

The

Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 18

MARCH

APRIL 1974

NO. 2

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The Section By-laws state that:

". . . members will retain membership for as long as they are members in good standing of the Sierra Club, participate in at least one Section activity per year (such as a climb or service on a committee), and subscribe to the Section newsletter (one subscription is sufficient for related members living at the same address."

(Underlines are mine.) The By-laws further state that "Only members shall have the right to vote."

Now traditionally the Management Committee (i.e. the Secretary) has kept two kinds of members on the books: "active" and "inactive." An "inactive" member is a formerly-active member who renewed his or her subscription to the Echo but who listed no Section "activity" for the previous year. These people are allowed to regain "active" status whenever they list an activity on a subsequent subscription renewal form. (They should not be confused with "Echo subscribers" -- people who are not members but enjoy receiving the Echo.)

Technically, there is no difference between an "inactive member" and an "Echo subscriber" since neither is mentioned in the By-laws, i.e. only "active members" are By-laws "members." Thus by tradition we are doing something not set down explicitly in the By-laws; but there is no problem because only "active" members are sent ballots in October.

The real problem here is defining exactly what constitutes an acceptable "activity." The By-laws gives us only a hint. Traditionally we have accepted the following:

- going on a climb with the Section
- serving as a Section officer or a Section committee chairperson
- writing an article for the Echo or having your photo placed on the cover
- giving a program or serving refreshments at a membership meeting
- performing an outstanding service for the Section

(e.g. making summit register containers)

Even with all of the above options available, some people list "attendance at the annual banquet" as their only "activity." Thus every year the Management Committee debates whether or not banquet attendance is "acceptable," and every year they seem to decide differently. (Last year: "No." This year: "Yes.")

I think that the issue of "what is an acceptable activity" should be debated and discussed among the membership (informally; e.g. on trips), and that there should be a By-laws amendment this October to settle the question and put a more permanent solution in writing.

Diana Dee

NEWS

The SPS Peaks List, revised April 1974, is now available. One may be obtained by sending 25 cents (cost!) and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Secretary, Bill T. Russell.

Your April 1973 list may be updated by making the following revisions:

Section IV	after	*East Vidette	insert		
		West Vidette	12,560	2	Mt Whitney
Section X	after	Vogelsang Peak	insert		
		*Cathedral Peak	10,933	3(S-4)	Tuolumne Meadows
Section XII	after	Round Top	insert		
		Mokelumne Peak	9,332	2	Silver Lake

The first two were proof-reading errors of last year. Mokelumne was added last year, bringing the number of listed peaks to 242.

SPS'ers who are interested in Alpine ski touring (the kind you have to know how to ski to do) can find a large selection of used metal skis at very reasonable prices at Tex's Sporting Goods
910 Wilshire Blvd.
Santa Monica

March 1 DWP snow survey indicated 117% of normal snowpack in the Sierra--since then enough new snow has fallen to bring an estimate up to at least 125%. (Unusual to have two above normal years in a row.)

ADVANCE NOTE

MAY 24-27

MT. SHASTA (14,161')

This formidable peak is attainable to the experienced winter mountaineer. An ice axe and crampon climb from base camp the second day. Expect to travel on snow from the moment you leave the bus. Ron Jones is leading and the "sleeping giant" is the host. Bus transportation approximately \$40.
Reservations: Dick Ramirez

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY GROUP:
JUNE DINNER-SWAP MEET

JUNE 20, THURSDAY--AVCO S&L ASSOC.
12229 VENTURA BOULEVARD
STUDIO CITY 8:00 P.M.

The SFV Group will hold its annual June Dinner/Swap Meet, Saturday, June 8 from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Warner Center, Woodland Hills. Catered dinner will include: chicken, lasagna, salads, garlic bread, beverages, desserts, etc. Adults \$3.50, kids (under 10) \$2.00. Warner Center is the former ranch-house of motion picture magnate Harry Warner. Enjoy swimming in an olympic size heated pool; tennis, or just relax. Dinner will be picnic style (bring your own blanket). Your dinner ticket includes chance for some terrific door prizes!!!

SWAP MEET: Anyone wishing to sell their equipment, such as hiking, climbing, backpacking, camping, fishing, sporting goods, etc., please write (sase) to Dick Ramirez, 10968 Mascarell, Mission Hills, Ca. 91345, stating items/your name/address/phone number. The SFV will solicit 10% donation for each item sold.

For information and/or reservations please contact Chessa Roth 884-7366, Simone DeMiguel 342-7500, Johanna Dekker 785-4986. Closing date for reservations is June 3.

GAS-GAS-GAS

Gasoline is available on Sundays in Sequoia & Kings Canyon Parks, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at Lodgepole, and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at Grant Grove, with an 8 gallon limit. There is food and lodging at Giant Forest and Wilsonia, and a limited selection of groceries and light snacks at Grant Grove.

-Fred Hoepfner

Chouinard on Fitzroy, in 16MM sound and picture---Don Lauria "In Person" on Yosemite walls and Sierra spires. Need we say more for a fantastic evening of visual presentation that will blow your mind. Chouinard and Lauria together again for the first time. These two giants are doing their thing on the same evening. Donation \$2.50 at door. \$2.00 prior by mailing S.A.S.E. to: Beverly Shultz, 3212 Montrose, La Crescenta 91214. Don't get shut out. Space limited!!

COMPANY INVITED

I am planning to climb in Canada this summer, from about the end of June to the end of July. If you are interested in joining me, please call or write:

R. J. Secor
2366 Las Lunas
Pasadena, Calif. 91107
795-5520

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? ?

Is YOUR name on this list ?
Is a FRIEND'S name on this list ?

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BURGESS, ELDON

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CARLIN, ROSEMARIE
CLARK, MARLIN
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VAN CLEAVE, RONALD
VASEY, WAYNE
WILEY, JAY
WILLIAMS, GUY

-AND-

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ESTES, PAUL
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PRICE, RONDEL
SCHLOSSER, GERALD
STOCKS, HUGH & LINDA
VAN RY, WILLARD
WANAMAKER, JEFF

If YOUR name is listed above, you have NOT renewed your ECHO subscrip-
tion for 1974 as of 10 April, and unless you do so SOON you will not receive
any more ECHOs. If you are an SPS member, please send your name, address,
SIERRA CLUB MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, and \$2 IMMEDIATELY to George Toby, 1974 SPS
Treasurer, 9337 Rubio Ave., Sepulveda, CA 91343. List your Section activity
if you wish to maintain active (voting) status. If you are not a member but
are an ECHO subscriber, your name, address, and \$2 IMMEDIATELY will suffice.
If your name appears above but there is a "74" above your name on your mail-
ing label, NEVER FEAR -- we have received your \$\$.

If a FRIEND'S name appears above, please 'bug' him or her to RENEW!

! !

CALENDAR

SPS SCHEDULE PREVIEW - SUMMER 1974

July

13-14 Langley- Kellow, Ruser
13-14 Emerald, Henry- Jones, Ward
13-14 Powell, Thompson- Magnusons
13-14 Kearsarge, Dragon- McRuer, Russell
13-15 Guyot, Chamberlin, Newcombe- Lipsohn, Mantle
20-21 Agassiz- Lubin, Landau (with BMTc)
20-21 Sill, Gayley, Polemonium- Hubbard, Secor, Cardina
20-21 Gilbert, Johnson- Brumer, Bruce
20-21 Crocker, Huntington, Hopkins- Macleod, Stephenson
20-21 Basin- Shultz, Nilsson
27-28 Ritter, Banner- Ranschau, Beverage
27-28 Middle Palisade- Goebel, Feldman
27-28 Red and White- Kellow, Croley
27-28 Bear Creek Spire- Eaton, Wiley

August

3-4 Agassiz, Goode- Berger, Stauffer
3-4 Center, East Vidette- Ward, Goetz
3-4 Red Slate, Baldwin- Cardina, Stephens
10-11 Inconsolable- Cates, Campbell
10-11 Starr King- Hardt, Petitjean
10-11 Hermit- Dee, Hill
10-11 Wallace, Haeckel- Kellow, Vasilik
10-13 Versteeg, Barnard, etc.- Keating, Fletcher
16-18 Clarence King, Cotter- Jones, Goetz
17-18 East Face- Whitney- Lauria, Lantz
17-18 Simmons, Parsons, Amelia Earhart- Macleod, Hickman
17-18 Split- Heusinkveld, Ruser
24-25 Disappointment- Heller, Lantz
24-25 Dragon, Kearsarge- Ranschau, Ward
24-25 Baldwin, Morrison- Kellow, Croley
24-25 Virginia, Whorl- Brumer, Bruce
24-25 Russell, Carillon- Russell, McRuer

September

31-2 Triple Divide, Lion Rock- Hoepfner, Mauk
31-2 Brewer, N. Guard, S. Guard, Cross- Ranschau, Murphey, Ellis
31-2 Darwin, Mendel- Bruce, McCosker
31-2 Gemini, Turret- Macleod, Stephenson
7-8 Morgan, Starr- Henry, Francisco, Ayers
7-8 Pyramid, Arrow- Dee, Ory
14-15 Mt. Hooper (Gourmet Backpack)- Lantz, Barnes
14-15 Fiske, Haeckel, Wallace- Magnusons
14-15 Lookout Peak, Sugarloaf Creek- Amneus, Robinson
14-15 Palmer, Sphinx- Macleod, Sanders
21-22 Silliman- (Bus Trip)- Ramirez, Sinnett

CALENDAR

September

- 21-22 Excelsior, Dunderberg- Jones, Robinson
- 21-22 McAdie, Mallory, Irvine- Murphey, Ranschau, Searle
- 21-22 Charybdis- Meyers, Bailey
- 28-29 Dade, Bear Creek Spire- Dee, Ranschau
- 28-29 Corcoran- Smatko, Keating, Lilley
- 28-29 Clouds Rest, Cathedral, Unicorn- Mantle, Hubbard, Lipsohn
- 28-29 Harrington, Kennedy- Croley, Kellow

October

- 5-6 Lone Pine Peak- Robinson, Reber
- 5-6 Sugarloaf Rock, Ball Dome- Lipsohn, Lilley
- 5-6 Dana, Gibbs- Kellow, Ruser
- 19-20 Dennison, Big Trees- Macleod, Colevins
- 19-20 Smith, Crag- Dee, Berger
- 26-27 Half Dome, Clouds Rest- Jones, Mead

ADVANCE NOTICE

SPS ADVANCED ROCK CLIMB - TAHQUITZ, June 22-23

This climb is not in the new schedule, so don't look for it there. Leader Don Lauria and asst. leader Dick Sykes will teach advanced rock climbing techniques at Tahquitz on Sat.-Sun., June 22-23, 1974. Participation here will be a requirement for the SPS climb of the East Face of Mt. Whitney on August 17-18, also led by Don.

Those who wish to participate should already be reasonably advanced rock climbers, able to lead or follow 4th Class and low to mid 5th Class climbs. You should be able to tolerate exposure and handle climbing gear proficiently.

Reservations are required, as the group size is limited, and must be received by Dennis Lantz no later than June 10 for consideration. Enclose the usual SASE and a recent resume of your applicable skills on rock. Please note what equipment you have and give a frank appraisal of your capability.

JULY 4-7

THURSDAY-SUNDAY

SIERRA PEAKS

Siberian Outpost, Boreal Plateau, Pk 12,064, Mt. Langley (14,042'): Meet 7:30 am Saturday at end of Horseshoe Meadow Road for exploratory loop trip over Cottonwood and New Army passes, with some time allowed for fishing. Moderately strenuous with part of terrain cross-country, but suitable for seasoned backpackers in good shape and accustomed to high altitude. Camp two nights at Rocky Basin Lakes and one night in Cottonwood Lakes area. Reservations required (limit 15) as are ice, axe and stove. Leaders: JERRY KEATING and ART DE GOEDE.

ASCENTS

MT. BAXTER, WINTER CLIMB

March 17-18

Doug Mantle

The only special requirement for this trip was a high misery tolerance. Somehow this and the prospect of a winter ascent lured peak baggers from as far away as Utah to our Oak Creek roadhead.

Our reputation as death marchers at stake, we raced up and down and up several Forks of Oak Creek until finally the participants began dropping like flies.

When we made camp (just before the leaders began dropping) at 9,600' on the North Fork, only half of the 14 had kept on, and of these only five would seek the summit.

The route to camp had involved following the main South Fork trail to a point below a band of cliffs to the north, just beyond where the trail comes close to the creek, at 8500. Thence, one contours to the North Fork, then up to canyon which quickly levels out at 9,500'.

In typically un-SPS fashion, we were off by 8:45 am on Sunday, slogging up a chute almost due north from the final basin below Baxter, then left along the ridge to the summit plateau.

The Sierra in froth made for quite a view, especially of Clarence King--a soaring pinnacle from this lookout. A wind gauge (yep) and thermometer helped us peg the wind chill at -15°F .

By scorning the easy way down we managed to locate a rotten snow and rock passage, enabling us to make use of the rope we had along.

Despite this, the powdery glissades (terrific) helped us back to camp speedily, and after some snowshoeing and a discussion about possible shortcuts we followed Saturday's tracks back to the cars, arriving at dusk. Of second thoughts, I had these: Baxter is probably easier via the trail and ridge from Baxter Pass (witness Tom Ross trip several years ago).

Also, I still believe trips such as these should be relatively open, but leaders should be careful to make sure would-be participants know what real Sierra misery is.

Finally, John McKinley specifically requested me to mention his name in the writeup.

MT. JOHNSON

March 16-17, 1974

Roy Keenan

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated by a successful winter climb of Mt. Johnson by all six participants of the weekend outing. Not much green was in evidence as there was four feet of snow on the level at the south end of South Lake and considerably more above.

This particular winter climb was an unqualified success for four specific reasons: (1) Perfect weather with threatening clouds all day Saturday and generally clear skies Sunday; (2) Snow conditions that were almost perfect for snowshoes—very little powder and almost no adhesion of snow to the snowshoes; (3) Signups of four men and one woman who lived up to their advance billings by demonstrating that they were in good physical condition, and finally; (4) a wee bit of advance planning that arranged for a snowmobile to meet us at the end of the plowed road (Bishop Creek Resort/Habeggars) at 7:30 Saturday morning and tow our packs and snowshoes up the road some 4 miles to about 1/4 mile below the South Lake Dam. This procedure was reversed Sunday coming out.

Thus, our climb started at 7:45 A.M. Saturday with a 4-mile stroll up a crispy, snow-covered road without packs or snowshoes. Upon reaching our equipment, we donned snowshoes and followed our planned route directly across South Lake and on up above Treasure Lakes to camp at 4:00 P.M. at a small tarn at 11,400 ft. just below Lake 11,586. Starting at 7:45 A.M. the next morning we snowshoed over Lake 11,586 to a point directly below the eastern slopes of Mt. Johnson. Following a continuous snow field we cramponed all the way to the summit, arriving at 10:30 A.M. After an enchanting half hour scanning the snow mantled Sierra to the limits of the horizon, we started down. The descent was marred by a slight accident in which a slip on the steep snow resulted in a crampon spike puncturing the leg of our only female companion. Fortunately it was not serious and we were back to our pack drop-off point below the dam by 3:00 P.M. One last bit of luck had two additional snowmobilers at Parchers Camp and they graciously ferried us down to the cars, arriving at 4:00 P.M. At five we were eating dinner in Bishop. Gas was in abundance in Bishop and priced equal to Los Angeles.

ALTA PEAK

April 13-14 1974

Roy Ward

Fifteen people signed up for this snow trip over Easter weekend. Five had to cancel and four no-shows reduced our number to seven. We all camped at Lodgepole Campground, Friday night for a 0830 meet time on Saturday, and to start the trip off right, Paul Janke lost all his food to a hungry bear but was able to resupply at Giant Forest and make the trip.

We had to wait until the office opened at 0900 Saturday to get a permit as they will only give reservation to get permits by mail now. After picking up the permit the 7 of us met at Woolverton ski area at the Pear Lake trailhead and there Mike McWherter was drafted to act as assistant leader as Cuno had hurt his knee and couldn't make the trip, so off we went on a crusted, packed snow trail. Shortly after the Pear Lake trail branched off we had to don snowshoes as the snow had gotten soft. Bad luck still plagued Paul as he broke one of his plastic snowshoes which we patched with a stick. Slight snowshoe binding problems and one stretch of very steep slopes slowed us down but we reached camp at about 1700.

At 0700 Sunday morning we started up a nice snow chute for a 2,000 foot gain to the summit. Nice crusty snow and slight step kicking and we were all 7 on top at about 0830. Nice clear weather gave us a good view of the Sierras. About an 1800 foot glissade, which wiped out two pair of pants and one water bottle, and at 0940 we were in camp. Packed up and headed out. More slight snowshoe binding problems and one stretch of steep slope (without snowshoes) and then it was downhill all the way. Leather bindings on rented shoes are bad news.

We were back at the cars at 1515. One other slight problem delayed departure till 1630. A lost car key and no spare required hot wiring one car. We had beautiful weather and a good group which made a very enjoyable trip.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

CLYDE MINARET

July 21-22, 1973

Frank Meyers

Doug Dewolf and I had to try twice to get Clyde Minaret. On Saturday we attempted to follow the variation of the Class 3 route that goes below the great south cliffs of Clyde Minaret. This route was found to be blocked by a huge chockstone. Apparently the route used to go underneath but that passage is now blocked by rubble. It looks like a strenuous Class 4 or 5 climb around on the north. The hardest part appears to be getting into the bottomless chimney at the side of the chockstone. One can traverse out from underneath the chockstone but you are 30 to 40 feet up at the apparent crux. The south side is a more severe face climb; it has a multiple sling rappel anchor placed for the 50 to 60 foot drop on descent.

The normal Class 3 route description is also misleading; it appears that from the north end of Amphitheater Lake you go east, joining the blocked route near the notch just south of Clyde Minaret. From there you follow the easy chute north until it suddenly steepens. You can then either continue or (easier) cut back south and cross east to the next chute, which dumps out below over the south cliffs. There is a 10-foot drop on the summit (NW) ridge which should be rated easy Class 4 because of great exposure to the north.

Probably the quickest means of ascent is one of the Class 4 routes on the north side.

This was an "official trip by Explorer Post #528. Approach was from Courtwright Reservoir. We set up a base camp for non-climbers at 8000' on the North Fork of the Kings River. We then set out up Meadow Brook and through Red Mountain Basin, crossing Hell-for-Sure Pass in rain and cloud. The problem with that Pass is that it is worse than it appears to be--the traverse on the east side has much more up and down than shown on the map.

Jack Wolfe, Bill Lipps and I climbed Mt. McGee from Goddard Canyon. To climb McGee via the west peak, go to the lake west of the peak. From the north summit of the west peak, descend (Cl.2) NE until approximately 40 feet from the notch and north of it. Then climb sharply up to the south (Cl.2-3) to cross the main rib running into the notch. Descend south and east over Cl.3-4 rock into the top of the south couloir. Ascend the Cl.2 main peak first below the ridge and later along the ridge. The south couloir is Cl.2 but looks like it may be seasonally difficult. Peter Peak looks like a fine talus walk from the ascent route.

The knapsack route between North Goddard Creek and the river cuts across just below the prominent cliffs facing Goddard Canyon. The correct route is airy (but easy) just above North Goddard Creek and is scantily ducked.

While Doug Dewolfe and I climbed Scylla, Peak 12,410' (1.1 SSE of Mt. Goddard) was climbed by Bill Lipps and Orlo Elfes. They left a register and named it "Headwaters Peak" as it is at the head of the South Fork of the San Joaquin River. Although its ascent is listed in the Mountaineers Guide, they found signs of prior ascent only on the (lower) south summit. That night we had a spectacular camp on the granite slabs of the ridge at the NE base of Mt. Reinstein. Near the base of the peak, water is available in a fine granite tank. Absence of soil requires descent from the crest for toilet facilities. We backpacked out over Mt. Reinstein to return through Blackcap Basin.

On the way in, Maxson Dome was climbed by the Cl. 2 east slopes. It is Class 1 only on the NE, not "from any side" as indicated by the Guide. The south slopes appear Class 3 and the west side probably is Class 4.

Backpacking to the LeConte-Mallory plateau, Bill Lipps and I climbed Mt. Mallory on Saturday. We were amazed to discover we shared the plateau with the Vagmarken, who were doing McAdie, Irvine, Mallory, Le Conte and Corcoran in two days. Ascent to the plateau from big Meysan Lake is via the large chute with the snow tongue or a partially ducked route a little south of that. On Sunday, Bill and I climbed LeConte and Corcoran while Scott Field overcame the altitude to get Mallory. The following route descriptions may clarify a few obscure points of earlier ones:

LeCONTE PLATEAU, Cont.

Mt. LeConte

Route 1: From the LeConte-Mallory plateau, drop down 200 feet in elevation and go up a prominent chute on the west side of LeConte. This chute heads into the summit blocks area of the LeConte summit and is Cl.2 except for one Cl.3-4, 15-ft. pitch about 150 feet up (the "chimney" of Clyde's description; however, some prefer an alternate climb at the left).

Route 2: From the cairn at the base of LeConte, traverse along an easy but exposed ledge for 400 feet to a prominent area of vertical cracks and small ledges (the first break in the smooth face). 200 feet or so of exposed Class 3 up this takes one to the summit area.

Mt. Corcoran (Ed Treacy Route)

From the Mt. LeConte west chute route, go south at the top of the 15-ft. pitch over easy Class 2-3 ledges into the next large chute south. The rest of the route is Cl. 2. Drop down 200 ft. in elevation, thus taking the second possible ridge crossing south. Cross 2 more ridges, descending slightly, and then ascend the right hand chute at the chute junction you have reached. Keep right into a large passage under a high chockstone and hence reach the notch NW of Corcoran. Descend 10 feet on the east side to join the Tuttle Creek (Keating) route. Cross back W in a short, easy chimney and go 200 ft. south to the large chute leading east to the summit.

There is a distinct summit on the ridge between LeConte and Corcoran which is higher than Corcoran Mtn. (13,760+'). As seen from the LeConte Pinnacle (first cairned summit south of the LeConte high point) or from Corcoran, it seems a likely candidate for one of the "false Corcorans" of the past.

ECHOS FROM THE PAST Ten years ago in the SPS By Ron Jones

Two training trips were led by the SPS during the period. The first training climb was led by Miles Brubacher. Miles got 55 people up Strawberry and Josephine Peaks in the San Gabriels during a light April snow. Later in April Dick Jali led a training orgy on the Kern Plateau. Dick and some dedicated assistants led approximately 120 people to the summit of Smith Mountain on Saturday, while the following day only 25 climbed Crag Peak! I wonder why the decline in numbers?

New section members who joined this month included Ben Romero, Vern Stiles and Ken McNutt. Ken claimed as his qualifying peaks: Owens, Spanish Needle, Smith Mountain(1 of 120?), Crag, Cartago and Whitney via the switchbacks. I wonder if you're still up to it, Ken? Section membership in the spring of 1964 totaled 182 members including 60 Emblem holders. An interesting Echo article at the time told of a recent (1964) climb of the Northwest face of the Eiffel Tower, a first ascent, by three Frenchmen and an Englishman. Other first ascents listed in the article included an elephant via the steps in 1958 and a first descent by a bicyclist (via the steps) in 1923.

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

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