back at the airy bridge, we found none other than Bill Wolverton, who had descended all the way down to Thunder Pass (just east of the peak), watched us find the route, and climbed back in time to see us return. He thanked us for showing him the route (Thanx to all of those who came before us) – and we watched him solo the summit block. After chatting with him for a while, we returned to camp, arriving at 5:15 PM. It rained on the way back, and Brian and Bill reported that it had rained for about 1 hour – but we still went for a long swim to the middle of the lake and our toes were cold – and a hearty dinner, although we spent most of the time in sleeping bags trying to get warm.

Thursday – Hike out day. A leisurely morning led to us leaving camp at 7:30 AM. We left Shane behind; he was going down to climb Picket Guard and Kern Point – and took the trail out of the Kern Canyon, to the JMT, cut cross-country to join the Tyndall Creek trail to Shepherd Pass. The way out of Shepherd Pass was typically hot and dry, and we made it back to the trailhead by 4:30 PM. A fine dinner was prepared at Bill and Corrine's second home in Independence – no injuries, a bunch of happy campers – and were we ever glad that we climbed Milestone.



Summit Party (Corrine, John, Shane)

WAYPOINTS USED:

CALTEP,36.68892,-118.39052, CALTECH PEAK
STANFS,36.70388,-118.39570,NA,STANFORD S MT
ERICSM,36.69718,-118.41439,NA,ERICSSON MT
GENEVM,36.68336,-118.43421,NA,GENEVRA MT
JORDAM,36.68223,-118.44975,NA,JORDAN MT
THNPAS,36.66820,-118.47175,12740,08/17/2009,09:34:15,
THUNDM,36.66896,-118.47577,NA,08/02/2009,17:08:43,THUNDER MTN
TABLEM,36.66054,-118.47371,NA,08/02/2009,17:08:43,TABLE MTN
MIDWAM,36.64321,-118.48356,NA,08/02/2009,17:08:43,MIDWAY MTN
MILEST,36.63452,-118.48433,13519,09/03/2008,14:13:00,
MILESM,36.63452,-118.48436,NA,08/02/2009,17:08:43,MILESTONE MTN
CAMP-1,36.67685,-118.40171,11966,08/02/2009,17:32:59,
CAMP-2,36.64718,-118.43423,10669,08/02/2009,17:33:15,
DRPOFF ,36.67201,-118.41824,11379
LK11920,36.64664,-118.47095,11918
DRYLAK,36.68105,-118.44324,11922
CAMP-1,36.67685,-118.40171,11966
N11089,36.64219,-118.45034,11093,08/02/2009,17:36:31
CTPASS,36.67255,-118.40118,12169,08/26/2009,11:58:27

In the Sierra you can test the limits of human endurance, stare death in the face and overcome primal fears atop knife-edge ridges.

TRIP REPORT

by Ron Campbell



Living the high life at 9,000 feet

From the east shore of Cliff Lake a trail heads northeast to a saddle at 9,900 feet overlooking the Dinkey Lakes. Before reaching the

Or you can eat great food, drink good wine and still make it inside your tent before a torrential downpour.

It was an easy choice for the 10 participants in Decadent Wilderness Weekend VII, aka the Gourmet Backpack.

Our summer 2009 locale was Cliff Lake, five miles by trail from Courtright Reservoir on the west side of the Central Sierra. This region gets little attention from Southern California climbers, although there are several worthy summits. The long hot drive through the San Joaquin Valley, past the fabled scenic delights of Bakersfield, might explain the lack of interest.

We gathered at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the trailhead just north of the Trapper Springs Campground and moseyed up the mountain to Cliff Lake, arriving just in time for lunch. We had planned a Sunday climb of Three Sisters, which is on the SPS list, and Dogtooth Peak. But after taking a long look at the dark clouds, co-leader Ed Cottone and I decided to make a quick dash to Dogtooth.



Ron (in toque, to left of flamingo) presents the table.

saddle we left the trail, veering north-northeast toward Point 10,179 on the map.

Five years ago, when I brought my sons here on a backpack, my younger boy named this hill “Crystal Peak” for the extraordinary profusion of colorful quartzite rocks.

From Crystal Peak it’s an easy hike to the western face of Dogtooth. As the slope gets steeper, you traverse left, up a series of boulders. Near the base of the main peak, duck under a tree and cut right



Dogtooth Peak: The main peak is to the left. The route climbs toward gap near center of photo, then traverses left & up toward trees just below summit.

into a gap separating the true peak from another “tooth.”

The main Dogtooth is an easy class 3 scramble, no more than 60 feet high. But because of the exposure, helmets are a good idea.

We spent little time on top. Clouds covered most of the nearby peaks, though I think I caught a glimpse of Goddard.



Shortcake, pound cake, tarts, fruit compote - sometimes you just have to rough it in the mountains.

*Wagon-Restaurant de Pied-de-Poule**

APPETIZERS & SALADS

Figs with goat cheese and lavender
Bacon-wrapped prunes
Tomato, basil and mozzarella salad
French onion soup gratinée

ENTREES

Sea scallops with wild rice
Fresh brook trout with caramelized onions
Fusili with rice, soy, pesto and smoked albacore
Fettucine with Andouille sausage and fried sage

DESSERTS

Pound cake with plum-raspberry compote and star anise
Short cake with berries and whipped cream
Vanilla custard with fruit compote
Almond pear tarts

* **Dogtooth Diner**

Back in camp, I marked our dining area in the traditional fashion, with a few inflatable pink flamingos to blaze the path between the kitchen area and the dining room. We covered a convenient low boulder with a tablecloth, set up brass candlesticks and began the feast.

Lisa Buckley defended her title as Queen of Appetizers with a stunning presentation of figs with goat cheese and lavender. Angela Zarate offered a salad of tomato, basil and mozzarella. I produced French onion soup gratinee with sourdough croutes and a dash of brandy. Dawn Kovner and Alan Klackner prepared backpacker’s sushi – crab, seaweed and wasabi on sesame crackers.

Then came the entrees.

Jim Montross served sea scallops in olive oil and garlic atop a bed of wild rice with peas, carrots, corn and tomatoes. It was extraordinary. Kwee Thio offered a nice dish of beef with mushrooms. Marcus Thieboux delivered gluten-free fusili with rice, soy and pesto, topped with albacore. Af-



A little fatter, a little slower but vastly better fed, the Gourmet Backpackers depart the Dinkey Lakes Wilderness after Decadent Wilderness Weekend VII.

ter spending a good part of the afternoon at the lakeshore Ed Cottone returned with several trout, which he served with caramelized onions and fresh lemons on the side. I cooked pasta with Andouille sausage and fresh fried sage.

Wine? We had a bit, all of the red persuasion. Lisa brought Twisted Old Vine 2007 Zinfandel, Thio offered Spanish Sangria, Dawn a Menage a Trois Meritage, Ed a Turning Leaf 2004 Pinot Noir, and I a Castoro Cellars 2006 Zin.

Between the gourmet food and the wine, we were in very good spirits by now. But dessert can raise even the highest of spirits.

Fruit starred in our desserts this year. Lisa served pound cake with a plum-raspberry compote and star anise. Dawn cooked vanilla custard with fruit compote. Jim and Angela (mostly Angela) made short cake with fresh berries and whipped cream. And Stephan Gallon contributed some wonderful homemade almond pear tarts.

John Muir is supposed to have said, "It never rains at night in the Sierra."

As we were finishing the last of the dessert by candlelight, it began to rain. At first it was gentle, and we continued talking and cleaning. Then it began to pound down, like an avalanche of liquid rocks. We ran for our tents.

It rained all night, breaking a little after dawn Sunday. Ed and I abandoned our plan to climb Three Sisters, leaving time for a gourmet breakfast.

I served Hangtown Fry, a scramble of eggs, bacon and breaded oysters said to have been the last meal of many a condemned man in Placerville; like the Gold Rush cooks who invented it, I got no complaints. Lisa made French toast, serving it with fresh peaches, honey, syrup and powdered sugar. Ed caught and cooked more trout. Dawn made Beignets, a type of scone.

We trundled down the trail under dark skies and rolled down the mountain road in intermittent rain. But I felt something was missing.

When we reached Shaver Lake, I knew what we needed to finish the trip in proper style. We stopped at the Shaver Lake Deli. They serve ice cream.

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR SIERRA PEAKS SECTION ANGELES CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB BYLAWS

Several Management Committees have proposed changes to our Bylaws over the last several years. After much discussion, review and debate, the 2008 SPS Management Committee revived this endeavor by finalizing and voting to approve these changes last year. The revised Bylaws were presented to the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee for approval, which was granted on July 7, 2009. The 2009 Management Committee has voted to accept the changes as previously approved and to finally present the draft Bylaws to you, the membership, for a chance to vote in favor of or against.

Summary of changes to SPS Bylaws: (1) Language that is now obsolete has been deleted; (2) Language concerning meetings has been revised since regular general meetings are no longer held due to traffic congestion issues. Instead business meetings are held as needed (generally every quarter); (3) Language concerning length of service in elected positions has been revised to allow 5-year terms. It is felt that multi-year tenures are necessary to provide continuity and to make allowances for problems with recruiting candidates.

Ballot to be mailed to all members

BYLAWS - SIERRA PEAKS SECTION SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER

October 2008

[Proposed additions are in **red** and underscored; deletions have strikethrough.]

Bylaw 1: Organization and Membership

Section 1: Organization

1.1. Constitution. This Section is constituted by action of the Executive Committee of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club in accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Bylaws of the Sierra Club. This Section is an integral part of the Sierra Club and of the Angeles Chapter and is governed by their Bylaws; it is not a separate legal entity.

1.2. Name. The name of this Section is the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

1.3. Purposes. The purposes of the Section are to foster among its membership an interest in exploring and preserving the peaks of the Sierra Nevada Range, to develop and expand interest and activity of the Sierra Club membership in the Sierra Nevada; to promote weekend knapsack and other trips and mountain climbs in the Sierra Nevada, and to cultivate close comradeship among hikers and mountaineers; to aid in the conservation and preservation of the wilderness areas of the Sierra, the maintenance of good trails and clean campsites; and the dissemination of the general knowledge concerning the range – while supporting the purpose of the Sierra Club, as stated in its Bylaws.

Section 2: Membership

1.4. Requirements. The members of this Section shall be those members of the Sierra Club in good standing who:

(a) **Subscribe to the Section newsletter**

(b) Climb any six mountains on the Peaks List maintained by the Section. At least two of these peaks shall be climbed on trips scheduled by the Section.

(c) Make application for membership in writing to the Secretary stating peaks climbed, dates, and those climbed with the SPS and giving Sierra Club membership number.

1.4.1. Classes of Membership.

Active members remain in active status by:

(a) Maintaining their membership in the Sierra Club.

(b) Participating in at least one Section activity per calendar year. A qualifying activity is a climb with the Section, presentation of a program, service on a committee, providing refreshments at a meeting, writing an article for the Section newsletter, or an individual special activity when approved by the Management Committee.

(c) Subscribing to the Section newsletter. Subscription fees are due on January 1 of each year and are delinquent on March 31 of each year.

(d) Sending a membership renewal application to the Treasurer or Secretary by March 31 stating the qualifying activity done in the preceding calendar year.

Inactive members are members who, by March 31, did not meet the requirements of 1.4.1. Inactive members may become active in the current year by fulfilling the delinquent requirements and by submitting a membership renewal application to the Treasurer or Secretary stating the requirements fulfilled and giving the last year in which the member was active.

Only active members shall have the right to vote, **be nominated for or** ~~Only active members may~~ hold office.

1.4.2. Honorary Members. Any member of the Sierra Club who has performed outstanding service for the Section may be designated an Honorary Member by majority vote of **the Management Committee and a majority vote** of all ballots cast at ~~an annual business meeting~~ **the annual election**.

1.5. Meetings. **Business, Membership and Special meetings** ~~At least one regular general meeting shall be scheduled each calendar quarter. Special meetings~~ of the Section membership at large may be called, with appropriate notice to the membership stating time, place, and purpose by the Section Management Committee and shall be called with similar notice upon petition to the Section Management Committee signed by fifteen (15) or more members of the Section for a meeting to consider specified subjects. If the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Section are both absent at a ~~general~~ **business, membership or special** meeting, the Secretary, Treasurer or Fifth Officer, in that order shall preside. In the event of the absence of all Management Committee members, the members present shall elect a temporary Chair.

No binding action may be taken at a special meeting of the Section, but resolutions by majority vote may be adopted and addressed to the Management committee of the Section, the Executive Committee of the Angeles Chapter, ~~the Sierra Club Council~~, or the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club. A meeting may also direct the management committee to conduct a referendum (election) by ballot of the entire membership of the section on a specific issue.

1.6. Elections. The membership of the Section shall choose members of the Section Management Committee in an annual election. In addition, special elections or referendums on any subject within the province of the Section may be held either by direction of the Section Management Committee, the Chapter Executive Committee, ~~a general meeting of the Section membership, Sierra Club Council, or Board of Directors,~~ **or a meeting** of the Section membership, and shall be held upon petition to the Section Management Committee signed by five percent (5%) or more of the members of the Section. The direction or petition shall state the issue to be voted upon in proper form for ballot. A quorum for any special election shall be ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Section. A majority vote (more than half the vote) of those voting

is required to establish Section policy. However, if the issue is the removal of an elected member of the Management Committee, a majority vote of at least two-thirds of those voting is required; if a member is so removed, the resulting vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term is to be filled within three months in a special election utilizing the same procedures as for the annual election of members of the Management Committee. Whenever possible, and if a delay of not more than two **additional** months is entailed, special elections should be held in conjunction with the annual election.

Bylaw 2: Management Committee

Section 1: Number and Powers

2.1. Members. Subject to the powers of the members as provided by these Bylaws, the management of the affairs and activities of the Section shall be in the hands of a Management Committee of five (5) members, elected by the members of the Section for a term of one year. Members elected to the Committee shall take office ~~at the close of the last regularly scheduled meeting of the calendar year, if after the election, or, in any event, as of January 1~~ at **the annual banquet/meeting held during December or January**. They shall hold office until their successors have been elected and installed.

2.2. Vacancies. A vacancy in an elected position on the Management Committee shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by vote of the remaining members of the Management Committee, except when the vacancy results from recall in a special election. Preference shall be given to those members who were candidates for the Management Committee at the last annual general election.

2.3. Powers. Only the Management committee or those specifically authorized by it shall act in the name of the Section. The Committee shall have the authority to make rules and regulations for carrying out the procedures established by the Bylaws. If any dispute arises concerning any act of the Section Management Committee, the Chapter Executive Committee shall have the power to determine the procedures to be followed. Actions of the Section must be consistent with the purposes of the Club and the policies and directives of the Angeles Chapter and the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Nominations and Elections

2.4. Election of Management Committee. An election to choose members of the management committee shall be held annually in the fourth quarter of the calendar year, with a closing date for receipt of ballots specified by the Management Committee. The annual election, as well as all special elections, shall be conducted by written ballot mailed to all active members at least three weeks before the closing date of the election, and shall be conducted in such a manner as to insure facility of voting and secrecy of ballot.

2.5. Nominating Committee. A Nominating Committee of at least three active members of the Section shall be appointed not later than three months before the designated closing date of the annual election. No member of the Management Committee may serve on the Nominating Committee. Sufficient opportunity shall be given for Members of the Section to submit names, **including their own**, for consideration by the Nominating Committee. Notice of this **action** and the opportunity to nominate candidates by petition shall be given ~~in a regular general meeting~~ and in the Section newsletter, **Section List Serv and the Section Website**.

2.6. Candidates. The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least two (2) more candidates than the number of members of the Management Committee to be elected, and shall report their names to the Chair of the Management Committee at least four weeks in advance of the scheduled mailing of ballots. Nominees shall be active members of the Section in good standing, who give their consent.

2.6.1. Petition Candidates. The name of any **active** member of the Section proposed in writing by ten (10) members of the Section ~~or by voice vote at the September general meeting (by ten members)~~, and who gives consent, shall also be included on the ballot, provided that the petition is received by the **Chair of the** Management Committee at least ten (10) days in advance of the scheduled mailing of ballots. ~~The Nominating Committee is not precluded from submitting names of its own members as candidates.~~ Notice of the opportunity to nominate candidates by petition shall be given ~~in a regular general meeting and in the~~

Section newsletter, [Section List Serv and the Section Website](#).

2.7. Elections Committee. An Elections committee of at least three members of the Section shall be appointed by the Management Committee prior to the scheduled date of mailing of ballots. No nominees may serve on the Elections Committee. Under the direction of the Election Committee, the Secretary shall cause the ballots to be prepared and mailed as scheduled. The ballot should allow each voter to vote for as many candidates as there are positions to be filled; a voter may not cast more than one vote for any candidate.

2.8. Counting Ballots. The Elections Committee shall determine the validity of ballots. ~~(to be valid~~ The ballot must be prepared by an active member ~~who is active and~~ **be** received prior to the date established by the Management Committee in Section 2.4 above. ~~the regular November meeting~~: [The Elections Committee will](#) count the ballots, and on the closing date of the election, or as soon as practical thereafter and report immediately to the Management Committee. The five candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. Any tie shall be resolved by lot, in the presence of the candidates or their authorized representatives. The Elections Committee shall report the results at [the annual banquet/meeting held during December or January](#). ~~at or by the November regular meeting of members~~. The ballots shall be sealed and retained for at least sixty (60) days, or until their destruction is directed by the Management Committee.

Section 3: Meetings

2.9. Meetings Schedule. The Management Committee shall hold ~~regularly scheduled~~ meetings ~~at least quarterly~~ at times and places it specifies; these times and places should be announced in advance to members of the Section at ~~regular general~~ [membership](#) meetings of the Section and in the Section Newsletter [Section List Serv and the Section Website](#). Special meetings of the Management Committee may be called by the Chair, or any three members of the Committee, but only on at least one week's notice, unless all members waive this notice requirement. Due notice of the special meetings and the scheduling of regular meetings must be given to all members of the Management Committee.

2.10. Open Meetings. All meetings of the Management Committee shall be open to attendance by any member of the Sierra Club in good standing, except that in unusual circumstances, the Committee may convene in private session for discussion of sensitive issues, but shall take no vote except in open session.

2.11. Quorum. A quorum, a majority of the members of the Management Committee in office, is required for the transaction of business. However, an absentee ballot from a member delivered to the Chair in writing or by telephone [or e-mail](#) on a specific issue shall be counted, in the vote and quorum provided that either a full discussion of the issue has occurred at a previous meeting or the arguments pro and con have been included with the call for the meeting. Business of the Management Committee shall normally be conducted at a regular [business](#) meeting.

A quorum of the committee may act without a formal meeting only when quick action is necessary and there is insufficient time to arrange a well-attended special meeting, or if prior authorization to so deal with a specified issue has been given in a meeting, provided in either case that a determined and documented effort has been made to contact all members of the Committee. Any such action must be reported to all members of the Committee and reaffirmed at the next regular meeting of the Committee.

[The Management Committee may act on routine matters, such as approval of trip write-ups for publication, via e-mail communication provided all members approve the action. Any such action must be documented in the minutes of the next Management Committee meeting.](#)

2.12. Temporary Chair. In the absence of the Chair and the Vice Chair the members of the committee present shall elect a temporary Chair from their number.

2.13. Absences. The unexcused absence of a member from three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings of the committee will be considered a resignation if so decided by a vote of at least two-thirds of the remaining members of the Executive Committee.

Bylaw 3: Officers

Section 1: Offices

3.1. Offices. ~~Following the annual election, T~~ the newly-elected Management Committee may meet at any time but not later than **two weeks after the annual banquet/meeting held during December or January** the first regular meeting in January of each year—and shall to elect from its membership the following officers, who shall also be officers of the Section: a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Alternate Officer. Notice of the officers and appointees of the Section shall be provided to the Chapter Executive Committee and the Sierra Club Council or its designees by the end of January.

The officers so elected shall serve until their successors have qualified. **No member shall hold office on the Management Committee for more than five years, consecutive**, ~~No member may hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms of for an unexpired term and one succeeding full term, during a five year period. The duties of the officers shall be those customary for their respective offices. The Management Committee shall designate representatives and alternates to the Angeles Chapter Council and Conservation Committee. The Chair will serve as the alternate to these two Committees unless another member of the Section is appointed. [above merged with para 4.3]~~

Section 2: Duties

3.2. Duties of the Management Committee are:

(a) Chair: The Chair shall preside at the meetings of the Section and of the Management Committee; shall administer these Bylaws; shall call **and provide notice of** meetings of the Section and Management Committee as required; shall make reports on the activities and financial status of the Section as required by the Chapter Executive Committee; and shall, with the advice of the Management committee, appoint committees to plan and carry on the activities of the Section.

(b) Vice-Chair: During the absence or disability of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall act in his place **of the Chair**. ~~The Vice-Chair shall be the Management Committee representative on the Outings Committee plan the mountaineering activity of the Section. These activities shall include but not be restricted to climbs of the qualifying peaks. Including Sierra Peaks not on the qualifying list is encouraged.~~

(c) Secretary: The Secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Section and of the Management Committee; shall have custody of records; ~~shall chair the Membership Committee (recruit and retain members);~~ shall maintain records of active and inactive member's accomplishments including emblem, list completion status and offices held; shall maintain a listing of policies of the Management Committee; and shall have a copy of these bylaws and those of the Angeles Chapter available for inspection at all meetings of the Section and of the Management Committee.; ~~and shall give notice of meetings.~~ **Periodically, the Secretary shall transfer records to the section Archive.**

(d) Treasurer: Under the general supervision of the Management Committee, the Treasurer shall have the custody of the funds, and keep an accurate record thereof; shall make disbursements when authorized to do so by the Management Committee or Chair; shall prepare a financial statement, itemizing receipts, disbursements, and financial position, to be submitted quarterly (or upon request) to the Section Management Committee and the Chapter Executive Committee ~~and in any event at the annual meeting;~~ shall maintain all records for a complete and satisfactory audit and shall collect and disburse all funds for special events. Any officer may collect funds which will then be turned over to the Treasurer. ~~In addition, the Treasurer shall from time to time secure pins and patches as needed to supply the membership.~~

(e) Alternate Officer: The Alternate Officer shall be responsible for ~~arranging for a meeting facility and for programs to be presented at the regular meetings; and also for refreshments, if deemed necessary~~ **tasks as assigned by the Chair**. The Alternate Officer has full voting privileges as a member of the Management Committee.

(f) ~~Council Representative: The immediate Past Chair, if available, shall serve as the representative to the Chapter Council. The Chair shall also be an alternative representative to the Chapter Council.~~

3.3. Changes. The Committee shall have the power to change its officers and to fill a vacancy in any office.

Bylaw 4: Committees

Section 1: Creation

4.1. Creation of Committees. The Management Committee shall appoint standing and special committees for such objectives as it may designate consistent with the purposes of the Club, Chapter and Section. Members of a committee shall be appointed by the Section Chair from among the active members of the Section and be approved by the Management Committee, and shall serve until discharged. Committee Chairs shall be designated by the Section Chair at the time the committee is appointed. The Chair of the Section or another member of the Management Committee shall be an ex-officio member of each Committee (except the Nominating and Elections Committees) with the right to vote. **The titles and functions of the committees the Management Committee may establish from time to time are set out in Section 4.0 of the Policies and Procedures document approved by the Section Management Committee on xx-xx-xxxx. The committees established by the Management Committee may include but are not limited to the following titles: Conservation, Membership, Safety, Outings, Mountain Records, Peaks List, Publications, Archives, Program, Banquet and Merchandise.**

Except for the Nominating and Elections Committees ~~(where it may only fill naturally occurring vacancies),~~ **all committees of the Section serve at the discretion of the Management Committee and** the Chair or Management Committee may at any time add members to a committee, recall or replace any of its members. All the committee's **terms** shall expire with the terms of the office of the Management Committee making the appointment.

Section 2: Reporting

4.2. Reporting. The Chairperson of each committee shall regularly report to or consult with the Section Chair and the Management Committee. Each committee shall submit an annual report to the Management Committee. Each committee (except the Nominating and Elections Committees) shall consult with any corresponding Chapter committees.

Bylaw 5: Finances

Section 1: Sources

5.1. Receiving Funds. The Section may receive funds from the Chapter in a manner specified by the Chapter Executive Committee, but the section itself may not assess or collect dues from its members. The Section may receive contributions directly but, since it is an entity of the Club, its expenditures of such contributions shall be consistent with any policy and instructions of the Board of Directors.

5.2. Fundraising. Consistent with the policies of and limitations specified by the Board of Directors, ~~the Sierra Club Council~~ and the Chapter, the Section may conduct fund-raising and other activities, which require members, as well as others, to pay a fee in order to participate. Sections are not allowed to raise money through direct mail appeals. Voluntary contributions may be accepted, however, to pay for supplies, equipment, decorations, prizes, refreshments, and to meet other incidental expenses.

5.3. Outings. Section outings shall be conducted on an independent financial basis, except insofar as they are used as a net fundraising activity, as authorized by the Management Committee in accord with the Board of Directors and ~~Chapter Council~~ policy. Section funds shall not be available for outings, except insofar as they are derived from outings; however, the Management Committee may authorize the Treasurer to make advances for the purpose of outings.

Section 2: Authority

5.4. Bank Accounts. The Management Committee shall have authority to open bank accounts and to

regulate withdrawals. Bank accounts shall be in the name of the Section, and shall include the words "Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club", and shall be under the jurisdiction and responsibility of the Treasurer of the Section, who shall at least annually report the status of such accounts to the Section Management Committee and the Chapter Treasurer. Access to the account(s) shall be by the Treasurer and the Chair. All Section funds shall be accountable to the Chapter.

5.5. Requirements to Deposit. Unless otherwise specified by the Section Management Committee or Chapter Executive Committee, all monies received by the Section shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the Section. The Management Committee may authorize expenditures by Section entities and may authorize the Treasurer to provide advances.

5.6. Delegation of Authority. The Management Committee may delegate financial authority, subject to these Bylaws and Club Bylaws, to Section committees, but it retains responsibility and control. Any committee must provide regular and satisfactory accounting to the Section Treasurer and the Management Committee.

5.7. Prohibitions. Neither the Section or any entity thereof shall have the authority to borrow money or own real estate.

5.8. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the Section shall coincide with the fiscal year of the Club.

5.9. Books and Reports. The Treasurer shall keep proper books of account, and annually, and at such other times as may be required by the Management Committee or Chair, submit a report of revenues and expenses and the financial position of the Section. The Treasurer shall report to the Executive Committee the financial position of the Section at least once in each quarter.

An annual report of the Treasury shall be submitted to the Management Committee and to the Chapter Treasurer.

Bylaw 6: Construction and Amendment

6.1. Interpretation of Bylaws. All questions as to the construction or interpretation of these Bylaws are first to be referred to the Section Management Committee for decision. Appeals from such a decision may be taken to the Chapter Executive Committee.

All procedures not prescribed by these Bylaws or the Bylaws of the Chapter or Club shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order, revised.

6.2. Amendment. These Bylaws are fundamental and shall not be added to, amended or repealed except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Section Management Committee and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all mail ballots cast in an annual or special election, following or preceded by approval of the Chapter Executive Committee.

In the event that a change in the bylaws of the Club or Chapter results in a conflict with a provision of these bylaws, any conflicting provisions of these bylaws shall be suspended, and the Management Committee shall replace it with a temporary rule until the members have agreed to an appropriate revision in a regular or special election.

In the event that these Bylaws are changed by any method as indicated in paragraph 6.2 above, notification to the membership shall be made in the next issue of the Section Newsletter by the Section Secretary.

HAPPY CLIMBING!

The Sierra Echo

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

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