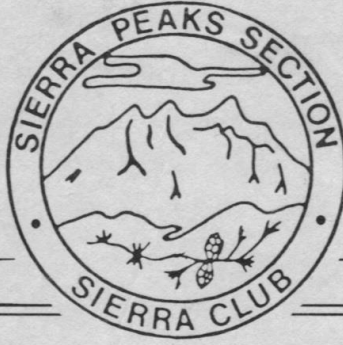


The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 25

SEPT-OCT

1981

No. 6



ANNUAL BANQUET - DECEMBER 9, 1981

The Athenaeum
551 South Hill
Pasadena, California

Cocktails will be served
in the foyer
at 6:30 p.m.

Chicken Cordon Bleu
will be served
in the main dining room
at 7:30 p.m.

Following dinner, the guest speaker,
Dave Beck
will present the evening's program
"ADVENTURES IN SKI MOUNTAINEERING"

For Reservations
contact Management Committee
or
Hosts, Kevin and Sherry Sullivan
505 North Irena, Redondo Beach, 90277
(213) 372-4823

The cost is \$15.00 per person
payable by check to
Sierra Peaks Section - Sierra Club

Please R.S.V.P. by November 28, 1981

SPS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 15, 1981

New Members

Vic Wong
4767 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
(formerly an Echo subscriber)

Hirsh Kolp
5349 1/2 Village Greene
Los Angeles, CA 90016
SC# 13630399

Tom Casacky
955 15th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90403
SC# 14376453

Kathy Price
1546 Durango Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90035

Paul Edwards
16812 Charnel Lane
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

John Lockhart
1923 11 St.
Santa Monica, CA 90402

Thomas Carlyle stated, "Nothing is more terrible than activity without insight". Obviously, he never encountered peak-baggers, JM.

SPS Emblem

Jackie Van Dalsem
Jack Miller
June Lane
Jan Lutz
Bill Engs
Nancy Gordon
Dave Jurasevich
Mario Gonzales
Theresa Rutherford
Steve Powell

Senior Emblem

Bob Hicks
George Toby
Mary McMannes
Al Benson

Echo Subscriber

Mark Matthews
Jane Edginton/Wayne Woodruff
Renee Spargur
Nancy Huff

List Finisher

Jack Grams
Nathan Hoover
Vicky Hoover
Bill Hoover

AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB ANNUAL MEETING --
A MOUNTAINEERING POTPOURRI

For the first time in years the American Alpine Club will hold its Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. The Bonaventure Hotel is the site, and the weekend of 4-6 December 1981 the time. Besides the annual business meeting and banquet an absolutely outstanding 2-1/2 days of programs on mountaineering and climbing topics are planned. A major focus on China starts on Friday night with "Mountaineering in the People's Republic of China," hosted by Shih Chan Chun, who is head of the Chinese Mountaineering Association, and continues on Saturday with slide presentations reporting on the 1981 American Expeditions to the Siguniang range in Sichuan Province and to the East Kunlun range of Quighai province, which included the first ascent of Mt. Anyemaqen (20,600'). Also scheduled for Saturday are programs on Everest (the 1981 East Face and 1981 Medical Research Expeditions), on California Free Climbing in the 1980's, and on the first ascent of the East Face of Moose's Tooth in Alaska.

On Sunday the program features a variety of mountaineering films, ranging from classes through new releases to rough cuts of not-yet-released films. Exhibits of mountaineering equipment and publications will be open from Friday evening through Sunday.

Everyone interested in mountaineering is invited to attend. For further details call Duane McRuer (213) 374-6217.

WATER DISINFECTION IN THE WILDERNESS by Drs Kahn & Visscher
A summary

Waterborne diseases including Salmonella infections, amebic dysentery, giardiasis and infectious hepatitis are commonly observed among travelers returning from abroad and from remote areas of the United States.

A water disinfectant must be able to kill the hardiest of each group of organisms, especially amebic cysts, which are hardier than their active forms, and enteroviruses, the most resistant of disinfection of the pathogenic microorganisms. At the same time, the toxicity of the chemical must be very low compared with its germicidal potency.

A water disinfectant must meet the following requirements: simplicity, effectiveness in the presence of nitrogenous pollutants, rapidity of antimicrobial action over a wide pH range and immediate palability, and light weight--for the backpacker.

Iodination meets these requirements. Needed is a one ounce clear glass bottle, containing 4 to 8 grams of USP grade resublimed iodine (I₂). The bottle is filled with water, capped, and shaken vigorously for 30 to 60 seconds, then held still to allow the iodine crystals to settle. Disinfection is achieved by adding 12 cubic centimeter of this solution into a liter of water at 77 degrees F. At near freezing 20 cc will be needed. After a contact time of 15 minutes, the water is disinfected.

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Ron Jones

Five Years Ago in the SPS: The SPS lost three members on Oct 16, 1976 when Graham Stephenson, Arkel Erb and John Baruch fell to their deaths on an attempt to make the second ascent of Dunagiri (23,184') in the Himalayas. In a brighter vein, Roy Ward, Bill Hoover and Eric Schumacher earned Senior Emblems while Ron Bartell, Cliff Cameron and Ben Preyer became emblem holders during the period Sept-Oct 1976. Labor Day trips included the Magnuson's leading Goat, State and Marion; Frank Meyers and Joe Vasilik in a successful attempt in bad weather on Mt. Kaweah; the Butler's lead of Middle Pal was rained out. Rain also plagued the Akawie's climb of Koip and Gibbs 9-25/26 and the Keating's climb of Two Teats and San Joaquin 10-2/3. Mary Omberg was Echo editor.

Ten Years Ago in the SPS: Trips scheduled Sept-Oct 1971 included John Robinson leading 25 on the first scheduled climb of Blackhawk, D. Lantz leading Lyell-McLure, Don Anderson leading Stanford -Ericson on Labor Day, Wally Henry leading Wallace and Haeckel, and Horace Ory getting snowed out on Virginia and Whorl. Jerry Keating earned Senior Emblem #6 and 12 persons got their emblems including Dr. Dan Popper on Lyell (after climbing his first Sierra Peak 40 years before), Paul Lipsohn, Joan Mack, George Toby, Mike Zemetra and Dick Beach. Judy Hoeptner was Echo editor.

Twenty Years Ago in the SPS: The five year old SPS had 211 members in 1961, including 68 emblem holders. Six persons earned emblems during Sept-Oct including one present member, George Shinno who was also SPS Chairman that year. Echo editor was Walt Wheelock. Past members earning emblems included Arkel Erb and Steve Rogero who climbed all 10 required emblem peaks in one year including two emblems in one day (can you guess which two?) Arkel climbed Muir, Whitney, McAdie, Irvine, Mallory and Le Conte on a two day weekend and on another two day trip the same year Russell, Carillon, Tunnabora, Cleaver and Whitney by the East Face route without using rope. This last trip was with a strong former SPS climber Mike McNicholas who has recently returned to Los Angeles after living a while in Chile. Trips included Dick Jali leading a group of 41 on the Labor Day trip to Lyell and McLure (before wilderness permits). No SPSers participated in the 2nd Mount Whitney Marathon won by Cal Hansen of Colorado in the round trip time of 3 hours 45 minutes.

Note: Twenty-six years ago on October 16, 1955 the Sierra Peaks Section was officially recognized by the Angeles Chapter. Prior to 1955 the group called itself the "Outlaw Hikers" and was an unofficial arm of the Desert Peaks Section.

To prevent an erroneous inference being drawn from the gratuitously specific reference to him in the anonymous Echo account of last Autumn's McMannes/Ranschau climb of Dana, the undersigned wishes it to be known that, after signing out, he completed the climb of Dana, neither delaying nor inconveniencing the remainder of the group, thereby demonstrating, at least on that occasion, the power of masochistic persistence over acediastic self-destructiveness. Steve Langley.

TRIP REPORT

Owens Peak (8453'), Aquila Peak (5050')

May 2-3, 1981

Five climbers met at the Indian Wells Lodge/Restaurant at 9:00 am Saturday. Three drove directly from LA and two stayed in Red Rock Canyon Friday night. After waiting 20 min. for three no-shows, we proceeded up the Indian Wells Canyon dirt road. Unbeknownst to us at the time, we took the right fork toward Owens Pk. about 1/2 mi. too soon and ended up doing some spectacular class 5 driving. Eventually our vehicles stalled-out and we proceeded on foot. The correct fork and road would have taken us about a mile closer to the peak but the day was glorious, warm and clear and we enjoyed the extra walk. We followed the stream W which turns into a trail and well ducked route NE then N to the summit.

While crossing the dry stream bed, I heard a furious buzz and instinctively leaped into the air as if stuck by a pin. I looked back and saw a rattler in its striking coil, ominously weaving its head back and forth. My foot print was about 10" from the snake. He was lucky I didn't step on him!

We reached the summit about 1:30 p.m. and had a leisurely lunch amidst great views of the Southern Sierra. On the descent I carried a big stick held out before me as a snake catcher. I shivered a bit when we passed the spot where the rattler had been.

A real luxury on this trip is that you can have Sat. night dinner at the Indian Wells Restaurant - great steaks and wine. We then set up camp at the base of Five Fingers (the highest of which is Aquila Pk) near an old windmill. We shared solid and liquid goodies around a windblown campfire.

In the morning we drugged up the soft scree of Five Fingers heading toward the notch between Aquila (the N finger) and the middle finger. Beyond the notch we found only one duck on the supposedly well-ducked 3rd class route to the summit. Thus, we had the adventure of finding our own route. We found a gully on the NE side with nice 3rd class climbing, but one 4th class move. We were on the summit in 1-1/2 hours. Going down the scree was delightful and all were back at the cars before 11 am. Two climbers decided to scout Morris Pk while the rest had lunch at Two Sisters + One in Ridgecrest and an early drive home.

George Neuner

SNOWSHOES

By Ron Jones

Gene Prater is a timothy hay farmer near Ellensburg, Washington. In the winter, when his fields are snowed in, he makes snowshoes, climbs, and travels about the country giving seminars on winter mountaineering. Gene Prater is, perhaps, "Mr. Showshoe." Many years ago he designed and developed the Sherpa brand tubular aluminum snowshoe with hinged binding and climbing claw. After he left that business Gene further developed his design and began selling directly from his home. He makes several models of snowshoes and, in addition, will build them to any design that may be requested for special use. I have two pair of his snowshoes and recommend them, both for use in the Sierra and for their price. (A pair of snowshoes with neoprene bindings start at about \$85.00!) His snowshoes are guaranteed against breakage from normal useage and any breakage will be repaired free of cost.

Gene also is the author of the definitive book on snowshoeing which is called just that: SNOWSHOEING, published by the Seattle Mountaineers and now in its second edition (1980). Fred Camphausen of Ridgecrest is noted as a contributor to this edition.

Anyone interested in snowshoeing this winter can write for his free catalog and prices. Prater Snowshoes, Rt. 1, Box 725, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Somehow I ended up needing only these two peaks in this area, so I planned a trip up Tinemaha Creek, which is the canyon between them. The roadhead is in Fuller Meadows, which is reached via the McMurray Mdws road. About 3 miles W of Big Pine, on the Big Pine Creek Road, turn left at the McMurray Mdws sign, and then turn immediately left again, away from the mountains. There are no more major junctions in the 6 miles or so to McMurray Mdws, which is at the southern stream in section 15 of the Big Pine Quad. At this point, the road deteriorates, but should be passable to most cars. Just S of the saddle in section 22 a road turns off to the right, and ends in about 200 yards under a couple of trees, at the N edge of Fuller Mdws. This is where we started walking.

We went up the low ridge which starts at the 'F' in 'Fuller Creek', and heads WSW toward the last 'a' in 'Tinemaha'. This went well; the sagebrush was sparse enough to allow good progress. We then screwed up by dropping down to the flat at 7900' on Tinemaha Ck. After an hour of dodging mudholes and crawling through the undergrowth, during which we gained about 1/4 mile up the creek, we climbed out to the north wall, and traversed above the thicket. In midafternoon, under threatening skies, we made camp in a tiny clearing at 10300', near the lip of the depression contour. A much nicer campsite is at the stream fork just N of '10739'.

The next morning Grant Thompson and I headed up the S slopes of Birch, while Mary Omberg went for Bolton Brown via the plateau S of 'Mt. Farquhar', and Sue Thompson stayed in camp to study. The Birch climb was uneventful; the descent featured an 800' standing glissade, and we were back in camp before the rain began. Meanwhile, Mary had met the SPS trip on Bolton Brown; she returned to camp slightly damp, after about an hour of steady rain on her return. We spent the afternoon in the tents; Mary and I watched the seams leak, and Grant and Sue listened to their fly flapping in the wind.

On Monday morning, Mary and I started early to race the clouds to Tinemaha. We went up the large chute which heads directly for the summit. This was snow-free, but very loose in places. About 2/3 of the way to the peak, where the chute branches 3 ways and steepens, we took the left branch which soon led to the crest of one of the many north ridges of Tinemaha. An ascending traverse to the east, up this ridge, and across a chute, led to a ridge which we followed, mostly second class, S to the summit. After a very brief stay, we began the descent via the same route. We were back at the bottom of the main chute by 10 AM, when it started to rain. The hardest rain was while we were breaking camp (of course), and it rained steadily until we got down to about 8400'. Having learned our lesson on the hike in, we traversed the N wall of the canyon, above the aspen flats at 7900'. This led nicely to the tiny valley which starts just N of the 'm' in 'Tinemaha', and which we followed first E and then ENE to the 'F' in 'Fuller'. There is a trail in the lower part of this valley, whose beginning was marked by a partially decomposed dead cow. In spite of the dead cow, this route is better than the one we used going in.

I knew I was in trouble from the start. There were seven young, eager bucks and one old man who was suppose to be able to keep ahead of them. I appealed to their sense of charity, chivalry, fair play, etc., all the while letting a piece of my bull whip stick out from my pack. It worked! They stayed in line the whole weekend. We got going early enuf to beat some of the heat. And we made it to camp before 11:00.

The schedule called for a climb of Diamond in the p.m. I had different concepts of how to tackle it, but I chose the east ridge which had a huge tower in the upper part which would have to be avoided. It went nicely and eventually narrowed to a 3rd class chute which ended in a sharp wall. I took a look over it and, fortunately, it went. We went left of the tower, over another wall--which just went-- and then onto easy street to the summit. I placed a new SPS cylinder and book--still lots of room in the old book. Then followed discussions of doing black.

We wanted to take a look at the ridge which, it turned out, would go well if you follow the ridge all the way, but we had dropped down to get water and then the ridge was above us, so we dropped down the south talus slope. After this maneuver interest in Black waned somewhat but two were still interested. So I joined them and it was three against Black. We finally got it and then dropped back to camp.

Next a.m. it was over Baxter pass. There was a skeleton (minus head & other parts) just off the trail. I concluded that it was a horse that had broken its leg on this lousy trail and had to be done in (Jay Holstein, a veterinary pathologist, took out a bone and confirmed that it was indeed a horse, making my suspicions even more plausible. Fortunately noone on our trip was injured on this trail and forced to meet with the same fate). EEEEEnnnyway -- we made it over the top and headed for Baxter. It was important to spread out on the talus slope. If anyone were to set anything off it was "look out below", and I didn't want anyone to get it!

On top, lovely day, lovely vistas all around. Finally we have to leave. It was Baxter pass for lunch and out to the cars by 3:30.

I want to thank all participants and Don for great cooperation & congenialities to make this weekend a very enjoyable trip. I never would have guessed that good words and a whip could be so effective.

Participants were: Iger Manadalin, Paul Edwards, John Lockhart, John McCully, Jay Holstein, Ben Freyer.

Cathedral Pk, Mt Dana, Mt Gibbs

July 19/20, 1980

Joe Adams and Gene Mauk

The attraction of an easy day hike to bag a spectacular mountaineer's peak with a class 4 summit block was sufficient reason for 11 of us to meet at the Sunrise Trail in Tuolumne Meadows on Saturday morning. It was about 9:15 by the time everyone had their gear in order. After several final looks at a herd of deer in the meadow and otherwise marveling at the beauty of the area we started south on the trail to the crest that runs west from Cathedral Peak. At the crest we turned left and headed directly up the slope toward the summit. About 200 feet below the summit a series of class 3 ledges were encountered. Here we worked right nearly to the ridge and then up to a notch about 20 feet below the summit. As we neared the notch we discovered a pair of climbers were already on the summit, a group of several more coming up behind us, and still another group virtually even with us coming up the south face. In spite of the competition our party was up and off the peak by about 1:00 pm. The summit block is exposed just enough to make an upper belay feel comfortable. For variety we descended the east slope to Budd Creek and were back at the cars at 4:30 pm. The most dramatic views of the peak are to be had on the east side. Fainthearted climbers had best approach from the west.

That evening the majority of the group carpooled to June Lake for dinner at a superb restaurant suggested by Al Hill. (c.o.n.t.)

Well, was this designed to get "Fahrquar", or to get the other stuff? The best laid plans often go Kaput! It was hard to tell how many were on our trip, finally, with early-goers-in, and hangers-on we had about ten. We made the right choice for camp at 10,500. Birch Lake at 10,800 is all snow and no fun.

Doug, Mac, Igor, and I did Birch in the pm and were very tired on top. I glisaded down in spite of getting a wet bottom.

Next am Dick took two others to climb the Thumb and Big F., while five followed me to B. Brown. The route goes up to the plateau south of F., down a west chute, contour to the n. base of BB & then up. We were on top by noon.

Q: Shall we go for F.? It was proposed we go for The Thumb first and then if time allows----. So we contoured around the west base of F. Storm clouds gathered in the west as we went for T. Near the summit it began to snow but the four of us made it. Then down to beat the storm. We made it to camp just before the rains descended.

At 6:00 it stopped. We laid out our stuff to dry--it worked. Next am things look ominous. No one wants to climb--it's down and out. The Sierras are socked in.

Maybe someday big F. may be named & someday it may be proposed for the list. But since I have viewed it from every side--with the possible exception of the summit-- the vote is obviously no!!

FOLLOWING IS A LETTER TO NORMAN KINGSLEY JUNE 5, 1981

On Sunday, May 24th, 1981, during a scheduled SPS trip, three of us climbed the high point of the crest (13,520+) about 1 mile SE of The Thumb. As you know, it has been proposed to name this summit for Francis P. Farquhar.

The summit is separated from nearby high points by at least a mile, and is, by that measure, distinct. It's height exceeds the saddle between it and The Thumb by about 700 feet. (At least one mountaineering group prefers that a 'worthy' summit exceed the height of any adjacent saddle by at least 1000 feet). In this case the summit and the saddle are sufficiently separated to give the feeling and appearance that the summit is distinct.

Our party climbed on snow from base camp below Birch Lake to the aforementioned saddle, crossed to the west side, and staying just below the crest, ascended to the summit. The highest level of difficulty encountered was 'easy class 3'. An aluminum cannister and register was found in place. We then traversed to The Thumb and back to camp. We agreed that the two peaks made for an enjoyable day-trip.

Although there was no vote taken in our group, no one had reason to object to the naming of this peak for Francis Farquhar. It is my personal opinion that it should bear his name, and I am therefore recommending that you take the official action toward that end.

Dick Banner

Cathedral, Dana, Gibbs, Cont.

Sunday morning at 6:30 ten of us met at the Mono Pass trailhead and started for Mt Gibbs. The west ridge is easy with beautiful views in all directions. After regrouping at the summit of Gibbs, Gene led a group of five eager beavers over to Mt Dana while Joe, who had climbed that peak years ago, led the others back to the cars for an early start home. On the summit of Dana Virgil Talbott surprised us with the announcement that this was his 25th list peak and his emblem peak. He then proceeded to treat us to a champagne lunch which we all thoroughly enjoyed. In the midst of our wild celebration who should appear but Dick Kutch, his wife, and their eight year old son. They had intended to join us in the morning but missed the early start. After a bit more socializing and viewing we reluctantly headed for the cars and home.

The Sierra ECHO is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks section of the Sierra Club.

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INQUIRIES ABOUT NOT RECEIVING THE ECHO: Direct to mailer: Sherry Harsh 1152 E. Mendocino, Altadena, CA 91001.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE \$4.00 per year due by March 31. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership int the SPS. Send new subscriptions to the Secretary (above). Send renewals to the Treasurer (below) New applications received after October 1 are credited through the next year.

FAMILY SUBSCRIPTIONS: Only one ECHO subscription is necessary for members of a family residing at one address.

AWARDS: Emblem Pins(7.50) and patches(\$2.00) are available from the Treasurer: Bob Emerick, 9331 Comstock Dr, Huntington Bch, CA 92646

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