

The Sierra ECO

Two Photos taken by long time SPS member Tom Ross



*Aerial of Mt. Darwin & Glacier,
Elevation 13,830*

*Winter view of Mt. Humpherys,
December*



VOLUME 54 | NUMBER 3 | JULY - SEPTEMBER 2010



by Kathy Rich

Summer, and prime-time in the Sierra, is fast approaching! At present we have ~20 trips scheduled. Please check the SPS website for the latest list of trips as not all are in the Echo or in the Angeles Chapter Schedule. Sign up early as many trips fill fast. In addition, Dan Richter and Pat McKusky will hold their second AMP (Advanced Mountaineering Program) from September 29-October 6.

Due to quick turnaround, trip announcements can be submitted to the Outings Chairs, Barbee and Larry Tidball, at any time for publication on the website or in the Echo. Generally for I and M rated trips, they suggest sending the trip announcement at least 2 weeks before the planned event. For MR and ER trips please allow 3-4 weeks minimum before the trip date because of MOC approvals. Note that the deadline for the November-February Schedule of Activities is

July 10th. The Outings Chairs would appreciate having any trip announcements at least several days before the deadline. As always, thanks for leading for the SPS.

On May 8th, a special snow skills workshop led by Kurt Wedburg of SMI was held in Onion Valley for M-level climbers. The event was sponsored by Angeles Chapter with the intention of enriching the techniques taught at the regular snow practices. In addition to the snow skills chair, Nile Sorensen, and Tina Bowman, examiner, about 20 eager climbers attended. A full day of practice and instruction focused mainly on techniques for rope travel, including short-rope for traversing on steep snow slopes, and setting up snow anchors and belays. An excellent day was had by all.

We have some sad news to report just as we are going to press: John Fischer was killed on Saturday, June 5th in a fatal motorcycle accident on Highway 395 near Conway Summit. He apparently struck a deer early this morning on his way to meet long-time friends Dan Richter and Asher Waxman at Virginia Lakes trailhead. They had seen him the evening before in Bishop and had planned to climb Excelsior Mountain together. John was a fixture on the east side, and operated one of the first guide services in this area, Palisades School of Mountaineering. John possessed a wealth of information on the backcountry, and a willing mentor to many. His mark on the eastern Sierra will be long remembered.

This has been an above-average snow year, so please check current conditions before venturing in to the Sierra. Climb safe!

Submitted by Tom Ross

Taken from The Sheet News of the Eastern Sierra | Saturday, April 10, 2010

Mammoth Mountain Extends Season

Mammoth Mountain will extend its operations for daily skiing and riding to July 4, 201.

MMSA has received over 41 feet (493 inches) of snowfall this season including more than three feet of snow in the first week of April. With a current base depth of 11 feet to 15 feet of snow, Mammoth is experiencing the best snowfall season since the record breaking 2005/06 season , when over 50 feet of snow fell on the mountain.

This will mark the 11th time that Mammoth Mountain has been open for skiing and riding on the Fourth of July within the last 31 years of operation.

“We have the best April snow conditions I’ve seen in my 32 years on the mountain,” said CEO Rusty Gregory. “With as much snow as we have, our customers would riot if we closed down as early as the other ski resorts. Keeping the mountain open until July 4 is what ‘Playing Big’ is all about.”

SPS List Serve

You can find the information you need as a subscriber by checking out our listserv support site. Go to this address to enroll for the SPS E-mail list service: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/listserver.htm>.

MEETING INFORMATION

The SPS Management Committee will hold meetings every quarter at a location to be determined. Please contact SPS Chair Kathy Rich at kathrynrich@gmail.com for meeting times, date and place.

*Submitted by Mary Mac,
aka Baby Girl*

Several SPS Members Honored

Angeles Chapter Banquet -- May 2, 2010

Kathy Rich, Outings Award; Mary McMannes, Outings Award; Ron Hudson-Chester Versteeg Award. Dan Richter and Tina Bowman are Chester Versteeg Awards from previous years. Larry Hoak too, won an Outings award. Ron Silverman is with Kathy as she gets her award.

And a good time was had by all!



Larry Hoak



*Tom Bowman, Kathy Rich, Dan Richter,
Tina Bowman & Mary Mac*



Ron Silverman & Kathy Rich



Kathy Rich & Ron Hudson



Ron Hudson



Mary Mac and Tina Bowman

REGARDING E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

Please contact this email address (newsletter@sierrapeaks.org) for any issues with hardcopy or email version distribution.

SPS Treasurer's Report 1st Quarter 03/31/2010

Checking Account

Income

Echo-----2,025.00
Banquet-----1,855.00
Patches & Pins-----17.00
Peak List-----1.00
 \$3,898.00

Expenditures

Banquet-----1,392.29
Banquet Program-----250.00
Banquet Raffle-----100.00
Banquet Postage-----1.22
Banquet Beverage-----34.94
Banquet Printing-----11.59
Postage-----268.32
Printing-----364.54
 \$2,422.90

Balance on 12/31/09-----2,845.51
Income-----3,898.00
 6,743.51
Expenditures-----2,422.90
 \$4,320.61

Savings Account

Balance on 12/31/09-----4,978.36
January interest-----2.12
February interest-----1.91
March interest-----2.11
 \$4984.50

Banquet Report

Income

Ticket sales-----\$1,855.00

Expenditures

Deposit-----200.00
Resturant-----1,392.29
Program-----250.00
Raffle-----100.00
Postage-----1.22
Beverage-----34.94
Printing-----11.59
 \$1,990.04

1,990.04
-1,855.00

\$135.04 Loss

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

Management Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 15th, 2010, at the home of Kathy Rich

Call to order. 7:15 pm. Members present - Kathy Rich, Alexander Smirnoff, Mary Jo Dungfelder.
Guests - Dan Richter, Gary Schenk

1. Chair's report – Kathy reported that a letter was received from Dean Wallraff (Angeles Chapter Legal Committee) requesting donation of \$1000 from each section. The Committee felt that SPS would be willing to help, but we have only a limited budget. We might consider donating \$250, but first would like to know what National is doing about this issue.
2. Treasurer's Report – Henry Arnebold submitted the 4th Quarter report via email. (Q: regarding interest?)
3. Echo Report – the next Echo is ready to go to the printers, will be ready to send out ~March 20th.
4. Archivist Report – Dan Richter requested to improve the resolution of the SPS logo. Maybe we have an old file somewhere? Suggested getting help from a member who's a graphic artist. Dan also gave an update on the UCLA Special Collection—plans to name the collection the “Bill T Russell Climbing Archives”. The recently donated Sanborn collection of 450 photos would be a subset of this.
5. New Business:
 - Patty Kline requested permission to order new patches and past chair pins--approved
 - Discussion of revision of Policies & Procedures (Section 5.3) to streamline trip approval process. The Committee approved the suggested revision of the Policies & Procedures which allows the Outings Chair to approve trips without having to go through the Management Committee. (This is how DPS and WTC handle trip approvals).
 - Angeles Chapter Banquet on May 2nd—Ron Hudson to receive Chester Versteeg award.
 - Special LTC snow training session for M-level leaders will be held by SMI on May 8th.
 - A second ‘AMP’ course is scheduled for the Fall, 2010—Dan Richter and Pat McKuskey, leaders.
6. Old Business
 - SPS Committee web email and document site update (Greg Mason)-tabled for next meeting
 - Updating of membership form and database to include leader rating (Henry Arnebold, Greg Mason)
 - SPS Bylaws revision – was approved by membership in Dec, 2009 (50 votes to 1)

Adjournment: 8:40pm

John Fischer - May He Rest In Peace

Submitted by Wynne Benti
June 5, 2010

This afternoon I received a phone call from friend Dan Richter who told me that John Fischer had been killed when he hit a deer while riding his new Kawasaki Concourse up the final sweeping curve on Conway Summit, on his way to meet Dan and Asher for a climb of Excelsior Peak. I don't have Dan's email so will send this to him via Facebook. I never met John's significant other, Sean, but I hope she is doing okay.

In 2007, I sat down with John and convinced him to write a few words about his life because there was really nothing down on paper except what Andy Selters was able to glean and record in his book "Ways to the Sky." I have made up a web page that is what John told me in May of 2007. He also gave me copies of a photo of himself (on the site) and let me scan the original map he used for his famous climb of the Palisade Crest. Hopefully, I've eradicated most of the typos.

John got me into motorcycle riding and that story was recapped in an article I wrote for Roadrunner Motorcycle Magazine - - he's the person with the VStrom that took me on my first ride from Bishop to Glacier Lodge.



Photo by Wynne Benti - This was the first time in many years that John had hiked up his old Palisade School of Mountaineering Base Camp, which is where this picture was taken from. It was a very emotional day for him. It shows his famous route, from Southfork Pass to Mt. Agassiz route across the Palisade Crest, written up in the AAC Journal.

He was intelligent, funny and very independent, and he died doing what he loved the most, riding his motorcycle to meet friends to climb Excelsior Peak in his favorite place in all the world, with a person in his life, Sean, that he loved. It doesn't get much better than that.

<http://www.spotteddogpress.com/fischer.html>

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

FROM THE EDITOR

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 opting for this method.



Leadership Training Committee 2010 Schedule of Activities

Leadership Training Program Seminar

Oct 2 Fall LTC Seminar - Location TBD

Steve Botan

Wilderness First Aid <http://wildernessfirstaidcourse.org>

Oct 29-31



Steve Schuster

Navigation Practices and Checkouts

Jun 5-6 I/M/E Grinnell Ridge Navigation Checkoff/Practice
Aug 1 I/M/E Mt Pinos Navigation Checkoff/Practice
Sep 26 I/M/E Grinnell Ridge Navigation Checkoff/Practice

Robert Myers
Robert Myers
Robert Myers

Rock Practices and Checkouts

Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP) for practice only - not a check off

Sep 29 M/E AMP - Basic Safety Systems D. Richter
Oct 2 M/E AMP - Belaying D. Richter
Oct 9 M/E AMP - Rappelling D. Richter
Oct 16-17 M/E AMP - Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors D. Richter

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

Snow Practices and Checkouts

Snow travel, avalanche, and related training - Kurt Wedberg's Sierra Mountaineering International
(This is not a Sierra Club activity, but can prepare candidates for snow checkoffs.)
<http://sierramountaineering.com>

Environmental Awareness

Look at the Chapter's Schedule of Activities for outings sponsored by the Natural Science and check out the LTC website which has a calendar of events & info about trainings not offered by the Sierra Club: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>

More Training Opportunities



AMP2

Advanced Mountaineering Program

Rock climbing skills

2010 certificate course

Sep 29

Wed

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Basic Safety System

First of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening workshop of 4 hours reviewing ropes, knots, harnesses, helmets, and basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. Based on Ch. 9 of *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

Oct 2

Sat

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Belaying

2nd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on belaying and principles of anchor building. Based on Ch. 10 of *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

Oct 9

Sat

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Rappelling

3rd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. Based on Ch. 11 of *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

Oct 16-17

Sat - Sun

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors

4th of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. Based on Chaps. 12 & 13 of *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

George M. Wysup has passed away at the age of 73

Taken from the local Pullman, Washington newspaper

He was diagnosed with cancer March 10, 2010. The cancer took his life on the morning of April 21, 2010, at his Pullman home. His wife Angie and son Michael will miss him very much. He will be watching over his daughter-in-law Shelley and his four grandchildren Chandler, Taylor, Hayden and Lily. Recently, George and Angie moved to Pullman, Washington to be with their son and his family.



A memorial hike is scheduled for Sunday, July 18th.

I: Wysup Peak (8990') Rendezvous Hikes: Join us as we celebrate the life of George Wysup with three HPS exploratory trips to Peak 8990' in the San Bernardino Mountains. Choose among three routes, two on PCT and one cross country. Bring 4 quarts water, 10 essentials, food item to share on the summit and stories of George. Possible potluck afterwards. For info sase/esase to Coordinator: GARY SCHENK

Via Heart Bar Ridge: Moderately strenuous 8 miles round trip, 2300' gain, fire road and cross country via a beautiful ridge. Leaders: GREG DE HOOGH, SANDY SPERLING, MEI KWAN, ASHER WAXMAN, DAN RICHTER, WAYNE VOLLAIRE, JOE YOUNG, MARLEN MERTZ, BILL SIMPSON, TED LUBESHKOFF

Via PCT from Hwy 38: Moderate 4 miles round trip, 900' gain on PCT with some cross country. Leaders: JENNIFER WASHINGTON, JIM FLEMING, WINNETTE BUTLER, LILLY FUKUI, CHRIS SPISAK, INGEBORG PROCHAZKA, MARS BONFIRE, KATHY CHEEVER-BONFIRE, DAVID EISENBERG

Via PCT from Coon Creek Jumpoff: Moderate 4 miles round trip, 1200' gain on PCT with some cross country. Leaders: GARY SCHENK, MARY McMANNES, PAMELA ROWE, MELODY ANDERSON, MARKEY NEIGHBORS, ROBERT NEIGHBORS, TINA BOWMAN

New Book of Interest

Hiking Nevada's County High Points

by Bob Sumner

For Immediate Release:

New guide book ***Hiking Nevada's County High Points*** describes the adventure, beauty and solitude found on Nevada's highest county summits while also illuminating some of the state's lesser known wild places.

In his new book, ***Hiking Nevada's County High Points***, (published by Spotted Dog Press, April 2010), Central Nevada resident and author, Bob Sumner, has put his life-long love of the desert into this historic adventure guidebook. Sumner shares his favorite scenic hikes to the highest mountain summits in each of Nevada's 16 counties – Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe, White Pine -- and the state capital, Carson City.

Many readers will recognize the familiar summits of Charleston Peak near Las Vegas and Mount Rose above Reno; however, ***Hiking Nevada's County High Points*** goes far beyond the known. Into the most remote depths of Nevada's rural counties, Sumner's routes cross the Great Basin where mountain ranges seem to float like earthen islands above the desert valleys, to the beautiful world of Nevada's wilderness, remote and seldom visited, the big sky country of sagebrush and pine.

Hiking Nevada's County High Points trails meander through bristlecone pines, the oldest trees on the planet, to the summits of Boundary Peak (Nevada's highest) and Wheeler Peak in Great Basin National Park to the historic overlook of Mount Davidson above Virginia City; along alpine lakes and cliffs to Ruby Dome; past herds of pronghorn antelope to Mount Jefferson in Nye County; around the old Pony Express trail in pursuit of Desatoya, Churchill County's high point.

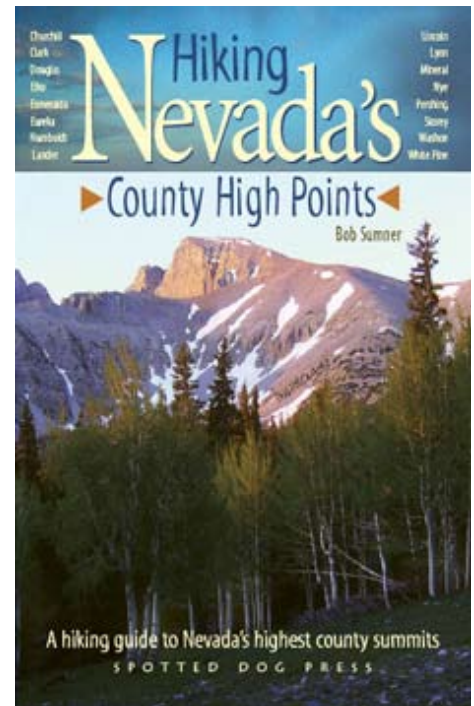
Hiking Nevada's County High Points is a comprehensive driving and hiking guide to the summits of Nevada's 16 counties and Carson City. Author Sumner describes each backcountry adventure in abundant detail with chapters that include:

- Driving and route instructions
- Camping and lodging locations
- A "bonus" peak which can be combined with the county high point
- A side trip to a nearby point of interest
- Historic background for each high point

Outdoor enthusiasts from all over the country will appreciate the journeys contained in this "must have" guide to the state's diverse and challenging high points. Alpinesque scenery, towering limber pines, lush riparian canyons, wind-sculpted rock walls, and hundred mile vistas are here for the exploring in ***Hiking Nevada's County High Points***.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Central Nevada resident and ***Hiking Nevada's County High Points*** author, Bob Sumner, has been hiking and climbing throughout the West for more than 25 years and has summited more than 1400 peaks. Editor of the venerable Desert Peaks newsletter, *The Desert Sage*, Sumner has contributed hiking articles for various publications. On any given weekend, Bob can be found exploring the most remote regions of the Silver State.

To order your copy now, please visit: http://spotteddogpress.com/shopsite_sc/index.html



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF . . .

The Sierra is known as the *Range of Light*, but how does the light range at a place over a day? To find out, I set my tripod near the trail looking south toward Muir Pass with part of Evolution Lake in the foreground and recorded images over a 24 hour period in August, 2000. On this day, sunrise was just after 6:00, with sunset just before 8:00; moonrise was around



Pre-dawn



Sunrise



Early morning



Late morning



Midday



Early afternoon

EVOLUTION VALLEY

1:00 pm and moonset just past midnight. The peaks in the photos are unnamed, though The Hermit is just out of frame to the right and Mt. Spenser out of frame to the left. As these photos show, there is more than one way to explore this magnificent area...you can take time to smell the flowers, or even spend a day and watch the light play! Darrick Danta.



Late afternoon



Early evening



Sunset



By moonlight



Late evening 20 minute exposure



2 hour exposure after moonset

Outings

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

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

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

Jun 4-6 | Fri-Sun **WTC, SPS, PV-South Bay, Long Beach Group**
I: Olancha Peak (11,923): Discover the beautiful & historic southern Sierra during this somewhat

strenuous, late spring backpack of a Sierra Peaks Section emblem peak, geared toward energetic WTC students for experience trips. Total distance for the weekend about 22 mi, elevation gain/loss about 6000'. Permit limits group size, WTC students given priority. Send name, contact & conditioning information to leader SHERRY ROSS. Leaders: Sherry Ross, KENT SCHWITKIS.

Jun 12-13 | Sat-Sun **WTC, SPS, Palos Verdes**
M: Sirretta Pk (9977') , Taylor Dome (8802')
Get some introductory M-level climbing in the Domeland Wilderness of the Southern Sierra. Sat backpack from Big Meadow to Sirretta Pass, 3 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 Taylor Dome trailhead, 5 mi rt 1200' gain. Comfort on easy 3rd class required, WTC students welcome. Send esase or 2 sase, recent experience/conditioning, carpool info to Ldr: BARRY HOLCHIN. Co-Ldr: ERIC SCHEIDEMANTLE

Jun 26-28 | Sat-Mon **SPS**
I: Olancha Pk (12,123'): Relaxed and enjoyable pace for climb of SPS emblem PK in the S Sierra. SPS Intro trip geared to new SPS climbers and WTC students. Sat backpack 8 mi, 3900' gain from Sage Flat to base camp off PCT trail at approx. 9700'. Sun climb 2 class Olancha, trail and x-country in 7 mi rt, 2,400' gain. Mon backpack out 8 miles and 3900' loss. Total gain for weekend 6300' in 23 mi rt. Legendary community happy hour Sat and Sun eve. Send sase H, W and Cell phones recent cond, altitude experience, ride share info to Ldr: PATTY KLINE Asst: JIM FLEMING

July 17-18 | Sat-Sun **SPS, WTC**
I: Mt. Julius Caesar (13,220'): An intermediate backpack trip suitable for strong WTC students. Saturday pack in via the Pine Creek trail to Honeymoon Lake (5.3 miles, 3,000' gain) on trail. Sunday head for Italy Pass and on to the summit of Julius Caesar on class 2 cross-country terrain (6 miles, 2500' round trip), return to camp, and then pack out to the cars. Send recent experience and conditioning, carpool info, and e-mail (preferred) or SASE to Leader: PAUL GARRY. Asst: BRUCE MICHAELS.

July 17-18 | Sat-Sun **WTC, SPS**
I: Mt Silliman (11,188') Perfect WTC experience or SPS intro trip. Leave Sat. morning from Lodgepole Springs in Sequoia National Park. 3.5mi, 2000' gain, before a relaxing happy hour at a splendid meadow next to Silliman Creek. Early Sun. start up some class 2 granite friction slabs and grab brunch on the summit after 3.5 mi, 2400' gain. Descend and pack up camp, back to trailhead in timely fashion. Moderate pace, comfort with class 2 rock required. Send email and hiking/climbing resume to Ldr: CHRIS COBB, Asst: KATHY RICH.

July 27 - August 1 | Tues - Sun **SPS**
M: Ruskin, Marion, Arrow, Pyramid (S), Striped, etc.: If your idea of fun is remote Sierra summits, reliving mountaineering history, and grunting up burly passes, you're invited to the Taboose Pass peakbagging fiesta! Must have excellent conditioning, comfort on class 3 rock, and positive vibes. This is a restricted outing open to Sierra Club members with appropriate experience. Please send climbing resume, SC#, and completed Medical Form via email/sase (dhungana@ucla.edu) to Ldr: JEFF DHUNGANA, Asst Ldr: TINA BOWMAN.

Jul 31-Aug 2 | Sat-Mon **SPS**
M: Mt Keith (13,976'), Center Pk (12,762'), Mt Bradley (13,264'): Climb 3 peaks in Center Basin. 18 miles & 11000 ft gain rt. Sat backpack over University Col & climb Center. Sun climb Mt Keith. Mon - Mt Bradley, pack out. Bear canisters required. Send detailed resume to Ldr: DAN RICHTER Asst: ERIK SIERING

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

Aug 7-8 | Sat-Sun **WTC, SPS**
I: Matterhorn (12,279') Climb a beautiful SPS emblem peak in the eastern Sierra Nevada. From the trailhead at Twin Lakes, ascend about 2,500 ft. in 4 miles to camp and happy hour along Horse Creek. Sunday, hike cross country across Horse Pass and ascend the class 2 southeast face of Matterhorn Peak, then pack out. Total statistics are 4500 ft. gain and 16 miles RT. Send contact info and climbing resume to Ldr: JOE SPEIGL; Co-ldr: BOB DRANEY

Aug 14-21 | Sat - Sat **SPS**
MR: Evolution area peaks; McGee, Goddard, Huxley, Black Giant, Charybdis, Scylla, McDuffie, etc. Week long peak bagging in the Evolution region. Estimated trip statistics - 45 miles and about 15,000 feet of elevation gain. Approach may involve backpack over rough trail-less pass. Climbs include 3rd class. Send SASE, climbing resume, \$5 permit fee to Ldr: Barbee Tidball Co-Ldr.: Larry & Tidball

Aug 14-21 | Sat - Sat **SPS**
MR: Evolution area peaks; McGee, Goddard, Huxley, Black Giant, Charybdis, Scylla, McDuffie, etc. Week long peak bagging in the Evolution region. Estimated trip statistics - 45 miles and about 15,000 feet of elevation gain. Approach may involve backpack over rough trail-less pass. Climbs include 3rd class. Send SASE, climbing resume, \$5 permit fee to Ldr: BARBEE TIDBALL Co-Ldr.: LARRY & TIDBALL

Aug 21-22 | Sat-Sun **SPS, WTC**
MR. Whorl Mtn (12,033'), Matterhorn Pk (12,264') Climb peaks in northern Yosemite - great views. Meet Mono Village trailhead, backpack to camp at Horse Creek Pass, 3.5mi, 3500' gain. Sat pm climb cl2 Matterhorn Pk, 1.5mi rt, 1700' from camp. Sun

climb cl3 Whorl Mtn (3.5mi rt, 1400'), return to camp, backpack out to cars and home. Restricted to SC members only. Comfort and exper on cl3 rock is required. Send email with SC #, medical form and resume detailing experience, conditioning, rideshare info to: Ldr KATHY RICH Asst: GARY SCHENK.

Aug 21-23 | Sat-Mon **SPS, WTC**
I: Red Slate Mtn. (13,123'): SPS Intro trip geared to WTC students and prospective SPSers. Relaxed, causal, and enjoyable. Sat backpack up McGee Creek to McGee Lakes at 11,040', 7 mi, 2900' gain. Sun climb class 1 mountaineers peak, 8 mi rt, 2,200' gain, considerable cross country. Mon hike out. Legendary community happy hour Sat and Sun eve. Send sase with \$5.00 permit fee, recent conditioning and high altitude experience, H, W and Cell phones, ride share info to Ldr: PATTY KLINE Asst: JOE WANKUM

Aug 27-29 | Fri-Mon Wilderness Adventures, SPS, PV South Bay
I: Mount Huntington: Enjoy the Sierra wilderness at its best on this high elevation backpack/peak climb in the beautiful John Muir Wilderness. Drive up on your own Thu. Aug 26 and camp on your own near Rock Creek. Meet early Fri. a.m. at the Rock Creek Trailhead and backpack 8 miles, 3000' gain to camp in Pioneer Basin. Sat . climb Mt. Huntington, 2 miles, 1800' gain. Sun. backpack out to trailhead and drive home. Limited to 6 participants. Send \$35 reservation fee (Wilderness Adventures: refundable at the trailhead) and separate check with \$10 permit fee (non-refundable) with address, phone, conditioning info, recent hiking experience, email and one SASE (2 SASEs if no email) to Ldr: KEITH MARTIN, co-ldr: MARK MITCHELL

Sep 5-6 | Sun-Mon **WTC, SPS**
I: Mount Stanford (North), (12,838'): Experience trip for WTC students and leaders. Sun backpack to western most Hilton Lake, 6 mi, 1400'. Mon climb Mount Stanford, 5 mi rt, then pack out. \$5 permit fee. Send e-mail with recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and ride share info to Ldr: JACKIE ZHU (jackiezhu@yahoo.com). Asst-Ldr: JACK KIEFFER (Jockorock42@yahoo.com).

Sep 10-12 | Fri-Sun **SPS**
I: Western Sierra Medley: Leisurely paced day hikes to 3 easy, unlisted peaks in Sierra Nat'l Forest. Car camp on shore of Shaver Lk. Old-timers series trip celebrating SPS's 55th anniversary - renewing acquaintances w/ longtime climbers and welcoming newcomers. Extended happy hours. Camp Fri - Sat nights USFS's Dorabelle CG. Two separate climbs Sat above Huntington Lake. First, Chinese Pk (8709'), 6 mi rt on service road, use trails, 1300' gain. Then, for the ambitious, Bear Butte (8598'), up to 5 miles rt on logging road, far less with 4WD, then short 600' xc scramble up a semi-exploratory route. Sun, forest road start followed by very short exploratory scramble up Ely Mtn. (6886'), 800' max gain. Send sase w/ H&W phones, e-mail address (sase not needed if e-mail app) to Asst Ldr/Reservationist: JERRY KEATING. Ldr: MARY MCMANNES. Asst Ldrs: GORDON MACLEOD and BARBARA LILLEY.

Sept. 17- 19 Fri-Sun **WTC, SPS, Long Beach**
I: Red Slate Mountain (13,123') Enjoy a late summer weekend in this colorful, high-elevation setting. Friday morning hike 7.5 miles 2500' gain up McGee Creek through aspens, pines and meadows to the beautiful red rock mountains of upper McGee Creek Canyon. We'll camp alongside Big McGee Lake at 10,500' elevation. Sat. morning hike to McGee Pass, climb Red Slate Mountain (Class 2, approx. 2700' gain, 6 miles roundtrip), and return to camp for happy hour. Sunday morning hike out. Total mileage approx. 25 miles roundtrip, 5200' gain, moderate pace. \$5 permit fee collected at trailhead. E-mail both leaders w/experience and conditioning. Ldrs: SHARON MOORE & PAT ARREDONDO

Sep 22-24 | Wed-Fri **SPS**
I: Dicks Pk (9974'), Mt Tallac (9735), Freel Pk (10,881'): Join us Wednesday for an easy backpack (4 mi, 1600') to Gilmore Lk, set up camp, and climb Dicks Pk (5.5 mi rt, 1600'). Thursday climb Tallac (3.6 rt, 1400') and backpack out. We'll car camp at the Armstrong Pass trailhead before a dayhike on Friday to Freel via Armstrong Pass (10 mi rt, 2800'). Email or send sase to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN Co-ldr: MARY MCMANNES

Sep 25 | Sat Forest Comm/Pasadena/Natural Science/HPS/San Gabriel Mtns Trailbuilders

O: Trails Restoration in the San Gabriel Mtns:

Join the Forest Committee's San Gabriels Trail Crew to help restore and maintain over 200 miles of trails damaged by 2009 Station Fire. Meets every 2nd and 4th Sat of month to work with the San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilders. Tools and instructions provided. Boots and long-sleeved shirts mandatory. Hiking distances vary. Events typically end by 3 pm. Bring gloves, lots of water, lunch, safety glasses if you have them, and enthusiasm to work as little or as much as you want. Contact leader (email preferred) week before for destination, meeting time and location (we need headcount to provide proper number of tools). Ldrs: MEI KWAN, BILL JACKSON.

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

Sep 29 | Wed LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Basic Safety System. First of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening workshop of 4 hours reviewing ropes, knots, harnesses, helmets, and basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. Based on Ch. 9 of Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

Oct 2 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Belaying. 2nd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members w/prior roped climbing exp. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on belaying & principles of anchor building. Based on Ch. 10 of Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills. As space is limited priority will be given to participants

who commit to all 4 workshops. Send sase or e-mail, SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

Oct 9 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Rappelling. 3rd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. Based on Ch. 11 of Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

Oct 16-17 | Sat - Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP2) – Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors. 4th of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. Based on Chaps. 12 & 13 of Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills, 7th ed. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

Oct 16 | Sat SPS

M: Mt. Gould (13,005'): Join in the celebration of Corrine Livingston's SPS list finish with a climb of Gould from Keasarge Pass, or simply enjoy fall colors and a hike to the pass or the lakes below. Party to follow at Corrine's home in Independence. Send your hike/climb preference to Ldr: TINA BOWMAN Co-ldr: JOHN CHESLICK

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

Mt. Perkins (12,591')

by Greg Gerlach

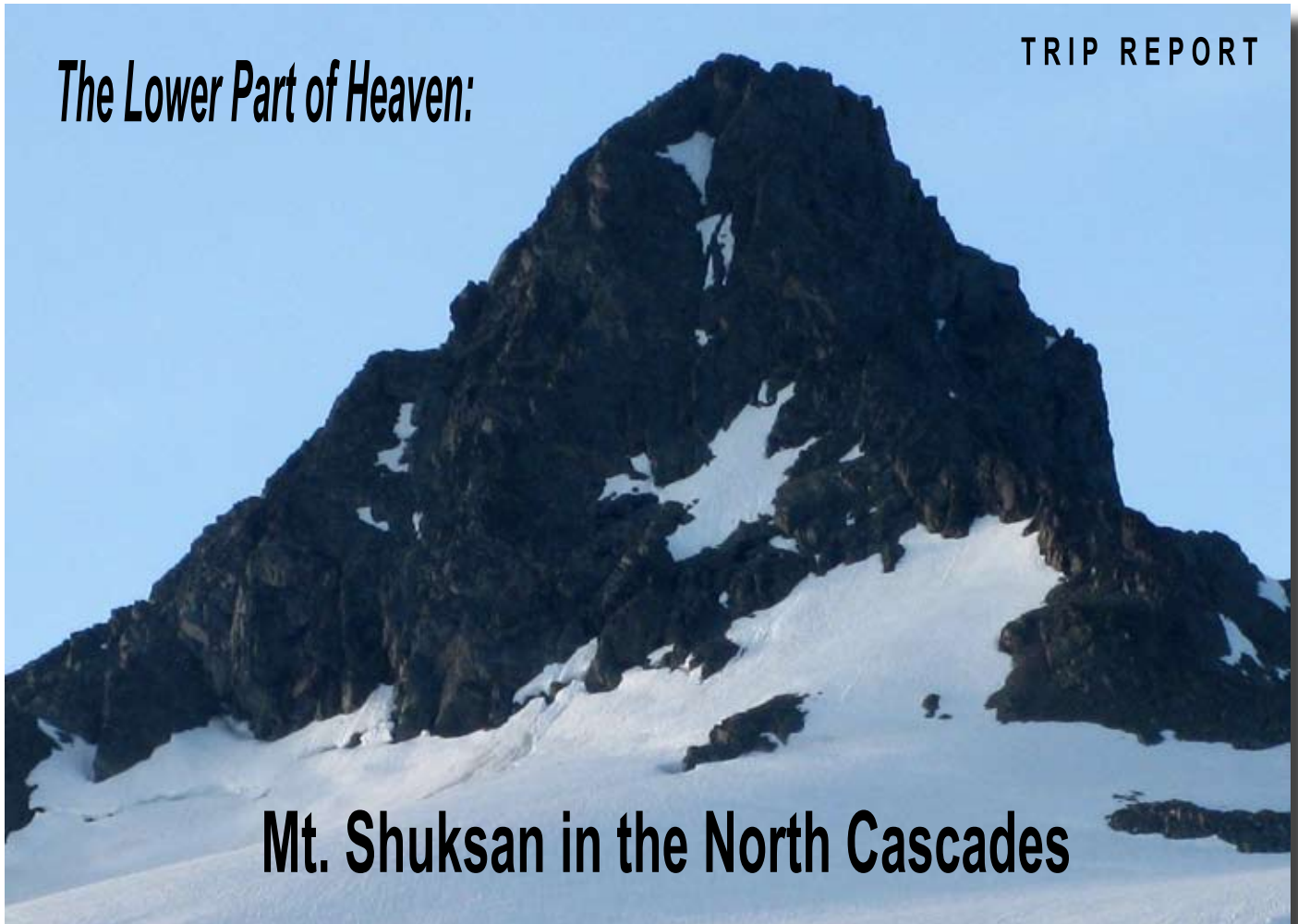
I had so much fun climbing Pinchot and Wynn via Sawmill Pass last year that I decided to climb Mt. Perkins the same way. I left Los Angeles at 7:00 a.m., picked up my permit along the way, and was at the end of the road and walking up the trail exactly at 12 noon. The temperature read 104 degrees on my thermometer that hangs from my pack. I motored up the trail, hoping to just slug it out until I got up to around 7,000' in elevation where you start seeing some trees. I dropped my pack under the first big pine tree that I came to and downed 2 quarts of Gatorade. That gave me just enough of a lift to continue up the trail to Sawmill Lake, which I reached at 5:40, 20 minutes faster than last year.

The temperature was 64 degrees, a full 40 degrees cooler than the trailhead. The next morning I was hiking up the trail by 8:00 a.m. under partially cloudy skies. I continued up over the pass, down the other side, then headed north up the John Muir Trail to my campsite at the 2 lakes located at elevation 11,154' just west of the peak. I was able to set up my tent and climb in just ahead of the rain, which was accompanied by thunder and lightning. I decided to wait it out and try for the peak in the morning.

On Sunday morning, I started up Perkin's west side by 6:20 a.m., aiming for a shallow, reddish colored gulley with some white rock in the middle. At around 11,900' in el-

evation, I made a right turn and traversed over and up to the top, where I arrived at 7:35. The route was class 1-2 and I was the only person to summit so far this year. Also, the summit register contains two books, the first of which is about ¼ full and the second, which was placed by the SPS on 10/3/2004, has only 2 pages with signatures and comments. I spent about ½ hour on top, then dropped down to my camp in about 45 minutes. I packed up my gear and headed out at 9:00, reached Sawmill Pass at 11:30, the car at 3:30 and home by 8:30.

Trip statistics: 35 miles and about 9,000 feet of elevation gain.

The Lower Part of Heaven:**Mt. Shuksan in the North Cascades**

Mt. Shuksan (9,131'). Our route was right up the middle

by **Augie Medina**

Jul 16, 2009

It is tempting to say that Mt. Shuksan was a nice consolation prize for being unable to summit Rainier due to weather just a few days ago. But with all deference due Rainier, her sister to the north can stand on her own as a unique mountaineering adventure. This is the report of the all too brief stint of six California Mountaineering Club members in this area of the North Cascades in mid-July.

The only preparation our group did not have for our foray to Mt. Shuk-

san was coming to grips, without being rendered nearly speechless time and again, with the singular beauty of the territory into which we had ventured. Because the images from my mousy little Canon will reflect much better than my words ever could what I'm talking about, I'll avoid efforts at verbalizing about the scenic wonders of this place.

The Ultimate in Scenic By-Ways

Following a very pleasant rest day in Seattle after returning from our unsuccessful Rainier bid,

we crammed our gear into two rental cars and headed north on I-5, then onto Washington State Route 20, undoubtedly the gem of scenic highways in the state. Just as we were thinking that the views couldn't get any better, we turned onto Baker Lake Road, which road skirts North Cascades National Park (North Unit), and Lake Shannon and Baker Lake, on their west side. Nearing the Shannon Ridge Trail trailhead, our starting point, we whizzed by a bridge crossing with incomparable views of Mt. Baker. We made a mental note to stop on the return for a Kodak moment.



Our camp on Sulphide Glacier

**Glory of the Shannon
Ridge Trail**

At the trailhead (2,500'), we distributed group gear and got our packs organized pretty quickly. We stepped into the sunshine on the Shannon Ridge Trail and found it a real delight: verdant and deep evergreen come to mind as shorthand for this trail. A minor annoyance was the presence of continuous pools of mud along the trail, evidence of recent rainfall. But this was no big deal except for those who had trail runners on.

About 2 miles into the hike, we got our first panoramic view of Mt. Baker. The mountain would remain a dominant fixture of the skyline from this point forward. As if by design, just when the group was ready for a long break and some lunch, we wandered onto a spacious open ridge top with breathtaking views in every

direction. We basked in the sun, ate, and finally had to motivate ourselves to lift our packs and carry on.

Shortly after leaving our rest stop, we ascended to a notch framed by trees, which gap served as a divide between the thick forests and valleys we had come up, and the terrain towards the Sulphide Glacier,

our destination for the day. From this point forward, we began slogging in the snow. But the scenery continued to amaze as the horizon bristled with jagged, snow-covered peaks

**Campsite Extraordinaire
on the Sulphide Glacier**

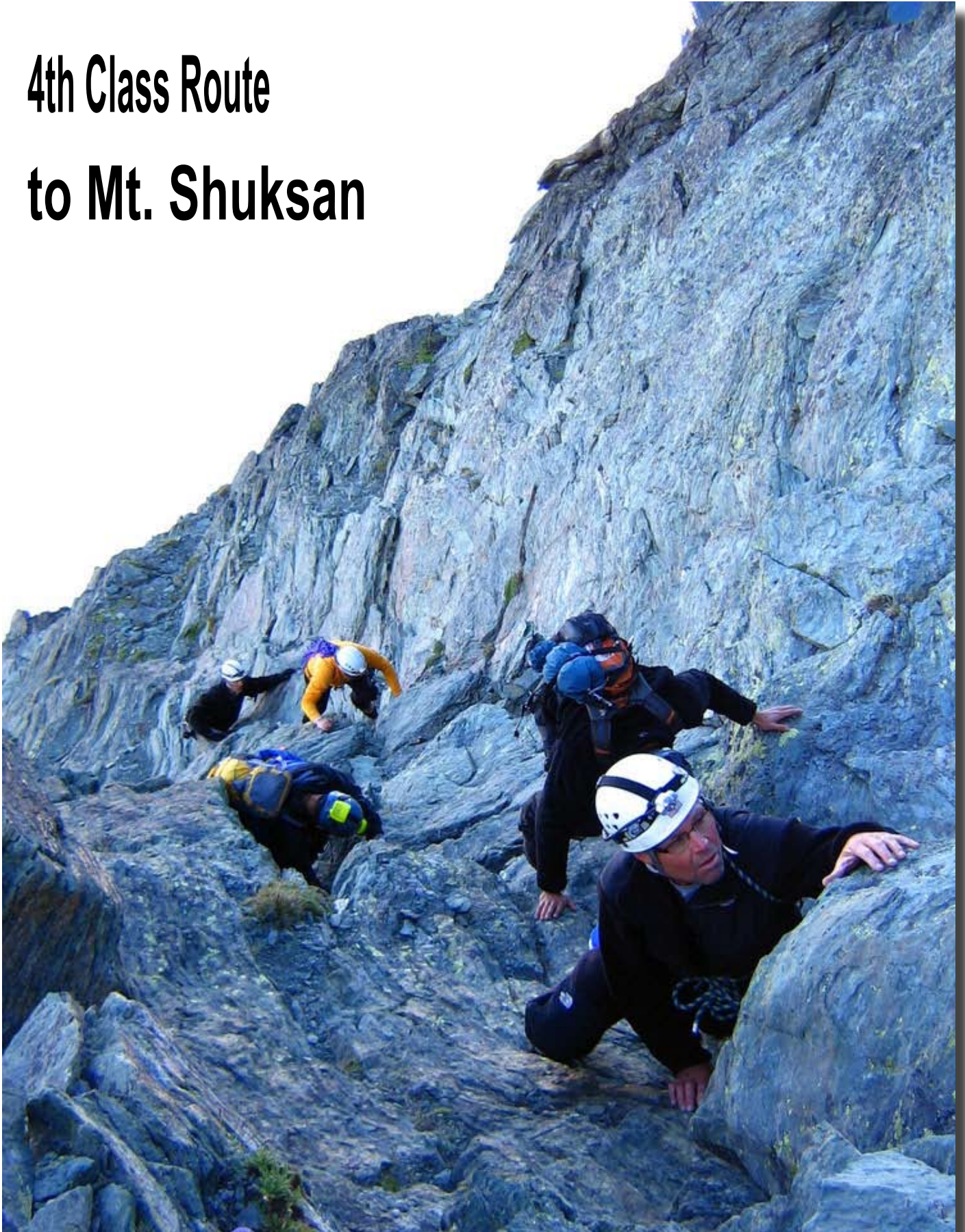
We were now in line for the southern flank of Mt. Shuskan. Once we reached the Sulphide Glacier, we began looking for a good campsite. We found a perfect one at about 6,200 feet. We had a nice rock outcrop to use as a gear bench and dining area, a good water source from glacial run-off nearby, and views that would probably match any alpine scenery in the world. "Blue" bags would serve as personal toilet facilities. The group was truly content and almost reverential as concerned the setting.

Near dinner-time we had a visit from a commercial guide and his clients coming in from a glacier



Photo op with Shuksan at right

4th Class Route to Mt. Shuksan



skills practice session. They were camped a little ways off from us and were embarked on a six-day mountaineering course. Well familiar with the mountain, the Argentine guide gave us some helpful beta on our route for tomorrow. His group would also attempt Shuskan tomorrow, although they didn't plan to leave until the gentle hour of 8 a.m. Talk about a coddled group!

As the saying goes, we had a very pleasant evening and turned in early for our 3 a.m. wake-up. As with most alpine starts, this one came fast.

Summit Day: A Pulse-Quickening 4th Class Route, Incomparable Views, and a Few Disquieting Moments

Conditions were promising as we tied into two rope teams and started off a little after 4 a.m. We enjoyed the brisk air and the relatively gentle ascent on the glacier towards the base of Shuksan. The larger crevasses made for eye-catching scenes as our pyramid-shaped objective came closer and closer.

At the base of the mountain we unroped and discussed our route. We could see several steep areas of snow on the route that we would have to negotiate so we kept our crampons on. Though the rock section on this lower part of the route was 3d class, keeping crampon points on the slick rock required constant focus. We finally reached a point where we felt



Approaching cautiously

comfortable shedding our spikes and then continued, aiming for a central gully leading to the summit.

We were expecting a Class 3 route with some Class 4, but we got just the opposite: consistent Class 4 with some Class 3 and a few low Class 5 moves. There was loose rock everywhere so we moved carefully. Yet, overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable climb.

All agreed that it would not be a good idea to attempt to down-climb the route. There would be unacceptable risk nailing the low Class 5 moves going down. The numerous rap slings anchored around rocks told us that others had shared our apprehension about down-climbing the route.

By the time we got to within 200 feet of the summit, Ben had diverged to a route more or less up the middle to the summit, while the rest of us found a gentle Class 2 ridge left of center that comfortably transported us to the top.

At the top, we were literally mesmerized by the views. Mt. Baker dazzled most of all. Hundreds

of unknown, unnamed peaks sprawled in every direction, offering the promise of a lifetime of exploration and first ascents. Well over a hundred miles away, Mt. Rainier peeked through the distant haze. It was hard to believe that we were seeing what we were seeing on a summit only 9,131 feet high!

We interrupted our collective reverie with the practical idea that we ought to be heading down. We had in front of us finding an alternative to the route we had ascended. Otherwise, we would be doing a lot of rappelling and thus slowed down a good deal.

We started working our way down and began putting together 3d class sections. We finally locked into a consistent 3d class line of descent. This time around, 4th class moves were the exception. We encountered only a few places where it was necessary to face in, including one airy traverse. We were all pleased that we didn't have to slow down for rappels.

We made quick time to where we had left our crampons and packs, and continued the descent. The only remaining minor challenge was a 50-degree snow slope, about 60 meters in length, that we carefully down-climbed. Then it was back to tie into our rope teams and aim for camp.

To the Edge

As it turns out, we got tempted to aim too directly for camp. At one point, we eye-balled what

looked like a direction of travel that would greatly shorten our route. We headed that way.

After just a few minutes, I (second on the front rope team) saw the leader stop and quicken the pace of poking for crevasses with his axe. It took but a couple of seconds for my apprehension to rise at seeing his axe plunge time and again into the snow nearly up to his hand, coupled with a very concerned look that came over his face. Then I thought I saw his feet sinking into the ground where he was standing. By this time, my mind and body braced for hitting the ground in self-arrest. In a split second of thought, I was concerned that the snow might be so deep and soft as to make arrest extremely difficult.

The next thing that happened was the leader shouting in an unmistakable command voice to reverse course immediately if not sooner. We turned around without mishap, but all indications were that we had dodged a bullet.

Back to Reality

Back on route, we covered the last section of terrain back to camp fairly quickly. Our round trip had been a little over 6 hours. We had a snack, broke camp at any easy cadence, and headed back for the trailhead. The weather was warm and we plodded, plunge-stepped, and slid down the slushy slopes until we hit our favorite ridge top rest spot. Once again, that spot saturated us with a “stay-a-while” feeling and we

had to muster the will to move on again. Below this spot we again entered thick forest cover and the muddy trail.

As we covered the last couple of miles to the trailhead, it occurred to me that, due to the drop-dead beauty of this trail, I did not have that “when will this trail ever end” feeling common nearing the end of most outings. Instead, the trailhead seemed to arrive quickly. That meant back to big cities, airports, and the rest of it. But I’m thankful for a hobby that allows me to see and experience, under my own steam, the best that the natural world has to offer. And make no mistake, this area of the North Cascades is all about the best in nature.

Thoughts of the everyday world are far away. Glad I came.



The Sierra Echo

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Publication dates are Jun 15, Sept 15, Dec 15 and Mar 15. All text submissions for publication, including trip reports, articles, etc., can be submitted in electronic format such as MS Word, WordPerfect, email (electronic format is preferable), or through regular U.S. mail. Photos may be submitted as electronic files (jpeg, tiff or Photoshop in a resolution high enough for print media) or submitted as prints or slides. If submissions are to be returned to you please include a return envelope with sufficient postage. **All submissions should be sent to Sara Danta or emailed to s_wyrens@yahoo.com.**

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

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Address Changes Send to the Henry Arnebold; email [harnebold@gmail](mailto:harnebold@gmail.com)

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