

The

Sierra



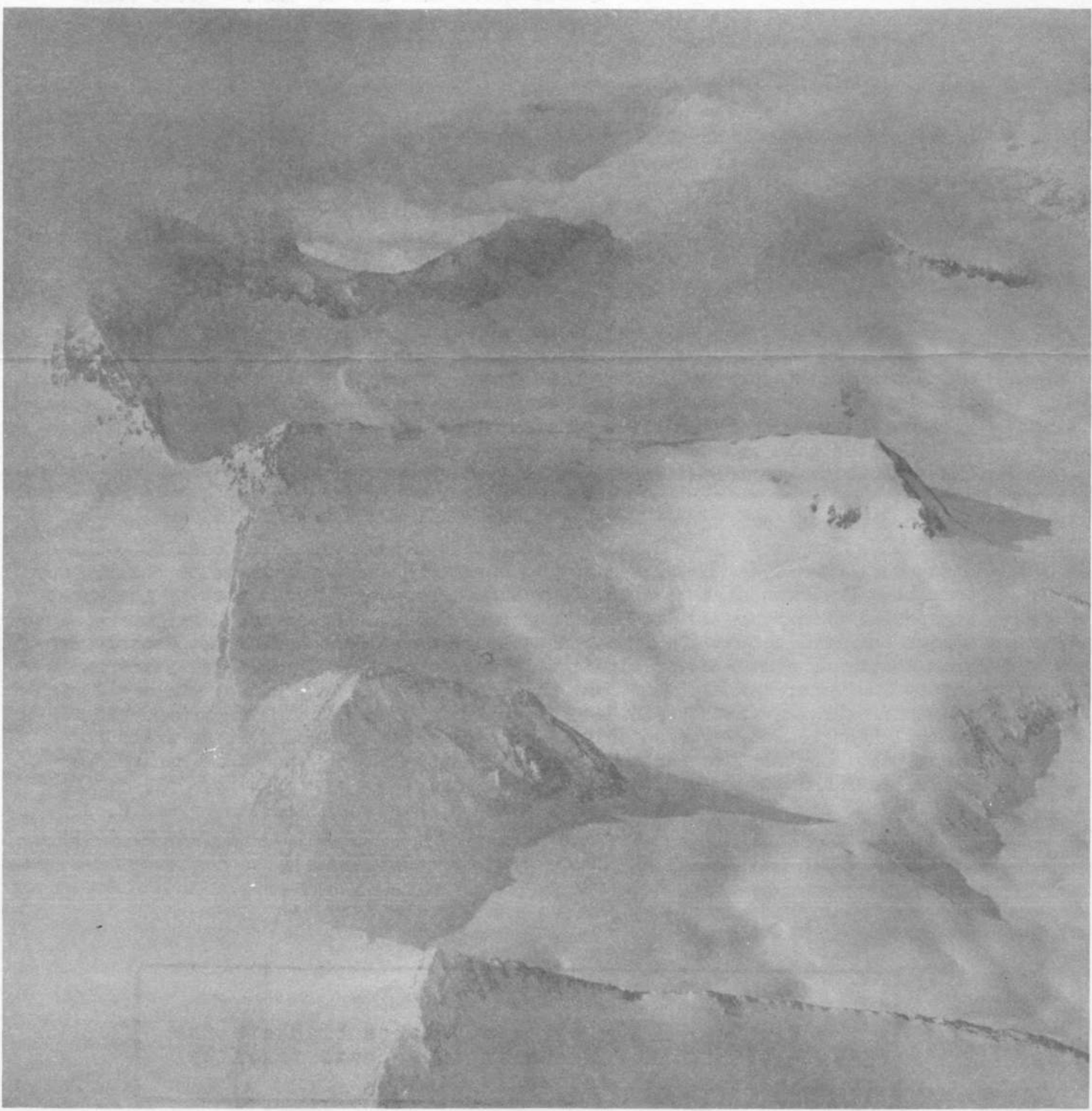
ECHO

VOLUME 20

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER 1976

NO. 7



## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

It's time to recapitulate another year. Tragically, it both began and ended with untimely deaths. Ted Maier, our 1963 chairman, died in January of a heart condition; and three of our finest members, Arkel Erb, Graham Stephenson, and John Baruch were killed in a mountaineering accident in October (see "Himalayan Tragedy" elsewhere in this Echo). They were all ardent and extraordinarily capable mountaineers. Both Graham and Arkel had served the Section in many roles over the years; John was denied the opportunity by events, but he was a young man of very great promise. Benjamin Casasola, Graham's rope partner, was also associated with the SPS by virtue of our joint activities with the Socorro Alpino de Mexico. The passing of all these fine men has left a great void.

In some ways this has been a year of transition and change. The meeting place was moved to DWP after 16 years at Lemon Grove, and Senior Emblem Status and an accompanying pin were initiated. A consolidation effort was the Management Committee's review and listing of policies and procedures to help provide continuity between successive Management Committees and some guidance on Angeles Chapter regulations of concern to the Section. A substantial, and unfortunately continuing, effort has been mounted to counter those aspects of the Sierra Club Council's Outings Policy which threatened to modify or curtail our traditional activities. And, most important of all, we've continued to provide a full spectrum of mountaineering trips to the Sierra Nevada and formal training and safety-oriented testing programs.

A good deal of the year was spent on reminiscence, especially the last month when the banquet and a 20th Anniversary Commemorative Issue of the Echo were combined to look at our past. It was an extraordinary evening, with almost half of the original members of the 1955 Sierra Peaks Section and two-thirds of the past Section Chairmen in attendance. They provided a great environment in which to remember the past and turn over the future to 1977's Chairman, Bill Russell, and his fresh but experienced crew.

It's traditional to give formal thanks to our earnest workers in the last Chairman's Corner but, tradition or not, it's a real pleasure to do so. The Management Committee has been a joy to work with and a privilege to chair. Our Committee Chairmen deserve special gratitude because they do most of the work, so special thanks are due to Cuno Ranschau, Schedule Chairman; Mary Omberg, Echo Editor and Publications Chairman; Anna Lou Pinson, Echo Mailer; Ed Omberg, Program Chairman; Norm Rohn, retiring this year after 5 distinguished years as Safety Chairman; and Paul Lipsohn, Hal Browder, and Peggy Russo, who are finishing their service as Mountain Records Chairman, Conservation Chairman, and Council Representative, respectively. Special recognition must go again to Diana Dee, who talks to our computer, and Betty Kabler, who again chaired our banquet. Dennis Lantz did his usual superlative job in training. All of these appointees, plus the elected committee (Cuno, Mary, and Ted Pinson and R. J. Secor, our Secretaries, and Beverly Shults, our Treasurer) lightened my steps all year.

*Ed Omberg*

### COVER PHOTO

A foreign, unfamiliar white substance blankets the peaks east of the Kaweahs in this photo taken by Tom Ross from John Wedberg's Cessna.

SPS 1977 MANAGMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Bill T. Russell  
TRW Systems  
E2/4000  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Vice Chairman and  
Schedule Chairman: Maynard Brandsma  
8338 E. Sheffield Rd.  
San Gabriel, CA 91775

Secretary: Ted Pinson  
10624 Garden Grove Avenue  
Northridge, CA 91324

Treasurer: Cuno Ranschau  
12744 Lorne Street  
North Hollywood, CA 91605

Alternate Officer: Bev Shultz  
3212 Montrose  
La Crescenta, CA 91214

\*Publication Chairwoman: Mary Omberg  
4311 El Prieto  
Altadena, CA 91001

\*Safety Chairman: Duane McRuer  
357 South Meadows Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

\*Mountain Records  
Chairman: Chuck Stein  
13916 Cumpston  
Van Nuys, CA 91401

\*Program Chairwoman: Pat Butler  
754 S. Highland  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

\*Council Representative: Meridee Muell  
105 S. Helberta  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

\*Conservation Chairman: Dick Labrecque  
4957 Alminar  
La Cañada, CA 91011

\*Records Diana Dee  
2120 Dufour Avenue, No. 8  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

\*Echo Mailer Anna Lou Pinson  
10624 Garden Grove Avenue  
Northridge, CA 91324

\*Appointed Officials

## HIMALAYAN TRAGEDY

The Sierra Club suffered a profound loss October 16, 1976, when three members of the Angeles Chapter and an associate from Mexico met their deaths while attempting to make the second ascent of 23,184-foot Dunagiri Peak in the Himalayas.

Falling to their deaths were Graham Stephenson, a certified public accountant with offices in Los Angeles; Arkel Erb, a systems programmer from Malibu; John Baruch, a University of Colorado premedical student from Pacific Palisades; and Benjamin Casasola, an insurance executive from Mexico City.

Graham, 55, was the leader of the party, which on the day of the tragedy consisted of the victims, Arkel's wife Ruth, and a group of porters. Five other members from California earlier had departed for home.

Ruth Erb was alone at an advanced camp at about 20,000 feet when the falls occurred approximately 2,000 feet higher on the mountain. She reported seeing two climbers fall from an icy ridge and she subsequently sighted their bodies, as well as those of the two other climbers, on the glacier below the camp. Arkel and John, according to Ruth's report, were close to the peak before beginning the descent to an area where Graham and Ben earlier had experienced difficulty, but whether any member of the party actually reached the summit is not known.

Graham and Arkel, both members of the American Alpine Club and the Alpine Club of Canada, had participated in a variety of expeditions, while John's experience abroad included a Himalayan trek.

Graham was the Angeles Chapter treasurer in late 1960 and Training Committee chairman in 1960 and 1961. He was Sierra Peaks Section vice chairman in 1962 and SPS treasurer in 1966. He never applied for an SPS emblem even though this year he was closing in on completing the entire SPS peaks list. He finished the Desert Peaks Section list this January and in addition had an extensive collection of summits on the Hundred Peaks Section list. His expeditions included one to the Hindu Kush in Afghanistan.

Arkel, 41, was one of only three climbers known to have completed the SPS, DPS, and HPS lists, an accomplishment which was finalized in 1975. Earlier, he climbed Mt. McKinley and in South America. And, like Graham and Ben, he had conquered Mexico's highest volcanoes. Arkel was SPS chairman in 1965, DPS vice chairman in 1964-65, and DPS member-at-large in 1965-66. In recent years he was increasingly interested in canoeing. When he and Ruth married in 1965, the wedding took place on a week night, according to The Sierra Echo, "so as not to interfere with a weekend trip to the mountains."

John, at 19, was the youngest climber on the expedition but showed knowledge and maturity beyond his years. He joined the SPS in 1974 — 18 years after Graham had qualified and 13 years after Arkel had applied — but was

as committed and enthusiastic as any veteran member. He earned his SPS emblem in 1975 and also climbed extensively in Colorado. John, recalled one fellow member of the expedition, deeply loved the mountains and was always full of energy.

The fourth victim was to have led a Mexican expedition to Mt. Everest in 1977. He is believed to have climbed with the SPS in the 1960s when a number of Socorro Alpino members came north to sample the Sierra Nevada in an expression of international goodwill. Ben and Graham were old friends and both participated in a joint Mexican-American expedition to the Cordillera Blanca of Peru in 1966.

To the families of Graham, Arkel, John and Ben, the deepest sympathy of fellow climbers and other Sierra Club members is extended. The victims knew — as do those of us who survive — the great risks of seeking out the high places in the Himalayas. Yet the sorrow remains as we try to accept the loss of these four men whose love for the high places was matched only by their compassion for their fellow climbers.

-- Jerry Keating

#### MARCH 1 THRU JULY 5, 1977 SPS TRIPS

Mar 12-13	The Thumb	Sheaff, G.Davis
Mar 12-13	Snow training trip	Dee, Ranschau
Mar 12-13	Mt Bradley	Mantle, M.Omberg
Mar 27	Rock climbing - Rubidoux	Lantz & SPS leaders
May 14-15	Olancha	Labrecque, M.Wilkinson
May 14-15	Plute Monument(DPS), Spanish Needle	Hardt, Kesler
May 14-15	Basin, climb and training	Bradley, Toby
May 20-22	Tehipite Dome, Spanish Mtn	W.Russell, G.Smith
May 21-22	Rock climbing leaders seminar	Lantz
May 28-30	Darwin, Mendel	J & P Butler, Labrecque
Jun 4-5	Carson, San Joaquin, Two Teats	Macleod, Agnos
Jun 4-6	Winchell, Tbolt, N.Palisade,	Ranschau, J & P Butler
Jun 11-12	Johnson, Gilbert	Toby, Pinson
Jun 11-12	Thompson, Powell	Ranschau, Ward, Sparks
Jun 17-19	Ritter, Banner	Muell, Lantz
Jun 18-19	LeConte, Corcoran, Mallory, Irvine	Hubbard, Vasilik
Jun 18-19	Striped, Goodale	Banner, Ory
Jun 18-19	Kern Peak	Hellman, Cervenka
Jun 18-19	Iron Mtn (Devils Postpile area)	Dee, Byington
Jun 18-19	Numbered peaks in Mammoth region	Keating, Macleod
Jun 24-26	Lyell, Maclure	Adams, Mauk
Jul 1-4	Dana, Gibbs, Koip	Cervenka, Young
Jul 1-5	Ionian basin peakbagging	Muell, Lantz

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re Mt. Elwell, etc:

I appreciated the Ranschau-Hellman accounts of the northern nine. They gave me some information on peaks I intend to climb. My reason for putting in my two cents is that sometimes I feel that the SPS is mountaineering oriented to the place we forget to enjoy an easy peak with a good view and interesting geology and botany.

(June 24, 1976) Mt. Elwell: Go from Lakes Basin Campground up trail from campsite #7 past Long Lake to ridge and peak, down trail past Mud, Silver, Cub, L. Bear, and B. Bear Lakes to the trailhead by organization camp. There are great views of a lovely, lake-dotted valley and good summit views of Jamison Lake, Feather River Canyon, Mt. Lassen, Sierra Valley, Sierra Buttes, and Great Central Valley. There are lots of forest and flower views, too. This is a good place to relax and stroll and take an aging parent, non-hiking spouse, or small child on a thoroughly enjoyable hike.

(June 25, 1976) Sierra Buttes: Go from Packer Lake to Tamarack Lake up a maze of logging roads to ridge to peak. Do this one on a clear day. The view from the summit is great. One is perched atop a platform with views through the wire down 2000' to Lake Young America. There is a 360 degree view of the northern Sierra.

(August 27, 1976) Mt. Rose: Go up forest service road #051 from Highway 27 two miles to junction by marshy lake, then down hill one half mile to Galena Creek trail, then up to summit. There are views of Carson Valley, the Sierra to Conway Summit and Matterhorn Peak, Lake Tahoe, and Sierra Buttes.

(attempted June 26, 1976) Mt. Tallac: Tallac's roadhead from Fallen Leaf Road has a parking problem, so we ended up attempting Tallac via the next road north of Fallen Leaf Road. This ended up in a 1,000' bushwhack before we hit the Floating Island trail from the trailhead on Tallac Creek Road (See trip #37, The Tahoe Sierra).

The northern Sierra is a good place for family outings or leisurely exploring. If you decide to explore this area, purchase a copy of the above mentioned Tahoe Sierra, Wilderness Press, 1975. It is an excellent introduction to the trails and natural history of this area.

- Luella Martin

## QUOTES OF NOTE

From "Dear Gladys" column of the Hollywood Citizen News (1965): "Dear Gladys: To be frank, I'm looking for a man and marriage. I'm going on a pack trip with a large group, and we will be camping out. My problem is how to dress. Does an outdoor man like a girl best if she is dressed in strictly practical clothes with no feminine touches?"

- submitted by MCP Ron Jones

Words of Mountaineering Wisdom(?): He who hurries cannot walk with dignity.

- submitted by Ron Jones

## The Senior Emblem

In a Management Committee meeting in fall 1974, someone commented that there was a big gap between achieving the SPS emblem and climbing all the peaks on the list. With little likelihood of ever completing the list, and having a penchant for self-imposed goals, I suggested creating a senior emblem. I suggested a 125 peak requirement, but others thought that 100 would be a better number. Duane McRuer suggested requiring two peaks from each of the list's geographic areas. We got membership support for the idea, and it was put on the 1975 ballot and adopted. At that time, I plotted all of the listed peaks on 1:250,000 scale maps, juggled boundaries, and derived the list's present geographic structure.

Thoughts about the senior pin were contributed by Cuno Ranschau, Dick Jali, and others, and the one finally selected was the idea of filling in the outer ring of emblem pin with burgundy enamel. After discussion with many SPS members, the Management Committee adopted this version.

List completion status was also recognized in the bylaws changes voted in 1975, but a list completion pin has not been adopted.

--Bill T. Russell

### SPS SENIOR EMBLEMS

1. Smatko, Andy	July 4, 1957	List - October 25, 1964
2. Ross, Tom		List - 1965
3. Lilley, Barbara		List - 1969
4. Castel, John	August 11, 1970	
5. Jones, Ron	August 20, 1971	
6. Keating, Jerry	September 11, 1971	List - August 19, 1972
7. MacLeod, Gordon	July 27, 1972	List - September 3, 1973
8. Erb, Arkel		List - 1974
9. Mantle, Doug		List - 1974
10. Treacy, Timothy	July 5, 1974	
11. Dee, Diana	August 3, 1974	
12. Treacy, Ed	August 3, 1974	List - August 13, 1976
13. Schuler, Bill	September 28, 1974	
14. Ranschau, Cuno	September 13, 1975	
15. Kabler, Betty	June 20, 1976	
16. Kabler, Walton	June 20, 1976	
17. Riseley, Frank	August 27, 1976	
18. Ward, Roy	September 13, 1976	
19. Hoover, Bill	October 24, 1976	
20. Schumacher, Eric	October 30, 1976	

**The Sierra Echo** is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. Editor - Mary Omberg, 4311 El Prieto, Altadena, CA 91001. Mailing - Anna Lou Pinson, 10624 Garden Grove Ave., Northridge, CA 91324. Subscriptions - \$3.00 per year. Subscribing to the Echo is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send remittance before March 31 to: Cuno Ranschau, SPS Treasurer, 12744 Lorne St., North Hollywood, CA 91605. Copy deadline - Twentieth of odd months.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

How would you like to bag a 20,000' peak or two next summer? John Tenero just returned from Bolivia where he's made arrangements to climb Huayna Potosi (20,000'), Mt. Illimani (21,200'), do some other climbing, hiking, and camping in the Cordillera Real (Bolivian Andes), camp by Lake Titicaca, etc. If you want more information, send John a self-addressed-stamped envelope:

John Tenero  
1021 3rd. St.  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Individuals interested in desert alpinism in Santa Katarina (the Sinai), write Steve Gault at Haron, Ltd., Programs in Sport and Education, 34 Assaf Str., Ramat Gan, Israel. Phone: 03-735490.

Lost and Found: Campy found a set of deluxe mountain tent poles near Trail Camp on October 10 that he is willing to return to the owner who identifies them. Contact Fred Camphausen, address below:

824 West Graaf  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Echo Subscriptions: New membership applications received after October 1 are credited for Echo subscription for the next calendar year. If one applies before October 1, he receives Echos for that year only.

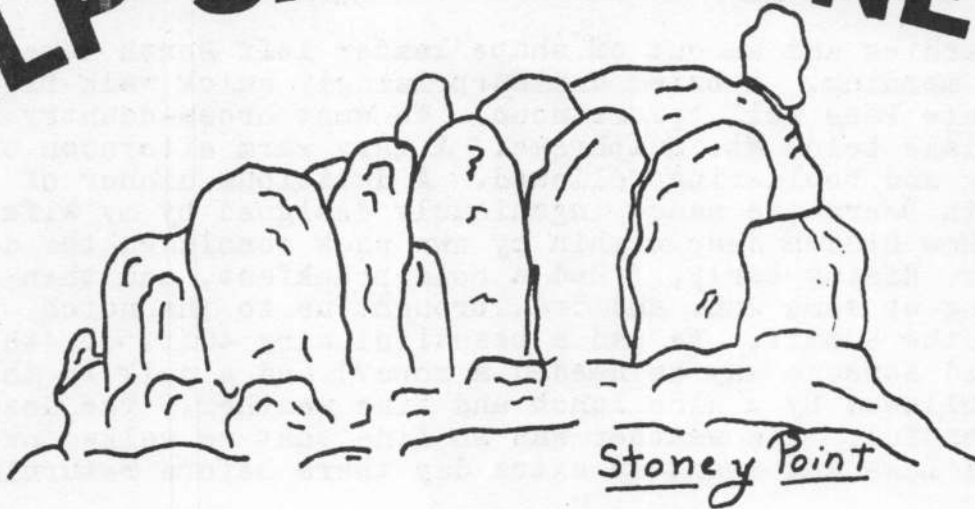
As a result of the dues increase approved by the members in the April, 1976, election, the following rate changes for Sierra Club memberships are effective as of July 1, 1976:

- (1) The Life Membership fee is now \$750.00 per person.
- (2) Contributing Membership is now \$100.00; Supporting, \$40.00.
- (3) Regular Membership is now \$20.00.
- (4) The admission fee for all memberships is waived.

Correction for Commemorative Issue's statistical record: Credit for climbing the most peaks in one season goes to Arkel Erb rather than me - Doug Mantle.



# HELP SAVE STONEY PT.



Stoney Point is a unique rock formation located in the northwest corner of the San Fernando Valley. It was once an Indian village site, and was an important prominent landmark along the early California route between Mission San Buenaventura and Mission San Fernando Rey de España. Because of its historical significance, Stoney Point has been designated as Historical Monument # 132, by the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board.

Stoney Point also has great significance to local mountaineers and rock climbers. The existence and accessibility of this superb natural practice climbing area is undoubtedly one of the reasons why Los Angeles has produced some of the worlds finest climbers. Many thousands of local climbers have enjoyed this recreation year around at Stoney Point for the last three decades; its loss would be a real blow.

The present owners of Stoney Point, who have held the property for 20 years, now feel they must sell it in the very near future, either for use as a park or for commercial development. They have offered their holdings (22.13 acres) to the City of Los Angeles for \$180,000 (\$8134 per acre) if the City will make the area into a public park. Discussions to date by city officials indicate some interest in this offer, but that this proposal has "low budgetary priority" in their eyes at the present time.

What is needed is broad public support for the purchase of Stoney Point as a public park and rock climbing recreational area. This concept was officially endorsed by the Sierra Club at a meeting of the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee on October 21, 1976, which passed the following resolution: ' The Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter supports acquisition of the area known as Stoney Point for continued use for rock climbing and other public recreational purposes compatable with the preservation of the area.' To assure this happening, action must be taken NOW! Please write a letter to Councilman Wilkinson, in whose District Stoney Point lies.

COUNCILMAN ROBERT M. WILKINSON  
8444 RESEDA BLVD. SUITE D  
NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA 91324

- Sierra Club Stoney Point Task Force

## SCHEDULED TRIPS

Mt. Humphreys (July 10-11)

Randolph Sheaff

Four hardies and an out of shape leader left North Lake Saturday morning. A brisk and surprisingly quick walk brought us to Piute Pass well before noon. We went cross-country to a small lake below Mt. Humphreys. A lazy warm afternoon of exploring and bouldering followed. A delicious dinner of chicken in Bearnaise sauce ingeniously designed by my wife and somehow hidden deep within my own pack concluded the day.

Sunday: Rising early, I had a cold breakfast, and then scrambling up some 2nd. and 3rd. brought us to the notch north of the summit. We had a beautiful airy 40ft. of 4th. class (Did someone say he needed a rope?) and a walk to the summit followed by a nice lunch and fine weather. The descent was uneventful. The weather was so fine that we walked over to Muriel Lake and spent an extra day there before returning to L.A.

North Palisade (July 24-25)

Randolph Sheaff

Late July brought six of us together to climb North Palisade via Clyde Couloir and the buttress west of it. Clear skies proceeded us to Robin's Egg Lake where the Palisade cirque makes its own weather. Lightning and rain from Mt. Agassiz across to Sill made us seek a more sheltered camp near the lake instead of one on the glacier. We had constant rain from three in the afternoon until four in the morning (Is this July? Are we in the Sierra?). Sunday morning brought some clearing and a walk up to the glacier ("What glacier?" - "I'm sure there was one here last year." - "Yeah, sure. They must have moved it up farther.") and crevasses - yes, those things you see on Rainier, but not in the Sierra. Anyway, wet rock and a double black bergschrund on North Palisade made us head for Glacier Notch and the standard 4th. class route on Sill, but the weather beat us to it; as we sat above the notch, we watched lightning flash around the summit. The four of us who hadn't climbed Gayley decided to do so, as the clouds amazingly stayed clear of its summit. We went back to camp in the rain and had a drizzly walk out. The saving grace was George Davis' great descriptions of every plant and flower on the way.

.....

Baggage of Horace Benedict de Saussure on the third ascent of Mont Blanc in 1787 included a table of logarithms, 2 half bottles of eau de cerises, mattresses, bed linen and a green curtain, 2 green jackets, a white suit, 3 vests, 5 pair of shoes, 5 shirts for daywear and four to be worn at night, both wool and silk stockings, 6 bottles of white wine, a parasol, tent and a ladder. Horace was accompanied by a servant and 18 guides.

## MT. KAWEAH, Sept. 3-6, 1976

At 10 PM Thurs. night, How Bailey, Bob Stulac, my son Ralph and I headed up from Mineral King to Timber Gap, where we met David Tyler, Paul Magliocco and Tom Chuh, and camped for the night. Friday we crossed Black Rock Pass and met Joe Vasilik, the other leader, at the NPS ranger cabin in Big Arroyo, where we camped. Joe had gone in a day early and had climbed Lippencott Mtn.

Saturday started with a few hours of rain. When the storm eased, 8 headed for Mt. Kaweah, abandoning the plan to camp at the base of Red Kaweah because of the weather. How Bailey headed for Lippincott Mtn. but settled for Kaweah Gap instead. Mt. Kaweah was ascended by the NW ridge. At the base of the peak the group split in half; Joe took the fast group and I took the slower group. Dark clouds, thunder, snowflakes and hail caused the latter group to hole up a few hundred feet below the summit, having traversed the upper SW face to avoid possible lightning on the summit ridge. When the clouds looked less threatening we made a quick summit dash before the next wave of thunderheads passed over. A leisurely and scenic descent of the south side of the SW face was enjoyed.

A rainy night and morning dampened any remaining enthusiasm for doing Red Kaweah so it was decided to exit by Big 5 Lakes, Lost Canyon and Sawtooth Pass. An attempt at a climb of Mt. Eisen was abandoned at the base of the peak due to time and deteriorating weather; as we left, a dark cloud enveloped the summit and thunder was heard. Rain, hail and sleet marked most of the day. Joe & Bob stayed at Big 5 Lakes to fish while the rest of us made camp at about 10,200' in Lost Canyon just before dark in a severe sleet storm. Up to 2 inches of slush accumulated. The weather eased as the long night passed and by dawn there were only scattered clouds. We rose early and raced gathering clouds over Sawtooth Pass to Mineral King. Joe and Bob came later, arriving at the cars in a real downpour. As a final blow of fate, the automatic transmission of our car failed and we had to be towed out from Mineral King.

The Timber Gap/Black Rock Pass route has more elevation gain than the Glacier Pass/Black Rock Pass route but involves gain at lower elevation, especially worth considering if one is not well enough acclimated to cross two high passes the first day. The evening hike to Timber Gap requires a dry camp. Another evening hike is to the first stream crossing on the new Sawtooth Pass/Crystal Lake trail, where the old Sawtooth Pass/Glacier Pass trail bends north. A spacious shelf is located on the Crystal Lake trail just past the obvious developed site across the creek. The new Sawtooth Pass trail goes via the lower Monarch Lake, making a level traverse to the lake from the forested slopes above the trailhead. The Timber Gap junction is also relocated well up out of the valley and not as indicated on the 1967 USGS map. The USFS exhibit by the parking area shows the trails fairly well. At Glacier Pass a bit of built trail leads down the N side, seasonally into a snowfield; the ducked route is below this.

The route from Big 5 Lakes to Lost Canyon follows an old trail. The north junction is on the Big 5 Lakes trail 100 yards past the crest of the ridge north of Big 5 Lakes, plainly indicated but unsigned. It goes to the N side of the lower lake and fords the outlet of the lake, heading uphill there. It passes the east shore of the small lake on the Kern Peak quad and descends by switchbacks directly into Lost Canyon at approximately one-quarter mile below the quadrangle boundary.

KOIP PK, MT GIBBS (SEP 25-26)

Dick & Shirley Akawie

The storm that hit just north of Mojave on Friday evening put a crimp in this trip because several people turned back when Hwy 14 was closed. Despite this, the leaders greeted 11 others at Tuolumne Mdw Saturday morning. The group drove to the Mono Pass trailhead, about 1½ miles south of the Tioga Pass entrance station, and then started hiking. We left the Mono Pass trail and continued on to Spillway Lake, then crosscountry to Parker Pass (the trail to Parker Pass is not shown correctly on the topo map, and is easy to miss going in this direction). We set up camp about ¼ mile east of Parker Pass (camping in this area of the Natl Park is not allowed) and after lunch took off for Koip Peak. We followed the trail to Koip Peak Pass and climbed the last 700' to the summit of Koip. Three of the party went to Kuna Peak while we were on top, watching the heavy clouds to the south. On the way back, Parker Peak was climbed by some. One of our party went out after we reached camp, as he wanted to climb Koip only. There was some rain after dinner, but remarkably everyone had a tent for protection. Sunday morning we packed over to Mono Pass, left the packs, and climbed Gibbs up the south ridge. One of the group carried his full pack up the 2200' (for extra exercise?); two others discovered they had already climbed Gibbs when they read through the register. We were out to the cars in the early afternoon, completing a fine trip.

CARSON PK., SAN JOAQUIN MTN, TWO TEATS (OCT. 2-3)

Jerry Keating

An early fall storm drenched the area Friday, but good climbing weather finally emerged during a joint SPS-Backpacking outing that started at Silver Lake on the June Lakes Loop.

Twenty-three persons at one time or another had signed up for the trip, but only six courageous souls appeared Saturday morning at the soggy trailhead. Slopes coated by fresh snow and hail appeared when the clouds parted, prompting the group to forgo the planned backpack in favor of a car camp and two day hikes.

Carson Pk. (10,909') was climbed by all participants Saturday from the Agnew Pass Trail. Leaving the trail at the lower end of Spooky Mdw., the group used a Class 2 chute that topped out near the summit. Much of the snow and hail had burned off in the chute as a result of decreasing cloudiness.

On Sunday, the party climbed San Joaquin (11,600') via the Fern Lake Trail and the easy cross-country terrain farther up Fern Creek. Up to six inches of powder remained in the summit area. The view was superb, thanks to the morning overcast's having yielded to remarkably clear air. Half of the group continued on to Two Teats (11,387') with everyone returning to the cars at 3:45 p.m.

Leaders were Jerry Keating and Walt Whisman. Friday night's storm prevented Elton Fletcher from driving over the crest to join the group.

NORTH MAGGIE (10,235'), MAGGIE MTN. (9331'); OCTOBER 30-31; RON JONES

The day dawned bright and clear at Shake Creek Pack Station near Balch Park as 22 hikers met for the downhill backpack (400 foot elevation loss) to Redwood Crossing on the middle fork of the Tule River. Trip members included the seldom seen Sacramento stalwart, Rich Gnagy; New Orleans Delta Chapter member Jack Parker and a bright capable newcomer, Molly Bosted. Incidentally this is the third SPS trip I have been on this summer without a Section Sign-in sheet.

We hiked to just beyond the second stream crossing and dropped our packs at about 7300 feet. The standard north side route to Maggie was taken and all climbers were on the peak in about four hours from camp.

That night we had the most incredible campfire program I have seen since my Sirretta-Taylor Dome-Rockhouse trip of 1969. It has been rumored that Rich Gnagy was a thwarted Sierra Songster and a repository of ribald songs and he proved it during the evening. Between throat libations Jack Parker displayed his vast repertoire of cajun songs interspersed with lush Irish melodies. Ed claimed that Mary Omberg mixed the MaiTais too strong. Co leader Barbara Reber sang until she collapsed. China Lakers Marlin Clark and Fred Camphausen regaled us with stories and Roy Ward contributed a full gallon, the usual Cremation of Sam McGee and Abdul Bulbul Amir and Ivan Stavinsky Skovar. Roy then gave us a world's premier of his new poetry reading, The Ballad of the Ice Worm Cocktail by Robt. Service. In the poem Major Percy Brown becomes a Yukon Cheechako when he:

gripped his gleaming glass and laid it to his lips,  
and as despairfully he took some nauseated sips,  
from out its roll of crapulence  
the iceworm reared its head;  
Its muzzle was a murky blue, its eyes a ruby red....  
For even as he raised his glass he felt his gorge arise...  
He choked..he gulped.. Thank God he got the horror down.  
Then from the crowd went up a roar:  
"Hooray for Sourdough Brown!"

<sup>appeared</sup> When it neared Midnight that Halloween Eve Dave Burdette and Pat Lavengood in goblin and spook costumes which they had packed into camp and passed out candy at the campfire. Many other Halloween spirits were consumed around the fire as well.

The next morning reveille was held sometime between eight and half-past and we all climbed Moses Mtn. (Jack Parker, although residing 2000 miles away, qualified for Section membership) Most people ate at Gang Sue's Restaurant in Porterville that night and the concensus is that it should not be placed on the list of better restaurants for SPS west side trips.

On Saturday, November 6, fourteen navigation noodlers, including three instructors, met at the fire station at the top of Nine Mile Canyon. We practiced with map and compass at the station and then drove to the end of Chimney Creek Campground Road. After more discussion of route planning and route finding, we climbed Sawtooth Peak, with the noodlers taking turns up front. On Sunday the group split. Five noodlers led by instructor John Backus climbed Lamont and five led by instructors George Smith and myself climbed Rockhouse. The latter group found that the last five miles of the road to Rockhouse meadow is rough indeed. My LTD with limited slip differential, a van and a VW made it, but a standard car would have trouble. The weather was beautiful and everyone seemed to enjoy the weekend.

Bill T. Russell

HURRICANE ON WHEELER PEAK

or

PEAK BAGGING IN NEW MEXICO

Private Trip

by Barbara Lilley

The writer visited the Wheeler and Pecos Wilderness Areas of New Mexico in September 1976 (by flying to Albuquerque and renting a car) and the following is submitted to aid others who might be interested in climbing in this pleasant mountain region, which is the southernmost end of the Rocky Mountain system.

Wheeler: This Area contains Wheeler Pk.(13,161), high point of New Mexico. A wilderness permit is required and there are some campsite limits but no entry quotas. Shortest approach is from the Taos Ski Area--the road is now paved. Altho the writer backpacked the 4 miles into Williams Lake, from where, after waiting out 36 hours of light to moderate rain courtesy of Hurricane Kathleen, Wheeler Pk. was climbed (Cl.2), total time from the car was only 4 hours so, with an early start, potential afternoon thunderstorms would not be a problem on a one-day climb. Altho Wheeler Wilderness Area is quite small, there are several adjoining wilderness study areas containing 12,000' peaks (Columbine-Hondo, Latir Pks., South Fork) plus other 13,000' peaks in the Wilderness itself, which could make a longer stay worthwhile. For information and permits, write to: Carson National Forest, P.O. Box 558, Taos, New Mexico; send \$1 for USFS map. Topo map is Wheeler Peak, 7 1/2 minute. References: F. Ashley's booklet on State High Points; "Guide to New Mexico Mountains" by H. Ungnade.

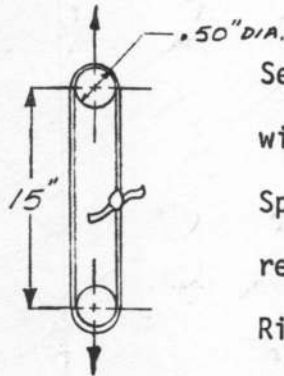
Pecos: This Area contains 3 13,000' peaks (South, Middle and North Truchas) and about a dozen peaks over 12,000'. Wilderness permits are required, and the few lakes have camping limits, but there are no entry quotas. The writer started from Santa Fe Ski Basin, traveled north on the "Skyline Trail," and in a nearly complete circle trip of 60 trail miles, climbed the 3 Truchas Peaks plus 5 over 12,000' (Santa Fe Baldy, Pecos Baldy, Chimoyosos, Lake and Penitente) in 5 full days. Fortunately, most of the peaks were less than 1200' above the trail; none were higher than Cl. 2 and 3 had trails to the summit! There are really two mountain ranges (Santa Fe and Sangre de Christo), and altho the Skyline Trail which connects them does not drop below 9700' at its lowest point, there is about a 10-mile stretch when nothing can be seen but tall trees (which grow up to 12,400'). Therefore, a better approach, especially for a longer period of time, would probably be from the north via the Santa Barbara River, which is the most scenic and provides access to more peaks, as far south as Pecos Baldy.

For information on the Pecos Wilderness Area, write to both the Carson National Forest and the Santa Fe National Forest, P.O. Box 1689, Santa Fe, New Mexico (.50 for USFS map). Topo maps are: El Valle, Jicarita, Pecos Falls (currently out of print), Cowles, Aspen Basin, Truchas Peaks (7 1/2 minute). In addition to Ungnade's book, an excellent, almost indispensable reference book is "Trail Guide to the Upper Pecos," which gives accurate, up-to-date trail descriptions and mileages and includes a trail & geologic map of the area. This is available for \$3.50 from New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources, Socorro, New Mexico 87801.

TEST REPORT  
KNOT/LOOP STRENGTH OF LIGHT 9/16"  
TUBULAR NYLON WEBBING

OBJECT - To determine loop breaking strength of light weight 9/16" tubular nylon webbing (Mil-W-5625) with knot strength comparison between overhand and figure-eight follow-thru.

PROCEDURE -



Separate single loops of 9/16" webbing were tied with overhand follow-thru and Figure 8 follow-thru. Specimens tested per sketch over 1/2" dia. pins representing carabiners. Test machine - 60,000 lbs. Riehle. Loading rate 5,000 lb/minute.

RESULTS -

Specimen No.	Breaking Strength - Lbs.	
	Type of Knot	
	Overhand	Figure 8
1	2460	3110
2	2380	2780
3	2640	2880
4	2515	2925
Mean	2498 lbs.	2898 lbs.
Std. Dev.	94.6	122.4

NOTE: All failures occurred at knot.

CONCLUSIONS:

- 1) Lightweight 9/16" wide tubular nylon webbing loop will support average of 2500 lbs. with overhand knot and 2900 lbs. with Figure 8 follow-thru under ideal static loading conditions.
- 2) By using a Figure 8 follow-thru knot, loop strength was increased an average of 400 lbs. - Might provide sufficient margin to save a life.

Bob Hartunian

Backhally, Bud Ford  
John Otter  
Dave Campbell

Cordillera Blanca

Hotel Monterey - Hot Springs

Sun chustoval 16,000' +  
in the black rock - not snow

I may stayed towns  
got Clewan fuel pens  
Huisca Park - also gave  
transportation to peak - killed  
4 very sharp

Machu Picchu

Base camp 13,300

Next camp 15,000' bare of glacier

mountain. from 35 Amazon  
N.S. Peaks - Paul finding Piff  
some snow early.

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER  
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION  
10624 Garden Grove Ave.  
Northridge, CA 91324  
"to explore, enjoy, preserve"

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
7.7 cents  
Pending Court Action  
Permit No. 321  
Reseda, CA

16,000' "just caught"  
gargantuan in the saddle

17,500' ice falls  
3' high back + forth.

19,300' Camp bought  
climbed N. Peak <sup>21,800'</sup> part  
to get view of route to  
south peak.

Not terribly cold on N. Summit  
Used small snowshoes on  
soft snow after storms

Because on summit  
had lot of snow 3. Summit  
6° temp

John's toes slightly frostbitten  
Much more tired than  
on McKinley