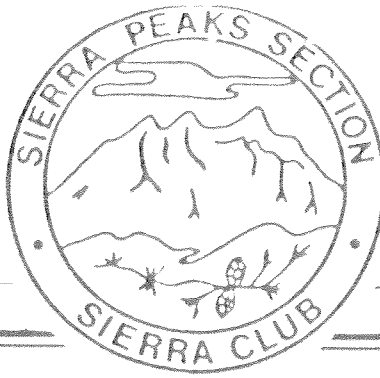


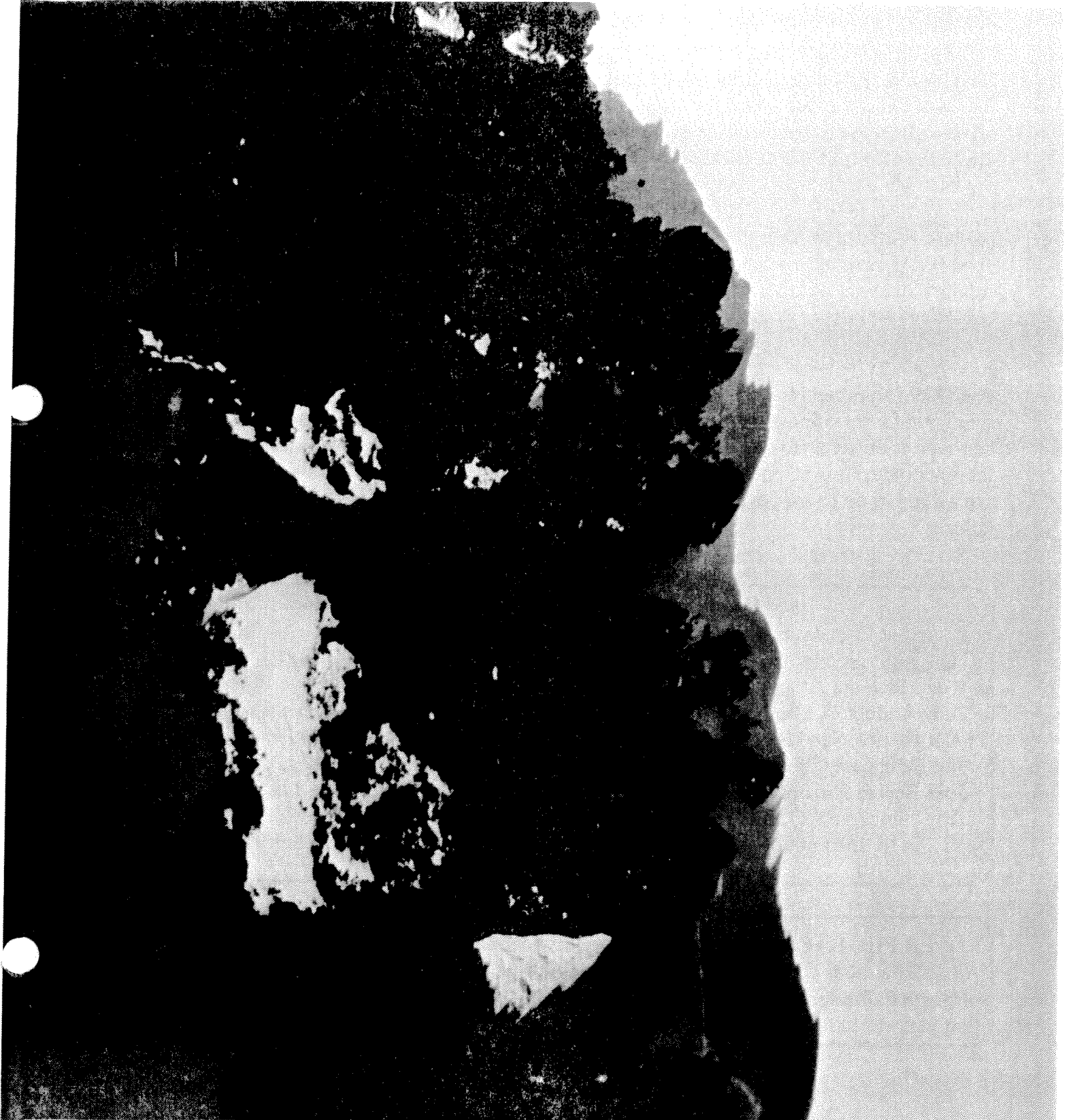
*The
Sierra*



ECHO

February 1989

Vol. 33 No. 1



ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

I feel greatly honored to be the new Chair of the SPS. What has been handed down to me and the Management Committee from the past 33 years, we earnestly hope to be able to pass on. These are truly trying times, however, as the mountaineering insurance crisis holds our continued viability and vitality in grave suspension while we anxiously await the outcome. If we "only await" the outcome, the outlook would be truly dismal. We have it within us, however, to empower ourselves. If we must first move mountains before we can again climb them, then let us not shirk the challenge.

Next month, in March, ballots will be sent out nationwide in the annual election to fill five of 15 Board of Directors vacancies for three-year terms. Rob Roy McDonald is gallantly heading up a private effort to ensure that at least three candidates are elected, from a field of 14, who embrace the historic Sierra Club dual values of conservation and outings. Rob Roy desperately needs your time and your treasure in a massive direct mail campaign. It doesn't matter where you live or how little you may have to contribute; if you can help give Rob Roy a call at (818) 790-5012. Club bylaws prevent the Section from endorsing or supporting any candidates. All SPS members are urged, however, to carefully review the ballot, to vote in an informed manner, and to personally enlist the support and vote of other Club members.

We can't leave this vital election issue up to the Management Committee, or to trip leaders, or to someone else. We will succeed only if every member takes an active role. Some have said that we don't have a prayer. Hey, 85-90% of the ballots are going to be thrown away unread. A relatively small number of committed, determined individuals can truly move a mountain - the Sierra Club has been doing it for close to a century. The very existence of the SPS, as well as that of most outings sections and training committees, as well as the legacy of John Muir, depends on you and what you are willing to do to support Rob Roy's desperate effort. If we fail in this, it may well be our final failure.

Bill

1989 Candidates for the Sierra Club Board of Directors

Candidates Nominated by Board

Ron Mayhem, Atlanta
Judy Anderson, Los Angeles
* Cal French, San Geronio
Jim Dougherty, Wash. D.C.
Joni Bosch, Arizona
Roy Hengerson, Ozarks
Vivian Li, Incumbent

Candidates Nominated by Petition

Phil Berry, San Francisco
Sandy Tepfer, N. Calif.
Michael Garabedian, Atlantic
Madge Strong, California
* R. J. Secor, Los Angeles
* Bruce Knudtson, Los Angeles
* Barbara Reber, Los Angeles

** Member of the SPS*

COVER PHOTO CREDIT: This month's *Echo* cover photograph was taken by Tina Stough. All SPS members should have no trouble guessing which peak it is! It is a beautiful photograph of North Palisade, an SPS emblem peak, and the U-Notch. If you have any pictures of the Sierra that you would like to be considered for the *Echo* cover, send them to the Associate Editor.

ECHOES TO OUR READERS

SPS BANQUET Ruth Armentrout, Secretary

SPS held its 32nd annual banquet at the Proud Bird on Wednesday, December 10, 1988. The 125 members and guests socialized over drinks before sitting down to an enjoyable chicken dinner.

After dinner the SPS Chair, **Maris Valkass**, called the banquet meeting to order. He gave special thanks to **Mario Gonzalez** for organizing the banquet, to **Norm Rohn** for providing each place setting with mistletoe, and to **Charles Gerkens** for the peak canisters. Maris introduced **Mary Sue Miller** and **Vieve Welden**, both recently elected to the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee, and **Bob Kanne**, that group's current Chair. Maris announced that the following SPS members will receive chapter awards at the annual awards banquet in February: **Dick Akawie**, **Dave Dykeman**, **Nancy Gordon**, **Ron Jones**, **Mary Sue Miller**, **R. J. Secor**, **Chuck Stein**, and **Ron Young**. He also recognized the three SPS sustaining members: **Judi Richardson**, **Janet Scott**, and **Brian Smith**.

Maris reviewed the SPS activities of 1988. There were 84 climbing trips scheduled. More than 90% of these trips were completed and over half of the peaks on the SPS list climbed. 388 different people took part in the more than 1,000 ascents done on these trips. **Dave Dykeman** led 14 trips, more than any other leader. One of the year's highlights was the Shepherd's Pass Trail Maintenance work organized by **R. J. Secor**. Participants of the four work trips were recognized; members will have an opportunity to work on the trail again in 1989.

The September insurance decision by the national board of directors of the Sierra Club has basically eliminated our mountaineering activities. The following responses are being made to the board's decision: 1) petitions to get Angeles Chapter people on the ballot for the national board of directors were circulated; 2) the national task force on insurance, which is to report back in May, was chartered; 3) the Echo is being used as a clearinghouse for trips and climbers; and 4) a plea to wait a year before leaving the Sierra Club was issued. Maris then recognized the outgoing 1988 SPS officers.

Maris introduced the new Chair, **Bill Oliver**, who presented him with the Past Chair's pin. Bill then introduced the incoming 1989 SPS Management Committee:

Elected Officers:

Chair	Bill Oliver
Outings Chair	Tina Stough
Secretary	Vi Grasso

Treasurer
Programs Chair

Ruth Armentrout
Mario Gonzalez

Appointed Officers:

Council Rep
Conservation
Safety
Mountain Records
Membership Records
Trail Maintenance
Banquet
Echo Editor
Echo Assoc. Editor
Echo Mailer
Echo Printer

Maris Valkass
Carolyn West
Richard Fritzen
Rob Roy McDonald
Gerry Holleman
R. J. Secor
Bruce Parker
Igor Mamedalin
Jeff Solomon
Ron Grau
Sharon Conrad

Bill said that it is important that this not be the last SPS management committee and urged members to write to the national board of directors again. The 1988 trip leaders, past chairs, list finishers, including the first finisher, **Andy Smatko**, and the first female finisher, **Barbara Lilley**, senior emblem holders, and emblem holders were asked to stand up and be recognized.

Debra Lerner's photo, "Tom Duryea and Bill Oliver on Eichhorn Pinnacle, Cathedral Peak." was declared the photo contest winner by the judge, **Bob Emmerich**; she was awarded Edward Whymper's *Travel Amongst the Great Andes of the Equator*, which was purchased by **R. J. Secor**. **Randy Danta**, assisted by **Mary McMannes**, served as the MC for the door prize drawings. The donors, donated items, and winners were the following:

A-16	Bomber hat	George Hubbard
Sports Chalet	\$50 Gift Certificate	Patty Kline
SPS	\$45 Gift Certificate	Bill T. Russell
SPS	\$45 Gift Certificate	Bill Oliver
SPS	\$45 Gift Certificate	Chuck Stein

After a brief intermission, the program speaker, **Don Pies**, showed us some interesting slides of several multi-day rock climbs in Yosemite.

PEAK INDEX VOL 33-1 (JAN-FEB '89)

Mt. Baxter	Kearsarge Peak
Dragon Peak	Red & White
Mt. Gabb	Mt. Wallace
Mt. Goddard	
Mt. Haeckel	
Mt. Hilgard	
Mt. Julius Caesar	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEEDED!

Assistance in locating a more central location for our monthly meetings. In the meantime we will continue to meet at the Glendale Federal Savings in Studio City (on Ventura Blvd., just West of Laurel Canyon). Contact **Mario Gonzalez**

CONSERVATION

Assistance in reviewing and commenting on a forest use plan proposed for the Sequoia National Forest is needed. Contact **Carolyn West**.

Conservation is such a broad topic covering the gambit from city parks and forest use plans to recycling and salamander salvation that we need a committee of specialists. If you have a favorite forest, a favorite fish, special knowledge, or just want to participate in cookie-nibbling sessions: let us know! Contact **Carolyn West**, SPS Conservation Committee Chairperson, 320 S. Ardmore Ave. #236, Los Angeles CA 90020.

ECHO INPUT

We still need your photographs, trip summaries, amusing stories, letters, opinions, comments, criticisms (and insults?). Send your contributions to the *Echo* Editor.

PERMITS

Leaders! Climbers! Don't forget the March 1st date for sending in Wilderness Permit applications. This is the first day on which you may submit applications for entry into designated wilderness areas and national parks. Sending in your application with a postmark of March 1st -- but not before -- improves your chances of reserving a permit to enter the wilderness of your choice on the date of your choice.

- Tina Stough

GLASS JARS

There is a continuing need for medium size glass jars, preferably those with metal lids, for use as peak register containers on "unlisted" mountain peaks throughout the West. Contributions to the cause will be gratefully accepted by Eric Schumacher at SPS and DPS meetings.

- Gordon MacLeod

ECHO RENEWAL

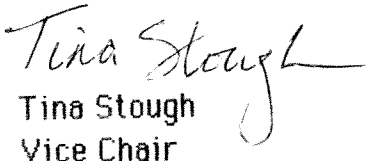
Remember to renew your subscription to the *Echo*, the official publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, and your membership in the section by completing the form attached to the December issue of the *Echo* and mailing it in, along with a check for \$8.00, to the section Treasurer or Secretary by March 31st. Section officer's addresses are listed on the last page of the *Echo*.

January 19, 1989

To all Candidates for the Sierra Club Board of Directors:

You are cordially invited to address the Sierra Peaks Section Members at any of our meetings until the election. Please contact either the Chair, Bill Oliver, or Programs Chair, Mario Gonzalez.

Sincerely,


Tina Stough
Vice Chair

Saturday, May 6, 1989 - Vetter Mtn/ H.P.S. List Finisher/100 Peak Party: After an easy hike up Vetter Mtn. (500' gain, 2 mi RT), Jim Adler will finish the H.P.S. list and Kathy Price will get her 100 Pks Emblem. Meet at La Canada Carpool point at 9:30 am. Hike starts at Charlton Flats Picnic area, about 10:00 a.m. Party, at picnic area at about noon. Leaders: Jim Adler (213) 838-0524, Evan Samuels.

ARRANGING PRIVATE TRIPS

Tina Stough/Rob Roy McDonald

As promised in the last ECHO, the SPS is trying to help members arrange private trips this year. Several individuals have responded and indicated a number of Emblem and Mountaineering peaks they would like to climb. Arrange your own trips, deciding when to go and obtaining Wilderness Permits, etc. You are on your own! If a climber wants to advertise a particular trip in the Echo, the current policy is still in effect. A fee of \$1.00 will be charged for private trip announcements up to four lines.

The SPS is not endorsing any private trips, merely offering a service to its members by publishing an expression of interest in peaks desired in 1989.

If you are interested in participating, please send a 3" X 5" file card with the name of the peak, your name and your phone numbers to the SPS Outings Chair, Tina Stough, by March 8. One card for each peak, please. An amended list will be published in the March-April Echo.

In order to keep this service manageable, please express an interest only in one or more of the following 53 peaks: (1) 15 Emblem Peaks (2) 35 Mountaineer's Peaks (3) Glacier Ridge, Hooper and Jordan. Restrict the cards you send in to these 53 peaks. All 4th & 5th class peaks and most of the tough 3rd class peaks on the list are in this group of 53.

PEAK	MEMBER	HOME PHONE	YORK PHONE
Mt. Abbot	Bobby Dubeau	(818) 281 7237	(916) 355 4188
"	Rich Gnagy	(916) 488 0618	
"	Patty Kline	(213) 455 1956	
"	Rob Langsdorf	(619) 459 1726	
"	Tom Micholas	(415) 839 5622	(213) 387 6163
"	Bruce Parker	(213) 388 7320	
"	Mae Stees	(714) 545 7993	
"	Reiner Stenzel	(213) 454 9787	
Arrow Peak	Ali Amninian	(805) 499 0926	(805) 372 8153
"	Patty Kline	(213) 455 1956	
"	Rob Langsdorf	(619) 459 1726	
"	Owen Maloy	(619) 934 4553	
"	Bruce Parker	(213) 388-7320	(213) 387 6163
"	D & U Slager	(213) 927 4078	
Bear Crk. Spire	David Underwood	(213) 534 3967	(213) 648 8166
"	Bobby Dubeau	(818) 281 7237	
"	Rob Langsdorf	(619) 459 1726	
"	Owen Maloy	(619) 934 4553	
"	Mary Sue Miller	(805) 496 8085	
"	Bruce Parker	(213) 388 7320	(213) 387 6163
"	D & U Slager	(213) 927 4078	
"	Mae Stees	(714) 545 7993	
Black Kaweah	Ali Amninian	(805) 499 0926	(805) 372 8153
"	Richard Fewell	(818) 769 7149	(818) 884 8878
"	Rich Gnagy	(916) 488 0618	(916) 355 4188
"	Owen Maloy	(619) 934 4553	
"	Bruce Parker	(213) 388 7320	(213) 387 6163
"	Reiner Stenzel	(213) 454 9787	
"	Bruce Parker	(213) 388 7320	(213) 387 6163
"	David Underwood	(213) 534 3967	
"	Ali Amninian	(805) 499 0926	(213) 239 1695
"	G. Breakwell	(805) 496 8085	
"	Mary Sue Miller	(213) 388 7320	(213) 387 6163
"	Bruce Parker	(213) 392 8193	(213) 485 4403
"	Dave Petzold	(714) 545-7993	
"	Mae Stees	(213) 454-9787	
"	Reiner Stenzel	(805) 499 0926	(805) 372 8153
"	Ali Amninian	(619) 459 1726	
Charlyobis	Bruce Parker	(213) 388-7320	(213) 387 6163
"	Bruce Parker	(213) 388-7320	(213) 387 6163
"	Dave Petzold	(213) 392 8193	

Clarence King

Ali Amninian	(805) 499 0926	(805) 372 8153
Robby Heath	(213) 421 8561	(213) 435 4441 (3865)
Jeff Koepke	(714) 879 3552	
Rob Langsdorf	(619) 459 1726	
David Marcus	(415) 528 0728	
Robert Meador	(714) 777 2458	
Evor Nilsson	(818) 369 3608	(818) 795 3000
Donna O'Shaughnessy	(213) 320 2891	(213) 814 2230
Bruce Parker	(213) 388 7320	(213) 387 6163
Dave Petzold	(213) 392 8193	(213) 485 4403
Reiner Stenzel	(213) 454 9787	
George Tucker	(213) 371 8726	(213) 616 3408
Ali Amninian	(805) 499 0926	(805) 372 8153
G. Breakwell	(818) 281 7237	(213) 239 1695
Bobby Dubeau	(619) 459 1726	
Rob Langsdorf	(213) 388 7320	(213) 387 6163
Bruce Parker	(714) 545 7993	
Mae Stees	(213) 454 9787	
Reiner Stenzel	(805) 499 0926	(805) 372 8153
Ali Amninian	(818) 769 1546	(213) 239 1695
Charles Bell	(213) 373 7025	
G. Breakwell	(818) 281 7237	(916) 355 4188
Herb Buehler	(916) 488 0618	
Bobby Dubeau	(619) 459 1726	
Rich Gnagy	(213) 320 2891	(213) 814 2230
Rob Langsdorf	(213) 388 7320	(213) 387 6163
Donna O'Shaughnessy	(213) 392 8193	(213) 485 4403
Dave Petzold	(213) 454 9787	
Reiner Stenzel	(213) 438 3809	(805) 372 8153
Tina Stough	(805) 499 0926	(213) 239 1695
Ali Amninian	(818) 769 1546	
Charles Bell	(818) 281 7237	
G. Breakwell	(213) 421 8561	(213) 435 4441 (3865)
Bobby Dubeau	(213) 874 9514	(213) 655 6181
Robby Heath	(213) 455 1956	
Jim Kilberg	(714) 879 3552	
Patty Kline	(619) 934 4553	
Jeff Koepke	(714) 777 2458	
Owen Maloy	(213) 320 2891	(213) 814 2230
Robert Meador	(213) 388 7320	(213) 387 6163
Donna O'Shaughnessy	(213) 927 4078	(213) 387 6163
Bruce Parker	(714) 552 7237	
D & U Slager	(714) 545 7993	
Jeff Solomon	(213) 454 9787	
Mae Stees	(415) 376 3380	
Reiner Stenzel	(805) 499 0626	(805) 372 8153
Steven Thaw	(818) 281 7237	
Ali Amninian	(805) 682 0085	
Bobby Dubeau	(619) 459 1726	
Jim Edmondson	(619) 934 4553	
Rob Langsdorf	(213) 320 2891	(213) 814 2230
Owen Maloy	(213) 388 7320	(213) 387 6163
Donna O'Shaughnessy	(213) 392 8193	(213) 485 4403
Bruce Parker	(805) 499 0926	(805) 372 8153
Dave Petzold	(213) 373 7025	
Ali Amninian	(818) 281 7237	
Herb Buehler		
Bobby Dubeau		

Devils Crag

Bobby Dubeau	(213) 387 6163	
"	(213) 392 8193	

-	Tina Stough	(213) 438 3809
-	Steven Thaw	(415) 376 3380
-	George Tucker	(213) 371 8726
-	David Underwood	(213) 534 3967
-	Jim Edmondson	(805) 682 0085
-	Patty Kline	(213) 455 1956
-	Rob Langsdorf	(619) 459 1726
-	Owen Maloy	(619) 934 4553
-	Bruce Parker	(213) 388 7320
-	Dave Petzold	(213) 392 8193
-	Mae Stees	(714) 545 7993
-	Reiner Stenzel	(213) 454 9787
-	Patty Kline	(213) 455 1956
-	Jeff Koepke	(714) 879 3552
-	Rob Langsdorf	(619) 459 1726
-	Owen Maloy	(619) 934 4553
-	Robert Meador	(714) 777 2458
-	Bruce Parker	(213) 388 7320
-	Patty Kline	(213) 455 1956
-	Owen Maloy	(619) 934 4553
-	Mary Sue Miller	(805) 496 8085
-	Ali Aminian	(805) 499 0926
-	Bobby Dubeau	(818) 281 7237
-	Rich Gnagly	(916) 488 0618
-	Bruce Parker	(213) 388 7320
-	Dave Petzold	(213) 392 8193
-	Tina Stough	(213) 438 3809
-	Richard Fewell	(818) 769 7149
-	Karen Leonard	(213) 834 3457
-	Bruce Parker	(213) 388 7320
-		
-	Mt. Williamson	
-		

Leaders! Climbers!

Don't forget the March 1 date for sending in Wilderness Permit applications. This is the first day on which you may submit applications for entry in designated wilderness areas and national parks. Sending in your applications with a postmark of March 1--but not before--improves your chances of reserving a permit to enter the wilderness of your choice on the date of your choice.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New Emblems

#489 Bill Gray

New Members

Ali A. Aminian
815 San Siemon Drive
Newbury Park, CA 91320

New Subscribers

R. G. Carlson
4822 Kenneth Ave.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
(916) 965-5952

Joe Sharp
P.O. Box 624
Forest Knolls, CA 94933
(415) 488-4115

K. C. Wylie
P.O. Box 989
Lone Pine, CA 93545

Address Changes

Lloyd Brown
2113 Hollywood Court
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

Michael Lorr
15 Fleet Street
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Kathleen Crandall
1864 Foothill Blvd.
La Canada, CA 91011

SPS PROGRAM SCHEDULE

THE AMERICAN YALUNG EXPEDITION

Wednesday, March 8

Join Jim Farkas in Nepal and the expedition's attempt on one of the highest mountains in the world.

POPULATION GROWTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, April 12

Russell Ernst of the Population Committee, a sub-committee of the Angeles Chapter Conservation Group, will give a slide presentation and discuss how unchecked population growth is affecting the environment. Despite its sobering message, the presentation ends on an upbeat note because it offers a number of positive steps we can all take to help.

Programs are presented at the monthly SPS meeting held at 7:30 PM at Glendale Federal Savings in Studio City. Refreshments are served.

NOTE FROM 1988 PROGRAM CHAIR

Vi Grasso

I wish to thank the following individuals who through their efforts, cooperation and good will generously provided refreshments at the following general membership meetings:

January	Chuck Stein
February	Karen Leonard
March	Mary Sue Miller
April	Mario Gonzales
June	Delores Holiday
July	Bill Oliver
August	Karen Leonard (in place of Maris)
September	George Toby

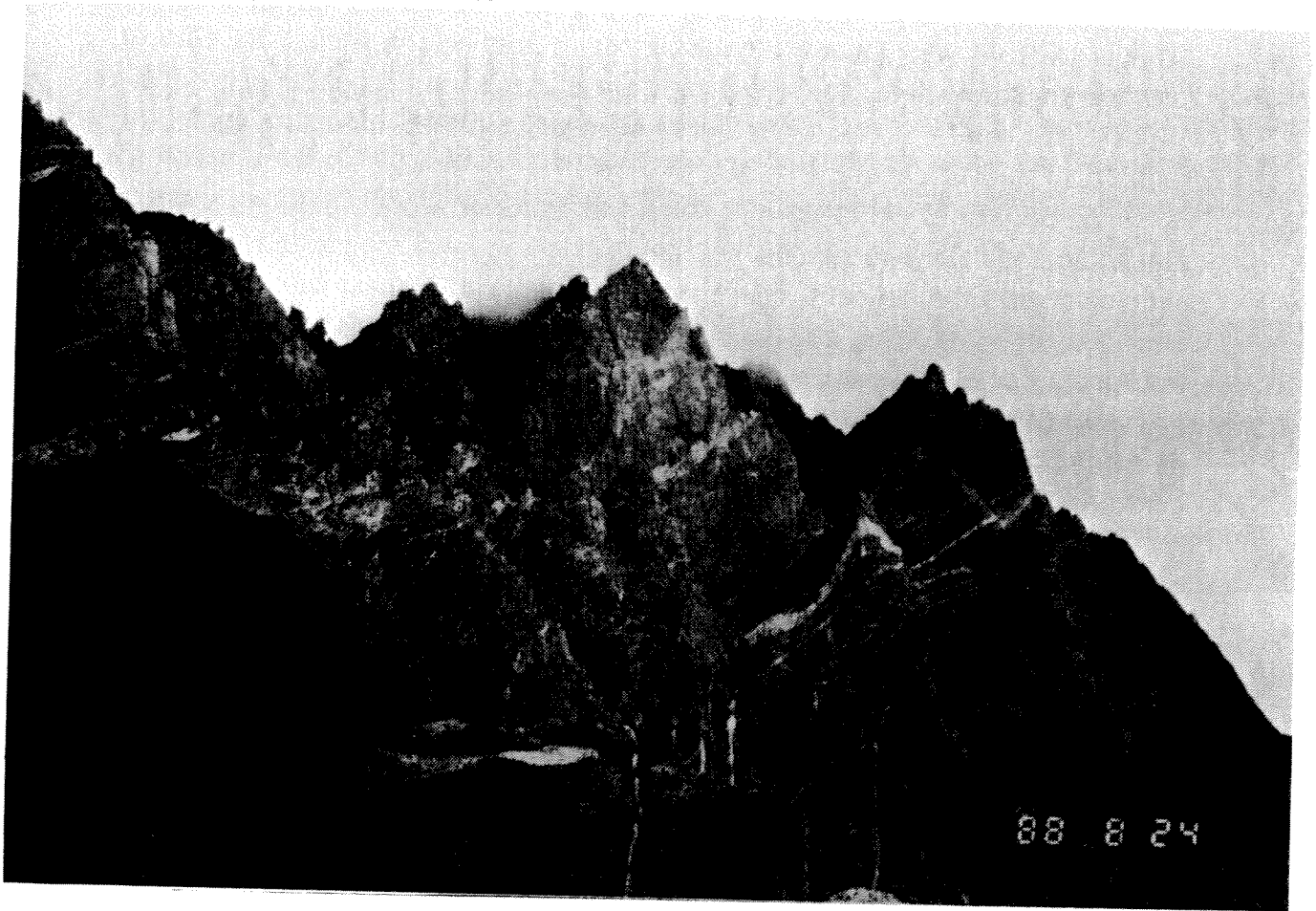
ECHOES FROM THE PRESENT

We Want To Know!

Mystery Peak #6 was Bear Creek Spire photographed from the south. Pete Yamagata recognized this one. We wish more people would participate and respond.

In the last issue of the *Echo*, SPS members were invited to give their opinion of the insurance crisis affecting our Club. Rob Roy McDonald not only did that but went further to make his statement as expressed in his letter below.

Mystery Peak #7 is featured below. This issue of the *Echo* has several clues. Send in your responses to Jeff Solomon, Associate Editor.



Richard Cellarius

January 3, 1989

Richard Cellarius, President
2439 Crestline Drive NW
Olympia, Washington 98502

Dear Mr. Cellarius,

This is not a letter expressing dissatisfaction with the ban imposed by the Sierra Club upon climbing, so please do not answer with the form letter you have mailed to those who have written such letters to you. I am writing to seek your advice and guidance as the President of the Sierra Club.

I recently received my copy of the Sierra magazine containing information on the 1989 national outings. I am both puzzled and deeply distressed by the several outings which include proposed climbs of peaks which normally require climbing equipment for safe ascents and descents. These outings and the proposed climbs include:

1) 89153-Tehipite Dome. The easiest route up Tehipite Dome includes one short pitch where peakbaggers normally use a rope for security because of the exposure. This is particularly true during the descent. If a person were to climb down two or three feet off the best line and then slip with no protective belay, it could result in serious injury or a fatality.

2) 89152-The Hermit, Mendel and Charybdis. The Hermit has a fifth class summit block of sufficient difficulty that many accomplished climbers (using mountaineering boots, not rock climbing shoes) are able to reach the summit only by using direct aid. Mendel and Charybdis are third class peaks where a less experienced climber could get off route and require a rope for safety.

3) 89096-Whorl Mountain. The usual route on Whorl includes a 4th class section near a large chockstone. Parties usually rappel at this section during the descent. There is a 3rd class route described by RJ Secor on the west side, but it is lengthy and intricate and it would be imprudent for a leader to take a party up this route without a rope.

4) Other trips. There are other trips listed which appear to be marginal and contrary to safe climbing practices to plan ascents without carrying, and perhaps using, climbing gear.

When the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) learned of the ban on the use of climbing gear, the SPS Management Committee met on October 3, 1988 and promptly canceled scheduled climbs of Tehipite Dome on October 8 and Mt. Russell on October 15. It is our intention to diligently adhere to the ban even though it is extremely dissatisfying to us.

Now three months after the climbing ban the Sierra Club is advertising outings in its national magazine which include climbs of peaks which safe, experienced mountaineers would never contemplate without the use of adequate climbing gear. I can only conclude that the national outings committee does not include individuals with mountaineering expertise or that the ban has been lifted and the word has not yet reached the SPS or that by some peculiar quirk the ban does not apply to national outings.

It is that time of year when the SPS leaders are normally planning trips for next summer. We need your advice immediately to plan these trips in accordance with the correct Sierra Club policy. Please help us.

Very truly yours,

Rob Roy McDonald

Rob Roy McDonald

Mountain Records Chairman

Sierra Peaks Section

4116 Encinas Drive

La Canada, California 91011

ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

GABB, HILGARD AND JULIUS CAESAR

2-4 July 88

Al Conrad and George Toby

This ordinary type trip had some moments of suspense and excitement, few of which dealt with the climbing of mountains but rather in the logistics and timing of getting to and from the peaks. In summary, it was a good trip.

Eight of us left the Pine Creek Roadhead at 7:55 am, Saturday, the eighth having arrived in the final ten seconds before we called him a no-show and took off without him. This followed another close call the previous day when one of my riders, caught in an enormous traffic jam, arrived at the Sylmar carpool spot in the last minute before we classified him a no-show and took off without him.

After arriving at camp in the late afternoon, we were met by George Tucker, who hiked in the previous day and had done Bear Creek Spire while we were hiking in. Based on his input, we approached Gabb on Sunday morning by scrambling along the south side of Lake Italy, maybe 100' above the shoreline. The ascent of Gabb was complicated by too aggressive a move toward the summit, forcing us to retreat slightly and cross a somewhat solid snowfield without the aid of ice axes. Had we stayed lower and neared the saddle west of the summit before gaining too much altitude, the ascent would have been classified as uneventful. Seven people made the summit; two having returned to camp part way to the peak.

The leader was not operating all cylinders, so George Toby, the ever-ready assistant leader, and Larry Hoak guided the remainder on the traverse over to Hilgard. They descended from the bench below Gabb to the ledges above the lake via a good Class 3 chute through the cliffs above the ledges. Staying well above the lake, they were able to get into the obvious chute leading to the summit.

Once we got moving on Monday morning, the rest of the trip was without incident. Five climbers got Julius Caesar; some of the original group having previously done the peak. We were back at the cars by about 2 pm.

A "lessons-learned" note:

In leaving the camp at Lake Italy for the trip out over Italy Pass, one of the participants informed the leader at the last minute he had somehow been misinformed about the starting time and "just couldn't get ready in a reasonable amount of time." This individual was signed out so the group could start for the pass and the climb of Julius Caesar. (There was no safety issue involved in this incident

as the trail to the roadhead was quite evident and the individual was experienced.)

This incident reinforced in my mind the continual need to maintain clear communications between the leader and each individual on the trip: The leader to make sure each individual "gets the word" unambiguously; each individual to be alert to informing the leader ASAP when they sense a problem, not at the last moment when options are few. The lack of either will surely tax people's patience needlessly and make trips less enjoyable.

DUMBBELL LAKES

22-26 July 88

N. Rohn and R. J. Secor

Norm and RJ's planned trip to the Dumbbell Lakes and the various SPS peaks that offered turned to be a bit more ambitious than any of the participants were interested in tackling. Some pretty juicy weather didn't help the situation either.

Day one took the leaders plus Rick Rezabek and Bruce Hoatson, strong hikers and good companions from the new BMTC crop, from South Lake over Bishop Pass, through the Dusy Basin, over Knapsack Pass and on to the Barrett Lakes. Here we fished and dodged raindrops. The former with better success than the latter. The brook trout were fat and hungry, living up completely to the reputation of those lakes.

Day two we worked down canyon to Dear Meadow, crossed on a big log and camped not far from a Park trail maintenance crew.

From here it's tricky getting up Cataract Creek because the trail was avalanched out a few years ago and has not been abandoned by the Park. My best advice is to stay near the upper edge of the damaged area and try to pick up the trail along the way. We went way too high and wasted a lot of time. The use trail passes through a small burn about opposite the abandoned mine shown on the Mt. Goddard topo, then crosses to the east side of the creek and wanders up ledges to the upper plateau and Amphitheater Lake. There is evidence of horse traffic at the lake so there has to be an easy route. There are many good campsites at the lake and a nice view of Observation Peak. Fishing was a bit slow although the fish were obviously there.

We elected not to take our packs through the talus and over the 11,600-saddle to the Dumbbell Lakes, but daypacked Observation. Time was obviously going to be short. On
(continued)

(continued)

our return we loaded camp and headed back down Cata-ract Creek, trying to pass the avalanched section to the east. This didn't work well but we struggled through, crossed Palisade Creek and got onto the Muir Trail. Camped at Grouse Meadow and made the climb up along Dusy Branch and over Bishop Pass on day five. It was a fine outing but perhaps a little more than would have been necessary for a BMTC experience trip.

RED AND WHITE MTN.

28 July 88

Larry Hoak

The climb of Red and White Mtn. began at the McGee Pass roadhead at 6:00 AM. The day was sunny without clouds or significant wind. I followed the trail past Big McGee Lake on the north to a point approximately two contour lines above the lake where the unmaintained Hopkins Pass trail leaves the McGee Pass trail at a left junction marked only by a sign reading McGee Pass. I then followed the faintly marked trail around Big McGee Lake to and past an unmarked lake west of Big McGee Lake at approximately 10,560'. This route, while longer than a direct route to the north or south of Big McGee Lake, is easier as the south and east shore is a long long boulder field and the north shore features a series of low cliffs and other obstacles. The Hopkins Pass Trail again becomes obvious when passing the unnamed lake, actually, several small lakes. The trail can be followed to approximately the 11,000' contour. At that point one hikes cross country west southwest past the unnamed lake at 11,120' and diagonally up across the scree slope to near the southeast ridge of the peak. At that point you can pick your way up broken second and very low third class ledges and chutes to the summit. It should be noted that the peak is composed for the most part of metamorphic rock. The rock is generally loose, and the ledges and chutes are filled with loose material waiting for the poorly positioned hand or foot. This route is not suitable for large parties or those who like to kick rock. I arrived at the summit at 11:20 AM and after a 20 minute break started the return trip. I arrived back at the roadhead at 3:40 PM after a fast paced hike.

This would be a moderate two day trip if a backpack trip were desired. The best camping location appears to be at the northeast (outlet) end of Big McGee Lake. The stream crossings at 8,880' and 9,200' on McGee creek are passable in late summer. If necessary, they can be bypassed by using a use trail along the west side of McGee creek, however the footing can be a bit difficult. The McGee pass trail was in good condition. The above directions are based on the Mt. Abbot 15 minute topographic map of 1953.

DRAGON AND KEARSARGE

30-31 July 88

D. Borad and P. Marquez

We left Onion Valley at 8:00 AM on Saturday and had a pleasant hike to the uppermost lake north of Golden Trout Lake. Since we had most of the day left (we arrived at camp about 11:30 AM) six of us decided to hike up Kearsarge Peak. We climbed the obvious dirt chute north of the lake below our camp and proceeded to the summit. It was a pleasant way to spend the afternoon and we were back in camp before 5:00 PM.

We had rain off and on Saturday night but arose to a lovely morning and managed a 6:00 AM start for Dragon Peak. We followed the talus chute south of the peak to its dirt chute end. There we found a short 3rd class crack on the right that enabled us to gain the ridge. We went north along the west side of the ridge to a prominent saddle between a large pinnacle and the ridge proper. On arrival at the saddle we could see the impressive looking summit block. On traversing right, toward the summit block, I found a nice 3rd class gully that took us very near the peak. From the top of the gully an exposed traverse across a narrow ledge enabled a couple of easy moves to the top. Incidentally, the face of the summit block can be climbed easily as two people (not with our party) were observed to scramble up that way to avoid interfering with my rope. We were all back in camp by noon and hiked out in a steady rain.

Special thanks to my assistant, Phil Marquez for a pleasant and successful trip. Thanks are due also to an extremely congenial and fun group consisting of Ruth Armentrout (Dragon Peak was her 100th Sierra peak!), Rene Mevey, Gayle Robinson, Ed McIntyre, Pet McIntyre and Dave Morris.

GODDARD 7/29-31/88

VALKASS AND DURYEA

At 6 am , Friday , eight of us met at the Sabrina Lake trailhead. After scheduling this trip for three days, I learned that normally it is done in four. (you also climb two peaks) Needless to say that I had some apprehension about completing this trip successfully.

We started a few minutes after six. In couple of hours we overtook a strong backpacker with two dogs. He looked like a heavy-duty guy, had worked and climbed in Antarctica, and Acancagua. His name was Buck. When told about our plans to go to Wanda Lake by this evening, he chuckled and implied that we would be lucky to get to Echo Col. He suggested a short-cut. Having taken short-cuts before, we decided for the long-cut. We reached Echo Col at noon. You have to cross a snow field to get to the col, but it presented no problem. (we did not have ice axes or crampons).

After the col, we contoured, dropping elevation, towards the cliffs of Pk 12782 and finally to Helen Lake. At this point we intercepted the J M Trail and went to Muir Pass, which we reached by 3:30 pm. After a brief rest, we descended to Wanda Lake by 4:30, where we set up our camp at the south end. There was a lot of thunderstorm activity, but we had no rain.

Next morning we left our campsite by 6:00. We climbed over a ridge to the south of the lake. Using 15' Mt Goddard topo, we climbed up the shallow gully near "A" in "canyon", topping the ridge between "A" and "R" in "Goddard", overlooking the Ionian Basin. We contoured from the ridge, past Lake 11824, and some smaller lakes. Finally getting to the long lake north of Pk 12483. Walking north along the east side of the lake, you finally start slogging up to Goddard. Incidentally, you don't see Goddard until you are at the Lake 11804. This is a real character builder. Even after you reach the summit, the view is not that great, and you realize that you have to go back the same way you came, up and down. Roper, in his guide, indicates that there is a Class 2 route from the north, but we could not locate it from the top, and decided that it may be easier to go back the way we came. We reached the summit of Goddard at 11:00, I got there a little later. Everyone made it.

On our way back, it started to rain, and continued steadily for about two to three hours. Many of us got chilled, and one person, after reaching camp, had early stages of hypothermia. We packed our gear and headed for Muir Hut on the Pass. We decided that we had an emergency and so we used the Hut. We tried to build a fire, but the wood was too wet and would not burn even when we used white gas as starter. It was still a shelter and the hypothermic person could warm up.. The rest of us slept outside.

Sunday, all was well and we started for home. We reached Echo Col by 9:00, and were back to cars by 14:15. Ron Zappen stayed at Muir Pass another day and was going to climb Black Giant and Fisk. (I learned later that he did)

Bobby Dubeau had recently purchased a new Kelty back pack. However, at the start of the trip his shoulder straps came apart at the seams. Fortunately he was able to improvise, and his trip was not spoiled. REI is getting it back.

This trip was judged by most participants to be one of the more, if not the most, strenuous trip on which they have been. The other participants were: Karen Leonard, Dave Petzold, James Edmondson, and Gerry Dunie.

This was a strong group, we did not take long breaks, and kept moving along. My thanks to them for the good company on this character building trip, and especially to Tom Duryea, my assistant.

Muir

Mt. HAECKEL, Mt. WALLACE JUL.31 - AUG.1, 1988 Rainer Stenzel, Ken Duzy

Ten out of twelve participants were at the Lake Sabrina trailhead at 7:00 am. In warm humid weather we climbed past Blue Lake, Dingleberry Lake to Moonlight Lake where we set up basecamp at 1pm. After an hour siesta dark thunderstorm clouds precluded any extended afternoon hikes. A small group scouted the intended route along a ridge above Echo Lake, took a short dip in Echo Lake before being driven back to camp by rain.

On Monday, Aug.1, we had an early start at 5:00am heading up above Echo Lake to the snowfields below Haeckel and Wallace. The 4:00am rise was rewarded with clear skies and a beautiful sunrise. By 9:00am we all reached the summit of Mt. Wallace safely after a good class 3 climb along the ridge from the Haeckel-Wallace saddle. After enjoying a beautiful view from Mt. Wallace about half the group decided that the climb along the ridge to Mt.Haeckel was too ambitious. Six participants were accompanied by the leaders to a safe route for the descent where they signed out while four of the group continued to climb along the ridge to reach the summit of Haeckel at 10:00am. Rising thunderstorm clouds shortened our stay on the summit and called for a fast return. Everyone met at basecamp at nearly the same time (1pm) and rapidly packed out in view of threatening thunder and rain.

On the way back one hiker tripped over a loose rock on the trail and fell with pack causing a deep laceration on the right leg below the knee. First aid was provided, the pack distributed among the group, and with some delay the injured climber and the group reached the cars at 6:00pm. Thanks are due to everyone for assisting the injured climber, especially nurse Sigrid's help is appreciated.

The participants were Hoda Shalaby, John Oakden, Dave Smythe, Kathy Scott, Lars Nielsen, Sigrid Hutto, Ali Aminian, Donn Cook, Ken Duzy, and Rainer Stenzel; the last four climbed both peaks.

Rainer S.
Rainer

Northeast Ridge of Mt. Baxter and Indian Head

-June 11
Dick Beach

Of all the major ridges on the east side of the Sierra this ridge has the dubious distinction of being the longest. From an elevation of 4,600 feet at the entrance of Sawmill Canyon at the base of the valley floor, the ridge rises over Lookout Point and continues for some 9,500 feet plus an additional 2,000 feet of drops spanning a distance of approximately ten miles.

Our day's adventure was to attempt the entire route including a short climb of Indian Head via a new route, then continue over Baxter's Summit to Baxter Lakes and exit over Baxter Pass.

Leaving one car at Baxter roadhead and starting at Harry Birch Spring just south (1/4 mile) of Sawmill Canyon, would make this possible.

Once again climbing friend Bob Good, and I decided this "Beast of a Ridge" would be our ultimate and last ridge episode for a long time to come.

I awoke at 10:30 p.m. Saturday night after a days outing around Tioga Pass with my family. Bob would drive up from Los Angeles and meet me at Baxter Trail roadhead at 12:30 a.m. After an hours car shuttle, we started climbing at 1:30 a.m. from Harry Birch Spring. A full moon would have been helpful for this long climb, but instead we had high clouds and no moon. An earlier check at this roadhead is imperative for a night start. Just north of Harry Birch Spring (500 feet south), a large scree chute can be seen. Sand of the softest kind leads directly up to a solitary pine (very visible from Hwy 395).

Six factors upset our route: High angle scree was the first, and is encountered for 2,000 feet on the slopes of Lookout Point. That lone pine tree atop of the correct chute is the only night landmark visible for verification of the correct starting point.

I've only wanted to kiss a tree once in my life and I quarantee you'll kiss this one too. It marks the transition out of the scree zone. That had to be the ultimate grunge in scree slog. Luckily it was night so we didn't see where and what we were doing. (approximately 2,000 feet)

From the solitary pine the slope lessens and the ridge is reached shortly after. Factor two immediately came into play. "BUSH WACKING", in prime growth and incredible as it would be, the north side had less "thickage" than the south! The usual route finding only became more intense because of dense darkness that still existed. Right when a ray of hope in the true sense would cast its early morning light on our route, factor three introduced itself, "GNATS". During the next 3,000 feet these pests, with a touch of mosquitoes kept us company. They were horrible in every swat of the hand. Yuckey as they were they did remind us of the importance

of not stopping to linger anywhere!! By 7:30 a.m. we reached Lookout Point, (elevation 10,144 feet). This put us at 5,400 feet gain, three miles to this spot. An old wooden tripod, classic of the 1920's summits marks the spot. Sadly no register although visitors are probably far and few between. This is the first vantage point where most of the ridge comes into view. (Baxter's Summit is not seen during almost the entire climb) this area is heavily traveled by Sierra Bighorns.

One highlight we had was to stumble upon two magnificent rams close enough for pictures (20 feet). They were as surprised as we were. Their trails and droppings we found in the most incredible places. What an amazing animal by the evidence of where we found it's skat and trails.

Because the ridge drops 400 feet from Lookout Point, we spent the next 2 1/2 hours merely attaining the elevation of Lookout. This section goes for approximately one mile and is extremely brushy and a hectic class 2 and 3. We found it easier to skirt portions on the south side. During all of this two very prominent limestone spires scar the ridge above. One must climb to the highest notch between the two. The ridge makes a sharp southern turn through decomposed limestone. The entire ridge passes five major rock types. Limestone was the worst but the most spectacular. The skyline is dominated by Indian Head, to the south. From here we had planned a one mile traverse off the ridge to climb Indian Head and then regain the ridge via a secondary ridge which Indian Head is apart of. This traverse is easy class 2 and passes a crudy 4th class section of Baxter's main northeast ridge.

We arrived at Indian Head base at 2:00 p.m. (mile 6 -12,000 feet). Bob took a nap while I climbed. Indian Head and I go back a few years. It was one of those grunts that had to be left for another day. The first day was summer 1978 when Dave King and I attempted a one day (7,200 foot) gain via the Big Ram Mine road (prominent switchbacks on a road directly below the east rib that Indian Head is on). We worked all day to only reach peak (11,800 feet) which was still a good 1/2 mile away with messy class 3 traversing. Our mistake was we gained the ridges crest too soon. Even more horrible than the climb was the grim reality of going back the way we came!

Thibaw Creek would be the only other approach that would be feasible for this almost inaccessible peak. Fred L. Jones made the first ascent in 1948 via the southeast side class 3. A more interesting new route lies on the peaks west face, with nice 4th class holds. Route is direct, clean and straight forward, descent via Jones' route. Climb takes about 25 minutes (roundtrip), 200 foot gain. This had not been climbed since 1976 (Gordon MacCloud, and group). Remember those factors "try", rain and hail! It was apparent by the changing clouds that we were going to have spotted showers throughout the day. This factor took the cake on Baxter Pass during our descent. From Indian Head rather than ascending ridge immediately I suggest a long mile traverse to the ridge on the south side. The edge of Baxter's Summit plateau can finally be seen. The ridge has to be traversed for another two miles where

Fred Jones' description in, The Climber's Guide, can be read. To apply it doesn't work! I would suggest a direct traverse on the west side at the base of two pinnacles on that portion of the ridge. A better route here is class 3 and saves much up and down. Beyond these two pinnacles is a small col that comes into view. Cross over on the east side and go directly to peak 12,400 feet on ridge. Then cross back over at an obvious notch just below the summit peak 12,400, (a class 2 scramble). This puts you back on the west side with a clear view of the summit plateau (mile 8) Baxter is still two miles away yet route is finally simple if one is prepared to still enjoy it at this point!!

During this entire climb the views are indeed magnificent and spectacular. In looking down on this route from Baxter's Plateau one can not see any connection of all the ridges, pinnacles of the ridge unless it is climbed or checked by map.

Factor 5, "The accuracy of the map!" It was of little help in determining the vast amount of drops, totaling approximately 1,000 feet plus the major drop beyond Lookout Pt. and meandering on another 400 foot drop that is encountered higher up with the rest being 50 feet to 200 feet with discouraging frequency.

I feel at this point an important concept in climbing a route like this should be aired, which I call "Ridge Psych". More than anything else success on these grand ridge routes hinges on dealing with overwhelming length and huge amounts of elevation gain. Never at anytime can one let a discouraging element develop. We had a bail out via Sawmill canyon, this is not the element I mention here. But, rather the element of always "moving", and not to become bewildered by its length or complexity in route finding.

This ridge above all others puts all the ingredients of challenging mountaineering into play. That's why doing a ridge like this becomes an element of high adventure and not one of an arduous slug.

Our day was far from over by 6:00 p.m. when we reached the summit of Baxter. After a long meticulous grunge Baxter Lake was reached at 8:00 p.m. with rain and hail in preparation to dump.

With the sky full of flashes and thunder we knew this would be our most menacing "Factor"! Because of the amount of snow on and around Baxter pass, we lost the trail in snow at 8:30 p.m. in the midst of a huge downpour of low clouds illuminated by flashes of electricity.

Survival was the name of the game at this point until we got over the pass and off the other side. Get the, "Hell out of there" was the gist of our movements. The storm was in full force at the crest. Not willing to search for the trail we went directly over to the east side like a cat with it's hair up, if you get the drift. By 9:30 p.m. we were seeing the lightning hitting trees below us. Strikes below the pass didn't exactly encourage our pace to get to lower ground, but still a lot better than where we were.

Descending in full darkness with constant brilliance from above. We

found ourselves soaked from continued exposure by rain. After a while even rain gear gets wet! Wearing double headlamps for visibility only to be confronted with massive cliffs dropping into a black abyss. Problems in orienting and route finding were getting worse than better. Our exact position was critical for us to continue. This was getting increasingly difficult if it were not for the two classic snow couloirs on Diamond Peak. I had climbed one year before making the experience entrenched in my mind. From that establishment I was able to locate the trails position. That was one bolt of lightning that definitely gave light in the right direction.

Five chutes later we found a way down to the east side of Baxter passes trail at a horrible 11:30 p.m. Drenched and shaken - from the storms, all we wanted to do was play cows back to the barn on a slow plodding pace on good ole Baxter trail - at least that is what Bob and I had remembered on past trips up and down.

Then last, but not least, the infamous "trail factor" introduced itself by obscuring our trail at stream crossings and just any old place. The trail is in great disrepair, stream crossing especially! Huge trees down and what appears to be a lack of use or maintenance. We had lots of time to study this situation considering our pace. One good note was we did not have to worry about getting our boots wet at stream crossings, they already were!

Like two wet fish we arrived at my truck at a lonely 3:30 a.m. and back to Bishop at 5:30, (we went very slow). Our feelings of what we just experienced focused on the realization that there are no more major ridges for us to do and if this was to be our last then we definitely ended this adventure with a flash, a blast, and a splash.

Leaders!

The deadline for the July 5-October 1989 schedule is coming!
Please submit your trip writeups to the outings chair

Tina Stough
4832 E. Third St.
Long Beach, CA 90814
(213) 438-3809

By FEBRUARY 20--earlier submissions greatly appreciated.
See current schedule, page 89, and Leader's Reference Book,
pages 21 to 23, for writeup format.

Please include distance and elevation gain.



GEOFF, THE BEAR AND STARR KING

Jack Miller

Geoff and I were sound asleep when Dave called out "Hey Geoff, a bear's got your pack".

Dave's announcement was only mildly irritating because we have always known that for Dave everyday is April Fool's day. His credibility is always in doubt when he makes any unusual claim. He is easily amused.

Geoff groaned, "OK Dave, now go back to sleep".

Four of us (Geoff Glassner, Dave Vandervoet, Bob Fielding and I) were in Yosemite National Park to climb Starr King. We arrived late and stopped at one of the campgrounds to get a few hours sleep before an early start the next day. We planned to meet Dave and Nancy DiCarlo in the morning.

At Dave's urging we eventually looked up. This night things were different. It was no joke. When we shined our flashlights toward Dave we saw a large cinnamon-colored bear who's face was about one foot from Dave's. He was breathing his foul steamy breath into Dave's face, and our fun-loving friend was struggling in his sleeping bag to move as far away as quickly as he could from that drooling beast's ugly breath.

We also heard the loud cracking sounds of tree branches being broken. No doubt someone nearby collecting firewood. We finally realized that we were not hearing branches being cracked but the jaws of the bear cracking down on the sour-ball candies he had discovered in Geoff's pack.

Geoff was outraged. No stupid bear was going to rob him. It was his pack. The sour-ball candy and all the other stuff in the pack were his.

Bears, we are told, are frightened of people. All one has to do is make a lot of noise and make threatening motions toward them and they will run away.

Geoff jumped out of his sleeping bag and went over to frighten the big bad bear. There was Geoff, the skinniest guy I know, prancing around in his underwear, shouting, jumping, waving his arms and then lunging at the bear. The bear watched all this quite calmly without any reaction or interest until Geoff got to the lunging part. Then the bear lunged a mighty lunge right back. For one terrifying instant we all thought Geoff had had it. They we realized that the old bear had really faked Geoff out. That realization brought our uncontrollable laughter of relief.

Geoff wisely considered his options and decided that possession was more than nine-tenths of the law. He figured the pack and the sour-ball candy now really belonged to the bear.

The next day three of us (Bob Fielding, Dave DiCarlo and I) got up the slab on Starr King to the belay point before it started raining. Then came thunder which was alarmingly loud and near. When lightning bolts started pounding the rocks and trees in the nearby valley we had no choice. We repelled off and got out of there.

No mountains were climbed that weekend, but we all had some enriching and memorable mountaineering experience.

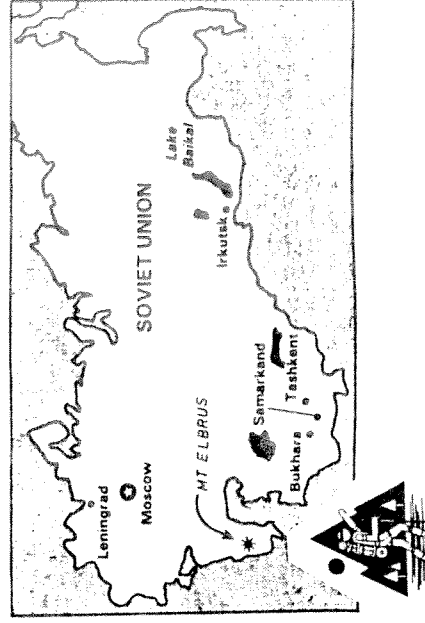
73RD ANNUAL ANGELES CHAPTER BANQUET

Saturday, February 25, 1989

"Glasnost" and "Perestroika" are having effects on all aspects of Russian life including the domain of mountaineering. Our speaker, noted engineer and climber Pete Ackerman, will recount the relative ease with which he journeyed to Leningrad, Moscow, and the Caucasus Mtns. to climb Europe's highest peak, Mt. Elbrus (18,510 ft.). His stunning slide program, "Russia by Plane, Train and Ice Axe," will entertain us with the logistics of reaching the summit by means of the Russian version of a ski hut. We will be treated to glimpses of local village life and high-lights of Leningrad, Moscow and the legendary Samarkand.

Come to the banquet on Saturday, Feb. 25, 1989, to honor your fellow members who will be receiving awards at the Friendship Auditorium in Griffith Park, 3201 Riverside Dr., centrally located just northwest of downtown Los Angeles at the Los Feliz Blvd. West exit of the Golden State Freeway (1-5). The social evening begins with a no-host bar featuring wine and sparkling water, followed by dinner. A ticket is \$22 and includes dinner, tax, tip and security-guarded parking. Reserve early, as last year was a sellout. Individual tickets can be purchased directly from the reservationist on receipt of your payment and sase. However, those wishing to sit at a specific table either must reserve through the Group or Section of their choice or must form their own table group. Advance reservations can be made only for tables of ten. The Banquet Committee suggests that each Group, Section, or Committee wishing to reserve a table buy tickets in blocks of ten and sell them at monthly meetings. A check for the entire ten must accompany a reservation request, unless you have an awardee at your table. Since the awardee receives a complimentary ticket, the reservationist will accept a check for the nine paying guests at the table, but must be informed of the awardee's name. Tickets only available by advance sale; none sold at door. Mail your check (payable to Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter) with a sase (45c postage for ten or more tickets) to Eivor Nilsson, Angeles Chapter Banquet, 1933 Glenoaks Bl. #126, San Fernando 91340.

Ticket deadline: Feb. 20.



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