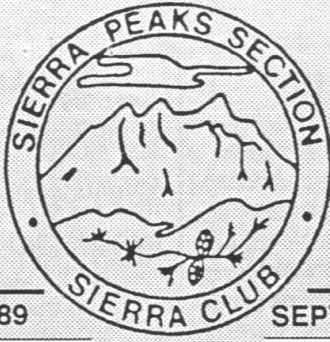


# The Sierra



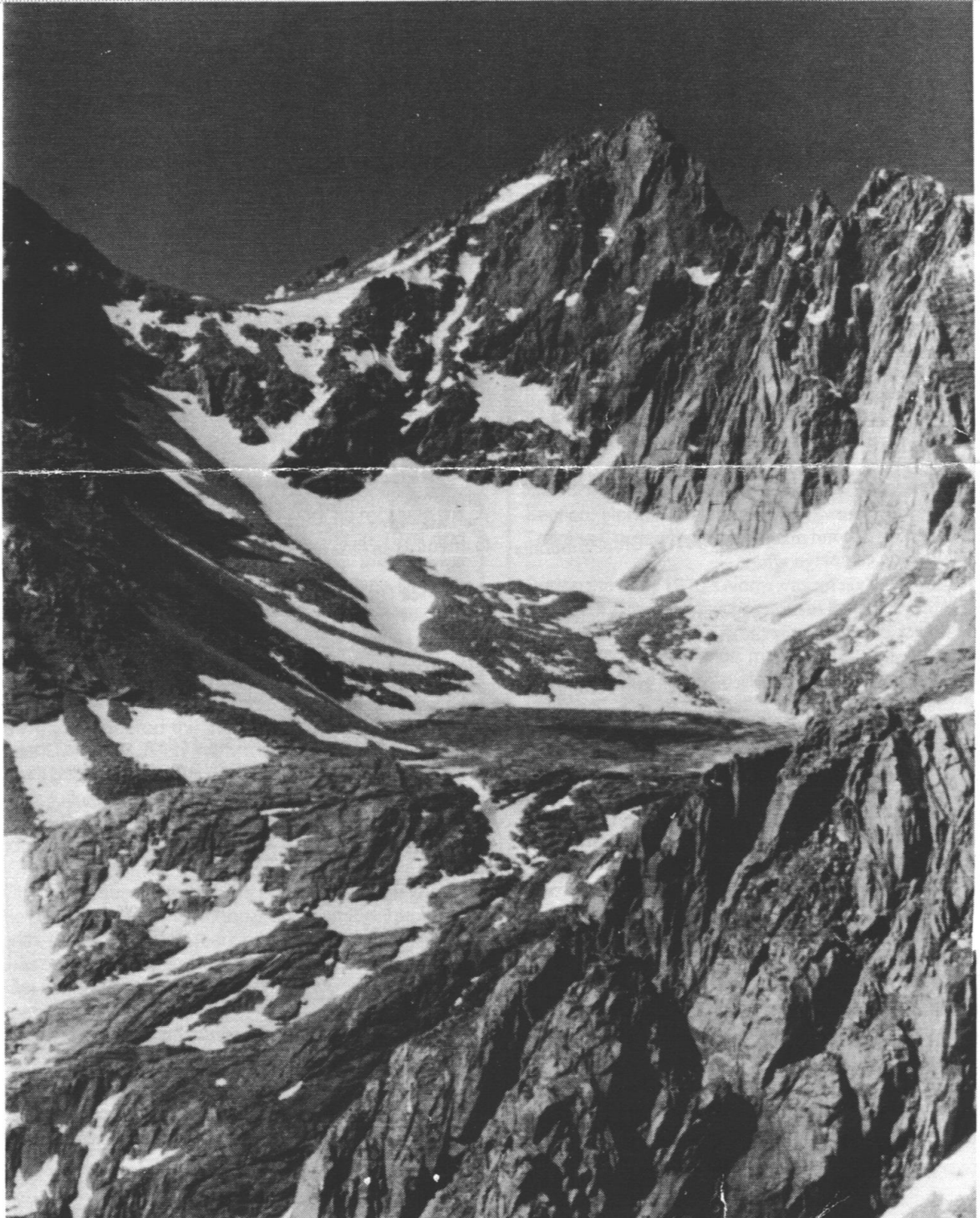
# ECHO

VOLUME 33

1989

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

NUMBER 5



## SADNESS

Let me begin by noting that we all mourn the recent deaths of two of our senior members - **DICK AKAWIE** and **NORM ROHN**. Dick received many service awards over the years from the Chapter, as well as one from National. Norm, a list finisher, was one of our most prolific trip leaders and surely one of our best fishermen. They were both really fine gentlemen. They will be greatly missed. (Refer to enclosed articles for more.)

## MOUNTAINEERING INSURANCE

### Chronology of Events

- Sept. '88** With only a few days notice, Board bans activities involving the use of ropes and ice axes, having declined to pay \$325K for the first \$1M in liability insurance coverage.
- Oct. '88** Letter writing campaign to Board begins; Formation of GROPE (Grass Roots Outings People).
- Nov. '88** Board creates Mountaineering Insurance Review Task Force (MIRTF), chaired by Cal French. GROPE begins petition to nominate three pro-mountaineering candidates for the Board (Bruce Knudtson, Barbara Reber and R. J. Secor).
- Dec. '88** First meeting of MIRTF. GROPE qualifies its three candidates.
- Jan.-Mar. '89** Second meeting of MIRTF. GROPE mounts nation-wide campaign effort.
- April '89** Third meeting of MIRTF. Board election - three GROPE candidates finish last.
- May '89** MIRTF reports its findings and recommendations to Board (refer to details in May-June ECHO) as well as its "Proposed Policy & Organization" (PP&O). Board creates 1) Mountaineering Policy Task Force (MPTF), 2) a new Mountaineering Insurance Review Task Force, and 3) Incorporation Task Force.
- June-July '89** MPTF circulates PP&O within Club; No insurance quotes available.
- Aug. '89** MPTF met; draft Management Plan circulated.

**Sept. '89** Finalized MPTF Management Plan presented to Board; last minute insurance quote; no action by Board.

### Mountaineering Policy Task Force

Recall, this past May Sierra Club President Richard Cellarius created the Mountaineering Policy Task Force (MPTF) to "establish a process to study the best method of administering a mountaineering program with adequate guidelines, if proper insurance can be obtained." He also created a task force, headed by Director of Finance Andrea Bonnette, to focus on the procurement of insurance quotes; and a third, chaired by former Board member Larry Downing, to study the creation of a separate corporation to manage the riskier portions of the Club's outings. The MPTF was chaired by Bruce Knudtson (SPS) and included John Cheslick (SPS), Cal French (SPS), Director Sally Reid, and Jackie Stroud (Nat'l Mountaineering Com.) - all from the original MIRTTF - as well as Directors Sandy Tepfer and Phil Berry; Rob Langsdorf (SPS) (Nat'l Outings Com.) and Dolph Amster (Council Com. of Outings). Recall that Bruce and John are also a former and the current chair, respectively, of the Mountaineering Training Com. (BMTC), which was even more adversely impacted than the SPS by the insurance restrictions.

Bruce sent a preliminary draft of the Management Plan to me and other interested/affected Club entities. My feedback centered around concerns that mtneering registration and leader qualification not be so onerous as to seriously discourage participation. These concerns and the inputs from many others were incorporated into the draft version reviewed by the Task Force at its first meeting on 5 August. I was invited to attend as an observer, which I did - the only such attendee.

### Insurance UnAvailability

At this meeting Chair Bruce Knudtson made the stunning announcement that no insurance quote had yet been forthcoming. Let me excerpt from the MPTF Final Report:

In the early days of the "insurance crisis" many felt that affordable insurance was merely a matter of finding the

*(continued on page 17)*

### PEAK INDEX: VOL 33-5 (SEP-OCT, '89)

Kearsage Peak	Thunderbolt
North Palisade	University
Owens Peak	

**PHOTO CREDIT:** This front cover photograph of one of our Mountaineer's peaks in the Sierra, Mt. McAdie, was taken by Lance Dixon from along the Mt. Whitney trail.

## IN MEMORY OF DICK AKAWIE

I started hiking with Dick almost 25 years ago. My first specific recollection of co-leading with him was to Big Iron from the North in October 1967. Since we both lived on the Westside, we spent many hours together driving, in either his VW bug or mine, to far flung HPS, SPS and DPS climbs. He was a marvelous friend, widely diversified in his interests, and utterly dependable as everyone knows.

His hiking and leadership records, his list of awards, and his stupendous and absolutely unique contribution in getting out the Chapter schedule for all these years, are well known and will undoubtedly be chronicled elsewhere. I like to come back to some of his more personal characteristics. He was gentle, but solid. He had a marvelous sense of humor, sometimes tinged with sarcasm, but never with rancor. He was probably the most widely known -- and universally loved -- member in the entire Chapter. His passing is a severe blow to all of us, and his loss will be felt for a long time.

*How Bailey*

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Richard Akawie, a long time member of the SPS and Senior Emblem holder, died on August 17th of leukemia. Dick was admired and loved by all who knew him. He was the editor of the Angeles Chapter Schedule for 23 years and for his outstanding work he received the Phil Bernays Service Award twice, first in 1976 and then again in 1988. He also received the Outings Leadership award in 1977. Dick finished the DPS list was a six times list finisher in the HPS.

I first met Dick in 1969 on my third Sierra Club outing on an HPS trip to Sewart, Snowy and Black. Dick took over the lead from the tired leader; he impressed me and I have remembered the incident ever since. In subsequent years I was on many trips with him in our three peak bagging sections: DPS, HPS and SPS. He was a deputy leader on my HPS list finisher in 1976 and on my SPS list finisher in 1985. We led several DPS trips together in the early 1980's.

Dick was a superb leader. He put the needs of his participants first. He was friendly and comfortable to be with. He made people feel good about themselves. He was strong, steady and knowledgeable; he made people feel secure. A Dick Akawie trip was a good trip.

He was an excellent alpine navigator and one of the

*(continued on page 4)*

## IN MEMORY OF NORMAN ROHN

Norm started up the Taboose Pass trail on August 20, 1989. He never made the pass; the victim of a heart that was not as young as he was.

Our friend was one of a kind - prolific, productive, a man of many interests. He was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on January 14, 1919 and spent his early years in this area. He graduated from Cornell as a mechanical engineer, then earned his Masters degree in thermodynamics during the war years at MIT under the Army Air Force program. In 1955-56 he returned to MIT as a Sloan Fellow and received another MS degree in industrial management. Along the way he married his charming wife Maggie in 1948 and they raised four fine children, two sons and two daughters. Most of Norm's professional career was spent working for the Navy at Point Mugu. When he retired he was Head of the Fleet Weapons Program.

To know this remarkable man you had to understand the depth and breath of his interests. These were both many and varied. As all of you who have visited his home in Camarillo know, he loved to raise flowers, particularly the exotic ones. He was a member of both the Begonia Society and the Orchid Society. As a long time member of the Sierra Club he served in many capacities including President of the Los Padres Chapter in the late 1950's and of course held a number of offices in the Sierra Peaks Section and Desert Peaks Section. Norm was an E rated leader and a Leadership Training Course examiner.

During the early 1970's Norm was an active member of the Rock Climbing Section. One of his first climbs being Rainbow Natural Bridge in Utah. He also climbed in the Tetons and once made an ascent of Devil's Tower. Always ready to give his experience to newer members, Norm spent many hours instructing us neophytes in rock climbing technique.

It almost goes without saying that this man was a list finisher. Not only with the Sierra Peaks Section, but with the Desert Peaks Section and Hundred Peaks Section. All was not sweat and hard work though, Norm loved to soak in the hot pools and springs and also earned his "emblem" in hot pooling.

To know these many accomplishments one must think that Norm Rohn surely spent all his free time with the Sierra Club. This is far from true. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. Never wishing to miss the deer, elk, moose, duck, or pheasant season, our friend spent

*(continued on page 4)*

### In Memory of Dick Akawie

*(continued from page 3)*

first instructors in our leadership training program. During our many navigation noodles, he taught a lot of leaders how to find their way in the mountains.

Dick started leading in 1967 and, at least from 1970 when my records start, he led one or more trips in each of the tri-annual schedule periods. He was to have led two trips with Frank Goodykoonts in the current period and one with me in December. He probably led over 100 trips in the 22 years. This means well over 1000 participants that he enabled to have an enjoyable mountain experience. Dick was one of the giant leaders of the Angeles Chapter.

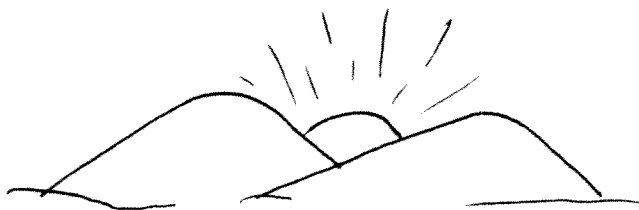
Dick was quiet about his feelings toward the mountains but we sense how much it meant to him by how much he did. He climbed well over 100 Sierra peaks, completed the DPS list of over 90 desert peaks and finished the HPS list 270 Souther California peaks six times. Many of these climbs were made with his wife, Shirley; in fact Shirley has finished the HPS list twice. They were a great couple.

Dick had courage and spirit and kept climbing in spite of the leukemia. I visited him in the hospital just a week ago this very hour. He could not talk but I could see the Dick Akawie spirit in his eyes. As I said goodbye, he raised his hand and gave a thumbs up sign.

What are some of the things that we shall remember about Dick Akawie? His puckish humor and remarks at meetings. His raunchy army equipment belt with two army canteens. His tennis hat. His map in hand. The VW bug that told us that the Akawies had arrived at the roadhead. Above all, his total being, his warmth, concern for others, honesty, modesty. He was a wonderful man.

Dick Akawie enriched us. We admired and respected him. His life was consequential. He made a difference in the world. We loved him. We miss him. We shall not forget him.

*Remarks by Bill T. Russell at the memorial service.*



### In Memory of Norm Rohn

*(continued from page 3)*

many hours and bucks on licenses and drawings before he even took to the field to hunt. It is reported that his hunting activities even included some of the lesser species of game animals. Fishing was not neglected either, Norm never tired of exploring the fishing potential of lakes throughout the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Norm Rohn volunteered his time freely to the many worthwhile service organizations, including the Desert Big Horn Society, the Nature Conservancy, Food Share (an anti-hunger group) and the California Fish and Game organization. He built guzzlers and watering spots in the desert, game and animal fences on Santa Cruz island, picked surplus crops for the needy in Ventura county, counted bighorn sheep on weekends and did all manner of tasks to help his fellow man. On the quiet side he was a birder and member of the Audubon Society and an accomplished artist making silver jewelry.

Out of all of his accomplishments, I think that Norm was particularly proud he climbed the Mexican Volcanos and made two climbing trips to South America to climb Huascaran and Aconcagua. Unfortunately he had problems with altitude sickness above 18,000 feet and was turned back from his objective on both occasions.

It is sad to think that such a prolific person as Norm Rohn will no longer be with us - he will be sorely missed.

*Ret Moore*

I first teamed up with Norm Rohn during a Sierra Club Rock Climbing Section trip to the Palisades over Labor Day in 1974. We climbed the rib between the two Underhill Couloirs and proceeded to the base of the impressive summit block of Thunderbolt Peak. It was a frustrating business getting a rope over the block, and I missed the target countless times. My temper flared and Norm called out, "Peace on Earth!" I laughed, relaxed, made my last throw, and the rope arched perfectly over the crest of the block.

Norm was the most complete sportsman I have ever know. He climbed all of the peaks on the Hundred Peaks, Desert Peaks, and Sierra Peaks lists (over 600 peaks in all) in addition to climbing the crags of Joshua Tree and many routes at Tahquitz Rock. He also climbed the Tetons, and bagged Devil's Tower (after retirement!). He joined expeditions to Huascaran and Aconcagua, and climbed Mexico's volcanoes. He

*(continued on page 5)*

## In Memory of Norm Rohn

(continued from page 4)

served as a mountaineering instructor in the Sierra Club, and everyone benefited from his experience in the outdoors and in life, whether they were a beginner or expert in either field. His pack was not as large nor as heavy as that of the legendary Norman Clyde, but Norm could be called upon to repair boots, reels, zippers, carabineers or stoves from the modest collection of tools that he always carried. I remember his removing a fishhook from a dog's mouth as Sallie Keyes Lakes in 1985. Norm was an enthusiastic fisherman, and he stalked the lakes of the High Sierra for Rainbows and Goldens before and after bagging the peak(s) of the day. He discovered his secret fishing lake one month before his death. Many of his friends will long remember his expertise as a hunter. One of his favorite activities was hunting desert deer. He visited almost every hot spring in the West. He was also a blue water sailor, delivering yachts to California after their owners had vacationed in Mexico. Norm went everywhere, knew everything, could do anything, and fix anything at anyplace and anytime.

Norm was born in Milwaukee, and graduated from Exeter Academy, Cornell University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received two Master's degrees. He was a mechanical engineer for the U.S. Navy at the Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu, rising to the post of Chief Engineer of the Fleet Weapons Engineering Program. He was never confined to a desk during his career, and his duties saw him leaping out of helicopters with frogmen and breaking the sound barrier on a routine basis with naval aviators. One of his regrets was that he never made it to Mach 2. But he did reach Mach 1.97 in an F-16 from 50,000' to 10,000' in vertical flight shortly before his retirement in 1981.

It was during retirement, however, that the depth and breadth of Norm's interests were revealed. On the conservation front, he was a member of the National Audubon Society, Desert Bighorn Society, served as Chairman of the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club, and was an active volunteer for the Nature Conservancy in the Anza Borrego Desert and on Santa Cruz Island. He worked as a volunteer for Food Share, gleaning surplus crops from the fields of Ventura County and delivering them to the needy. Norm was an expert gardener, and was a member of the Ventura County Orchid Society, Theodosia Burr Fuchsia Society, and Begonia Society. He was also a life member of the National Rifle Association, and a proud member of the American Alpine Club.

Norm and I made plans for a peak bagging and fishing

trip to Lake Basin in the High Sierra last August. Norm, out in front, as always, asked for a rest break after two hours of hiking up the Taboose Pass Trail. We took in the view of the High Sierra and Ownes Valley, and Norm said that he could stay there all day. He became uncomfortable and collapsed shortly after noon. Fifteen minutes of frantic effort failed to revive him, and I gradually realized that my good friend was gone. He will be missed by his mother, Hazel; wife, Maggie; children, Kate, Lex, Carrie, and Casey; son-in-law, Jon Banks; daughter-in-law, Kip Rohn; grandchildren, Alexa and Cameron Banks; and his many friends from all classes and walks of life. Well over a hundred were present to comfort each other in Norm's home and garden a week later. Memorial donations may be made in Norm's memory to the Nature Conservancy, 213 Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara, California 93101

Peace on Earth!

R. J. Secor

**NORM ROHN IS GONE!** All of us who knew Norm will miss this Giant of a Mountaineer. This man was described to me only a few months ago as the climber who from the neck up, had the head of a John Muir and from the neck down, the body of a 40 year old.

Norm, the oldest SPS list finisher, born on January 14, 1919 and who finished the list at the age of 66 years, 7 months on a solo climb of Marion Pk.

The gentleman who always tried to attend Mule Days in Bishop (he was there this year); who shared his yellow sack of Lucky's plain-wrap oatmeal cookies at many a Sierra campfire; the man who introduced me to the finest hot springs in the Sierra, Iva Belle or Fish Creek Hot Springs; the man who shared his tent with many weekend companions and who knew many of the packers of both the west and east side of the Sierra.

Norm was a strong quiet hiker equally at home on rock or snow; my companion on Devil's Crag, Black Kaweah and many other climbs of Mountaineers Peaks. Norm last served the SPS Management Committee as my Safety Chair in 1986 but served in other capacities before that. Gentle, whimsical, curious, knowledgeable, kind. Norm was one of a kind. Lots and lots of stories and anecdotes about Norm will be remembered. Norm has crossed his last "Crick".

Rest in Peace.

Ron Jones

## Re: PALISADE CREST

To: SPS Members From: Bill T. Russell

In the 1988 SPS election, Palisade Crest failed to be added to the list by a vote of 43 to 41. Ron Jones reported in the March/April '89 *Echo* that he received 12 late ballots and, if these had been received earlier, Palisade Crest would now be on our peak list. In light of this circumstance and the value of the peak, its adoption will probably be [put to a vote] on the 1989 ballot.

My report in the September/October '88 *Echo* had quotes from four SPSers who were on earlier trips:

**Cuno Ranshau:** "This is perhaps the best, named, mountaineering quality peak which is not on the list."

**Gordon MacLeod:** "It is a fine challenging climb -- it is the only major named peak along the entire main crest of the Sierra not on the list!"

**Bob Hartunian:** "This peak we will climb again."

**Pat Holleman:** "Palisade Crest is an outstanding peak and certainly should be on the SPS list."

Presumably, Palisade Crest would have been on the ballot some time ago but for the fact that none of these trips are official SPS exploratory trips.

I led such a trip in August 1987 and with others, evaluated the peak against the SPS peak addition criteria: elevation, dominance of an area, view, inaccessibility, new area, climbing interest, area impact, proximity to other listed peaks. In our opinion, Palisade Crest scored high in every one of these factors. It has a distinctive shape that is easily recognizable from far away. It sits in a gap in the Palisades between the dense grouping of Disappointment, Middle Pal, and Norman Clyde on the south side and Sill, North Pal and Thunderbolt on the north side. The climbing is 3rd and easy 4th class with relatively little rock fall danger and very good hand and foot holds. It must be led by an E leader but it can be climbed with joy by those who can follow with comfort on our other high 3rd and 4th class peaks.

Bill Oliver led an SPS trip to Palisade Crest in August 1988. In his report in the September/October '88 *Echo* he says:

"I urge that it be -- a listed peak. We have several more difficult ones in the area, it is very sound rock and it beckons a challenge that ought not be ignored. We ennoble our list with its addition."

Ron Jones also wrote a paragraph in the same *Echo* that

evaluated the peak. He ends with "I believe this peak is a worthy addition to the SPS list."

The same *Echo* printed a letter from Elton Fletcher that opposed adding Palisade Crest to the list. He said that it would be among our more difficult peaks, e.g., Devil's Crag and Norman Clyde, and that it would be led rarely and have small parties. A look at the climbing report index in the 30th anniversary *Echo* shows seven trip reports for Devil's Crag, as many as any other peak, and four for Norman Clyde which is in the top 20%. I think that SPSers like the excitement and shared achievement of doing real mountain climbing with a group. People can walk up Dana, Whitney, and Rose and the like by themselves.

Elton says that the South Fork, Big Pine Creek basin is overused. I disagree, but in any case, Elinore Lake, the base camp for Palisade Crest, is in a different basin than Finger Lake and the route over Southfork Pass. Elinore Lake has no constructed access trail and appears to have little use. It is a delightful camp spot.

Lastly, Elton says that "enjoyment of a good climb is not dependent on [the peak] being a listed peak". So why do we have a peak list anyway? The list represents our shared climbing life, it's what holds us together. Our shared experience will be enriched by adding Palisade Crest, a new "peak experience".

Others have stated that we should add no peaks that, because of the insurance problem, cannot presently be sponsored by the SPS. It is unclear what will become of the SPS if the prohibition of use of ice axes and ropes continues indefinitely but this is a separate problem that affects quite a few of our peaks for late summer climbs and many more for spring and early summer ascents. It should not affect your decision on adding this fine challenging peak that so well satisfies the SPS peak addition criteria. I urge you to vote YES and mail your ballot early!

Bill T. Russell  
6-21-89

### EXPRESS YOUR STANCE ON THIS ISSUE ON THE ENCLOSED BALLOT!

#### ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FOR THE ANNUAL SPS BANQUET - 13 December

Banquet Chair Bruce Parker is seeking contributions for door prizes: merchandise, gift certificates, books, art, photos, etc. are most welcome and will be gratefully acknowledged. This is addressed to members and retailers.

Please contact Bill Oliver if you can loan audio-visual equipment for the night of the banquet. We are in particular need of a 16mm movie projector.

## SIERRA PEAKS SECTION - ANNUAL BANQUET

Wednesday, December 13, 1989

Presenting

### "EARLY CALIFORNIA CLIMBS WITH GLEN DAWSON & JULES EICHORN"

in their first joint appearance and featuring:

- 1931 First ascents of Thunderbolt and the East Face of Whitney with Norman Clyde and Robert L. M. Underhill.
- 1932 El Picacho del Diablo - Dawson, Clyde, et al.
- 1934 Yosemite: Cathedral Spires - Eichorn, Leonard & Robinson.
- 1937 Tahquitz: Mechanic's Route - Dawson and Jones.

@ The PROUD BIRD Restaurant,  
11022 Aviation Blvd., Los Angeles.

Just east of LAX: 1/2 mi. W. of 405, between Century & Imperial.

6:00 pm Social Hour - 7:00 pm Dinner.

**Tickets \$20.00** each by advance purchase only - none at door. On sale at the monthly SPS meetings and in person from any SPS management committee member.

**By mail:** send a check payable to the SPS with an enclosed sase by December 7th to Banquet Chair: Bruce Parker, 3377 Wilshire Blvd., #102-68, Los Angeles, 90010.  
For more information contact SPS Chair: Bill Oliver, (213) 839-5156.

"When I first heard of Norman Clyde, he was already a legendary figure. He had climbed solo almost all the important peaks of the Sierra Nevada, rescued numerous lost souls, located crashed airplanes, and carried a pack so heavy only he could handle it. I therefore had a strong desire to meet this superhuman person, and the chance came in the summer of 1931.

"Through the efforts of Francis Farquhar, then Vice-President of the Sierra Club, Robert Underhill was enticed to come west and climb in the Sierra, with the idea of making some new routes and first ascents as well as demonstrating the proper use and management of the rope. Clyde was to be a part of the climbing team, which included my favorite climbing partner of the early thirties, Glen Dawson."

Jules Eichorn, Prologue to *Norman Clyde of the Sierra Nevada*, 1971.

"At Farquhar's invitation and under his expert arrangement of program, I was enjoying a first climbing season in the High Sierra. The unclimbed east face of Mt. Whitney had been in both our minds from the start. True, whenever the subject came up for express discussion Farquhar was wont to observe with a chuckle that the face was pretty much of a precipice; but this seemed to diminish in nowise his estimate of the value of paying it a visit, and I eventually became stimulated by his view that sleek verticality was merely the normal terrain for rock-climbing activities. Clyde, when he joined the party, gave a guarded confirmation of the topographic point, by judging, from his more intimate acquaintance with the mountain, that the face was "pretty sheer." However, he showed himself completely indulgent to the enterprise. The other two members of the group - Jules Eichorn, of San Francisco, and Glen Dawson, of Los Angeles, young (both age 19) natural-born rock-climbers of the first water - had never seen the mountain; but neither had they seen any up and down the Sierra that they could not climb, and they were all enthusiasm."

Robert L. M. Underhill, *Mt. Whitney by the East Face*, Sierra Club Bull. 1932.



P.O. Box 3141 • Merced, Ca. • 95344-1141

Dedicated to the Preservation  
of Mountaineering History

## SIERRA REGISTER COMMITTEE

(More Echoes from the Chair)

On 29 July 1987 two climbers from Merced, Mark Hoffman and Robin Ingraham, Jr., discovered the theft of Midway Mountain's 1912 summit register. Outraged, they began a project to recover the register.

"After months of probing (evidence points to the fact that it was taken by two Colorado climbers, members of the so-called Purple Mountain Gang), the theft soon paled in comparison to the insidious problems facing historical registers. While several Sierra Club register boxes have been stolen, many other historic registers neglectfully decay in rusty cans. Often, climbers have removed historic records with preservation in mind, only to become discouraged when unable to locate the Sierra Club Archives.

"Realizing that something had to be done, Ingraham and Hoffman approached Sierra pioneers Dave Brower, Jules Eichorn, Dick Leonard and Hervey Voge for advice. Through their combined wisdom, they established the Sierra Register Committee with a six-part program developed to strive toward long-term preservation of historic mountaineering registers and provide water-tight modern containers on all Sierran peaks. The project objectives are:

1. Anchor all register boxes to the summits to prevent future thefts. (He's producing and placing rectangular boxes.)
2. Place instructional cards in historic registers, giving the address of the Sierra Club Archives to increase the chances of preservation when removed.
3. Upgrade all deteriorated register containers to increase register longevity. (Important note: registers should never be removed unless completely full or clearly weather-damaged.)
4. Place new register boxes on peaks. (Sierra Club boxes will not be removed.)
5. Place new registers and upgrade containers where needed.
6. Place photocopies of original register papers on the summits from which they came."

Tragically, on 11 August 1988, while climbing with Robin, Mark Hoffman was fatally injured in a rockslide on Devil's Crag #8. They were engaged in register preservation work at the time. After much soul searching, Robin determined to carry forward with their project, a effort which they had undertaken with considerable reluctance and with no outside financial support.

### SPS POLICY

The issue of what happens to summit registers in general, and to SPS-placed registers in particular, seems to have lately generated a lot of heat and not very much light. I sense that perhaps it has always been a point of contention within the Section - some favoring a literal "hands-off" approach and others espousing a preservation ethic. What is the current SPS policy?

Under Article 7: "Summit registers will be left in place on the peaks. Additional or larger containers will be provided when there is insufficient space in the existing container. ... Notebooks with historical significance may be preserved by copying. The original should be returned to the peak within a year. ..."

I am unaware of any SPS implementation of the preservation exception, certainly not in recent years. It may be relevant to consider how other climbing clubs address this issue. I contacted three.

### OTHER MOUNTAINEERING CLUBS

The Colorado Mountain Club - founded in Denver, 1912, over 7,000 members. The CMC's policy is to return each full register to the Club's archives. The office manager commented that people come from all over the U.S. to look up an entry one may have made as a kid with his/her parent, or an old-timer wanting to see his/her friends' names, etc.

The Mazamas - organized on the summit of Mt. Hood, 1894, about 2700 members. Filled registers are brought back to the Club's library for preservation and public reference.

The Mountaineers - founded in Seattle, 1906, about 11,500 members. Completed registers are retrieved and deposited in the archives at the University of Washington, where they are available to the public.



## EARLIER SPS/CLUB BEHAVIOR

I have also contacted two early SPS members - John Robinson, a founding member of the Section (he lead our first official trip in 1956), and Jerry Keating, an oldtime list-finisher who continues to lead. Their recollections are that there was no particular Section policy on registers. However, as an individual effort Sierra Club climbers would commonly send on to San Francisco original historic records they came across. This opportunity, of course, did not happen very often. John personally sent three or four Sierra registers north and also early records from El Picacho del Diablo.

Norman Kingsley of the Club's National Mountaineering Committee was also contacted. He noted that about 15 years ago there appeared to be a rash of thefts involving early registers being peddled to autograph dealers. Dennis Lantz, who then headed the Summit Register Subcommittee (and who had been SPS Mountain Records Chair for several years), mounted a counter effort to salvage old registers before it was too late - and some number more were saved. Although it has not been actively pursued in recent years, according to Kingsley the Mountaineering Committee's policy continues to be that valuable original registers should be rescued and replaced with copies.

## CURRENTLY

For the past few years the National's Summit Register Subcommittee was headed by SPSer Paul Lipsohn. When Paul vacated the position last October, he and the National Mountaineering Committee were delighted to appoint to the post Robin Ingraham (a Club member in the Tehipite Chapter), based on his intense interest and enthusiasm for this work.

The point comes across to me that the Sierra Club in particular, and vast numbers of mountaineers in general, have held to the preservation ethic with respect to summit registers. It is Robin's opinion, indeed, that most missing registers were not destroyed by vandals nor taken as souvenirs, but rather were removed by those with historic preservation in mind. Unfortunately, in more recent times those who have retrieved registers have often been frustrated in their efforts to find the proper home for them. When Robin and Mark first began their effort, it took several phone calls to the Sierra Club to finally ascertain that they should be sent to the Bancroft Library at U.C. Berkeley, long the repository for all Club records. I was surprised and elated to observe from reading Robin's inventory of the Bancroft summit register collection, which he painstakingly created, how much has actually been saved over the years.

As a direct result of the publicity generated by Robin's magazine articles (American Alpine Journal, 1988 & 1989; Climbing, 6/88 & 8-9/89; and the Club's Sierra Magazine, 1/89) three registers were recently turned over to him that had previously been removed for preservation by various climbers: Rogers

Peak: 1897-1975; East Vidette: 1910-1978; and Milestone Mtn.: 1940-1988. (The 1940 Milestone register was placed by Jules Eichorn, who wrote in it that he was removing the original 1912 register, placed by Farquhar, for preservation.)

## NEW PROPOSALS

It seems to me that there is very little the SPS can do to prevent the removal of old summit registers, should we continue to espouse such a policy. Perhaps the best we can realistically hope to do is to assert our continuing ownership of those registers which we have placed. Or, perhaps we should consider forsaking a policy and view that claims "it is natural for registers to decay" - a policy that leaves it to fate/luck as to which decay, or are stolen, or are haphazardly "saved." Perhaps the SPS could even assume a pro-active stance in the management and preservation of historic registers.

I would like to suggest that we join forces with the Sierra Register Committee in saving early original registers and in returning good copies to the summits. The SPS obviously represents a significant body of Sierra climbers, and we can do so much more by working together than by butting heads. With a little planning, we can surely dramatically reduce the downtime it takes to get a copy back on top.

Robin is most eager to engage our support. He has agreed to remove only historic registers, to leave untouched SPS-placed registers even if full (he has done so all along) and to return complete copies of the registers removed.

I would propose that we consider going beyond even these measures. Bancroft Library is a long road from Los Angeles (although register copies can be ordered by mail). Why not establish a local repository for copies of the registers? This would make it easier to replace copies stolen from the peaks, it would make it easier for individual members to make copies for their personal edification, and it would make it easier to closely review and enjoy a register at leisure rather than quickly scan it, as is quite often the case on the peak. Hey, we can also sort through the treasures of Bancroft to selectively return copies of original registers to peak that may not have seen them since long ago. For example: (peak/range of register) Mt. Abbot/1908-71, Bradley/1898-1948, Clyde Minaret/1931-82, Haeckel/1920-60, Humphreys/1898-1971, Milestone Mtn./1912-88, North Pal/1921-70, Ritter/1922-62, Sill/1903-70, Split/1902-51, Thunderbolt/1931-51, and Williamson/1903-80, to cite a few.

We're clearly talking about a long term, really never ending, program -- one which, I believe, affords us the opportunity to add to our own enjoyment of summiting as well as to that of all who would climb in the Range of Light. It incentivizes us to schedule trips not based largely on the need to check them off our lists, but on the need to return copies of old registers that are full or damaged. It espouses the long term view that what

*(continued on page 19)*

## Brown Paper is Beautiful

Dioxin is a generic term that covers a group of suspected carcinogens that are extremely toxic to humans and animals and resistant to biological breakdown. There is evidence that throughout the industrial world, humans are harboring increased levels of dioxin in their fatty tissues and breast milk such that a nursing infant is exposed to levels that exceed standards set by the World Health Organization.

The paper industry produces large amounts of chlorinated organic chemicals and discharges these organochlorines and solvents like chloroform and carbon tetrachloride into rivers and waterways. While these chemicals are controlled in the work place, they are allowed to spread uncontrolled into the environment from pulp mill discharges. These toxins accumulate in the trout growing in the streams many miles from the discharge point and in humans that eat fish from these streams.

In 1987, the U.S. paper industry reluctantly revealed that dioxin is present in their waste discharges and also in everyday products such as diapers, paper plates, toilet paper, coffee filters and writing paper. Recent research indicates that dioxin migrates readily out of paper products. Milk packaged in paper cartons with plastic liners contains higher concentrations of dioxin than milk packaged in non-paper containers. Bleached coffee filter papers have been shown to leach dioxins.

With the realization that many paper products are unnecessarily bleached, Sweden and other European countries have taken steps to encourage unbleached or oxygen bleached paper products.

### What We Can Do

There are two Congressional committees looking into the problems of chlorine use by the paper industry. Henry Waxman who chairs the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment is looking into the problem of food contamination from dioxin-tainted paper products. House Public Works and Transportation Subcommittee on Water Resources is approaching the problem from the Clean Water Act angle. Write to your Representative and Senator encouraging the phasing out of bleached kraft process paper in the U.S. There are 104 bleached kraft pulp mills in the USA. Four such mills are in California: one at Antioch, one near Redding on the Sacramento river, and two near Eureka discharging into the ocean.

For those of us who are not letter writers, we can ask store managers to carry unbleached paper products, request schools to avoid using bleached milk cartons. Many paper products have (800) consumer numbers printed on them. Contact the paper manufacturers and express your concerns. Most mills will insist that their products are perfectly safe -- we can insist

on our preference for unbleached paper.

And we can always reduce or eliminate our own use of bleached paper products. Recycle and reuse as much paper as possible because paper products made from recycled fiber require little or no further bleaching. Use cloth napkins, diapers, unbleached "natural" coffee filters. Buy milk in plastic bottles. Paper products are a convenience; they need not be works of art embossed with pink roses subsequent to a carcinogenic bleaching process.

Solutions to this problem exist; paper industry is resisting change because it does not want to admit a dioxin problem exists in conventionally bleached products due to liability reasons. At least the liability part sounds familiar, doesn't it?

## Conservation in Nepal

It is good news to read that Nepal's King and the World Wildlife Fund have set aside a thousand-square-mile Annapurna Conservation Area Project. As you know, the forest cover of this region has been severely stripped for use in cooking and heating in the last two decades. This project has the support of the 40,000 inhabitants of the protected zone, and incorporates some of the latest thinking in environmental management. The people are encouraged to use alternative energy sources. Kerosene stoves, tree nurseries, and a prohibition on wood burning have been implemented. Solar water heaters have appeared at the project headquarters. Maybe now there will be a few standing rhododendron forests left for future trekkers to admire.

## California--Desert Act House Hearing

A hearing on July 27th over the jurisdiction of 1.5 million acres that would become Mojave National Park disclosed documentation and internal studies conducted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that recommend the area for park designation. It seems that the Department of the Interior which oversees both BLM and the National Park Service has directed the content of testimony before the House to represent only the Department of the Interior's political position; that is, these lands are not of national park caliber. This hearing was a boost to the Sierra Club as the Club has placed the highest land conservation priority in the lower forty-eight states on the passage of H.R. 780.

*Sylvia Sur is the Conservation Chairperson for the Sierra Peaks Section. We hope that she will be able to keep us informed about the important environmental issues affecting our forests, our mountains, and our planet on a regular basis.*

### THUNDERBOLT - N. PAL TRAVERSE

June 17-19, 1989

Bill Oliver & John Gleeson

The alarm sounded, as promised, at 2:15 am. No longer directly visible to us, the full moon cast harsh shadows across Sam Mack Meadow. The sky was seen clear and starry, the air was felt cool and calm, and the stove was heard to fitfully sputter to life and settle into its familiar rhythm. Few words were exchanged as John and I quickly ate and arranged our gear. By 3 o'clock the stove was dead quiet and the camp hastily secured as two headlamps were sending pencils of light every which way across the boulder-strewn, stream-swept south end of the meadow. The two figures were on their way up to the Palisade Glacier, little suspecting that 27 hours would lapse before their abandoned camp would be reclaimed.

One of my '88 AMTC students, John had subsequently climbed Mt. Sill and from its lofty summit eagerly eyed and caught the taunts of nearby N. Palisade and Thunderbolt Peak. I had previously climbed both - the former from the SW and the latter from the north. A route new for us would be up the Underhill Couloir to launch a surprise attack on Tbolt from its SE flank (the route taken in the peak's 1931 first ascent by Clyde, Underhill, Dawson, Eichorn, Farquhar, Robinson and L. Clark). Retreating back to the Underhill notch, we would then stealthily weave our way through the pinnacles and battlements confidently protecting the NW approach to N. Pal and, finally, effect a quick escape down the U Notch.

Rob Roy McDonald was a great resource as he had done the traverse three years before in the company of a professional guide who was experienced on the route. They had a planned bivouac near N. Pal. It was our plan and hope to avoid such a high camp by moving fast and light. It was a mark of our naivete that we seriously entertained notions of capturing Starlight (the slightly lower twin summit NW of N. Pal) and Polemonium enroute. We were not really coming to attack and plunder, nor even to test our mettle against that of the peaks. In the end, the peaks would last. We could only hope that the mountain spirits would take favor on our enterprise - and find us worthy. In any event, we would learn more of these mountains and more of ourselves.

We had first encountered Mark the night before, giving him a lift from the permit station back to his pickup at the N. Fork trailhead. He was planning on a lone climb of Mt. Sill, having just come from his first ascent (with friends) of the East Face of Whitney. We passed each other a couple of times on the backpack in. He had fishing gear and knew how to work its magic - he would camp nearer the fish below Sam Mack Meadow. Later in the day he passed through our camp after returning from a recon up to the glacier.

Mark, who appeared to be in his early twenties, was already an experienced mountaineer and rock climber. He was in touch with his limitations and in tune with extending them. In his quiet, unassuming way he inspired me with his love of the mountains, his youthful enthusiasm and his eagerness for life. On first meeting him, some people may think that life has not dealt Mark a full deck. As a small child he suffered the loss of his right arm just below the shoulder. Mark plays life with a full deck!

By 5 am the entire crest route was discernible as the darkness retreated westward. The Underhill Couloir, far narrower than the U Notch but of at least comparable grade, had a ribbon of snow extending up to its rim. Nearing its base, which showed no evidence of the shrund, we fastened on our crampons and began a steady series of steep switchbacks up the untrodden, firm snow. About halfway up the sun's rays overtook us and forced the removal of much clothing. Roper refers to the option of climbing the rib to the left. We stayed our course, however, as this rock was quite steep and appeared unstable. Earlier guides advise passing a large chockstone to the right. Gravity evidently had won out, though, as the only large stone was now resting far down the glacier (and could be passed on either side).

Topping the couloir at 8, the lowest notch of the entire traverse, we stowed our snow gear and aiming NW climbed steep slabs up and then left. Tbolt soon loomed ahead and by 9:15 we were uneasily poised at the foot of the notorious pinnacle. In my previous climb (refer to June '89 *Echo*), our party next festooned the rock with ropes and each of us in turn was hauled up. Uncoiling our single rope now for the first time, we pondered how best to employ it.

Standing a few feet apart, we each held a rope end and each butterfly-coiled up to near the middle. With a split-second delay between us, we then hurled our coils skyward, thus looping over and around the spire and establishing our top-roped belay on the very first try. All that was left standing between us and The Book was a short 5.8 move - "Go for it, John!" Having donned his magic rock shoes, John was soon victoriously astride the box and secured to a biner held by two strong bolts. My feet, fortunately, were not too large to undo his rock shoes' magic (I had undeverly left mine at the notch). Stand up on slight footholds in the left side shallow depression. Raise a foot onto the right edge, push off on it, stem with the left foot if necessary, mantle up and resume breathing - no sweat! The peak is reputed to be 14,003 ft. But we were really high!!

We were done in an hour - sooner than I had expected. Reversing course, we chose to rapp down the steep ledges above the Underhill notch. By 11:30 we were ascending again and enroute to Starlight. Roper describes this approach to North Pal as "a highly enjoyable and spectacular traverse."

It was immediately clear that we would move primarily on the back (SW) side to avoid the sheer, glacier-fronting face, which also shielded hard snow patches. Naively trusting Roper that the traverse was class 4, we brought a minimum rack with my 8.8 mm, 150-foot rope - a #1 Camelot, four hexes (3 thru 6), four small Rocks/Stoppers and about 10 slings. We got by, but could have used a few more Friends.

It pays time-wise to carefully explore route options. Our first belayed pitch ate an hour and was belatedly observed to have been unnecessary. From 1:30 to 3:30 there were three more pitches - two protecting highly-exposed traverses and one climbing. Although we more or less alternated leads, John lead what proved to be the two most strenuous pitches, say 5.4 or so. For no good reason we never did use our rock shoes again or haul packs. I can remember two hard, slow mantles that left me breathless. We admired but had no qualms in bypassing a couple of impressive thin needles.

The weather allied with us as there were only occasional cool wind gusts beneath a cloudless, deep blue canopy. If the weather did not hasten us, then our dwindling supply of water gave me cause not to tarry. I personally place a high priority on remaining well hydrated - all the more so at altitude and under physical stress. I would be surprised to find that my performance apparently was not noticeably impaired. I also discovered that its not possible to eat a bagel with a dry mouth. In retrospect, under conditions of bright sun I should have more seriously thought about simply adding snow to my dark water bottle and letting it melt.

Falling behind schedule, Starlight was spared our transgressions as we sadly hurried below it enroute to the major notch separating it from N. Pal. One must actually come to grips with two notches here. We were thus occupied from about 5 to 7 pm - two rappes for the first, climb and traverse, then another rapp. A final pitch, one of our hardest, lead us directly to the N. Pal summit block. Our names entered The Book at 8:00 as the sun was fast approaching its twilight escape. Our elation was tempered by the reality that our escape would be far less soon. Had the mountain won after all?

Although I had peaked out on the U Notch two years earlier (it was a Memorial Day weekend!), I had not previously climbed the chute and run the crest between it and N. Pal. It was a disconcerting surprise, then, that this crest traverse kept taking longer than expected. I even paused to take bearings, concerned that we somehow(?) could have passed the U and were approaching the V. The full moon was seen to have launched its bright orb above the eastern horizon. With great relief, we managed to discover in the dwindling alpenglow the rapp anchors topping the long, steep chute down to the notch.

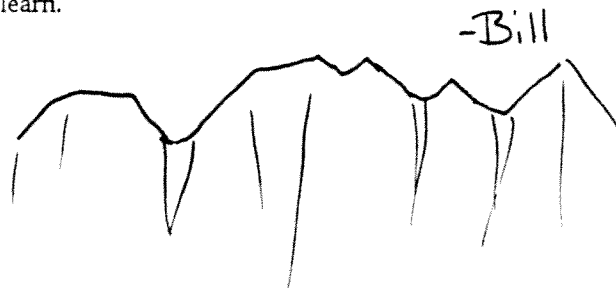
We were prepared to bivouac if necessary, but we never even discussed the option now. The weather was calm, we had almost no water left and, most significantly, although it had already been a long day, we both felt strong and were eager to reclaim our camp. As I quietly slipped away from John on

rappel into the dark chute, he asked that I talk to him - tell him how it's going. I responded in a loud whisper that my throat was too dry - and we conserved our shouts for necessary signals. The final "off rappel" was heard at midnight. The moon had been our ally early on, but it could not be persuaded to stay its course. It had taken four enormously time-consuming rappes to finally bottom onto the snow-mantled chute floor. On the third rapp I was forced to prusik back up the rope about ten feet when the rope end left me in an untenable stance. We collected our gear and thoughts, and our headlamps were recharged with fresh batteries.

We easily cramponed down on firm snow, only to quickly discover that the short, dogleg-right section was without snow and was with cruddy rock - Rats! Our descent of the long, steep main fairway of the U was slow and cautious, and we hugged the left side in an effort to avoid the icier center. We found it was easier to detect the subtle ice-snow boundary by starlight than with our lamps. Totally ignoring his diligent and earnest lacing efforts, John's crampons in turn each managed to pry its way free of his boot. Fortunately, the precipitous angle did not preclude regrafting. The area above the shrund was the steepest and also presented unavoidable bare ice. We could take slight solace in the presumption(?) that a slip ought to launch one safely over the modest moat and onto an endless runnout. By 2:45 this was all behind us and we had only to trudge on home. I offered apologies to John that his record-setting day the prior weekend had proven so ephemeral. He and a friend had taken 23 hours round trip from the Portal in their first climb of the East Face of Whitney. Well - after all, this time he got two new 14'ers!

Disappointingly, we were to find that we were still one and a half hours from water and three from camp. The darkness forced us to travel more roundabout on snow so as to avoid some boulder-hopping/cruddy rock terrain. "Dawn's early light" caught us still high but finally overlooking Sam Mack Meadow. Our abandoned camp was reclaimed at 6 am and our bags at 6:02. We managed to pack out fairly fast - 12 to 3 pm.

I do not know how it went for Mark on Mt. Sill as we did not see him again. Our climbing day had been consumed in "a highly enjoyable and spectacular traverse." Our descending night was filled with black holes, steep ice and endless snow crunching. It had been an extraordinary 27 hours. The mountain spirits had favored our enterprise - we had learned much about these peaks and ourselves. There is yet much to learn.



## UNIVERSITY & KEARSAGE

SPS Intro Trip

Bob Hicks & Maris Valkass

May 20-21, 1988

After starting with 25 and a waiting list, we ended up with 15 at 7:00 AM for the climb of Kearsage. We took the trail toward Golden Trout Lake leaving it to angle up through the rocks before we reached the commonly used broad, loose chute. After some interesting class 3 rock, we reached the summit plateau and proceeded to the top through patches of snow. All 15 made it by noon on a beautiful warm day. We slogged through soft snow getting back to the sandy chute and then down to the parking lot by 4:30 PM.

The plan had been revised from two one day climbs, to a late Saturday backpack to camp at Robinson Lake. The group was reduced to nine after signing out those that were not interested in University or were satisfied with one peak. Followed a new trail toward Robinson, but soft, deep snow patches and late hour prompted a camp 500' below the lake. A warm evening encouraged an early start before the snow softened too much. Left camp at 5:30 AM and put on crampons near the lake. Clive caught up with us soon after that having come up from the parking lot. The snow stayed firm except for spots on the chute leading up to University Col. Crampons were left at the Col and we traversed around through rocks, sand and snow patches. Eight made the summit by 10:45 AM.

We descended from the Col without crampons in rapidly softening snow. One unlucky soul slipped and slid 50', brushing a big rock in the process. Bill was in goal [?] and made the stop with no injuries, thank goodness. Back to the cars by 2:30 PM and an early arrival home.

Participants: Jon Wright, Ursula & Don Slager, Nina Zolten, Ted Windham, Norris Merritt, Neal Scott, Delores Holladay, Bob Wyka, Janis McKenna, Clive Baillie, Bill & Gisela Kluwin.

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## OWENS PEAK

Jerry Keating & Walt Whisman

April 22, 1989

There were nine participants for this early season SPS climb of Owens Pk. (8,453'), three cancellations and one no-show. All participants made the summit in less than three hours, and one continued with an HPS group to Mt. Jenkins.

We were able to get all our high-clearance vehicles easily to the 5,600' roadhead described in the 6/15/87 HPS guide to this peak. From there, a trail and/or ducked route leads all the way to the summit.

On the way down, Walt Whisman located the pictographs that are shown on the 7 1/2 minute Owens Peak topo. He declared them to be of unexpected quality and well worth the extra half-hour needed to view them.

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## Leaders!

**The deadline for the March-July 4, 1990 schedule is coming!**

**Please submit your trip writeups to the outings chair**

**Tina Stough**

**14391 Spa Drive**

**Huntington Beach, CA 92647**

**(714) 894-9295**

**By October 20--earlier submissions greatly appreciated.**

**See current schedule and Leader's Reference Book,  
pages 21 to 23, for writeup format.**

**Please include distance and elevation gain.**



If you plan to lead a trip into a wilderness area outside of a national park during the quota period for 1990, the Forest Service will require an upfront, non-refundable fee of \$3 per person. Please keep this in mind as you plan your trips, make your schedule announcements, and send in your 1990 permits. You may wish to ask that the \$3 be sent by each participant with the request to go on your trip, refunding that amount if the person is not accepted or if his or her place is by another climber subsequently filled by another climber.

## SHEPHERD PASS TRAIL Marty Hornick

I sit at Anvil Camp, surrounded by the incredible beauty of this Shepherd Canyon, and feel it's high time to write a note of thanks to my friends who've helped maintain accessibility to this fine area, as well as protecting the wilderness resources here.

I have just strolled through Anvil Camp, and though some thoughtless visitors have burned still more of the limited organic resource here, I was struck by the superior condition of this area now -- as compared to a mere three years ago. Thanks to the clean up of fire rings, garbage, and illegal campsites, in addition to the maintenance of the trail by the SPS!

Part of my reason for writing is to let you know that the reconstruction is nearing completion. Finally, this trail is in good enough condition to make your efforts really count! Until now, maintaining this trail was a bit like waxing a beat-up car that has blistered, peeling paint -- the effort helps, but it is hard for others to appreciate.

I am aware of -- and truly understand -- the gripes of some who feel that this trail should not have been made passable to stock. As you know I'm a bit of an extremist when it comes to wilderness protection, so let me explain why I feel that there we've acted correctly and conscientiously in opening the Shepherd Pass Trail to stock:

First, this trail was repaired for the safety and convenience of ALL visitors journeying to the beautiful areas beyond Shepherd Pass, "When you hike it, you'll like it!"

Secondly, the disrepair of the old trail created rutting, "use" trails, cutting of switchbacks, and other problems that were damaging the resource here. These have been greatly diminished.

Last, I want to point out that the commercial packers have agreed to abide by a new set of regulations designed to protect the wilderness purity of the Shepherd Pass drainage. These include:

1. No fires in the Anvil Camp area.
2. No overnight stockholding east of the Shepherd Pass.
3. No grazing -- all feed must be packed in.

With these restrictions in place, and the open-mindedness shown by Sierra Club members who have extended the effort of building a public corral (an excellent one, by the way) for Shepherd Pass stock users, I see the beginning of positive relations between two formerly conflicting groups. By the way, packers have been removing trash from this area for me all season -- they help too!

There is still lots of work for all of us to do in maintaining this trail during the upcoming years, and I look forward to sharing in this rewarding work with an ambitious group like yours. See you all at the September work trip!

(Marty climbed Tyndall, Versteeg, Trojan, Barnard, Tunna-bora, Carrillon, Russell, Whitney, Muir, McAdie, Irvine, Mallory, LeConte, and Langley in one day during the full moon of July 1989. He was disappointed when I told him that Versteeg wasn't on The List.

--R.J. Secor)

(See the "Wilderness Alert" regarding the Shepherd Pass Trail on page 18.

## **Sierra Trail Runner Reaches New Heights**

--Editor)

**M**arty Hornick is a man with high aspirations. During July, Hornick, a forest trails coordinator at Inyo National forest, scaled 14 Sierra peaks in one day.

Next, Hornick plans to run/walk the 250-mile John Muir Trail -- carrying his own supplies -- in four days. It would take an average walker about two weeks to cover the same territory.

Hornick completed his Sierra peak challenge on July 19. After setting out at 2 a.m., he went up Mount Tyndall (14,018 feet), then up Mount Williamson (14,375 feet), then Mount Trojan (13,950 feet), Mount Tunna-bora (13,565 feet), Mount Carrillon (13,552 feet), Mount Russell (14,086 feet), Mount Whitney (14,494 feet), Mount Muir (14,015 feet).

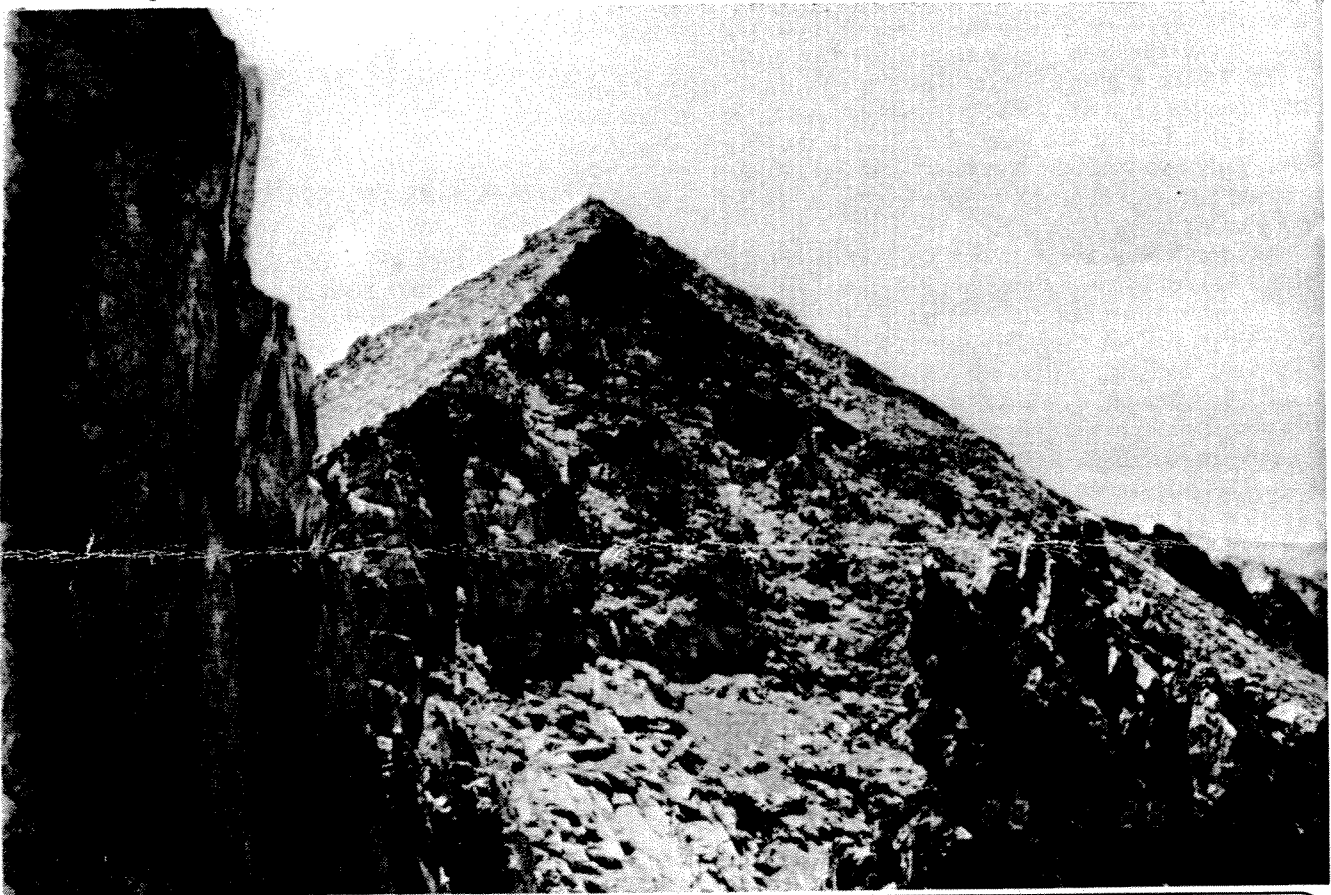
After refilling his water containers at Crabtree Lake, he then scaled Mount McAdie (13,760 feet), Mount Irvine (13,777 feet), Mount Mallory (13,860 feet), then up Mt. LeConte (13,960 feet). There he rested for 30 minutes, taped his blistered feet at Irridescent Lake, then scaled the north face of Mount Langley (14,027 feet) in the dark.

Hornick had hoped to do 16 peaks in one day, but quit after 14 peaks because midnight was nearing and his "day" was finished.

He plans to begin his John Muir odyssey on August 15 or 16. He will depart from Mount Whitney, hoping to reach Happy Isles in the northern extreme in four days. "I'm really doing this as a trial run for a 1990 attempt on the Trail," he said, "I don't know if I'll be able to carry enough supplies to meet my caloric needs. We'll see."

We are patiently waiting for answers to questions posed to the readers in this section in many issues past. Again we urge our readers to submit their guesses as to the identity of the mystery peak featured in this section, or to speculate as to the future of the Sierra Peaks Section (and Southern California mountaineering in general) in light of the continuing Sierra Club insurance crisis. In the interest of provoking some thought on the subject and responses to our queries, consider the following: Seattle has its Mountaineers and the Sierra Club; Portland has its Mazamas and the Sierra Club; Denver has its Colorado Mountaineering Club and the Sierra Club; Southern Californians got \_\_\_\_\_ and the Sierra Club. We used to have the SPS and the RCS for mountaineering and climbing. So, what shall we do with the blank? Do we move to Denver, Portland or Seattle if we want to climb? Do we try to fill in the blank? Or, do we struggle trying to put the mountains back into the Sierra Club?

In last issue's photo, the two distant bumps immediately to the right of Clarence King are Dougherty and State, while the peak more to the right of Clarence King is Arrow. Anybody care to dispute? If so send your beef to Jeff Solomon.



### **2nd ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST**

**Photos will be judged and exhibited at the SPS Banquet**

**The photographer of the winning entry will receive this year's selected prize.  
plus**

**His or Her photo shall grace the an Echo cover in 1990.**

Submit your entries by December 13 to:  
Jeffrey Solomon  
16 Silver Fir  
Irvine, CA 92714

# New Wilderness Permit Reservation Fees Inyo, Sierra and Toiyabe National Forests

The Inyo National Forest has had quotas on its most popular trails since the mid-1970s. As California's population grows, so does the number of its residents that wish to use the wilderness.

One problem that has developed with the permit reservation system is the increasing rate of "no-shows". These are reservation holders that never show up, call or write to cancel their permits. This means that the space is unavailable for use by other reservation applicants.

The Mount Whitney Ranger District on the Inyo National Forest implemented a reservation fee two years ago and the results have been remarkable. Prior to the reservation charge, the "no-show" rate was 60%; after two years the "no-show" rate has dropped to 10%. This enabled hundreds of people to get a confirmed reservation which was not possible under a free reservation system.

As a result of the success of the Mt. Whitney Trail program and the rising costs of administering the reservation system, the Inyo, Sierra and Toiyabe national forests are expanding the reservation fee program to all quota trails on these forests in 1990.

A fee of \$3.00 will be charged per person for each confirmed reservation. For example, if a party of four applies for a permit, the application must include a check or money order for \$12.00. For any additional permits, an additional \$3.00 per person must be enclosed. For applications that cannot be confirmed due to full quotas on the dates requested, the fee will be returned. This fee is required for all reservations; no fee is required for first-come, first-served permits obtained during the quota period. This fee is non-refundable once the reservation has been made.

## Quota Trails:

### INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Mono Lake Ranger District  
P.O. Box 429  
Lee Vining, CA 93541  
(619) 647-6525

Mammoth Ranger District  
P.O. Box 148  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

White Mountain Ranger District  
798 North Main Street  
Bishop, CA 93514  
(619) 873-4207

Mt. Whitney Ranger District  
P.O. Box 8  
Lone Pine, CA 93545  
(619) 876-5542

### SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

The Sierra National Forest will not be making reservations over the phone. All reservations must be made by mail or in person.

Mariposa Ranger District  
41969 Highway 41  
Oakhurst, CA 93644  
(209) 683-4665

Minarets Ranger District  
Northfork, CA 93643  
(209) 877-2218

Pineridge Ranger District  
P.O. Box 300  
Shaver Lake, CA 93664  
(209) 841-3311

### TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

Bridgeport Ranger District  
P.O. Box 595  
Bridgeport, CA 93517  
(619) 932-7070

## Backcountry First Aid

### Chance, skill both important

Fred Darvill, M.D.

First aid anticipates a delay time from occurrence to hospital admission of 10-30 minutes. A similar problem on a major mountain or deep in the backcountry on average will require 48 hours before hospitalization is achieved. Appropriate management requires medical and logistical considerations unknown to standard Red Cross first aid principles. Improvisation is the rule rather than the exception for providing the best possible medical assistance deep in the mountains.

Non-medical factors influencing the type of care provided include:

1. Weather—current and forecast for the next 48 hours (if known)
2. Season of the year—current and expected temperatures; wind chill factor
3. Time of day—remaining hours of daylight
4. Party strength—number of persons, and current physical capacities
5. Medical skills of party members
6. Communication abilities—distance to nearest telephone or radio
7. Distance to the nearest evacuation location—road, helipad, etc.
8. Available materials carried by party members—tent, sleeping bag, first aid kits, medications, stove, etc.
9. Availability of materials on site—water, shelter, firewood, splints, etc.
10. On site dangers—rockfall, avalanche, lightning, grizzly bears, etc.
11. Mental status of injured or ill person and other party members.

Dr. Darvill is the author of the newly revised 12th edition of *Mountaineering Medicine*.



## MOUNTAINEERING INSURANCE

(continued from page 2)

right carrier or obtaining a special policy. Numerous insurance alternatives (surplus lines carriers, higher deductibles, self-insurance, reduced coverage, etc.) were fully explored by both the MIRTF and the MPTF, but none proved adequate either for mountaineering activities or the overall needs of the Club. Significant premium reductions invariably came at the expense of adequate liability coverage.

As of August 1989, none of the over 50 mainline insurance companies contacted by the Finance Director through Johnson & Higgins were willing to provide a binder for the cost of mountaineering liability insurance. This may be due to a continuing negative perception on the part of insurance companies regarding the litigation environment.

### Program Costs

The Task Force also carefully evaluated the feedback from Club entities around the country - which indicated an overwhelming response against major Club subsidization of insurance. Let me quote from the MPTF Final Report:

The premium for mountaineering liability insurance is the single greatest cost associated with the mountaineering program and the Management Plan requires that this cost be met largely through individual user and student service fees. Donations are not considered to be a significant or reliable source of funding. The Club could consider providing short-term funding to meet premium advance payment requirements if the Mountaineering Committee had sufficient fee-paying members to support full reimbursement of such funds. If this were to be the case, the Club's "contribution" to mountaineering would be the cost of funds (foregone interest).

In March the MIRTF estimated the number of mountaineers within the Club affected by the current insurance restrictions to be 2,500 (including 500 students enrolled in training courses). In the absence of a quote, premium costs were estimated by the Finance Director at not less than \$350,000 per year for the required \$41M coverage. For mountaineering to be self-supporting, user and service fees would have to generate revenues equal to this premium. Many mountaineering entities have objected to paying user fees of greater than \$25/registrant. Any policy that places such unrealistically low limits on user fees could require the Club to heavily subsidize mountaineering insurance premiums. Such a policy is not acceptable to the majority of Club entities, given the amount of subsidy required relative to the number of members served, and was not incorporated in the Plan.

### Quote Close to Half a Million Dollars

A copy of the MPTF Report was made available to the insurance companies. Early in Sept. a quote to cover mountaineering liability was finally made by the Club's principal carrier. I have cost data from both Bruce and Chap. Chair Bob Kanne. The expense for this additional coverage is about \$450K, which would nearly double the Club's total insurance expense. This quote came following the costly settlement of a climbing injury claim in the Loma Prieta Chapter. Johnson & Higgins, which provides the Club's insurance services, reports: "A combination of growth in the Club and the "shadow" of past losses have effected the premium. The Club's losses have not been frequent but they have been severe." It is significant to note that during the past six years, the losses paid and the loss reserves (expected settlements) have cost the Club's insurers a dollar amount that is 1.63 times the amount that the Club has paid in premiums. Another eye-opener relates to the fact that as recently as FY83 the Club paid a total of about \$50,000 to purchase all its insurance needs (this being prior to major climbing injury claim settlements and the need to increase overall liability limits).

### Perception of Club

The Board of Directors and the Club as a whole cannot justify an expenditure of \$450,000 to support an activity directly benefitting so few. It doesn't help that of the approximately 2500 Sierra Club members and students involved in mountaineering, 85% are in the Angeles Chapter. The next largest number, about 60, occurs in the Loma Prieta Chapter. Nationwide, for about every 250 Club members, only one is involved in mountaineering (one in twenty in the Angeles Chapter).

As noted by the MIRTF in its May report - regarding correspondence received by the Board: "The most common arguments supporting climbing are that it has been a traditional part of the Club and helps define the Club's image, that climbing programs bring in new members and develop leaders, and that climbing has taken members to remote, wild areas that they later try to preserve through conservation activism." The Board and the Club as a whole probably agree with these arguments. However, there has to be a threshold at which the cost exceeds the value derived. An annual premium on the order of \$450K surely exceeds any reasonable threshold for the Club to heavily subsidize. I don't believe that one should necessarily label the Club "anti-mountaineering" because it can no longer justify this expense. The facts are that there are too few mountaineers in the Club (less than 0.5%), that they are willing to pay too little for a mountaineering fee (\$25 tops), and that there is no cheap adequate insurance available. It is not the Club's fault that costly settlements have resulted from its sponsoring of mountaineering, and the Club does not control the premiums.

Some may counter that the Club lost about \$0.5M on its Gift Catalog last year or cite other examples of purported waste or

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## MOUNTAINEERING INSURANCE

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fiscal irresponsibility. Whether true or not, such claims hardly justify the current purchase of mountaineering insurance - the Club is not that wealthy and mountaineering is clearly not perceived to be integral to the conservation thrust of the Club.

### Board Non-Action

The Board met in S. F. on 16-17 September. Bruce Knudtson presented the Management Plan and it was accepted. It was not adopted, however, as affordable mtneering insurance is currently unavailable. The Incorporation Task Force has a longer term task to study the creation of a separate entity to sponsor mountaineering. The advantage here is that Club assets would not be at risk and we could probably get by with a \$1M policy instead of \$41M. This would have reduced the present premium to about \$0.25M - still far too high for the mtneers to principally fund. It is possible that Bruce will be appointed to the National Mountaineering Committee, which thus far appears to have had no role in the insurance crisis. It would be hoped that this Committee would play a leading advocacy role regarding mountaineering within the Club - it might as well not exist otherwise.

### Impact

The current constraints against the use of ropes and ice axes will remain indefinitely. It seems unlikely that insurance quotes for this activity within the Club will drop significantly very soon. The Mountaineering Training Committee (BMT) offered Wilderness Travel Course, to a greatly reduced clientele, this past winter as an interim measure. This coming year they will offer nothing. The Leadership Training Committee will conduct its semi-annual lectures in mid-October - reduced to one day and covering only "O" and "I" level material.

### SPS

How is the SPS to respond to the situation? In earlier issues of this column I emphasized that our continued vitality and viability were gravely at stake. I'm now willing to adapt to the realities of the situation - with sad resignation, without trying to fix blame or find fault. Sometimes, life is unfair. It's too bad we live in a time and in a place where many seem unwilling to accept responsibility for their behavior, where they would dream of suing and hitting it big.

I am greatly encouraged, however, by the fact that our trip leaders mounted a surprisingly busy schedule for the summer season - it helped that it was another low-snow year. It is also clear that a great many of us, with the help of the *Echo*, got together privately for trips that the SPS could not lead. I see great value in the Section remaining alive and active within the Club. We have leader liability protection for up to medium 3rd class without snow. As newcomers become known, it is likely that many leaders may then let them join their private

## WILDERNESS ALERT!

An informal proposal has been made to the Inyo National Forest to allow overnight stock use along the Shepherd Pass Trail (SPT). The trail is currently open to stock, but overnight use is prohibited. This present regulation is good, but to allow horses and mules to remain overnight along the trail would be a mistake. There are a few, small, delicate meadows along the SPT, and these meadows would become severely damaged. In addition, Shepherd Creek has a steep pitch with a narrow drainage. Wandering stock would create an erosion problem. One of the reasons the SPS built the corral at the stock trailhead was to facilitate one-day pack trips over Shepherd Pass by professional pack outfits and private stock parties. It only takes a packer 4 to 5 hours to go from the trailhead to the top of Shepherd Pass. The existence of the corral at the base of the trail, and the relatively short amount of time needed to reach the top of Shepherd Pass, combined with the potential environmental impact in this delicate area, makes a decision to allow overnight stock use of the SPT indefensible.

Please write to the following individuals and tell them of your concerns:

*R.J. Secor*

Mr. Dennis W. Martin, Supervisor  
Inyo National Forest  
873 N. Main Street  
Bishop, CA 93514

Mr. Arthur L. Gaffrey, District Ranger  
Mt. Whitney Ranger District  
Inyo National Forest  
P.O. Box 8  
Lone Pine, CA 93545

Mr. John Roupp, Recreational Officer  
Inyo National Forest  
873 N. Main Street  
Bishop, CA 93514

trips. As was done last spring, members' peak interests can be published in the *Echo* to facilitate their getting together.

Another option, of course, is the creation of a separate, formal organization for conducting higher level trips. Many members, as well as GROPE, are looking into this, but there is nothing to report at this time. Such an organization would have to run bare - no liability insurance. The Southern Calif. Mtneering Assoc. (the resurrected RCS) has had no luck finding affordable good insurance (nor are they interested in having a lot of mtneers join them).

Many of us, no doubt, will figure that it's time to quit the Sierra Club, especially those who are now members primarily be-

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## CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. "The following members of the Chapter have been nominated to run as candidates for the five positions on the Chapter Executive Committee which will be open in the Fall 1989 election:

Howard Strauss            Jane Cavanaugh            Doug Rogers  
Florence McKenna        Sparky Sotcher            Bob Siebert  
Chuck Stein (Chuck is a SPS member!)

2. "Now is your chance to give recognition to those individuals who have provided so much of their time and effort in support of the Club. The Awards Committee wants your ideas on who deserves an Angeles Chapter award." The most common awards categories are: Conservation Service, Outings Service, and Special Service. Please submit nominations with background material to any Management Committee member by 30 October (or directly to Gene Andreasen, Awards Chair, by 10 November).

### SIERRA REGISTER COMMITTEE

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has been handed down to us should be available to those climbers who come long after us. Finally, instead of bemoaning the gradual but steady loss of registers with our hands in our pockets, we can play a significant and satisfying role in the actual reversal of an awful trend. We can assert our self-proclaimed purpose "to explore, enjoy, preserve and stimulate interest in climbing in the Sierra Nevada".

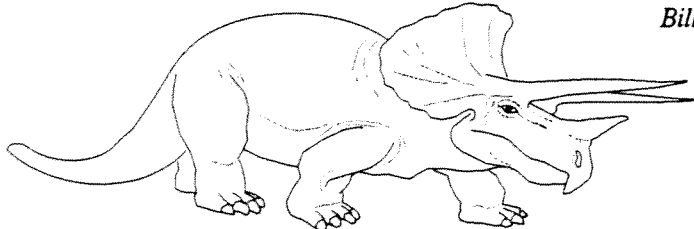
### EXPRESS YOUR STANCE ON THIS ISSUE ON THE ENCLOSED BALLOT!

### MOUNTAINEERING INSURANCE

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cause they want to climb Sierra peaks (as opposed to also being active in other outings sections or conservation efforts). Early this year I asked that we hang in there - give the Club a chance to get its insurance act together. (It did, and the realities are tragic.) I would now ask that we hang in there and give the SPS time to get its new act together. With or without insurance, things will never be the same. But that doesn't mean that things can never be just as good, or maybe even better. The peaks will still be there - will the SPS?

Bill



## PRIVATE TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DISCLAIMER:** *The Echo publishes paid trip notices as a service to its readers. Such trips are private. They have not been reviewed by the SPS nor are they in any way sponsored by the Sierra Club. Please refer to the back page for advertisement submittal policy and guidelines.*

**MEXICAN VOLCANOES!** Climb Orizaba, Popo and Ixtly over the Christmas holidays. 3-5 climbers sought. Call David Lake for details: (213) 450-3762.

### ADVERTISE!

Advertise your private climbing activity in the Sierra or elsewhere for \$1.00 (first 4 lines, additional lines are \$1 each). Other product/services ads and announcements are accepted at the \$1.00 per line rate.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### NEW MEMBERS

Diane Jo Harman  
858 First Street  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Wayne Norman  
436 Flower Street  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
H: (714) 464-8588  
W: (714) 896-5746

Evelyn De Chantillon  
591 1/2 Washington Street  
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

### NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Judith Corkum  
1051 S. Wooster Street #8  
Los Angeles, CA 90035  
W: (213) 444-5222

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

John Hellman  
Mary Bihl  
4202 East Evans Creek Road  
Rogue River, OR 97537

David A. Mulford  
6857 Colton Blvd.  
Oakland, CA 94611

Fred Lucas  
25715 N. Hogan Dr. #B7  
Valencia, CA 91355

Paul Shubert  
15132 Foothill Ave.  
Lawndale, CA 92060

Michael Lorr  
11615 Missouri Ave. #3  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

### WOMEN CLIMBERS!

"Rendez-Vous Hautes Montagnes" is an international organization of women climbers. Founded 20 years ago, members come from more than 15 countries, including USA. An annual climbing meeting is held in Europe every year. For further information contact:

Nadra Billia Le Bon  
190 Montrose Road  
Berkeley, CA 94707

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**ADVERTISEMENT:** Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the following rates. Private trip announcements: \$1.00 for the first 4 lines and \$1.00 per additional line. Other announcements and product or service advertisements: \$1.00 per line or \$25.00 for a half page space. Reach out to our climbing constituency and place an ad today!!!

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Send address changes and new subscription applications to section **Secretary:** Vi Grasso, 1173 1/2 Amherst Ave., Los Angeles CA 90049. The *Echo* is mailed via 3rd class and will not be forwarded by the post office.

**MISSING ISSUES:** Address inquiries regarding missing issues to section **Mailer:** Ron Grau, 456 Chester Place, Pomona CA 91768. Extra copies of the 30th Anniversary *Echo* are available by sending \$4.50 per copy to section Mailer. **Prospective new members:** for a one time complimentary copy of the *Echo* send a SASE with 45 cent postage to the Mailer.

**AWARDS:** Emblem and senior emblem pins (\$12.00), list finisher pins (\$10.00), and section patches (\$2.00) are available from the section **Treasurer:** Ruth Armentrout, 23262 Haynes Street, Canoga Park CA 91307.

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