

# The

# Sierra



# ECHO

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NO. 7



## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

It has been my pleasure to serve the Section as Chairman for the past year. When someone on the new Management Committee asked me "Just what does the Chairman DO?", I replied that the Chairman acts as the oil for the gears that keep the Section running. It was very interesting to see just what those gears consisted of (inside and out), how they meshed together, and how the Section is coupled to the Chapter and Club. It was a lot of fun to do the work involved and it was a pleasure to work with the other sterling characters who constituted the rest of this past year's Management Committee.

Doug Mantle did a fine job as Vice Chairman and an even finer job as Schedule Chairman. That job gave him much experience at arm-twisting, a skill which he will need as next year's Chairman.

Bill Russell did a super job as Secretary. His penchant for organization shone through in this year's excellently organized ballot mailing. He will be next year's Alternate Officer. But he won't be as inactive as that title implies. . . Watch out for his penchant!

George Toby did a fine job as Treasurer, pulling us through one of our leanest years, and preventing me from absconding with the funds. He will be Vice Chairman next year.

Ron Jones lent his support as Alternate Officer. Ron has been active in the Section for many, many years; it's always nice to have an old hand around to give good advice and to provide continuity.

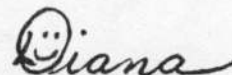
I would also like to thank the Committee Chairmen who all did outstanding jobs: Paul Kellow (Program), Fred Hoeptner (Conservation), Dennis Lantz (Records), Norm Rohn (Safety), Nada Berger and Peggy Russo (Council Rep.), and Marian Furst (Mailing). Last but not least goes a special thanks to Paul Lipsohn, our hard-working Echo editor.

The other two officers for next year will be Tom Cardina as Secretary and Duane McRuer as Treasurer. With Doug, George, and Bill, we will be in very good hands.

I might also mention in passing the other results of the election: The three proposed By-Laws amendments were passed, but the inclusion of banquet or consistent meeting attendance as an "activity" failed to pass. We had six changes to the Peaks List: Cross was deleted, and Whaleback, Glacier Ridge, Cotter, Pilot Knob, and Gemini were added. Palmer failed to pass as an addition. Finally, Charybdis was exchanged for Scylla as a "Mountaineer's Peak." The new Peaks List will be published in one of next year's Echoes.

As for me . . . Old Chairmen never die; they just climb off into the sunset. Actually, I have found some different gears to oil. . .

Happy trails!

Diana

# NEWS

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE..OCT.-NOV., 1974

## NEW MEMBERS

Cliff Black  
13592 Malena Dr.  
Tustin, Calif. 92680

David Coffman  
6881 Fortuna Rd.  
Isla Vista, Calif. 93017  
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Paul Janke  
4347 Paramount Blvd.  
Lakewood, Calif. 90712

Michael A. Lucki  
1775 Holly Oak Dr.  
Monterey Park, Calif. 91754  
573-9886

David Marcus  
P.O.Box 49  
Sunset Beach, Calif. 90742  
592-2105

Howard V. Mickle  
1707 W. Silverlake Dr.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90026  
663-4084

George F. Smith  
6423 Riggs Place  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90045  
670-7749

Norma Viault  
1514 So. Carmelina  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90025

Our many skiers remember  
with warm hearts the happier  
heavy snow years like 1969.

Cover photo of Mts. Whitney  
and Muir courtesy of Tom Ross.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Mark Goebel  
1632 Barry Ave. No. 7  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90025  
820-1962

Dick Jali  
5830 Green Valley Cr. No. 26  
Culver City, Calif. 90230  
645-6857

Ben Schifrin  
3138 Overhulse, No. 119  
Olympia, Wash. 98502

Erick Schumacher  
8812 Noble Ave.  
Sepulveda, Calif. 91343  
893-9224

Edmund J. Treacy  
452 Dewey Blvd.  
San Francisco, Calif. 94116

## NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

Earl Kesler

An SPS member, George Jackson of North Hollywood, died in October from injuries he received in a car accident in May, 1974.

The accident happened on Interstate 5 as George was going to the Sierras for Memorial Weekend. He either lost control of the car or fell asleep. He usually hiked by himself, very seldom did he go with a group.

He was taken to a Bakersfield Hospital and later to General Hospital in Los Angeles. From there he was transferred to his hometown in England where he died without ever regaining consciousness.

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## INYO NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

### INYO NATIONAL FOREST PREPARES FOR WINTER

In preparation for the coming ski season, many new areas have been marked for Cross Country Skiing. Two new lifts - #15 and #16 will be in operation on Mammoth Mountain. Mammoth Mountain should be in full swing around November 15, if the weather cooperates. June Mountain has a crisp new look for this season. Everything has been repainted and a lot of repairs done. June Mountain plans on opening November 23.

For current road conditions in Inyo and Mono Counties, call Caltrans Road Report at 714-873-6366. For ski conditions call Mammoth Mountain 714-934-6166; June Mountain call 714-648-7733. They are installing a special number for weather conditions. Check your listing at a later date.

The following is specific information regarding various facilities available for winter visitors to the Eastern High Sierra Region.

### LONE PINE & INDEPENDENCE AREA

Mt. Whitney Ranger Station will be open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Forest Service facilities at the Oak Creek Campground north of Independence and west of Highway 395, Lone Pine Campground - west of Lone Pine on Whitney Portal Road are open for winter use. Toilets are available and trash pick up will be provided. Water source is from the creek as campground water systems have been shut down and drained to prevent freezing.

Campgrounds operated by Inyo County for winter use in the Lone Pine area include Diaz Lake, Locust Grove, Portagee Joe and Tuttle Creek. For further information on the Lone Pine area, stop by the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce - located in Bobo's Bonanza Restaurant, 104 N. Main Lone Pine.

County Campgrounds in the Independence area - Symmes Creek, Independence, Sawmill, Goodale, Taboose Creek and Tinnemaha.

### BIG PINE AREA

Forest Service facilities in the Big Pine area are closed due to snow. However, County Campgrounds are available to the overnight visitor. These are Camp Inyo, Baker Creek and Big Pine Triangle.

### BISHOP AREA

White Mountain Ranger Station is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. The new office is now located on Highway 395 at 798 N. Main in Bishop. Bishop Creek and Rock Creek are not operating due to snow and roads not being plowed into the camping areas.

There will be cross country ski trails designated in the Bishop Creek area. Information on the trails is available from the above office. Cross country ski rentals and equipment are available from sports shops in Bishop.

County campgrounds operating in the Bishop area are: Schober Lane, Millpond, Pleasant Valley and Horton Creek. For more information about the Bishop area contact the Bishop Chamber of Commerce. Winter hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. They will be closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Chamber office is located at the City Park on Highway 395 in Bishop.

#### ROCK CREEK AREA

Rock Creek area will be in full swing with more miles of marked cross country ski trails than last year. The road will be open up to a mile from Rock Creek Lodge. Rock Creek Nordic will be offering a full program of cross country skiing activities. For further information write to Rock Creek Nordic, P.O. Box 404, Bishop, California 93514.

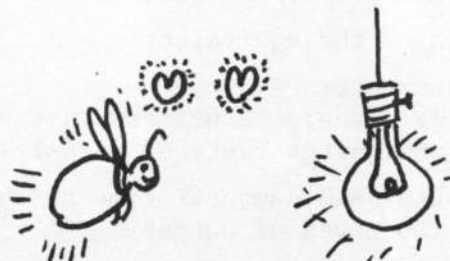
#### MAMMOTH AREA

The Forest Service Visitor Center is open six days a week, Monday-Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The back parking lot at the Visitor Center will not be open to public use this year. The parking lot at chair #2 (Mammoth Mountain Ski Area) will be available for self contained vehicles. For further information on winter camping facilities contact the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center is located on the north side of the highway going into Mammoth.

Mammoth will have Alpine and cross country skiing this winter. However, programs have not been completed. The cross country trail behind the Visitor Center is all marked and just waiting for enough snow to make it skiable. Cal Nordic, Cross Country Skiing will be operating from Tamarack Lodge at Twin Lakes in the Lakes Basin again this year. Their program includes instruction, rentals, sales, etc. Local sport shops in Mammoth provide all types of winter sports gear including cross country skiing equipment.

Evening programs will be held in the Visitor Center auditorium every Saturday at 7:00 p.m. starting November 30. Other programs will be posted locally during holiday periods.

For 24-hour information regarding the Mammoth area, please call 714-934-6611. Daily weather and avalanche forecast information is also provided at this number.



### LEE VINING AREA

Mono Lake Ranger Station will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. The station is located just west of Highway 395 on the Tioga Pass Highway. Upper Gull Campground will be open. However, no toilet facilities or water is available. Trash removal has been discontinued and visitors are asked to haul their own to designated sites.

Local sporting goods stores in the June Lake area offer a wide variety of winter supplies ranging from winter mountaineering gear to Nordic Ski equipment.

### WINTER MOUNTAINEERS AND WILDERNESS TRAVELERS

Winter mountaineering and travel into the wilderness areas on the Inyo National Forest is increasing annually. As a result, several actions are under way to provide a better service to the public involved in this activity.

Permits are required for entry into wilderness areas. These permits aid the Forest Service in determining how much of this type of activity is occurring, when and where, however, more important it provides Forest Service personnel the opportunity to personally contact the winter traveler and provide them with critical information such as weather forecasts, avalanche conditions and potentially dangerous areas to avoid. Information regarding the individual's proposed route of travel is obtained and is used in searching for lost or overdue travelers. Suggested routes of travel are available, if requested.

These permits are free and must be obtained in person from any one of the four ranger district offices located in Lone Pine, Bishop, Mammoth and LeeVining.

### HELP WANTED

The Sierra Peaks Section needs someone willing to serve the Section as keeper of the computerized membership records. The work load is 5 to 10 hours per month for Jan thru Apr and 2 to 3 hours per month for May thru Dec. The job would start immediately and there is a two month training period.

The pay is the usual.

The person volunteering for this job needs to have access to (and know how to use) the following equipment:

- paper cutter
- copy machine which uses individual sheets of paper
- IBM 029 keypunch or the equivalent
- card reader and printer  
(when listing cards, the printer must page-eject, i.e. go to top of form, after every 60 cards)
- optional: computer and computer time to run short program with about 100 pages of output

Please contact Diana Dee if you want to do this job.



## ASCENTS

HAECKEL, WALLACE, FISKE Sept. 15-16 ....Barbara Magnuson, Diana Dee

Once again Roy was kept at work so Diana Dee graciously accepted my request that she be assistant leader. We had a good group of 12. After a car shuttle we left the Lake Sabrina roadhead at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and reached Moonlight Lake at around 11:30. The campsite was lovely, but a smaller group might find Echo Lake a better camping location for doing these three peaks. After lunch, we hiked to Echo Lake (there is an intermittent trail on the right of the stream) then kept high on the right, up a broad chute to a low saddle looking across a small basin to Haeckel with Wallace on our left. We contoured around the right of the basin until we nearly reached the ridge between the two peaks. After ascending a ramp running below the near side of the ridge, we came to a chute leading easily to the summit. The climb was mostly class 2 to low class 3. After a brief respite and fine views of Darwin and Evolution Basin, we traversed the ridge to Wallace with some good class 3 on top, where a new SPS register can was placed (thanks to Diana). Taking little time to rest on the summit, we returned to camp by 6:30 in time to start supper before dark.

The Sunday climb started at 7:00 with 7 people. We climbed again to Echo Lake, this time went high on the left and traversed to the snowfield below the col. The passage is through the dark rock on the right, about 100 feet to the right of the contact with the lighter rock. We dropped down on the far side about 100 feet and contoured around to the right until we reached the ridge opposite the col. Climbing over the ridge, we turned right to a low saddle from which we could look across a basin to the false summit of Fiske. It was a second class climb across the basin and up a rubble slope, then a jog left on scree to the ridge, which was followed to the false summit. A walk and boulder hop brought us to the summit. From this marvelous vantage point, we could see from the Kaweahs to Lyell and McClure! (Thanks to Vicky Hoover's peak spotting). We returned to the roadhead by 6:15, where two of Saturday's party had arranged transportation and refreshments.

Comments: I would call the trip fairly strenuous, with lots of boulder hopping beyond Moonlight Lake. Frances Hoover, age 11, made the trip without apparent difficulty. No ice axes were needed this time of year, but they probably would be earlier. Thanks to Paul Lipsohn, Tom Cardina and Tim Treacy for route information.

MT. WALLACE, MT. HAECKEL, August 10-11.....Paul Kellow

From near the top of the ledge, the rock succumbed to the unrelenting effects of erosion and gravity and slipped loose from its place of origin. Almost immediately, a resounding crack could be heard as it began its cascading fall to the talus slope a thousand feet below. Each bound brought with it another loud report with the fracturing and showering addition of more rocks to the fall. It only lasted ten seconds or so but, the impression it formed remained with us all night. Twice more this episode was repeated.

Next morning, Sunday, there was considerable comment and relief expressed in that our route for the climb was not going to traverse that area.

We left our camp at Midnight Lake and proceeded south around the ridge overlooking both Moonlight and Saddlebag Lakes. We continued on up and reached the saddle on the shoulder of Mt. Haeckel comprising the east ridge line of the shallow Wallace-Haeckel bowl. From there, we dropped down into the bowl, crossed it and ascended to the Wallace-Haeckel saddle proper for the climb to the summit. A short and pleasant task. On Wallace, the views are as listed in the prospectus, superb!

Working down to the saddle, we headed for Haeckel just like the guide-book said, "...and traverse the many sawteeth to the summit." After a short stay, we dropped down from the summit and descended then from the east saddle attempting to glissade through the sun cups. A frustrating affair since they were too hard and deep to slide through, and yet too shallow not to require frequent plunge steps to control our rate of movement.

Camp was reached quickly and the hike out to the cars brought to a close a very pleasant and enjoyable climbing weekend.

MT. BALDWIN, MT. MORRISON, August 24-25 .....Paul Kellow

The old man approached and attempted to wave us off. "You can't camp here! This is private property!" After a few more minutes of interesting discussion on both sides, it was made quite definite that we were in fact going to camp "here"! It seems that our adversary had taken it upon himself to assume that a mineral claim in the area entitled him and his to lebensraum which comprised the whole of the upper drainage to Convict Creek as well as half of Mt. Baldwin. And all this right within the John Muir Wilderness!

With the matter disposed of, we made ready and started for Mt. Baldwin with our summit packs. Following breaks in the cliffs east of the creek, we reached the plateau and then proceeded south to the now dry stream bed which led to the saddle south of the summit. The trail was faint and barely discernable. As the steepness of the slope became excessive, we moved into the stream that made an excellent, firm, rock filled chute to the saddle. After a detour to explore the high points of the further south ridge, we returned to the saddle and then climbed up the rock slabs and scree to the summit. In places, a very impressive 30-40° gradient. Viewing Mt. Morrison from this vantage, it was evident that to climb it by its southwest side wouldn't be too much fun. We returned to camp down the usual north trail pausing enroute to view the exposed outcropping of calcite crystals. Undoubtedly, one of the old man's digs.



That evening we discussed Mt. Morrison. The next morning, we discussed Mt. Morrison. And, as we began the hike out, we discussed Mt. Morrison. The rationale was this: from the upper Convict Creek location, the climb would be too involved, from the upper end of Convict Lake, more straightforward. However, all that elevation loss to reach the upper end of Convict Lake made the task of climbing Mt. Morrison seem more arduous. Besides, it was 10 o'clock, etc., etc.

On the drive home, we discussed Mt. Morrison.

CHARYBDIS (Plus Mt. Fiske & Black Giant) 9/21-24-74..Frank Meyers,  
How Bailey

Perhaps the low response to the Charybdis trip was due to SPS "death marchers" wanting more than one peak per march. Anyway, only two young men from Explorer Post 528 joined How Bailey and me for this hike from Lake Sabrina over Echo Col.

We exited the San Fernando Valley at 5 PM Friday. At 11 PM we started up the trail to Blue Lake, where we camped. Leaving at 7:10 AM, we took the shortcut to Topsy Turvy Lake via Emerald Lakes. This begins by a short ascent of a diagonal ledge up the cliff at the south just before the long steep downhill section of trail west of Blue Lake. One then stays as low as feasible on a descending contour to Emerald Lakes. Thence one takes a straight line path along a zone of fracture through a small pass leading to Topsy Turvy Lake, at its outlet. Passing Moonlight Lake on the west and Echo Lake on the east, we reached the top of Black Notch at Echo Col at 12:10 PM.

So far, so good. It's so early we have to climb a peak today.. We can see a route up Mt. Fiske; we will go over it with packs, down to Helen Lake. We crossed the SE ridge of Fiske about 300 ft. below the east peak and carried our packs to about 13,200' on the summit plateau. All made the peak and were amazed to discover the register went back to 1922. (The register needs a pencil; I didn't want to leave my pen.) Now down to Helen Lake. Nice sand for awhile; then too much talus. Camped SW of Helen Lake at 7:30 PM.

Sunday, How Bailey and Mark Fincher climbed Black Giant and went to see the Muir Hut while Kurt Moeller and I climbed Charybdis. The main climbing problem on Charybdis is getting past the north summit. There were two other climbers ahead of us there, the first people we had seen. One of them took a high ledge across the north face; the other turned back there and took a lower ledge, which begins just at the base of the summit mass as one goes up the (north) ridge. We used a very high (and airy) ledge on the south, but returned on the lower north ledge, which (going up) leads one to the gully just below the true summit. Kurt and I were on top at 11 AM; he and Mark now qualify for the SPS.

We had lunch at Helen Lake and did not get on our way out until 2:30 PM. Darkness overtook us at Moonlight Lake; we cooked dinner there and then went over to the Hungry Packer Lake trail, choosing this longer route out to avoid cross-country travel in darkness. We reached the road at 1 AM. Then my car wouldn't start--but it's all downhill to Bishop! With a dead car and being dead tired, we were happy when we rolled to a stop at the Piute Lodge motel. Fortunately for me, the Auto Club was able to start the car in the morning; we got back to L.A. at 2 PM Monday.

"A death march for the masochistically inclined," read the Schedule writeup. This flushed all sorts of wierdos out of the woodwork. (But none more masochistically inclined than the leader.)

The Magnusons called me Friday and said they would go as their own trip, if I didn't mind. They wanted to get both peaks and get back to LA early. I said I didn't and so would I.

Friday night a park ranger stopped us one mile from road's end in Kings Canyon. We'd passed all the campgrounds, he informed us, and weren't allowed to sack out at the roadhead. We went back four miles to Camp 4. 1 a.m.

Our meeting time was 6:30 at road's end. At 6:15 the Magnusons waved goodbye as they started up the trail. We obtained our permit from the ranger at the A-hut (open at 6 a.m.) and set out for the long slog at 7:10. By 11 we'd done the first nine miles of up-and-down and level and level and up-and-down, netting 1800' gain at Arrow Creek. Since my three consultants had been two-to-one in favor of going up the Creek, we did so, and with some bushwhacking completed the additional 4 miles and 3200' gain to the 10K' level on Arrow Creek by (sigh) 5 p.m. No sign of the Magnusons. Not a chance to do one peak in the p.m., but two of us took a bath in one of the creek's high-class-2 bathtubs. We chose to swim rather than climb a peak.

We had noticed that the moon shone brightly from 1 a.m. to sunrise. Doing the calculation backward from cars-at-9 p.m., I decided we needed to start at 4 a.m. Sunday morning. So we did. Having misread the Climbers' Guide, I took the group up the south ridge. We lost an hour circumventing the last 1/3-mile knife-edge between the false summit and the summit.

The Magnusons arrived while we were enjoying the fantastic summit views. They'd gotten to camp at the lowest lake on the creek at 2 p.m. Saturday and had completed their climb of Pyramid by 6:30. Not quite long enough to qualify for a death march, they said. They wished us luck as we started down. (After the topmost 100 ft, the west slope provided a beautiful scree run.)

We chose to climb the second peak rather than swim. We made up some time on the walk over to Pyramid, never descending below 10,800' and encountering nothing worse than some boulder-hopping and several isolated class-3 moves. We were on top at 12:15, and placed a new register container.

The descent to camp was for me an extremely pleasant experience. I felt good about making it to the top of both summits and I felt as though I were dancing down the rocks. After ages of trudging, my mind had returned to the freedom of the hills. It was super.

We left camp at 3 and were back to the main trail at 6. (Thank you, Horace, for leading the bushwhacking both up and down.) Darkness arrived at 8. The fast group got to the cars at 9. I was slow because my feet hurt all the way up to my knees; I made the roadhead at 10:30. People have criticized that last two miles of soft sand; but if it had been anything else, I couldn't have endured it.

The same park ranger came by our car as we were packing up and asked what we were doing. He was very impressed that we had gotten up at 5:30 a.m. Saturday after arriving at 1 a.m. I chatted with him for awhile, standing in socked feet on a double foam pad, while the car was being loaded and the Byingtons were washing up. We talked about climbing in the area, about conservation and impact, about how people put biodegradable soap in streams, about the very large groups on SC national trips, and about how backpackers tend to drive too fast going down from the roadhead.

We got to L.A. just in time for the morning traffic jam that didn't happen because of Admission Day.

EXCELSIOR MOUNTAIN, DUNDERBERG PEAK Sept. 21-22 '74 ...Dick Akawie

After a long layoff because of recent surgery, I drove to the Virginia Lakes campground Friday expecting to drag along as assistant leader at the rear of the group for the next two days. Imagine my surprise Saturday morning to find out that Ron Jones, the leader, was off barbecuing lemons on a Sunkist ship in Ecuador. I was it! After someone hid the ignition key to my car, I decided to lead the group up the peaks. Dave Hammond volunteered to be assistant leader. Eleven of us left the campground on the Virginia Lakes-Green Creek trail. We followed the trail past the upper lakes to its high point, then went cross country past the little lakes to the south, up the red rock slope to the southwest and then to the crest. From there, it was an easy walk south on the west side of the crest to the peak, which was reached without use of hands (hence class 1, not class 2 as the peak list shows).

We had a leisurely lunch, with peak viewing and picture taking, then left by the same route for the campground. Two members of the party looking for something else to do since it was early, climbed Black Mountain on the way back. After a peaceful evening and calm night, we rose at 6:30 am Sunday for a 7:30 am departure for Dunderberg Pk. The group grew to 13. We took the same trail west from the campground. Just after we passed the outlet stream from Moat Lake, we found a usage trail which took us up to the lake. We passed the lake, went up the steep talus slope, reaching the ridge near the top of the peak, and followed the ridge to the top. After an early lunch, we then proceeded around to the ridge southeast of the peak and followed it directly back to the campground. It was the feeling of the group that it would be troublesome to pick out the route going up this ridge, and that it was better to go up the southwest side. From the top, it looked like the peak could also be climbed from Trumbull Lake, just below the campground, by going northeast around the ridges, northwest to the saddle at 11,600', then west to the peak.

We were back at the cars at 1:30 pm for the long drive home. Total for the weekend was a little less than 12 miles, 6000' gain. The weather all weekend was beautiful, with practically no clouds in the sky. Too bad you missed it.

Maybe it was the fact that it was only 800 ft. of gain to camp and not too much gain for the peaks. Maybe it was such a fine peak as BCS, but then maybe it was the last fling of the season which brought in such a determined group of hikers, and come they did from San Diego to Bakersfield (even had one from China Lake who had to cancel). I permitted some extra sign-ups to allow for a normal attrition rate. Five cancelled but everyone else showed and we wound up with 27 signed in.

The morning air was crisp at this 10400 road head and it was fall gold on all the grass and shrubbery. The trip to Treasure Lakes went easily with only 800 gain and 22 set out for Dade at noon. We took to the wall on the right of the scree chute which went cautiously due to ever-potential rock fall. From there it was a dash in slow motion to the summit which 19 attained by 3:40. The conditions were sunny but cool, and a forest fire to the northwest was belching smoke which spread into the valleys to the east and west making for a depressing sight of air pollution.

My initial plans were to return down the main chute, but a last minute change was made to return the way we came since I couldn't be sure that we could bypass the hard snow, and thus with proper caution everyone got out safely in time for dinner. The easy back pack gave opportunity for the ourmets to do their thing and steaks were in evidence here and there. (Les Byington having toted a ten-inch cast iron skillet for that purpose).

Sunday it was - up at 6:00 and off at 7:00 - in anticipation of a magnificent climb. The weather again cooperated to the fullest as 25 slightly apprehensive climbers wended our way upward, wondering in our minds as to how tough the summit would really be.

At 11:30 our belays were set up and working to bring up the climbers on what was a very high class-three pitch. This activity consumed the better part of an hour and as the group was enjoying their accomplishments, the leader announced that he was in a position to be congratulated--this peak being his 100th SPS listed peak.

The summit block seemed to taunt us with, "climb me if you can" and this provoked several contestants to the challenge. Ten climbed it successfully, some up the west face and others by shinnying up the block which is separated from the summit block by about six inches and being about eight inches thick and 12 feet high. Following this delightful exercise, we immediately started downward using the belays again. Bill Bradley and Les Byington, among others, deserve thanks for their assistance in this activity.

Everyone was very pleased with the peak and their conquest of it and doubtlessly kept running the experience through their minds all the way back to camp. The last of us were back at the road head at 6:30 with the feeling of having spent a rewarding weekend.

Norma Viault and Bob Brulay used this trip to complete their requirements for joining the SPS and two BMTC students were on this as one of their experience trips--one they should long remember.

MT. CORCORAN, Sept. 28-29.....Jerry Keating

With snow, rain and uncertainty factors of the past, a scheduled climb of Mt. Corcoran (13,760+') was conducted successfully this fall for the first time from Tuttle Creek. Not only was the route verified, all 11 participants made the summit via a route that is all Class 2 except for one touch of Class 3 at the Sierra crest.

Leaders were Andy Smatko, Barbara Lilley and Jerry Keating, all of whom have been up Tuttle Creek more times than the writer cares to recite. Suffice to say, the 1968 SPS trip, which followed 1967's snowout, put parties on two pinnacles, neither of which subsequently turned out to be the new summit of Corcoran, and a two-sided approach scheduled in 1972 ended with rain.

Base camp in 1974 was established on the usual 11,000-foot wooded bench Saturday afternoon, and six participants scrambled up nearby Pk. 11,920+, which the group dubbed Tuttle Pk. Two others started up Mt. Langley but aborted due to a lack of time.

On Sunday, with the overnight temperature having stayed in the upper 30's and the sky remaining clear, we followed a route described by the author in the November 1973 Sierra Echo. From camp we climbed to another forested bench immediately above, then followed ducks placed in 1973 across a boulder-strewn draw to the north. The ducks ultimately lead westward several hundred yards along the draw's north edge, then turn northeastward up a series of ledges and slabs to a canyon northwest of camp. The route crosses a small stream where canteens should be filled. Then staying high and well to the north to avoid rubble in the canyon bottom, we advanced northwestward into the northernmost of two basins at the head of the canyon. The easiest footing is on the top of the moraine dividing the two basins. At this point, Corcoran is clearly visible: it is the pyramid shaped peak immediately north of a sheer 13,600-foot spire. To the left of the spire is the old summit of Corcoran. Also in sight, to the right of new Corcoran, are several pinnacles and Mt. LeConte. We followed the moraine to its end and then scrambled over loose talus to the base of a broad chute that leads to the crest. One arm of the chute is quite sandy and inviting, but it passes to the left of new Corcoran and should be ignored. The main chute ends in a sandy saddle on the crest immediately to the right (N) of Corcoran, and we found footing best on the chute's far left side.

Twenty or so vertical feet before reaching the saddle, we turned left and climbed a low Class 3 pitch featuring a small, very easy chockstone. From the top of the chockstone, we traversed southward for 50 yards on the easy ledges on the west side of the crest, then headed up a prominent chute that tops out at the summit. Climbing time from camp was approximately 3 1/4 hours and we were pleased to have a former SPS chairman, Sid Davis, among those signing in at the register.

On the way down, we avoided the chockstone by contouring closer to the saddle and ascending one Class 3 pitch just above the saddle. It's a tossup as to which route is easier, but the chockstone seemed easier to pass on the way to the peak.

CORCORAN, Cont'd...

Upon reaching the cars at about 5 p.m., we reflected that the most important thing in climbing Corcoran from Tuttle Creek is to recognize the imposing spire to Corcoran's immediate south. This is the key landmark and, fortunately, it can be seen from downtown Lone Pine as well as on the final approach to the peak. For those who want to locate the true peak on the map, it is where the black county line marking vanishes on the 1958 edition of the Lone Pine quad.

MC ADIE, MALLORY, IRVINE, September 21 & 22 .....James Murphy

Twelve persons met the leader (and the two assistants, Cuno Ranschau and Dick Searle) at the roadhead for a weekend one day shy of the first day of fall. Contrary to the write up in the schedule, we base camped at Meysan Lake instead of Consultation Lake. The change was caused by a wilderness permit restriction which allows only one group per day per roadhead. The trip was uneventful except for superior weather, views of granite walls, a small rushing stream and surrounding peaks. We arrived at Meysan Lake at noon. Seven of the group decided to bag Mt. LeConte, and they did.

Sunday was another superior day weather-wise. Nine members including six from the day before, took the far left chute to the LeConte plateau, then on to Mallory. One member reported the temperature on the summit at an invigorating 38 degrees. We descended Mallory the way we came and then descended a chute which leads from the base (south) of the peak to just below Arc Pass. From Arc Pass we ascended an obvious chute leading to the middle summit of McAdie. At an elevation about equal to the notch between the middle and north summit blocks we traversed; careful footing was required but no more than third class. The route was fairly obvious and three ducks were noted. This route passed through the rock cluster in the notch. The group then split, some traversing to the West, some going directly up and then over, the latter, by far, being a safer and more direct route. There were ducks both ways. There are substantial differences in the route we took versus the route in the guide. Since the description in the new guide is similar to the old guide, I have concluded that the authors of the new guide did not climb this peak. The views from McAdie were superb. The South aspect is the picture in the old guide. From Arc Pass we ascended the chute to the right (South) of the rib leading from the Pass, then on to Irvine. The descent followed the low point between Irvine and Mallory which was steep but passable.

Everyone made it to the cars at 6:30. There were three no-shows for the trip. Parking is on the road next to a camp-ground, although the trail starts at the end of the road in the camp ground.

CLOUDS REST, CATHEDRAL PK.....SEPT. 28-29.....MANTLE, HUBBARD, LIPSOHN

Yosemite after Labor Day is a delight--few campers, no mosquitos and an unlimited supply of clean, crisp air.

From our campsite at Tenaya Lake we headed up trail 16 strong, with an equal quantity (it seemed) of champagne to celebrate Doug's completion of the SPS list. Summarily we surmounted the summit and summoning our sufficiency of sustenance, soon summarized the successful summers' list supersession.

Four ( Roy Ward, Tren Bartlett, Bill Stauffer and I), not satisfied at this point, elected to go for nearby (?) Half Dome, while the rest of the group returned to camp at Tenaya Lake and an afternoon of boisterous roistering.

Our trip to Half Dome went uneventfully, although the traffic jam along the cables was rather heavy. We made the trip over from Clouds Rest in two hours, the return in about three and arrived back in camp about 9 pm.

We discovered upon our return that only about half the champagne made the trip to the top--the rest having been finished at camp along with a rum cake. One uninvited participant--Brer Bear--neatly removed the lid from my cold box at the camp-ground and escaped with several meat and cheese sandwiches as well as a quart of mixed orange juice and yeast, (an offset screwdriver?), not mine, thanks.

A beautifully cool evening passed without further moment, followed by a beautiful ( for some) sunrise. Shaking off the frost, we moved up the highway to the Cathedral trail. Leaving the trail at its high point, we proceeded directly up the slope and easy third class rocks below the summit to the ridge, where belays were set up to do the summit block. Tom Cardina and Vi Grasso each claimed their 100th SPS peak and more champagne materialized to commemorate the event. Getting 15 people up took a bit of time, so we lunched just below the summit out of the wind. Doug and Tom finished off their weekend with an ascent of Eichorn Pinnacle, while the rest of us watched from the comfort of the sunny rocks, then made a run back to the cars for the long haul home.

MT. DANA, MT. GIBBS, October 5-6.....Paul Kellow

The peaks along the eastern Sierra above Bishop were lightly mantled with the first snow of the coming winter season. It glistened prominently in the full moonlight during the drive Friday night to Tioga Lake. Saturday morning, the chilling temperature at sunrise, which greeted the fifteen participants, warmed considerably by the time the hike to Mt. Dana started.

It was a beautiful day and it was a beautiful climb up this very popular peak in northeast Yosemite National Park. We followed the usual tourist route from the Tioga Pass entrance station to the summit, had lunch, and returned by the same way.

Sunday morning, after a car camp and a roaring campfire in Tuolumne Meadows the night before, the group assembled at the Mono Pass trail-head for the hike to Mt. Gibbs. For some inexplicable reason, the Sierra Club has chosen to commemorate Mono Pass with a cast aluminum register container! Perhaps there are "Pass Baggers" after all! Disdainfully ignoring it, we started up the southeast ridge to the summit of Gibbs where we properly commemorated the MOUNTAIN with its own new cast container. By contrast, the Gibbs register book was placed in 1966 while that of Dana was filled in only one month!

To top off the weekend, a stop at Hot Creek was made to enjoy a swim and unwind in a most fitting fashion.

# LETTERS

## REPORT FROM THE FIRST CHAIRMAN.....

Even though I am not physically active with the Section, it is gratifying to read in the ECHO of the large, active SPS we have now. Next year will be the 20th anniversary of the time (July-Oct., 1955) when a small group of us, who had for years been active hiking and climbing in the Sierra on "outlaw" or DPS trips, decided it was time to form a section to represent those of us who enjoyed our Range of Light. We drew up By-laws and peak lists and had them approved by the Executive Committee. I had the pleasure and honor of being the first Chairman of the fledgling SPS in 1956.

Now I am actively involved with hiking and climbing friends in the Seattle Mountaineers, Puget Sound Group of the Sierra Club and the Alpine Lakes Protective Society, in exploring the many wilderness areas of the Cascades, Olympics and other ranges of our great Pacific Northwest. At this rather wet time of year, when deep snow covers our high country above about 2000 feet, we explore our wild islands, sand spits and shorelines. We seek out wild lakes, streams, meadows, high benchlands, and beaches where we are far from civilization, to explore, climb, swim, relax, sunbathe and share in the comradeship of those who love Wilderness.

May all of you have an active, healthy 1975 in the high country and wilderness we all love so much.

FRANK SANBORN

## SAN JACINTO 300....

On Tuesday, November 12, 1974 I climbed Mt. San Jacinto---for my 300th ascent. The total number of ascents covers over 3000 miles, and was ten years in the making.

My climbs were made from Devil's Slide, Suicide, Marion Camp, Seven Pines, and Fuller Ridge trails; from Palm Springs proper, and also the classic "Snow Creek " climb.

The timing of my ascents has varied from five hours, (during a snowstorm, wearing snowshoes, and still sinking in a foot), to one hour, twenty-five minutes, (covering over five miles from the Tram to the peak, six years ago at the age of 52).

To my sister and brother Sierra Club climbers, I dedicate this 300th ascent.

Sid Davis

Burping cows must rate as the number one source of air pollution in the U.S., according to the EPA. The Agency says that cows burp 90 million tons of hydrocarbons into the atmosphere every year. Ten cows can burp enough gas in a year to heat a small house..

"Clean Air and Water News", No. 15.



1975 SPS Membership and Echo Subscription Application Form

Unless you have a "75" written on your Echo mailing label, or if you are applying for membership or subscribing to the Echo, you need to fill out this form.

Current Sierra Club membership is required for all SPS members; please list your SC membership number(s) for the Section records. A space is provided for listing activities for members who wish "active" (voting) status. If you wish to be an active member for 1975 please list your 1974 qualifying activity.

Non-SPS members who are subscribing to the Echo, please check the "subscriber only" box. You needn't supply an SC number.

If you are applying for SPS membership list the peaks climbed, dates, and indicate those climbed with the SPS in the space provided at the bottom of the page.

One Echo subscription is sufficient for related members living at the same address. Please be sure to fill in the requested information for all members.

Please mail this page and the \$3.00 Echo subscription fee to:

(Renewals or Subscriptions:)

Duane McRuer  
SPS Treasurer, 1975  
357 S. Meadows Ave.  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

(New Members or Reinstatements:)

Tom Cardina  
SPS Secretary, 1975  
1625 Raymond Hill Rd. #9  
So. Pasadena, CA 91030

RENEWAL DEADLINE: March 31. (After that time, please apply for reinstatement.)

**PLEASE PRINT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: Number, Street, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, ZIP

**RENEWALS, REINSTATEMENTS, SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- I am a current Sierra Club member; my SC membership no. is \_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to maintain "active" status. My Section activity in 1974 was:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I wish to be reinstated as an active member. My last year as an active member was \_\_\_\_\_. I have done the following to qualify for reinstatement:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I will be an "inactive" member in 1975 and wish to receive the Echo.
- I wish to renew my Echo subscription; I am not an SPS member.
- I wish to subscribe to the Echo; this is a new subscription.

→ OTHER SPS MEMBERS WHO RESIDE AT THE SAME ADDRESS (Please give phone if different.)

| Name  | SC Member No. | activity in 1974; if none state "I" |
|-------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ | _____         | _____                               |
| _____ | _____         | _____                               |
| _____ | _____         | _____                               |

**NEW MEMBERS**

- I hereby apply for membership in the SPS. (List peaks climbed, dates, and indicate those climbed with the SPS below:)

| <u>Peak</u> | <u>Date</u> | (✓) (with SPS) |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| _____       | _____       | _____          |
| _____       | _____       | _____          |
| _____       | _____       | _____          |
| _____       | _____       | _____          |
| _____       | _____       | _____          |

- I am a current Sierra Club Member; my SC membership no. is \_\_\_\_\_