

The

Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 13

MAY

JUNE 1974

NO. 2

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The new SPS patches are available; see the notice inside.

The 1974 SPS membership list is printed in this issue. We are developing a computerized system to handle list generation and address ordering by zip code for the Echo and October ballot mailings. If there are any errors, omissions, or incorrect inactive ("I") designations, please communicate with our Secretary. We have 291 members; 42 people did not renew their membership as of 4 June. It seems less useful to publish the membership list so late; therefore next year's membership renewal deadline will be March 31 (instead of May 31). Watch for a formal policy announcement in the future.

The summer climbing schedule looks good (thanks to Doug Mantle and all the leaders!), and the season should be well underway by now. So far (June 4) there seems to be less of a "no-show" problem than there was last year. However, the Management Committee has directed me to say that the leader of any trip should feel free to announce publicly the names of the "unexcused" no-shows on his or her trip when making the trip report at the following SPS meeting. If the problem becomes worse, leaders will be requested to do so.

Our leaders have done some good work in putting together many fun and/or interesting trips. Let's help out by being conscientious, concerned participants. A minimal amount of effort will ensure a safe, sane, and -- most importantly -- a FUN climbing season!

Liana Lee ☺

Climb.

Climb.

Climb.

NEWS

*** FRESH OFF THE LOOM ***

The new SPS patches are here! Current SPS members may purchase them from George Toby for \$1.25 each, either at meetings or by sending him an s.a.s.e. The price will go up to \$2.00 each at the end of August.

The design is the same as that of the emblem pin: Mt. Williamson is shown under a one-cloud sky, with a pine-coned twig in the foreground, and a circular outer field lettered "SIERRA PEAKS SECTION : SIERRA CLUB." The colors are slightly different from those on the pin. The patch is three inches round.

NEW MEMBERS

April, May 1974

Robert Adlhoch
23325 Arminata
Canoga Park, CA 91304
883-2400 X2283

Lester Byington
2360 Pepper St.
La Verne, CA 91750
(714) 593-0180

Yoko Dee
525 N. Mansfield Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
936-2470

Joanna C. Stein
William E. Stein
Benjamin G. Stein
23118 Dolorosa St.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

FOUND

Found in the Sierra's vicinity of Dragon Peak, a climbing rope. Call Joan Hack and identify.

Work - 679-4511 Ext. 2106
Home - 672-1523

OWENS VALLEY, MONO BASIN RUNOFF MAY TOP 109%

The estimated 1974 April-September runoff from the Owens Valley and Mono Basin watersheds is 482,000 acre feet, or 109 percent of the long term normal, according to figures released by James F. Wickser, northern district engineer of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

This forecast is based on the assumption this area will receive normal April-September precipitation.

The DWP report says this season's snowpack accumulated fairly uniformly from November to April. Almost all of the Department's snow courses showed above average increases in snow water content between February 1 and April 1 surveys.

ON BELAY - THANK YOU, DAVE

Many of you have climbed with Dave Hammond; the SPS can now climb more. Thanks to him. Dave recently donated 150' of 7/16" Gold line to the Section, and it has already been used at several rock climb practice sessions. There's nothing wrong with the rope - it's near new - but "other people bring lighter ones on trips, so the Section has more use for it than I do." Muchas gracias, Dave.

THE SIERRA ECHO is published ten times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. EDITOR - Paul Lipsohn, 9152 E Olive St, Bellflower, Calif 90706. MAILING - Marian Furst, 1827 Oxford, Pasadena, Calif 91104. SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$2 per year. Subscription to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send remittance to: George Toby - Treasurer, 9337 Rubio Ave, Sepulveda, Calif 91343. COPY DEADLINE - First of every month.

MORE NEWS

ENTRY LIMITS SET FOR BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS IN SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Wilderness permits will be required again for overnight visits to the back country of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and backcountry visitor use limits will be continued this summer in the Kings Canyon portion of the Parks.

Superintendent Henry G. Schmidt pointed out that these limits, which began with the Rae Lakes Loop trail in 1972, have been successful in controlling over use and damage to the high country. With the cooperation of adjoining national forests, the major trailheads leading into Kings Canyon National Park will be controlled from July 1 through September 15.

An exception to the dates will be at the Cedar Grove trailhead in Kings Canyon. Beginning May 24, wilderness permits will be limited to 30 persons a day for each of the four main trails - Bubbs Creek, Woods Creek, Copper Creek, and Lewis Creek. The Park Ranger station at Roads End will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. during that weekend.

Backcountry users may make advance reservations for the summer season by mail or telephone until July 1. Schmidt said that, "after that date, all wilderness permits will be issued on a first-come first-served basis at the visitor contact station nearest the point of entry."

"In the adjacent Sequoia National Park," the superintendent commented that, "the same general rules will apply, but funding limitations will not provide for full staffing of the trailhead ranger stations. Wilderness permits for Sequoia will be available from the Ash Mountain Information Office, Lodgepole Visitor Center, and the Atwell Mill Ranger Station."

ON WILDERNESS PERMITS

Toiyabe National Forest, in which the Hoover Wilderness Area (Matterhorn Peak, etc.) is located, no longer accepts the present Wilderness Permit Application Form (apparently Inyo National Forest still does--so far). When applying for a permit by mail, allow at least two weeks to receive and return Toiyabe's new form. They will, however, mail permits which are applied for by telephone. Limit per permit is 15. Apply to:

Toiyab National Forest
District Ranger
Bridgeport Ranger District
Bridgeport, CA 93517
Phone (714) 932-8561

This ranger station is located five miles north of Bridgeport and permits can, of course, be obtained in person when the station is open.

-Barbara Lilley

MORE . . .

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

Bishop, Calif....Construction on 28 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail in the Inyo National Forest is scheduled to begin in mid-June. Twenty men from the Inyo Ecology Center in Bishop will do the trail building job.

The portion of trail to be constructed begins at Poison Meadow, just north of Trail Peak, and progresses south to Olancho Pass. From this point only 15 miles of trail remains to be constructed to the south boundary of the Inyo National Forest. Sixteen miles of trail construction in the Red's Meadow area will complete the construction program on the Inyo National Forest. These sections will be designed this summer and programmed for construction within the next few years. Upon completion of these two sections, and some reconstruction of existing trails, the Pacific Crest Trail on the Inyo National Forest will be finished. Completion is anticipated within the next five years.

The Pacific Crest Trail, when completed, will span 2400 miles from Canada to Mexico. 1600 miles of the trail is in California. 62 miles of this trail passes through the Inyo National Forest. One significant trailhead for this trail is planned in Inyo County, that being the controversial Horseshoe Meadows trailhead west of Lone Pine. Other minor trailheads south of Lone Pine will also provide access to the trail.

When completed, the Pacific Crest Trail will cross through 23 National Forests, 7 National Parks, several State Parks and areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The Pacific Crest Trail was created through the National Trails System Act of October 2, 1968.

ECHOS FROM THE PAST
Ten Years Ago in the SPS
- Ron Jones

Trip reports for this spring period included long approach and climb of Kern Peak from Troy Meadows on the south on the Memorial Day holiday in 1964. Thirty climbers back packed 16 miles to base camp. Eighteen were able the next morning to start for the peak and sixteen climbers made the summit including one person who covered 22 1/2 miles in about 17 hours. Gordon MacLeod, Barbara Lilley and Sy Ossofsky hiked and skiied to Mt. Goddard over the Memorial weekend. On May 9-10 Graham Stephenson and Tom Ross led 8 people on a successful climb of Birch Mountain. Black Mountain, Disappointment Peak, Mt. Eisen and a Kaweah Basin Collection were all successful June climbs. Meanwhile during June, Ed Lane, Arkel Erb, Sy Ossofsky, Barbara Lilley, Mike McNicholas and Mike Hiehle were preparing for a successful climb of Mt. McKinley in early July. About 14 days were spent on the Peak after setting up camps at 11,000 feet, 14,200 feet and 17,200 feet on the West Buttress.

NOTICE

A recent transfer of land ownership has resulted in several closed gates on roads previously open to the public.

Gates are located on the Tinemaha and Mountain Creek roads and add several miles to the climbs of Split, Tinemaha and Prater.

The management committee is currently attempting negotiations with the new owner to gain access for future climbs.

RIDERS WANTED

Leaving for British Columbia for three weeks beginning September 1st.

Contact Ed Rose - 650 S. Garfield, #44, Monterey Park 91754 (213-280-8494).

EGG-STRA AID FOR CLIMBERS

Katmandu, Nepal (AP) - Fifteen live hens were helicoptered Sunday into the Himalayan Mountains in an effort to help a 12-woman Japanese team make a record climb to the top of the 26,658-foot Manaslu peak.

Kyodo Sato, the 35-year old leader of the team, accompanied the hens to the climbers' base camp at 12,628 feet.

"I hope they lay eggs at that altitude," she said. "We need lots of eggs on the mountain."

Some mountaineering experts believe that fresh eggs provide stamina for climbing in the rarified atmosphere of the Himalayas.

(Ed. they should take some of our punsters-they can lay eggs at any altitude)

ASCENTS

MT. CANDLELIGHT, LONE PINE PEAK

May 11-12

Diana Dee

All 23 climbers (including the leaders) who had current reservations showed up (!) Saturday at the "Summer Homes" campground below Whitney Portal. Of course, since everyone had been warned that cameras as well as crampons were required, the leader forgot her camera and thus had to allow other non-camera bugs to come along.

One quarter mile and 100' loss (100' gain on the way out . . . sigh!) of asphalt road previously open to cars was gated shut; nevertheless, we bravely set out for the Meysan Lakes trail. Heavy, "break-through"-type snow was encountered above 9500'. It took us until 11:30 to reach 10,500', where we had lunch at a class 3 tarn north of Lower Meysan Lake. No one wanted to join the SPS (Sierra Ponds Section) at this time. However, there was a very brief snow-ball fight, but both participants were soon beaten by the altitude.

We took a mostly-rock route from there diagonally upward to the 12,000+ plateau to the north. Mt. Candlelight (if one believes the testimony of register locations) turns out to be one peak to the SW of the peak designated as Mt. Candlelight by the Climber's Guide; that is, the real Mt. Candlelight is 3/4 mi S of Lone Pine Lake. (Anyone for another Corcoran-style controversy?) We camped on the flat bench just below the summit. The views of Mt. Whitney and environs were very nice, and the weather was superb for a ridge camp at 12,000'.

Five tigers climbed Mt. Irvine (3½ hrs round trip): a new register container was placed there.

The next morning we cramponed down the bowl to the SW, then headed ESE to the bench at 11,000' below Meysan Lake. The leftmost branch of the snow bowl above this bench led to a chute that goes class 1 all the way to the ridge. It was good cramponing all the way. I heartily recommend doing the climb on or before the beginning of May, because when there's no snow the route is a horrible scree slope. From the upper exit of the chute, ducks lead one along a use trail just below the ridge to a shallow saddle; then the ridge is followed to the summit. Seventeen climbers made it. One would have obtained SPS membership, except that he doesn't want to "count" Mt. Whitney until he does the Mountaineers' Route.

We had nice glissading on the now-soft snow on the way down from the peak. And of course we fell into the shaving cream up to our pack-bottoms on the way out.

Mt. Shasta (14,162') May 25-27

Ron Jones

Dick Ramirez and I led this scheduled snow touring trip (with no skiers) to California's northern-most 14,000 foot peak over Memorial Day in the centennial year of John Muir's ascent. Thirty climbers, including 10 from the San Diego Chapter led by Pete Nelson, enjoyed the long bus ride complete with beverage service. We climbed the 2600 feet from the ski lift parking lot to Helen Lake in soft snow, arriving at a monstrous tent city at Helen Lake in about three hours. The Mazamas had a group of 40 there, the San Francisco group had 10 or 12 and miscellaneous climbers swelled the group to 80 or 90 at the Lake.

The next morning, 28 of our climbers joined at least 80 persons cramponing up the slopes of Avalanche Gulch. At the Red Banks we looked down at one of the North face glaciers where about 50 more climbers were seen ascending. This was getting really crowded! In about four hours most of our group was on the summit in beautiful sunny warm weather. Twenty seven persons made the top. We descended to our base camp which many reached before noon. The temperature at noon was 95 degrees. Later in the afternoon we started down to Bunny Flat in rapidly softening snow. After another long bus trip in which there was a noticeable lack of personal deodorant, we returned to Los Angeles by noon Monday.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

DESERET PEAK

February 3, 1974

John McKinley

As a frustrated SPSeer and a VISTA volunteer living in the Salt Lake City area for a year, I've had to turn to before-unheard-of summits in the Wasatch, Vinta, and Stansbury Ranges of northern Utah.

Although the peaks average only 11,500', they are far enough north and remote enough (no quotas on how many people allowed over passes per day, etc.) to compensate for their lower elevation.

It was Deseret Peak (11,031'), highest point in the Stansbury Range east of Salt Lake City that attracted my attention as one of the few remaining peaks in the area without a winter ascent.

Paul Bidstrup, a fellow VISTA climber and I set out on Saturday, February 2, 1974, to find out why.

The standard route up the peak is from the east, but it is heavily corniced with six avalanche zones and the road to the trailhead is not maintained, adding an additional 12 miles of slogging. For these reasons, we chose a western approach from the 5100' foot level, and up the South Fork of Lost Creek.

The canyon is very reminiscent of Diablo Canyon up Picacho del Diablo, with the addition of waist to shoulder-deep snow.

We literally plowed our way through brush and snow to the 7800 foot level and our first camp.

The next day was so tough that we had only gained 1500' by noon, due to our heavy backpacks and inability to use snowshoes because of boulders, brush and a 50-60° grade. Consequently, we decided to drop our backpacks and set up camp and then head for the summit.

It was a rather uneventful, time consuming snow slog to the summit, which we reached at 6:30 p.m. We enjoyed a beautiful view of the Salt Lake and many of the Nevada, Idaho, and Utah Ranges.

We slogged back to camp with a beautiful full moon and fell into the tent at 9:30 p.m., tired but satisfied with our first recorded winter ascent.

