

The Sierra



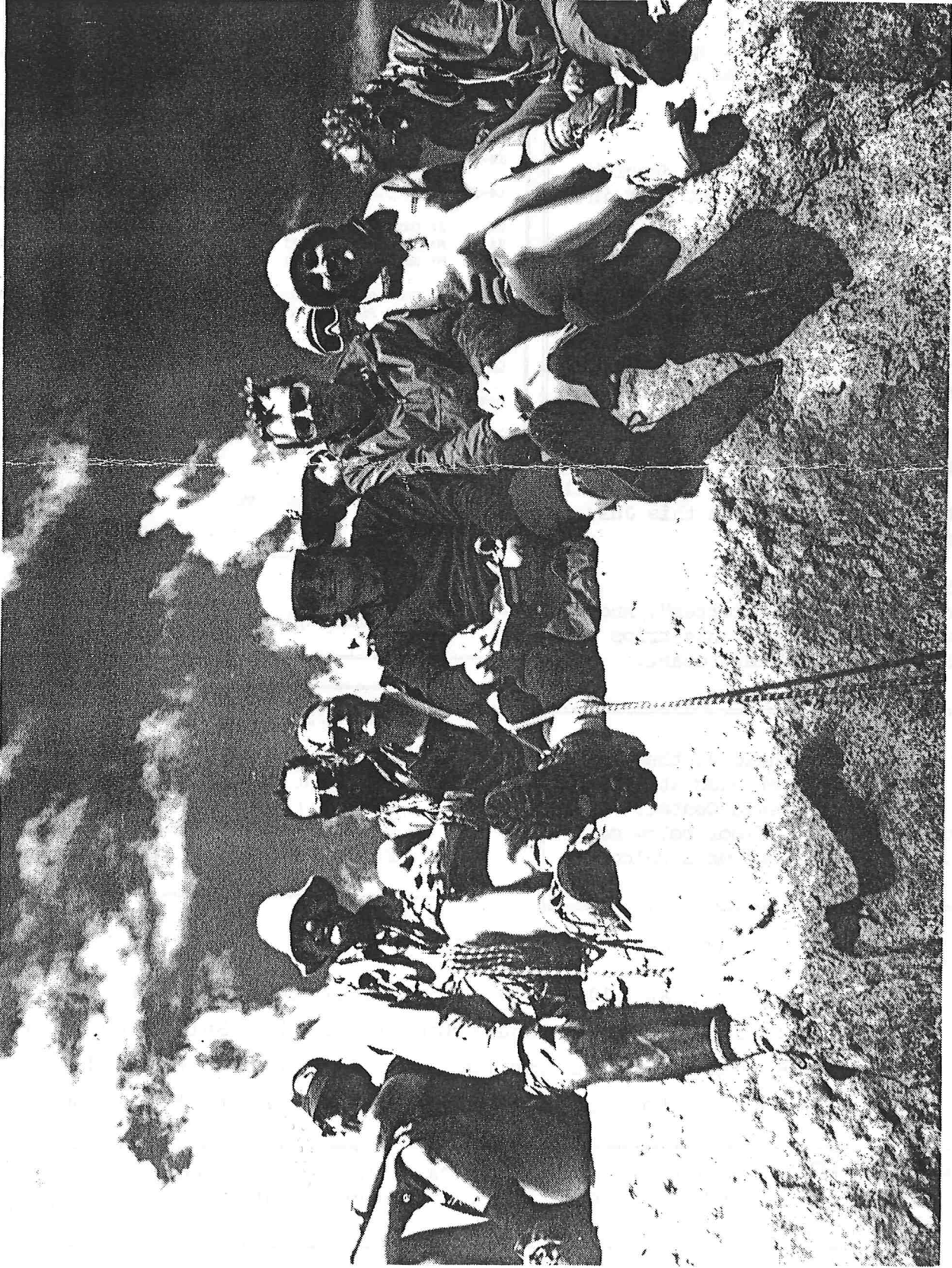
ECHO

VOLUME 35

1991

JULY—AUGUST

NUMBER 4



SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

AUGUST 14 WEDNESDAY
"Makalu". Jim Farkas speaks about the American expedition to the fifth highest summit in the world.

SEPTEMBER 11 WEDNESDAY
"Mexican Volcanoes". RJ Secor presents a program on climbing the lofty volcanoes of central Mexico.

OCTOBER 9 WEDNESDAY
"The Khumbu". Patty Kline speaks on the heart of the Himalayas, the Khumbu region of Nepal.

NOVEMBER 13 WEDNESDAY
"Aconcagua". Tom Taplin will describe his 1989 climb of the highest peak in South America.

DECEMBER 11 WEDNESDAY
ANNUAL BANQUET: "Underground Mountaineering". Spectacular slides by Carol Vessey and Bill Farr of an international expedition to the world's deepest cave near Oaxaca, Mexico. Pacifica Hotel.

JANUARY 8 WEDNESDAY
"Ecuadorean Odyssey - from High Volcanoes to Lush Jungles". Bill Oliver will share his experiences from this July 1991 trip.

FEBRUARY 12 WEDNESDAY
"Kayaking in the Sea of Cortes". Andy Fried will tell us about his trips to Baja California's Eastern coast.

Monthly meetings are held at the L.A. Dept of Water and Power Bldg at 111 N. Hope St in the L.A. Civic Center. Auditorium on Level A (1 floor below main lobby). 7:30 PM. Newcomers welcome!

SPS SUMMER/FALL TRIPS 1991

AUGUST

- 17-18 M: Center Pk Dave Dykeman, Don Borad
- 22-25 M: Deerhorn, West & East Vidette, Bago Bill T. Russell, Bill Gray
- 24 M: Mt. Gould Kathy Price, Randy Danta
- 25 I: Kearsarge Pk Jim Adler, Randy Danta
- 30-2 I: Triple Divide, Lion Rock, Stewart Igor & Suzanne Mamedalin
- 30-2 M: Carson-Iceberg Wilderness Gordon MacLeod, Neko Colevins
- 30-2 I: Marion, Pyramid, Wynne, Pinchot, Striped, Goodale Dale Van Dalsem, Vi Grasso
- 31-2 M: Foerster Pk Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
- 31-2 M: Brewer, North & South Guard, Farquhar Bill Oliver, Larry Tidball

SEPTEMBER

- 7-8 M: Russell, Carillon, Thor Bill Bradley, Fred Camphausen
- 13-16 M: East Vidette, Deerhorn, West Vidette, Center, Bradley, Bago, Rixford Dale Van Dalsem, Larry Tidball
- 14-15 I: Morrison, San Joaquin Patty Kline, Bob Hartumian
- 21 I: Dana (Jim's List Finish) Jim Murphy, Steve Thaw
- 21-22 M: Thompson, Powell Dave Petzold, Larry Tidball
- 21-22 M: Wallace, Haeckel Randy Danta, Bill Oliver
- 28-29 I: Johnson, Cloudripper Larry Tidball, Steve Thaw
- 28-29 I: Lone Pine Pk, Mt Mallory Igor & Suzanne Mamedalin
- 28-29 I: Mt Tom, Basin Ed Zdon, Bruce Parker

OCTOBER

- 5-6 I: Three Sisters Dave Petzold, Carolyn West
- 12-13 I: Clouds Rest George Hubbard, Mary McMannes
- 12-13 M: Harrington, Kennedy Vaughn Sherman, Bruce Parker
- 19-20 I: Silver Pk Dave Petzold, Carolyn West
- 19-20 I: Scodie Mtn, Lamont Pk Jerry & Nancy Keating, Walt Whisman
- 26-27 M: Sawtooth, Needham Ed Zdon, Bruce Parker

NOVEMBER

- 9-10 I: Stanislaus Pk, Mt Patterson Larry Tidball, Scot Jamison

PEAK INDEX

- Cathedral Pk
- Mt Dana
- Electra Pk
- Mt Florence
- Foerster Pk
- Mt Gibbs
- Homers Nose
- Merriam Pk
- Royce Pk
- Vogelsang Pk

NOV 9-10 SAT-SUN SPS - DPS

I: Stanislaus Peak (11,233'), Mt. Patterson (11,673'). Two dayhikes near Bridgeport, one from each list. Sat. Stanislaus 9 mi RT 1600'gain, PM hot springs. Sun Patterson 5 mi RT 1200' gain. Send SASE to Leader: Larry Tidball Asst: Scot Jamison

COVER PHOTO: 11 on the summit of Cathedral Peak. August 28, 1988. Photo by Richard Fritsen. Thanks to Larry Tidball for supplying this photograph.

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

Nominations for '92 Management Committee

Graham Breakwell is heading the nominating committee. You don't have to be asked first; let him know if you're interested and available. The top five vote-getters become the five voting members of the Management Committee. They jointly figure out who does what: chair, vice-chair/outings, programs, secretary and treasurer, and then fill the appointed positions. Nominations end at the September meeting, 9/11; ballots go out with the October ECHO; ballots counted at November meeting, 11/13.

Shepherd Pass Trail Maintenance

Fantastic News! Both Chuck Stein and Campy (Fred Camphausen) have stepped forward to carry on this important effort inaugurated by R. J. Secor. Unfortunately, it now appears to be too late to schedule a work party this year. With assistance from RJ, they will be planning weekends for '92. The Section is most grateful to all three for their efforts - past and future - that will assure the continued success of this most worthwhile and appropriate project.

Leisure Peak Bagging?

It appears that there is a growing yet neglected niche in our membership. I have in mind those of us who are still List-driven but who are less up to the rigors of a typical SPS "death march." I suspect there are many Senior Emblem holders, for example, who may despair ever achieving the coveted List Finisher status because they can no longer move quite as fast as in earlier days. They have the experience and competence and drive. They just need trips that go three days instead of two, for example, or a peak a day instead of two or three - a trip where they would range in the broad middle of the group instead of being perceived as holding up the group.

Our "Intro" trips are primarily aimed at getting newcomers to come on easy climbs. What we also need are "Leisure" trips to not necessarily easy peaks. I'm not suggesting that we carry someone to the summit, but let's lend a hand to help along those who showed us the way - and have a great time ourselves in doing so. Are you willing to lead a group of experienced, mature mountaineers? Are you one of the latter looking to pick up some peaks that have remained elusive? Get in touch with me and let's see what level of interest and what kind of numbers we're talking about.

Outings Leader Ratings!

Congrats to the Chapter's and the Section's newest M-rated leader: DAVE PETZOLD. Special thanks also to Dave Dykeman and Dale Van Dalsem for assisting on his two provisional leads. NOTE: although insurance restrictions prevent Club-sponsored Rock and Snow Checkoffs, they are still being given privately, and private trips can count for M and E provisional leads. Need more info? Contact me or Bob Hicks.

Spring Outings - Advance Notice

Input for the March 1 - July 4 Chapter Schedule must be received no later than November 1st. As Karen Leonard will be out of town at that time, please address all input and inquiries to me. This is our Southern Sierra season - go for it! ALSO, Mario Gonzalez is looking for a few good programs.

Petzo.

DEADLINES

The following dates are the deadlines for submitting copy for the ECHO.

Friday	September 20, 1991	-	September/October ECHO.
Wednesday	November 20, 1991	-	November/December ECHO.
Monday	January 20, 1992	-	January/February ECHO.

Tragedy on Clyde Minaret

Bruce Parker and I had set out to do the fourth class "Starr's Route" on Clyde Minaret (12,281'). I had summited once before, in 1983. My climber's memory of the route had been of a beautiful and challenging peak, with some high 4th and low 5th class, and a long 3rd class section that had allowed me to gain a lot of altitude with little effort. This time, as Bruce and I passed through that 3rd class section, we agreed that this was the most pleasurable kind of mountaineering; moving over rock quickly and fluidly up this giant beauty of the Minarets.

Bruce, in climbing shoes, was able to ascend faster than I, in mountain boots. We had come about 800 feet up a big gully, belaying over some low 5th class spots. About 200 feet below the summit ridge we came to another low 5th class section. He had already made the moves unroped. I had been pushing my boots and my mind to the limit of the unroped comfort range. I was also nervous about the descent and wanted to get off the rock, down the snow, and to the trail by darkness. We had already done the best part of the route. In his Fires he could downclimb faster; we had a long way to go. Several rappels. I would start down the gully we had come up. I would set up the rope, do the first rappel, leave the rope set up for him, and continue down. He was feeling good and would continue to the top. Just then we noticed a potentially easier way down, a small trough on the west side of the gully. Bruce was higher and offered to climb over and scout it for me. From where he was it looked good. I started down and told him to be careful. 2:45 p.m.

I hear rockfall and turn around to see him in the air, a large boulder also, side by side, life and death. I hear him yell out "Rock" with selfless determination to warn me. This is it. I want nothing more than to stop and replay the tapes. Just edit this part. Just have it not happen. Just let me hear another story about his life. About the chipmunk that ate all his food then crapped in his pack.

The big boulder blasts down the gully. Safe, in the trough, I can't see the rockfall, I'm pressed up against the wall. Not scared, just horrified. Thirty seconds, maybe a minute passes.

I climb back up to the place where we had split, yelling for him. I yell "Help." I scream "Send Rescue, Clyde Minaret." No answer. No one. He could be unconscious, or his jaw could be broken. I climb around trying to find him. Different angles. All around. More yelling. I am stunned by the solitude. If it was a short fall he has a chance. My heart wants to give him that chance. My mind is saying it's not likely.

It had taken me 5-1/2 hours to reach Minaret Lake, where I was extremely fortunate to come across two very strong and experienced climbers. When he fell, Bruce had been carrying most of the gear, and on my descent I had found myself doing Dulfersitz rappels with no prussiks, using sun-bleached slings for anchors. Exhausted and still wearing my helmet and crampons, I walked the last few feet over a slab of rock into the climbers' camp. What a relief to finally have some other humans to share this with. We decided that one of them should walk out quickly tonight, the other would go more slowly with me back to my camp. Just outside of their camp I threw up. An hour later at my camp I threw up again. It continued to be a bad night.

The rescue was officially begun at 11:00 p.m. that night. By the time I walked out the next morning the Mono County/June Lake Search and Rescue had already made a helicopter run up the canyon. They took me up in the copter to pinpoint the exact site of the fall. Still, it took a day and a half to find Bruce's body. He had fallen 500 feet. From the position they found him in, it appeared he hadn't moved since he had landed.

KATHY MOORE

(This article first appeared in the July SCMA "Cliff Notes.")

BRUCE G. PARKER - a Remembrance

I first met Bruce Parker in July, 1985. He had signed on for my M-provisional lead of Mt. Langley. I remember being impressed with the climbing resume he enclosed with his sase. Earlier that year he made climbs on Popo and Orizaba in Mexico, followed by Cotopaxi and Chimborazo in Ecuador.

It was in the spring of that year that Dick Bass completed his incredible Seven Summits odyssey. Bruce's resume included his personal goal of also summitting Everest before the year 2000. Bruce had the thrill of personally meeting Mr. Bass last December of the SPS Banquet and of sharing his goal with the famed climber.

Bruce, a BMTC and AMTC graduate, was currently active in the SPS (Banquet Chair in 1989), the California Mountaineering Club and the Southern California Mountaineers' Association. He completed the SCMA rock climbing class last year and had advanced to Associate status. He particularly enjoyed days spent rock climbing with his fourteen-year-old son, Brian. Last summer Bruce and Kathy Moore ascended the Swiss Arete route (5.4+) on Mt. Sill, which he regarded as his best Sierra climb thus far. Bruce, 46, was also very active in the formation of the CMC and headed its Insurance Committee (he was employed in the insurance industry). An M-rated leader, he had three SPS and six CMC leads scheduled in the summer months then yet ahead. It now appears that most, if not all, of these Sierra trips will go forward, as Bruce would have wished.

For Bruce's memorial service on June 29th, Dick Bass sent a copy of the Robert Service poem, "The Rolling Stone," that appears in his book. I'm told that it was Bruce's favorite poem and that he kept a copy on his refrigerator door.

"To scorn all strife, and to view all life
With the curious eyes of a child;
From the plangent sea to the prairie,
From the slum to the heart of the Wild.
From the red-rimmed star to the speck of sand,
From the vast to the greatly small;
For I know that the whole for the good is planned,
And I want to see it all."

I last saw Bruce June 12th, the evening of the monthly SPS meeting, and he eagerly reported on his most recent Sierra activity. Later that night, as I was up late busily packing for a climbing trip to Ecuador, I was startled by an unexpected knocking at my door. It was Bruce! He had only just heard of my imminent trip and had rushed over with original topo maps for Cotopaxi and Chimborazo. I was touched and very grateful for this unanticipated and very generous gesture. He wished me good luck and a safe return. Three and a half weeks later I returned from my mountain sojourn - only to learn that Bruce had not. We mourn his untimely passing. He will be missed by all.

BILL OLIVER

Bruce at Joshua Tree, 1990 - Ed Zdon collection



Bruce Parker Killed on Clyde Minaret

On June 22, 1991, while climbing Starr's Route on Clyde Minaret, Bruce Parker fell and was killed as a result of loose rock. His climbing companion, Kathy Moore, was in an adjacent chute at the time and was able to descend and seek help.

Anyone spending a couple of minutes with Bruce became keenly aware of his intense love of mountain climbing. It isn't surprising, then, at a time in his life when he needed to "get away," he chose to make a solo trip to Mexico and Central America to climb. Bruce had climbed in the Cascades and summited Mt. Rainier with Phil Ershler on a private trip prior to Phil's gaining prominence on Mt. Everest.

Besides belonging to the CMC, Bruce was active in the SPS, SCMA, and had been an assistant leader the first year of WTC.

Bruce will be remembered for his strong will, his sense of humor, and his great smile. His friendship will be missed.

ED ZDON

Sauntering with the Spirit of Bruce Parker

A kindred lover of God's wildness and the beauty of creation, Bruce Parker climbed the peaks to sky mountains to enjoy the life of a mountaineer. His smile and enthusiasm remind us to be of good cheer, especially when sauntering through the mountains he respected and loved. This genuine compatriot is our mountain brother and I will miss walking with him.

"Walk away quietly in any direction and taste the freedom of the mountaineer. Camp out among the grass and gentians of glacier meadows, in craggy garden nooks full of Nature's darlings. Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. As age comes on, one source of enjoyment after another is closed, but Nature's sources never fail." — John Muir

STEVE THAW

(These two articles first appeared with the June CMC Newsletter.)



PRIVATE TRIP

MT. STANFORD #2 SAT. SEPT. 28

A cordial invitation to a 20-year non-quest for the List by an Unidentified Woman. Might it happen September 28, 1991? Will tell the story about this wondrous enigma at Rock Creek (by Tom's Place). For details on meeting place, hike, etc. send SASE to Vi Grasso, 1171 1/2 Amherst, Los Angeles 90049 or phone (213)826-5202(W)

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.

IN MEMORIAM

JOAN HACK REMEMBERED

Joan Hack, my hiking and climbing companion for the last twenty-four years, died of cancer on May 26.

Joan participated in SPS trips in the late sixties/early seventies after completing the BMTC in 1968. She led several of the Annual Women's Backpack trips, a feature of that era. She did 71 peaks on the SPS list, including 10 of the emblem peaks.

Eric Schumacher

CHUCK WILTS (1920-1991)

Present-day climbers may not realize it, but the modern free-climbing movement owes a great deal to California climbing pioneer Chuck Wilts, who died of a heart attack in March while hiking in the San Gabriel Mountains. Wilts was 71 years old.

Active in Yosemite Valley, Tahquitz Rock, and the Sierra Nevada in the 1940s and 1950s, Wilts realized early on that free climbing was where the future lay. His first ascents were both technically impressive and showed an eye for classic lines. In Yosemite, Wilts made several early attempts on the Lost Arrow, and in 1944, made the first free ascent of Higher Cathedral Spire (5.8). When Wilts and his wife, Ellen, made the first ascent of Rixon's Pinnacle in 1948, it was one of the hardest short routes in the Valley. At his local crag, Tahquitz Rock, Wilts made more than 16 first ascents. And Wilts' South Face of Clyde Minaret (5.8) and Southeast Face of Cathedral Peak (5.4) are today two of the most popular and classic routes in the high Sierra.

Unlike many of his Sierra Club contemporaries who thought that difficult free climbing was too dangerous and radical, Wilts encouraged younger climbers at a time when the use of aid was the norm and free climbing almost an afterthought.

Wilts was also the longtime author of the guidebooks to Tahquitz and Suicide Rocks. His first guide to Tahquitz, published in 1956, was particularly revolutionary as it introduced the Yosemite Decimal System of rating rock climbs. Always an innovator, Wilts was one of the first to use chrome-moly pitons, and he invented the knifeblade piton.

But Wilts was more than just an accomplished and influential climber. He was a professor emeritus at Cal Tech in Pasadena, where he taught electrical engineering and applied physics for 43 years. His classes were very popular; it was not uncommon for Wilts to receive applause from students at the conclusion of his lectures. The climbing world applauds you, Chuck.

From Climbing Magazine, June/July 1991

ANNOUNCEMENT

After early Sept, Rick Jali is interested in doing Northern Sierra Peaks in areas 20-24. If you are interested, contact him at P.O. Box 1717, Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546 or at (619)-934-8430.

ANNOUNCEMENT

FOUND: SET OF CAR KEYS in the vicinity of Meysan Lakes-Lone Pine Pk. To claim, contact Pete Yamagata, 2109 10th St #3, Sacramento, CA, 95818, or (916) 444-6319.

Mountain Records

by Bill T Russell, Chair

My message in the last SAGE (35-3) brought forth some encouraging response. Dave Dykeman placed a SPS cyl and book on The Hermit and will place the same on Henry and Black Giant in the near future. Vi Grasso is carrying a cyl and book to Huxley, she turned in a report about several peaks. Reports were received from Bill Oliver, George Toby, R J Secor and Andy Zdon in Bishop. Pete Yamagata from Sacramento wrote a good letter with information and ideas.

Pete pointed out that I goofed in my last message. The standard memo books that we recommend are 6 1/8" by 4 3/4" or about 6.1" by 3.7", not 4.7". Each book has 72 pages and we glue two together to obtain 144 pages. I use rubber cement for paper. The piece that we glue on the front of the front cover, so that it will not be missed, is shown below.

Getting SPS cylinders from me to people who volunteer to carry them to summits is somewhat of a challenge. We are working on the problem.

The current list of peaks needing a container and book is:

Arrow	Eisen	Iron	Morrison	Thor
Clyde Minaret	Genevra	Jordan	Powell	Three Sisters
Cotter	Gray	Mallory	Senger	Tunemah

McAdie needs a new book. The can and book are reported missing from Emerson; remember, the SPS summit is the old and higher summit per the 15' map, not the one shown on the 7.5' map.

_____ Peak Name	_____ By	_____ Date Placed	<h2 style="margin: 0;">PLEASE</h2>	Fill the old register before opening this one. Write sparingly-- only name, date, brief remarks. Make the register last for years. Fill every page-- several entries per page. Leave this register here when full for future climbers to enjoy.	Placed and maintained by: SIERRA PEAKS SECTION Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club Los Angeles
SPS 6/91					

REMINDER - the following notice appears in every Angeles Chapter Schedule:

- IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**
1. Contact the sheriff in the county in which the emergency exists.
 or
 Contact the Park Ranger if the emergency exists in a national park.
 2. Contact the Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team, 818-355-1414 (24 hr service), for Sierra Club Search and Rescue Coordination.
 3. If further assistance is needed, contact Jon Inskeep, 818-790-5461.

NOTE: these resources are not limited to Sierra Club activities but are available to all. Certainly we are most grateful to the Sierra Madre Search & Rescue Team and to Jon Inskeep for their selfless devotion and heroic efforts.

A Note from the ECHO Mailer

After half a year of on-the-job training as ECHO mailer, I have learned a few things about the U.S. Postal Service, the SPS management committee, and most of all, how important the ECHO is to all of us. So here is some information about the distribution of the ECHO. If you want to get your copies of the ECHO more quickly, read on. If you are missing some of last year's issues, read on...

The ECHO is first available at SPS meetings in even numbered months (February, April, etc.). After the meetings, I get all remaining copies. **The following is a new way to get faster delivery of your ECHO.** I will try this system for the rest of 1991, to see if it is feasible. As soon as I get the ECHO, I will send copies by First Class U. S. Postage to anyone who has sent me stamps for First Class postage. Current postal rates require \$.52 for a 2 oz. item. I should receive the request and the stamps by Thursday after the SPS meeting. I will get the First Class mailing done by Friday. The bulk rate, third class mailing will be done Saturday, or (if I am out in the Sierra's, for example) a week from Saturday.

Earlier issues. If I receive a request for an old issue of the ECHO, and copies are still available, I will mail the old issue along with the next regular bulk mailing. If you want faster delivery, just send a written request with stamps for First Class postage.

Missing issues. If you don't get your ECHO within the usual time period, call my home phone for information about the mailing date.

Thanks to Bob Sumner, ECHO Editor, for putting it all together. Send him your trip write-ups, relevant news clippings, good stories from around the campfire, etc.

Kathy Price
H: (213)556-1546 W:(213)496-7008

PEAK REGISTERS by Patty Kline 7-22-91

One of my favorite things to do on top of an SPS peak is to read the names and dates in the register.

Last summer on top of North Palisade there were 2 registers, one of recent signatures in the traditional metal rectangular box, and one of the older signatures xeroxed and encased in white plastic irrigation pipe. I had seen one of the "historic registers" the previous week on Red and White Mountain and didn't even know what it was, thinking it could even be trash. I would have loved to have seen what the historic names really looked like from North Palisade because the reproduction was somewhat difficult to read.

This June while in Berkeley, I thought this would be a great opportunity to visit the Bancroft Library where the historic registers are stored. The library will xerox pages on request for a small fee, but photography is prohibited. I was going to spend the morning there, my plane taking off in mid-afternoon. Because of a break between semesters, the library wasn't going to open until 1:00 PM. I missed my chance. Probably most people will miss the chance. It means a lot to me to read the names on the peak, and in a library the magic of the moment is lost.

The day before yesterday as I sat on top of Junction Peak signing the register placed in 1976, I noticed a thick bound black book with white unlined pages. On the inside cover was a statement saying to return when full to the Bancroft Library where signatures from that peak dated back to 1899. I don't know how long the black book has been there, but there were no signatures in it.

Maybe someday I will get another chance to visit Bancroft Library to see the old Junction Peak register as well as others. It seems cold and void of feeling to read these in a library. I wish the original registers were still on the peaks I have climbed and have yet to.

ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

CATHEDRAL PEAK, GIBBS, DANA AUGUST 27-28, 1988

Larry Tidball Richard Fritsen

Although quite some time has passed between this trip, and the writing of this report, I remember it very clearly.... this was my last 4th class lead before the insurance "crisis" ended real climbing in the Sierra Club on October 1, 1988. Although no one knew in advance that the ban was coming, I don't think I would have planned any other Sierra Peak for this last 4th class peak. Cathedral Peak is my favorite Sierra Peak.

We started the weekend with a hike of Gibbs and Dana on Saturday, finishing with hail and rain as we came off the summit of the second peak. We had a group campsite reserved at the Tuolumne Meadows campground that night and the weather cleared for dinner and a campfire. A few folks who needed some different peaks than Gibbs and Dana joined us at this point. As Richard and I sat around the dying campfire I was telling bear stories, and Richard wasn't quite convinced that a bear comes through our particular campsite every night. That is until he looked up and saw the bear crawling into the back of his 4Runner. A few loud calls, and a few thrown stones (hitting more truck than bear) served to chase off the bruin.

The next morning 14 of us drove to the Cathedral Lakes trailhead for the climb of Cathedral Peak. I have climbed this peak 6 times, and savor almost every step of the route. From the distant views of the peak, the hike into it's base, the approach, the climb, and finally the views from the top....for me this is the ultimate Sierra Peak. I have climbed two of the 5th class routes on Cathedral, but this standard 3rd/ 4th class route that we climbed on this day is really my favorite. This route is really climbable by any good 3rd class climber, you don't need to be a rock climber to do this peak. Since we can't lead this peak any more, I will describe the route in some detail, so that others can follow on their own.

From the trailhead follow the Cathedral Lakes trail a few hundred feet into the forest, then leave the trail and hike along the right side of Budd Creek following a use trail that at first is very faint, but is soon easy to follow. This trail is on the hillside above the creek, not down by the water. The trail winds through the forest for a ways, staying near the creek, but eventually angles away from the creek heading diagonally across some rock slabs (where the route is marked by ducks). Soon the trail follows some narrow grassy defiles up between granite ribs. Later, higher above the creek you hike through open forests.

About 2 miles from the trailhead, the use trail crosses Budd Creek (now only a couple of feet wide). Just beyond this point you reach an open clearing where you can look across the creek to see the peak. This is where we leave the trail, recrossing the creek and climbing up through the forested slope towards the saddle north of the summit.

From the saddle we dropped down 20 or 30 feet to a series of ledges that run horizontally across the slabs of the Northwest face until we reached the West Ridge just above the notch separating Eichorn Pinnacle from the main summit area. From here we zig-zaged up easy 3rd class ledges, winding between the stunted trees growing there until we reached a large platform just below the summit block. From here the summit is 15' straight overhead. Here we broke out our 60 foot rope, and with Richard belaying, I stepped through the narrow notch in the crest of the West ridge. Now I was standing on the sloping ledges of the South Face. Traverse across 10 feet to a 15 foot tall 4 inch wide vertical crack. This crack is easily climbed with many hand and footholds, and in a moment you are on the summit.

Once on top, I set up a top belay. The crack in the summit block is only about an inch wide as it cuts across the flat top of the peak, but a couple of opposed stoppers makes a bomb proof anchor. While I belayed from the top, Richard made sure that everyone was tied-in correctly before starting the summit climb. As each person reached the top, they were tied in, so that they could sit down and enjoy the view. Half Dome and Yosemite Valley, Toulumne Meadows, the northern Yosemite peaks, and on down south past Ritter..... A couple of summit climbers went down after signing the register, but soon we had 12 including Richard on the summit block together where we took a group photo.

After belaying everyone down, we retraced our route back to the car for the long drive home. If you have the time let me recommend these other climbs near Cathedral: Unicorn Peak just to the East (great 3rd class), and the 9 Echo Peaks just south of Cathedral class 2 & 3 are seldom climbed, and have fun little film canister registers. Matthes Crest a little farther south is a whole day adventure in 5th class climbing along the horizontal crest of this very thin long ridge.

My thanks to Richard Fritsen for assisting on this trip, and to the following people who shared the summit with us: Ursula Slager, Don Slager, Eric Schumacher, Linda Landau, Dave Helphrey, Doug Hatfield, Bob Emerick, Isabelle Gat, Roger Hadow, Bobby Dubeau, Donn Cook and Randy Ragland.

RESOUNDING ECHOES by Bill Oliver

This news item first appeared in the August, 1976 Sierra ECHO.

Paul Lipsohn has compiled data on scheduled trips from Jan. 1, 1970, through Oct. 31, 1976, the results of which may be of some interest. This study does not indicate whether or not trips were successful - which they sometimes were not.

Two peaks were scheduled eight times (Smith and Craig), 4 - 7 times, 12 - 6 times, 20 - 5 times, 40 - 4 times, 49 - 3 times, 60 - 2 times, 40 - 1 time, and 19 were not scheduled (246 peaks). Emblem peaks were led as few as two times (Clarence King), and a maximum of seven times (Matterhorn). Of the 19 peaks not scheduled during that period, 14 of them are north of Yosemite. Of the six peaks north of Yosemite which were led, they were only scheduled once each.

Observation: We're doing a good job of covering most of the Sierra peaks, but few want to drive 1000+ miles per weekend to bag class one type summits.

Our originally planned peaks for this weekend were Kern Pk, which I hadn't climbed since about 1963 on a long long backpack from the roadhead of the time at Troy Meadows, & Three Rocks. George Toby had led Kern Pk last year about this time but after the great spring snows of '91, Bill found on a scouting trip that the road wasn't even open to the current Black Rock roadhead. I then planned on a back pack of Olancha Pk but later learned that there were lingering snows on the south & west slopes of that peak. As a final choice I selected Homers Nose which I had done 3 or 4 times before. Homers Nose is a prominent granite dome visible on a clear day from the Porterville and Exeter areas of the San Joaquin Valley. It is named for noteworthy proboscis of Homer Oliver, a pioneer Mtn man & possible forbearer of Bill Oliver's.

Only six of us met at the South Fork Camp Ground on the Kaweah River. We started up the Cahoon Trail to Hockett Meadows. In perhaps 1/2 mile, just before the normally dry Pigeon Creek channel, keep your eyes open for the junction with the abandoned Coffeepot Canyon Trail leading off at a 30° angle to the north. It is marked by a small rock cairn on the left side of the Cahoon Trail. This route to our peak is nicely described in Jim Jenkins' 1979 Vol 2 of Self-Propelled in the Southern Sierra. We backpacked 3-1/2 mi, 2000', up to Surprise Camp on Bennett Creek. Here we dropped our packs and spent the rest of the day at the mouth of nearby Palmer Cave (need a rope & prussiks or jumars to enter) and lounging around camp. Bill, Tom Sakowych, Eric Schumacher, Mario Gonzalez of Cuba and Mike Gruntman of even further away Moscow Russia, were an amiable group. If Mike ever asks to come on your trip, he is an able, strong mountaineer with lots of backpacking experience in Russia and some interesting stories about Russian society & economy. Mike is living at 11925-1/2 Burbank Blvd in North Hollywood (213-740-6339). He is teaching in the physics department at USC and has no outdoor friends.

The next day we hiked to the intersection with the Salt Creek Ridge trail and, because it stays low on the snow covered north side of the ridge, we went the usual cross-country route up the ridgeline. That was a difficult route with the many many snow fields mixed with having to go around a fair amount of rock. Homers Nose is a hard peak to climb with the snow we encountered. Finally at noon we arrived at the highpoint where we had a wonderful panorama of the southern Sierra. This was my 5th ascent in 28 years. While the others ate lunch I dropped down 500 ft to the east through heavy snow and re climbed about 460 ft for my 1st visit to the summit of the granite dome (with great technical rock routes on the sheer south face) for which the peak is named. I dedicated this climb to my 80 year old mother, Evelyn, who was watching from below at her home in Exeter.

Our descent was uneventful and we arrived back at our cars about 6pm. Thanks to all in the group for their good company and special thanks to Bill for co-leading and a splendid assist. Later I learned that Bill mis-represented the origin of the peak's name and it was actually named for Joseph Homer and that is a fact not to be sneezed at! --- RON

Royce Peak and Merriam Peak

July 13-14, 1991, Jim Adler, Karen Leonard

After introductions, the group set out up the Pine Creek Trail at 8 am. After the initial grind up the switch backed ex-mining road, after passing a spectacular waterfall on Pine Creek, we entered the beautiful Pine lakes area. We proceeded to Honeymoon Lake and from there we took the Italy Pass trail until reaching the second inlet stream of Honeymoon Lake at which point we turned southwest and took a route to the south side of the inlet stream to the pass between Points 12563 (Treasure) and 12470 which opens immediately onto Royce Lake #4. This was a pleasant route with easy terrain. We then turned south along the east side of Royce #4 and went over some snow and talus. We set up camp at about 5 pm at a suitable but very barren camp site between Lake #4 and #3 (11,700').

Dinner included a community salad. We also chatted with a lone fisherman camped at the lake, a retired miner, who among other things showed us his massive hiking staff which he had finely and decoratively hand carved himself from a 2X4.

Sunday morning we broke camp and left at 7 am to do the peaks. We left our packs near the south end of Lake #3. At this point all but one altitude stricken member of our group set out to do the peaks. We had been warned by a party who came in the week before to carry ski poles for stream crossings and snow. A week apparently made a big difference. Up until now no one had taken a pole off of their pack. We then headed for the saddle between Royce and Merriam (12,200'). In this drought year we were able to make it up to the saddle mostly off the snow, however some snow had to be traversed. Fortunately, the sun had been shining on the higher snow for some time and it was reasonably soft. The ski poles were handy but not essential and we left them at the saddle. From the saddle we worked our way up through class 2 bouldered terrain to the summit of Merriam and arrived just before 10 am. Only 4 of us continued on to do Royce, again leaving from the saddle. We reached the summit of Royce just before noon. We then rejoined those who had waited in the saddle and descended to our packs.

At about 1:45 pm we hiked west to the Pine Creek Pass Trail just below the pass and hiked out to the cars, arriving at about 7:00 pm.

The weather was great; the predicted "scattered thundershowers" apparently being scattered somewhere else. It was a great group and a fine weekend. Participants were: Ray Wolfe, Jim Coats, Mike Daugherty, Cyril Weaver, Hoda Shalaby, Kathy Price, and leaders.

A WONDERFUL RESTAURANT: WALKER PASS LODGE

On our way home from a great Memorial Day weekend with Igor and Suzanne Mamedalin's SPS trip to southern Sierra peaks, Kiet Luu and I stopped at the Walker Pass Lodge on 178 just west of 395. The proprietor asked if we had a reservation--from the looks of the place, one wouldn't have expected that, but from the quality of the cooking, it's worth making one to eat there! We were lucky and could be seated anyway, but call (619)377-4248, Bob and Suzette Whitsell, to make your reservation. The Whitsells have been running this place for two years now, they said, just the two of them, and the food is really special. We each ordered a steak dinner (Porterhouse and filet mignon) for \$14.95, and this included a tasty cold bean appetizer, marvelous garlic/cheese seasoned hot bread, a fresh salad with unique dressing, and a baked potato (and a vegetable?) The whole meal was really special, and more so after two hard days of hiking. Just make a reservation and try to keep it!

Karen Leonard

This was initially scheduled as a regular SPS outing, but due to snow conditions, it was cancelled, then led by Dave Petzold as a private trip so we could bring ice axes. As Dale VanDalsem had suffered an injury, only Bob and Gisela Kluwin, Ron Webber, and I decided to go.

We started after 8 a.m. from the Tuolumne Meadows kiosk parking lot after Dave, waiting first in line since 6(?) a.m., got the permit. Dave, Bob, and Ron climbed Vogelsang while Gisela and I continued to camp at the Isberg Trail junction.

The next morning, we packed to the start of the SW ridge of Florence, and Dave, Ron, and I climbed it straightforwardly, going around the right side of the false summit. We continued to the Lyell Fork of the Merced and camped about 1/2 mile upstream. The next day we climbed Foerster by two different routes, and, as Dave had already climbed Electra, it was left to the rest of us to climb that, too. We dropped down and passed by a short, large waterfall, and climbed up to an overlook of Lake 10,400', and climbed down to cross the outlet, and then over to the gentle NW ridge of Electra. The final 200' proved high 2 or easy 3. A register box with raised block print of "SRC" and "ELECTRA PEAK" held only a few pages of stapled notebook paper, so I left a book. We returned to camp by 7 p.m.

Since Dave had gotten his peaks, and no one seemed interested in doing Rogers (it was easier from the east) or Ansel Adams, we decided to pack out. For me, it was a 12-hour push, covering about 19 miles and 3,000' gain. There had been lots of great scenery, with innumerable falls and cascades, with snowy peaks to one's heart's delight. Warm weather, soft snow, and lots of mosquitoes!!

Pete Yamagata

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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