

The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 36

1992

MAY-JUNE

NUMBER 3



**DOUG & RANDY TOP OUT AT 29,028'
EVEREST, AND THE WORLD, AT THEIR FEET!**

SPS SPRING/SUMMER/FALL TRIPS 1992

JUNE

6-7 I: Glancho Pk
 6-7 I: Kern Pk
 6-7 I: Cartago Pk, Mt Nash
 20-21 M: San Joaquin + ?
 20-21 I: North Maggie, Moses Mtn

JULY

2-5 M: Emerald, Henry, McCas, Goetha
 3-5 M: Ruskia, Goodale, Striped
 11-12 I: Tom, Basin
 11-19 O/M: Shepard Pass, Williamsen, Tyndall, Junction, Keith
 23-24 I: Tunesah, Finger, Reinstain
 *23-28 M: Black Giant, Charybdis
 *25-26 I: Loos Pine, Mallory
 25-26 I: Silliman

AUGUST

7-9 M: Harrington, Kennedy
 *8-9 I: Morrison
 *14-16 M: Virginia, Whorl, Twin Pks
 14-18 M: Florence, Vogelsang, Rodgers, Pomeroy, Electra, Davis
 *15-16 I: Cedric Wright, Colossus
 *15-16 I: Birch, The Thumb
 *15-16 I: Johnson
 15-23 M: Goddard, McDuffie, Charybdis, Black Giant, Scylla, Flaks, Hawley, Mendel

SEPTEMBER

5-7 M: Peaks of Mystery
 *5-7 M: Dearborn, East & West Videtta
 5-7 M: Warren, Gilchrist, Snowden
 *11-13 M: Gabb, Hilgard, Julius Caesar
 12-13 O: Sawtooth Pass Trail Party
 18-20 M: Seven Cables, Gemini
 19 O: Alta Pk List Finish
 19-20 I: Smith, Siretta
 19-20 I: Striped, Goodale
 25-27 I: Arrow, Pyramid
 26-27 I: Basin Intro Trip
 26-27 M: Kearysye List Lead Finish

OCTOBER

3-4 M: Girard
 3-4 I: Gayot, Joe Deval, Pickering
 10 I: Goat
 10-11 I: Siretta List Finish
 16-18 I: Girard, Observation

SOME TRIPS MAY BE TENTATIVE DEPENDING ON CURRENT SNOW CONDITIONS.

* Trips with an "*" next to them require the \$3 permit fee with the SASE. Contact the leaders for details.

SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JUNE 10 WEDNESDAY
 "Climbing Mt Whitney - Classic Routes".
 Bill Oliver gives a presentation on the classic E Face and E Buttress routes.

JULY 8 WEDNESDAY
 "Forms of Expression" Mitch Miller's slides bring a rich artistic impression to many locations in the western U.S.

AUGUST 12 WEDNESDAY
 "Marine & Mountain Wildlife of the Pacific Coast" Brian Smith's show includes glimpses of the Galapagos, whale watching, and Washington's Olympic mountains.

SEPTEMBER 9 WEDNESDAY
 "Scrambles Amongst the Alps" Wayne Norman presents slides from his recent trip to the Zermatt area.

OCTOBER 14 WEDNESDAY
 "Kamchatka Exploration" Jon Otter shows slides from a Soviet region closed to visitors until 1991.

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!

PEAK INDEX

Cardinal Mtn	Lion Rock
Gemini	Mt McAdie
Goddale Mtn	Moses Mtn
Mt Irvine	North Maggie Mtn
Kamchatka Pks	Smith Pk
Mt LeConte	Spain HP
Liberty Cap	Striped Mtn
	Triple Divide Pk

Cover Photo: Training for Mt. Everest. L-R: Doug Mantle, Sherpa Joe Stephens, & Randy Danta without oxygen on summit of Mt. Haeckel, Sierra Nevada; 9/21/91. [Randy's trip report appeared in 12/91 ECHO. Photo by Bill Oliver.]

***** TRIP JUST ADDED *****

AUGUST 15-16 SAT-SUN SIERRA PEAKS
 I: MT LANGLEY (14,042'), CIRQUE PK (12,900'): Backpack in the Southern Sierra to climb California's southernmost 14000 footer. Sat climb Cirque (13 miles, 3600' gain), Sun climb Langley (14 miles, 3100'). Send SASE to Dan Richter, 808 4th St #107, Santa Monica, Ca, 90403. Permit limits size. Leader: Dan Richter. Assistant: Asher Waxman.

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

It is a true pleasure to announce to the full membership that long-time SPS'ers Doug Mantle and Randy Danta reached the summit of Mt. Everest on Sunday May 10, our time. On behalf of the Management Committee and the entire SPS I wish to congratulate Doug and Randy on their tremendous accomplishment. I'm sure we're all looking forward to hearing the details of their adventure.

The issue of Sierra Club climbing insurance is heating up again. In his article in the centennial issue of Sierra Magazine, David Brower has called upon the Club to reinstate mountaineering and river rafting insurance. His courageous reversal on this issue provides all Sierra Club mountaineers with a golden opportunity to apply increasing pressure for change in the current policy. I urge all members to first read Brower's article and then express your feelings, in writing, to the Sierra Club Board of Directors. Correspondences should be addressed as follows:

Anthony Ruckel, President
7356 East Princeton Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80237

For several years now the SPS has been involved in the Adopt-a-Trail program in cooperation with the Forrest Service to maintain the Shepherd Pass Trail. Chuck Stein, the current Coordinator, advises me that greater participation is needed in order to keep this program going. Trail maintenance is tough work but it does have its rewards. It's a chance to give something back to the mountains and to serve your Section as well. Chuck advises me that there are still many spaces available for the July 11-19 event which will also provide opportunities to climb in the Shepherd Pass area. Please show your support for this worthy cause.

Larry Tidball, SPS Treasurer, advises me that the Section has never been in better financial condition. He attributes this to the support of the large number of sustaining members, many of whom have contributed well in excess of the minimum \$25.00. So, many thanks to the full membership, especially the sustaining members, who's support has made the SPS so strong.

Meanwhile, the 1992 SPS climbing season is underway with a full schedule of opportunities. Once again, I wish to thank all of the leaders who have made this possible and I look forward to the time I will spend in the Sierra with my SPS friends. See you soon.

T. Oak

TOP OF THE WORLD

The SPS Management Committee wishes to congratulate SPS members and Everest summiteers Doug Mantle and Randy Danta. They summited Mt Everest on Tuesday, May 12 at approximately 6:00 PM. Their day began at midnight, when they left Camp 5 at the South Col to begin the 18 hour push to the top. An unprecedented 32 people reached the summit on the same day. Among these were the first Belgian woman and the first Israeli man to reach the top. Doug and Randy are the first SPS members ever to conquer Mt Everest. They left for Nepal in early March, and returned home safely in late May. Way to go!

Doug Mantle, 42, now has only Vinson Massif (Antarctica) and Mt Kosciusko (Australia) left to finish his quest for the Seven Summits. He was SPS Chair in 1975 and has received the Angeles Chapter's coveted Chester Versteeg Outings Award (1987). He is the only 3 time SPS list finisher.

Randy Danta, 42, has also received the Chester Versteeg Outings Award (1991), and was SPS treasurer in 1984. He has climbed the Swiss Matterhorn, and hopes to climb Mt McKinley in the near future. He also participated in last year's record-breaking HPS Olympics, when 33 peaks were bagged in less than 24 hours.

Special thanks to Randy's fiancée, Alice Bannister, and to Bill Oliver, for providing much of the above information.

Bob Sumner

ECHOES FROM OUR READERS

Rebuttal to the filler item in the Sept/Oct 1991 Echo.

In Echo #35-5 a brief item was reprinted from Backpacker magazine (Oct 1990 issue), claiming that Mountain Climbing is the "Most Dangerous Sport" with a fatality rate of 599 deaths per 100,000 participants. Second in this report was hang-gliding 114/100,000. Third was parachuting 24/100,000.

While some recent accidents involving our climbing friends remind us all of the potential for fatalities in climbing, the actual facts concerning the hazard are nowhere near the rates published from Backpacker.

The American Alpine Club publication "Accidents in North American Mountaineering 1990" reports that this same erroneous figure was also published in U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT. The AAC reports that the average number of fatalities in climbing accidents is 30 per year for the last 20 years. Here are the actual number of deaths in the last five years (The same period covered in the Backpacker report.)

Year	U.S. Climbing Deaths
1985	17
1986	37
1987	32
1988	24
1989	17
	Average 25.4

It is also interesting to note that foreign climbers killed in the USA are included in these annual totals, and they are not insignificant. For example; in 1989, 6 of 17 deaths for the USA that year were foreigners climbing Denali.

If the 599 per 100,000 figure was correct, using the 25.4 annual average, we could calculate that there are only 4240 climbers in the United States. This figure is obviously too low. I don't have an accurate total number of climbers in this country. The American Alpine Club estimates that there are over 200,000. If you use the figure of 200,000 climbers at an average of 26 fatalities per year, the rate is 13 per 100,000. This is a far cry from the reported 599.

Let's not spread around the erroneous report that mountain climbing is "so dangerous". We don't want any more problems with insurance companies than we already have.

Larry Tidball

Dear Editor,

Bill Oliver's articles; *A Tribute to the Honorary Members of the SPS* and *Climbing the Black Kaweah* were a pleasure to read. These articles, and hopefully more like them, provide an enjoyable and informative link to our club's past and the history of climbing in the Sierra Nevada.

I, like most climbers, enjoy thumbing through the summit register to see who has come this way before. Bill's articles provide me with an even deeper sense of history than looking at the summit register, and they also remind me that we, the SPS of today, are a part of the rich history of climbing in the Sierra's. Thanks Bill.

Wayne Norman

"A Return to the Peaks" by David Brower

[The following passage is extracted from the above-titled article in the May/June *SIERRA* :]

"I wish that every person who seeks to lead the environmental cause could experience the peak moments of a climb. Unfortunately, mountaineers no longer venture forth under the Sierra Club banner, and that causes me to reflect sadly on one of my most timid days, when as a Club director in 1988 I voted with my colleagues to sacrifice Club-sponsored mountain training and technical climbing in order to spare the organization an extra \$500,000 per year in payments for liability insurance. We thought we had no choice. Our insurers - who apparently knew little about mountaineering, but who did view the Club as ripe for accident claims - announced an abrupt and precipitous increase in the premium for "risky" outings involving the use of ropes or ice axes. So we axed our climbing sections.

"Sure, only about 4,000 of our then half-million members were participating in outings where technical-climbing knowledge was required, and there were many other wonderful ways to spend the premium money. But I was gloriously wrong in my decision to cut our climbers loose, and so was the Board. We should have put the half-million dollars in the Club's budget, sought financial and battle support from our allies, then fought like hell to straighten out the insurance business. With such a concerted effort - which I now urge - the Club would have assured continuity in the building of bold environmental leaders, so many of whom have come down from the mountains to save them. The world now needs these leaders as it has never needed them before."

Contributed by Bill Oliver

A VISIT TO THE REGISTER REPOSITORY

FEB. 28, 1992

Spurred on by articles in the Echo, I phoned the Bancroft Library, Manuscripts Division, (510) 642-8175, at 3 p.m. Wednesday, and spoke with the person in charge, a very pleasant Nicole Bouché, to have 5 cartons of materials waiting for us on Friday morning.

After a parking hassle due to only one hour meters and 75¢/½ hr. parking lots adjacent to campus (take BART or AMTRAK), we experienced a 20-25 min. delay between our arrival and registration and actually getting the standard archive boxes with the materials in their own separate simple paper folders. However, the staff was generous with their time in helping us look through the cartons and drawing out each folder.

The SCMRC index of Bill Oliver's is outdated, with many newer materials now in file. Also, some entries labelled "no significant historic material in file" now had some books or papers. The index that had been in the possession of the Library had no dates, only peak names, and we were glad to let Nicole make a copy from ours. She speculated that some Sierra Club person had made the SCMRC/Bill Oliver index.

I enjoyed checking to see that I was signed in books that were on peaks that I knew that I had climbed, and enjoyed seeing the many, many entries of so many SPS'ers that I knew. It was interesting to see the early 1900's sign-in instructions, as well as the signatures of the early Sierra Club climbers. The gross profanities of the 60's and later were an irritation, but I suppose future generations will know it as history (as in Star Trek IV). I encourage SPS people to make the trip or to support having a library transfer to view these materials, as I found such mildly rewarding.

Pete Yamagata

Resounding ECHOES

Bill Oliver

Sunday Peak - On & Off

[The February '64 ECHO carried a short trip report on Miles Brubacher's January 13th climb of Sunday Peak:]

The SPS ran a very pleasant winter trip into a new area - the Greenhorn Mtns, directly west of Lake Isabella. ... On Sunday, appropriately, a climb was made of Sunday Peak - 8,295', 2 miles round trip, 1,500' gain. Did you ever bushwhack in the snow? That's what it was near the tip. However, it was worth it. There is a fabulous view from the top of this peak. ... The group rendered a unanimous opinion that Sunday Peak should be added to the SPS qualifying list.

[The June '64 ECHO carried the following item by Chair John Robinson:]

Sunday Peak, the recently added high point of the Greenhorns, has been left off the revised list of SPS qualifying peaks. Several Section members have recently climbed to its brushy summit and returned highly critical of its addition to the list.

[Not to the worry - Sunday Peak now ranks #1A on the HPS list of qualifying peaks !]

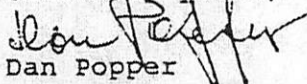
Dear Bill,

A minor footnote to your account of climbs of the Black Kaweah. The William Wright who accompanied Norman Clyde on his 1922 climb is the same as the W. H. Wright in my piece in the Jan.-Feb. 1990 Echo. I recall Wright's referring to the Black Kaweah, but not any other climbs, so I guess that was his major Sierra climb. In speaking of Norman Clyde, he told me, "Up in the mountains he is a regular mountain goat, but down on the plains....."

As you probably know, for most of the Sierra Club's history, an applicant for membership required two members as sponsors. When I asked Mr. Wright to sponsor me in 1940, he volunteered to get Will Colby as my second sponsor, even though we had never met. I was most grateful.

In Philip Smith's low-key account of the second ascent of the Black Kaweah, no reference is made to the route nor mode of access to the Big Arroyo. While today we think of back-packing as the normal mode, in those earlier days, the use of horses was general. While I haven't carried out a search, it is my impression that there is little reference to back-packing in the SCB prior to David Brower's "Far from the Madding Mules" account of his 1934 trip. For example, when Joel Hildebrand wrote (SCB 1933) of "The Light Pack Versus the Hearty Appetite," he was referring to pack animals, not back-packers, of which there is no mention. Of course, there was always Norman Clyde, the "pack that walked like a man," and most of the active climbers (i.e. from 1931 on) almost certainly knapsacked to their climbing venues, but that is different from a knapsack trip as such. The only party we met on the trail (i.e. except at the roadhead at Big Meadows and the CCC camp--no road--in Cedar Grove) was Prof. Hildebrand and a small party--with burros, on our 6-week backpack trip in 1933. I hadn't then, and still don't have, the slightest idea about the regularity or scarcity of earlier back-packing in the Sierra Nevada. A nice research project for someone, though there may be an account somewhere.

Sincerely yours,


Dan Popper

SPS LEISURE TRIPS

The SPS Leisure Trips program is beginning to take shape. In response to comments showing interest in the more northerly SPS peaks which are hard to reach on weekends, two trips have been planned for late in the season. One, on the dates of 15-19 October, will include all or some of the most northerly SPS peaks of Adams, Elwell, Sierra Butts, English, and Lola. The other, on the dates of 30 October-2 November, will include some of the Sonora Pass peaks of Black Hawk, Leavitt, Stanislaus and Disaster. What peaks are actually done will depend on the group, as will as the weather, and it is not necessary to climb all the peaks or stay the entire time. Those wanting more information should contact Rick Jali or Fred Camphausen.

A longer late September trip, maybe even a week, is being considered, as well as a most southerly peaks trip for even later in November. So far, there is nothing planned for August; suggestions are welcome.

Furthermore, there may be a better name for this than "SPS Leisure Trips" and again suggestions are welcome. However, the final selection will be made by those who actually come out on these trips.

Any comments or suggestions should be sent to Rick Jali, SPS Leisure Trips Coordinator.

Rick Jali
P. O. Box 1717
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(619) 934-8430

Yours truly,



ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

TRIPLE DIVIDE (12,634') & LION ROCK (12,320+')

August 30 - September 2, 1991

Igor and Suzanne Thomas-Mamedalin

Reserving a wilderness permit for 10 and receiving SASEs from 18 participants I sat back and waited for the four day weekend to arrive. After a virtually complete turnover in the participant list, eight climbers kept their commitment Friday morning at the Wolverton trailhead in Sequoia; two no-shows .. your names will live in infamy after I turn them in to the Section Prosecutors Office. This year the Sequoia rangers have added an new step to the wilderness permit dance; after picking up the reserved wilderness permit at the Lodgepole office, the participants meeting at the Wolverton parking lot had to be herded back to the Lodgepole office to secure individual vehicle parking permits!

From Wolverton at 7,200' we headed up the Alta trail to Panther Gap at 8,400' and then gained an additional 560' before reaching a trail junction near Mehrten Meadows. Here we dropped over 1400' to join the High Sierra trail emanating from Crescent Meadows. The leaders received a lot of well deserved heat for selecting the elevation detour over Panther Gap as a warm up. The .3 mile saving in distance was not worth the cost in needless elevation gain. Proceeding along the High Sierra trail we dropped further to Buck Creek. At this point the leader's cold caught up with him and reduced his pace to a snail's crawl. Suzanne, at this point, ably took over the lead and marched the group uphill to Bearpaw Meadow for lunch while the leader slowly crawled up the trail weighed down by double ignominy.

From Bearpaw Meadow a choice in routes presented itself: head northeast via the 'Over-The-Hill' trail or continue along the High Sierra trail to the branch with the trail that follows the course of Lion Creek. The map indicated that the 'Over-The-Hill' trail included another needless 1,000' of gain followed by its loss; however, park service employees recommended it. The map indicated that the alternate route had virtually no loss and was recommended by an HPS veteran; however, the Sierra Camp employee assured us that the High Sierra trail dropped 1,000' immediately beyond the camp. In the midst of mounting dissent and in the face of conflicting advice, the leader put his trust in the park service and boldly trailed the group as they headed toward Tamarak lake via the 'Over-The-Hill' trail. Luckily, this was the correct choice. Using an altimeter, the leader verified that this route encountered only 350' in needless elevation gain. Once over the hill, from the junction with the Elizabeth Pass trail, the group followed Lion Creek, gaining an additional 1,300', to Tamarak Lake and arriving in camp around 6:30 PM. The leader crawled into camp after 7:30 PM with Tanya, his daughter, carrying his pack the last quarter mile. What a start.

Saturday morning, feeling better, the leader started the group heading toward the low point between Lion Rock and Mt. Stewart by a circuitous route contouring around the cirque above Tamarak Lake - the leader's goal was to avoid a talus field at the bottom of the cirque. As we neared the inter-summit ridge, it appeared that an ascent of Mt. Stewart would not be gained from the north side: the north face is a worthy wall climb while from the east a mile long knife ridge could test the skills of an accomplished mountaineer. At this point Greg and Mirna Roach followed by Pete Yamagata signed out, with the leader's approval, to head for Lion

Rock via the standard route. The leaders and the remaining three followers proceeded to gain the inter-summit ridge and attempted to traverse the ridge to claim Lion Rock's summit. Alas, the ridge terminated in a problematic headwall forcing a retreat. After descending back down from the ridge, Suzanne escorted Hoda Shalaby back to camp, since time was running short, while Mark Frolli, Tanya and the leader raced toward Lion Rock's summit via the standard route on its southwest flank. The summit rewarded the climbers with excellent views and a register dating back to 1958 that survived not only the elements but also the covetous Sierra Register Committee. Everyone returned to camp in time to enjoy tasty munchies and the warmth of a setting sun.

Sunday morning found six climbers ambling along granite slabs and glaciated benches toward Lion Lake and Triple Divide beyond. The leader's illness slowed his progress again presenting an opportunity for Greg Roach, a provisional M-rated leader, to expertly demonstrate his skill in route finding. From Lion Lake we ascended north to 'Lion Pass', the low point west of the summit. From the pass we gained about 150' by following the ridge along its northern side to a prominent step. At the first headwall we dropped 25' feet to the north and then regained the ridge by an obvious chute. (Pete Yamagata circumvented the step by dropping a little further to the south and working back up to the ridge). From this point we followed the ridge by staying to the north and about 100' below the ridge across five or six wide chutes until the buttress directly below the summit. The whole route was basically a lot of loose class 2 rock. Greg and Tanya blazed a minor variation in the route and encountered some high 3rd class. On the summit we ate lunch, took photographs and identified distant peaks; the register proved to be rather dull: it was placed earlier that year by the local ranger and there were no photocopies of any historic registers. Pete Yamagata navigated us back off the summit with everyone reaching camp in time to shelter themselves from a thunderstorm that developed over the Great Western Divide.

Monday morning, nobody looked forward to the 15+ miles back to the cars. Again, at the first uphill, the cold sapped the leader and the group splintered. To save the leader from the grueling hump over Panther Gap, Greg and Mirna Roach kindly offered to drive the leaders' car around to Crescent Meadows. Following the High Sierra Trail out to Crescent Meadow took all day but it saved more than 1,000' of needless gain up a slope with a southern exposure. Many thanks to Greg and Suzanne for assisting and apologies to everyone for my ill health and circuitous routes.

SPS T-SHIRT UPDATE

The new redesigned SPS t-shirts should be available July 1. They will cost \$12.00 each, and will be available at the SPS meetings. The postage cost for mail orders will be \$2.00 per shirt. The shirt colors will be heather (grey), yellow, light turquoise, and raspberry.

Patty Kline

North Maggie Mtn. and Moses Mtn.

June 22-23, 1991

Ten hikers met in the Shake Camp parking lot early Saturday morning, then caravanned to the trailhead at Hidden Falls (See Notes on the Routes below). We left Hidden Falls about 7:30 and proceeded uneventfully to a very good campsite about 3 miles in, just before the trail crosses to the west side of the Tule River. After setting up camp, 9 of us set out for Maggie. We hiked north along the Tule River about 5 minutes, then turned right up a small gully. The gully soon disappeared, and we were entangled in some unpleasant brush. We then took a short traverse left, found the correct canyon and proceeded upward. Just after noon we stopped for lunch at the basin at 9000 ft. The original plan was to climb to the saddle between N. Maggie and Peak 10,023 then proceed south to the summit. Upon inspection, this route appeared full of brush, so we took a small steep gully to the west side of Maggie, turned left at the top, and all 9 climbers reached the summit without difficulty. We returned to camp to enjoy happy hour and a campfire after a long day.

Sunday morning the whole group of 10 set out for Moses Mtn. Steve Thaw provided the clue to a good route up Moses: a very large tree stump, about 20 ft. high, with some burn marks, on the left-hand side of the trail when hiking in. From camp we walked south to this landmark. Just below "Steve's Stump" we made an easy river crossing, then followed a gully up the mountain. An exciting moment of the trip was when we spotted a bear about half way up. Above the trees we continued to climb straight upward to a flat area, then followed ducks to the left (south). We reached the top of the main ridge at one point and continued southward on the left side. Finally, we took a chute up to the ridge-top again, and traversed the last few hundred feet to the summit. All 10 climbers were successful. We returned to camp, hiked out, and celebrated with a fine dinner at the Springfield Inn.

Thanks to Bob Hartunian for expert assistance, and to all trip participants: Jim Adler, Mike Kelley, David Petzold, Scott Sullivan, Tim Potts, Jack Miller, Judy Ware and Virgil Talbot.

Notes on the Routes. (1) Although not shown on the 1988 Moses Mtn topo, there is a good trail from Hidden Falls along the east side of the Tule River. This trail is especially useful early in the season, when river crossings are unpleasant at best. (2) The "obvious" route up Moses Mtn. is a gully on the north end of the mountain, easily visible while climbing Maggie. Unfortunately, traversing the ridge southward from the top of this gully is a tedious, slow, up-then-down mis-adventure. The comment most often heard about this route is, "We were all over that mountain!"

Happy climbing to all!

Kathy Price 10/23/91

Cardinal, Goodale & Striped August 4 - 5, 1990

Bill Oliver & Larry Tidball

Bob Wyka and Scott Sullivan set off with Larry and me at 6:10 am, all of us hoping to avoid the mid-day heat expected on the Taboose Pass Trail. Camp was established 3-1/2 hours later at about 10,380 ft, a gain a little in excess of 5,000 ft. Located close to Taboose Creek, our splendid campsite was amid a small, vestigial stand of shady conifers on the south side of a relatively flat area. It was also the terminus of a prominent gully leading SSW toward Striped, though the peak was not directly in view.

After lounging for an hour we headed off at noon, crested Taboose Pass and headed up the loose talus slopes south of Cardinal. I was not expecting this mountain to be such a crud-heap. As the altitude/gain began to weigh wearily on us, Larry and I barely avoided blows as we periodically argued over whose turn it was to sweep. Bob was increasingly put off by our lackluster pace. His leash cut, Mr. Helium Balloon lofted to the high point at 2:25 - nearly a half hour ahead of my sweeping arrival. Our gain for the day exceeded 8,000 ft. Rain and thunder were evident to the west, but our weather remained benign. Camp was eagerly reclaimed at 4:30.

Sunday we were up at 4:40 and enroute by 5:30, heading over the Pass a second time. Bob took my place as co-leader when the three of them struck out for the NE slope of Striped. I was not interested in another class 2 crud-heap. They topped Striped by 8:30 and made Goodale in another 1-1/4 hours. Taking a more 3rd-ish route, I peaked on the latter first, about 9:20, and reveled on its multi-monolith summit. My arrival at camp, via Taboose Pass, was only minutes ahead of my peak-bagging companions at 11:40. They had descended much more directly via the previously-noted gully, topped by lake 11,460. We broke camp at 12:25 and reached the cars at 3:15 - somewhat tired but much gratified.

Bill

McAdie, Irvine (& LeConte) July 20 - 21, 1991

Bill Oliver & Larry Tidball

Our SPS trip to McAdie and Irvine went "private" a week before departure when it appeared that ice axes might be needed in the high shaded gullies. Seven of us departed the Meysan Lake Trailhead at 7:45 - the late start in deference to those who needed no peaks that day. A majestic mountain-view camp was established at 11:20 in a level area just north of the lakelet at 11,135. Following a leisurely lunch, Bob Sumner and Paula Peterson set off to climb Lone Pine Pk by the popular NW slope route.

All Aminian and I took a southern trajectory at 1 pm toward Mt. LeConte. We alternated haphazardly between snow and rock in gaining the "plateau." Finally, at 3:50 the landmark cairn at the northern base was at hand. Among several route options, we opted for the NE face - first climbed by a party including Barbara Lilley in 1952 (four years before the founding of the SPS). Traverse around the NE side for about 200 yards, then head up chutes to the summit. This was superb high 3rd/low 4th class. Our route led us directly to the Sierra Club box. A large party would probably provide belays. Our rope remained coiled. Mt. Mallory was spared our transgression as All didn't need it a third time nor I a first. Camp was gladly reclaimed at 7:00 - not too late to indulge in Larry's legendary quesadillas.

Sunday we were up at 5:30 and underway an hour later. Larry came alive today and our climbing party was augmented by Herb Buehler and Janet Scott. Approaching Mt. Irvine by the NE ridge, we summited at 9 am. Our troupe then lost two as Bob and Paula broke off to climb Mallory. The balance arrived at Arc Pass by 10:00 and gazed in awe at the formidable-looking Mt. McAdie. Ice axes were not needed as we "handily" climbed the E ridge. High up on the right we crossed through a keyhole, which presently delivered us to a large, gaping notch - our goal tantalizingly close on the opposite side. Downclimbing to the left was easy high 3rd. Rather than ascend directly the steep opposite face, we took the peripatetic cairn tour to the register. In high spirits we signed in at high noon.

We were back to Arc Pass at little past 1 pm and then took the low point in the middle of the Irvine/Mallory ridge. The ridge's broad eastern slope gradually but inexorably sucked us into a fairly steep, narrow chute above Meysan Lake. Using ice axes and also proceeding cautiously due to loose rock, we finally debouched into the serene lake basin. Camp was re-taken a little past 4:00. Bob and Paula had checked out just ahead of us. Their ascent of Mallory went well but the return to camp was extended. Without ice axes, they were forced to traverse south and east below LeConte and then along the NE ridge before getting down loose, steep rock to Meysan Lake. The cars were reclaimed between 6:30 and 7:00. We were blessed with tranquil weather, fun peaks and an eager cohort of mountaineers.

As a group effort, our intrepid band was able to pull off in two days what Norman Clyde had taken thirteen years to achieve: McAdie - 1922; Mallory and Irvine (named by him for the then-recently lost Everest climbers) and Lone Pine Pk - 1925; and LeConte - 1935. Of course, all his climbs were solo and first-time ascents.

McAdie, a Mountaineer's Peak, was named in 1905 for Alexander McAdie, then in charge of the US Weather Bureau in San Francisco and later Harvard professor. The citizens of Lone Pine in 1895 honored Berkeley professor Joseph LeConte in naming the immediate area's other Mountaineer's Peak. "... A conical mass of rock about 150 feet high and 250 feet in diameter forms the apex of LeConte. After careful investigation we found this utterly impossible to climb. So we placed the monument on the north side of the dome where it can be easily seen by anyone approaching the summit." [From *Sierra Club Bulletin*, 1896; also in Peter Browning's "Place Names of the Sierra Nevada."] LeConte (1823-1901) vividly wrote about his 1870 journey: "Ramblings Through the High Sierra." His son, Joseph N. LeConte, "Little Joe," (1870-1950) also a popular UCB professor, was a Charter Member of the Sierra Club and a preeminent early Sierra explorer and climber.

Bill

KAMCHATKA VOLCANOES
21 July - 8 September 1991
Rick Jali

One of the interesting things about playing around with mountains is that one gets chances to wander off to odd parts of the world. The Kamchatka Peninsula is in the far eastern corner of the USSR, just west of the Aleutians, and contains all of its volcanoes, some 29 active and 300 others. This area was closed to foreigners from the 1917 Revolution until 1990, so we were among the first outsiders to even see these peaks, let alone climb them.

"We" were two groups; one was a group of volunteer geologists put together by Earthwatch Expeditions, the other was a group of climbers gathered by REI adventures. The trips were scheduled back to back, so I was able to join both.

The Earthwatch trip was first; it involved no climbing but a lot of interesting hiking in a very remote area south of Petropavlovsk Kamchatskiy (P.K.), the only really large city. We travelled by helicopter to Ksudach Caldera, which is very similar to Crater Lake, Oregon. There are two lakes, separated by a smaller inner caldera, formed in an eruption in 1907. We made camp and hiked around, looking for "interesting" geological features, taking rock samples and gathering statistical data.

Some of us also joined Soviet scientists on a backpack looking for hot springs near Khodutka, the next volcano to the north. It was supposed to be a 4-day 60 kilometer backpack; it turned into a 5-day 60 mile backpack! We never found the hot springs, but we got to see some real primeval wilderness. No maps, no trails, no other people, and no real possibility of rescue (at least not without real difficulty). At one point, we were navigating with a thermometer, as the river we wanted to follow back to Ksudach was fed by small hot springs which made it warmer than the others. We also caught salmon to add to our diet of grains and canned goods. There were bears around, but we never saw them.

We also visited the crater of Mutnovski volcano, which erupted in 1974. We went in onto the crater floor where there were still many active geysers, paint pots, and fumaroles, which made it both a fascinating and fearsome place.

Between trips, there was a gap, and the now-famous coup attempt. Where I was, all was quiet, and the worst part was trying to find out what was going on. A shortwave radio and the BBC really helped. The REI trip was first cancelled, but later resumed.

The REI trip was organized through a local climbing club, and several Soviet climbers accompanied us throughout, along with a cook for our base camps! Another helicopter took us to the base of Zhupanova volcano (2960 m, 9700 ft.) where we put our first camp at 1100 m (3600 ft.) This volcano, like all the others, rises quite steeply from a low elevation base. There are no really good places to put high camps so they are all done as day climbs. This eliminates backpacking, but does require a lot of gain, around 6000 to 7000 vertical feet in one day.

When we arrived, it was clear but very windy. We could see the two highest of the four summits along the summit crater rim. The next morning the wind had dropped, but there were high clouds. We started out hopefully, but as we rose the clouds thickened and dropped. About 2000 ft. below the top we were in the clouds and it was snowing. We continued, and reached a local high point on the crater rim marked with a large cairn. We were convinced that we had reached one of the two highest summits, probably (hopefully?) even the highest. We then rapidly descended, with the snow turning to rain as we got lower.

By the time we reached camp, we were quite wet and appreciated the hot tea our cook had ready for us. We dried out slowly, as it continued to rain for the next two days. (Continued next page)

On the third day, it cleared enough for the helicopter to pick us up and move us to another base camp between Koryaksk (3456 m, 11335 ft.) and Avacha (2760 m, 9050 ft.), two volcanoes very near P.K. Here was a small hut; we still slept in our tents, but had our meals there.

We set out for Avacha on another apparently nice day. But again, about halfway up, the weather deteriorated, and we finished the climb in a raging blizzard, with snow and very high winds. We knew we were on the crater rim because we could smell the sulfur, but we couldn't see a thing!

The next day was beautiful, and the strongest climbers set out for Koryaksk. I wanted a rest day, to enjoy the sun, and to take pictures. Besides, 9000 vertical feet is too much for one day.!

A few days later, we returned to the area around Murnovski (2490 m, 8170 ft.) and Vilyuchinsk (2560 m, 8400 ft.) volcanoes. In this area we did another climb, this time a snow climb with some rock at the top, but for once some really good weather and some very nice views and sun. This was a fitting and very beautiful finale to a very different and interesting trip.

Shortly thereafter, we returned to P.K., and started our trip home the same way as I had come; via Khabarovsk, Anchorage, and San Francisco. It was an interesting and enjoyable adventure, but after seven weeks in the USSR I was really glad to be back!

SMITH PEAK (7835'), LIBERTY CAP (7076') APRIL 22-23, 1992

Consonant with the demand for "leisure" peaks, I have been exploring lesser, non-listed summits, which, I believe, are eminently worthy of being climbed. These peaks have some degree of prominence, and good, unique views, and maybe a little technical difficulty.

The two that I climbed with Rex Smith both qualify in this regard. Smith is a rocky highpoint overlooking Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, with a view down the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, not attainable from any other summit. This peak we climbed from the Smith Meadow trailhead about 2 miles before O'Shaughnessy Dam on the Evergreen/Hetch Hetchy Road. It is about 6½ miles to the top with 3500' gain, all trail.

For a climb from Yosemite Valley when the Half Dome cables are still down, Liberty Cap proved a spectacular treat, consisting of about 4½ mi. and 3,000' gain from Happy Isles via the Nevada Fall trail, with a little class 2 after leaving the trail. There are some very photogenic specimens of Jeffrey Pine on top, comparable to the world-famous Jeffrey now deceased on Sentinel Dome. All of this with the massive South Face of Half Dome looming above! We left registers on top of each of these, having found nothing.

We also attempted adjacent Mt. Broderick, but were stymied by a "Cl. 3," "steep friction" pitch which was too exposed for my taste without a rope.

There are certainly many other "leisure peaks," such as Crystal Crag near Mammoth, and about 50 named summits in the Tahoe area which I am involved with via the local "Peak and Gorge" section. Certainly, more can be found, and since most people apparently climb without regard for any "list," there is no need for shame! Pete Yamagata

Another Approach to Gemini
by David Campbell

Gemini is usually climbed, often in combination with Seven Gables, by coming in from the west, via the Florence Lake ferry. Camp is usually set up near Sallie Keyes Lakes and the climb is made by crossing Selden Pass and then heading east over intervening ridges and basins. In September, 1991, John Otter, Jack Archibald and I climbed Gemini (12,900 ft.) by an approach I've not seen mentioned in the SPS Echo. As it turned out to be a little unique and interesting I thought I would like to share this information. The route was first suggested by John, though I talked him into starting from a higher location than his original choice, the warm springs along the San Joaquin River.

We camped at 9720 ft., where the John Muir Trail crosses Senger Creek. There are numerous good camp sites there, some not so obvious, but only a short walk east of the trail. The route follows the right side of Senger Creek, through pines, then meadow, then up through more trees to a second meadow. Continuing along the creek it rises again to pass right of three good size lakes at 10,400 ft. Following the inlet stream coming in from the northeast one encounters a thousand foot slope on the way to the Turret Lakes. Careful route selection can provide one of several class 2 ways up it. Past upper Turret Lake climb to the ridge at 11,800 ft. This long, high ridge continues directly to the base of Gemini, another 1.5 miles away, with very little elevation loss. There is one drop of about 120 ft. near the beginning, but it can be descended class 2. The final 1000 ft. climb to Gemini is on the normal route. We climbed both summits; the northern one is higher.

From the campsite at Senger Creek to Gemini this route follows almost a constant compass course to the northeast. The distance is 4.5 miles one way. The net gain is 3200 ft. and the total round trip gain only about 3800 ft. We took 4 1/2 hrs. on the ascent. The long high ridge leading toward the summit seemed somewhat like an elevated highway.

MOVIE REVIEW: K2

Mountaineering movies come along once in a blue moon, so I was anxious to see K2. I heard mixed reviews about this flick and must give it the same.

The scenery and airborne shots were good, and gave a person a sense of what it is like to be up high on a big peak. The scenes with the porters were realistic, and the problems of dealing with them were adequately demonstrated. The film had plenty of action and adventure, and the crowd seemed to like it.

On the other hand, the acting was average, the dialog was dumb, and the plot was lame. Many of the scenes were overly dramatic, where "real life" mountaineers would have been more rational and cautious. Some technical details were laughable, like the self arrest on 45 degree + hard ice, but in general it was a believable albeit fictitious movie.

The bottom line: decent entertainment if you leave high expectations at home.

Bob Sumner

IN HIGH PLACES: SPAIN

by Burton A. Falk

Question: The high point of Spain is located in A.) the Pyrenees, along the country's northern border, or B.) the Sierra Nevada, east of Gibraltar, fronting the Alboran Sea.

Answer: Spain's highest point is neither the Pyrenees' 11,178' Pic d'Aneto, nor the Sierra Nevada's 11,418' Mulhacen. Rather, it is Pico de Tiede, a 12,198' dormant volcano located in the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean. Mainland Spain lies 650 miles to the north-east; the nearest continental land mass is Africa--Cape Juby, Morocco--sixty miles to the east.

Yes, it's true. In spite of their distant location, the Canaries are a full-fledged part of Spain and proud of it. The archipelago, in fact, comprises not one but two provinces of the Iberian Country, and the islanders enjoy all the benefits of Spanish citizenship.

In terms of geology, the islands are of volcanic origin and quite mountainous. Whether they were once part of the African continent or if they arose from submarine fissures on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean is subject to conjecture. Although most geologists now favor the latter theory, some botanists dispute the idea, pointing to the similarity of plant life found on the Islands and the African continent.

Pico de Tiede is located near the center of 795 sq. mi. Tenerife (ten-er-ri-fay), the largest of the seven main Canary Islands. The volcano lies on the north rim of a large, 7,000' high caldera, which itself is entirely encompassed within the boundaries of Las Canadas National Park. From the coastal cities, access to the area is provided by an excellent paved road that bisects the caldera from northeast to southwest. Within the Park, rugged, barren volcanic formations drenched in hues of green, violet and red make for splendid views.

Tiede



On a warm, sunny August morning, my two companions and I stood at near the base of Tiede anticipating a pleasant day of climbing. We had parked our car at the 7,775' elevation, next to a locked gate at the Montanas Blancas roadhead, 2-1/2 kilometers east of the Teleferico (a popular tourist attraction), just off the main Las Canadas N.P. Highway.

An hour's stroll up the well-graded Montanas Blancas road brought us to a trailhead, where a sign indicated that the Refugio de Altaguista lay above. We paused for a drink of water (remember to carry plenty, there's none available on route), then began our ascent of Tiede's extremely rugged eastern flank. It took us an hour on the well-bullt, switch-backed trail to reach the Refugio, situated at 10,690', a substantial building with a spectacular view. Climbers who wish to spend a night at this lodging may arrange to do so in advance at the Park Headquarters, which are located near the base of the Teleferico.

Setting out again, we soon came upon a short side trail leading to an ice cave, Hielo Cueva, which in mid-August contained only a small patch of ice in its deep, dark recesses. It took us another 70 minutes to reach the wrought iron crucifix at Tiede's summit, where we were content to rest and enjoy the

superb vistas for nearly an hour. Below us, barren slopes dropped away to forests of Canary pines, then to fertile terraced gardens and vineyards, and finally to the villages and resorts along the shoreline. The islands of Gran Canaria, to the east, and Gomera, to the west, appeared to be floating on a shimmering silver haze. It was gorgeous. We also noticed an occasional whiff of rotten eggs, which reminded us that it was an eruption in 1492, observed and commented upon by Christopher Columbus on his way to the New World, that formed the 600' summit cone upon which we were standing.

Our descent was swift and spectacular. As we sped down the trail, we could see, ten thousand feet below, an afternoon fog beginning to roll onto the north shore of the island. The most exciting part of the day was our discovery of a shortcut--a long scree slope--located a quarter of a mile beyond the end of the trail, just off the Montanas Blancas road. We flew down this incline, keeping our speed under control only by plunging our heels deep in the loose aggregate. It was the best scree I have ever run; my only regret was that I hadn't brought along gaiters to keep the gravel out of my boots.

Four hours should be allowed for the ascent of Tiede, plus another 2-1/2 hours for the return. If one includes an additional hour to be spent on the summit, it is still easy, with an early start, to make the climb and be back on the coast that evening, enjoying a dinner at one of the excellent shoreline restaurants.

If a member of your party--say a long-suffering spouse, for instance--is not interested in the fine, wholesome sport of climbing, there is an alternate means by which that person, too, can enjoy the wondrous views from the top of Tiede.

The Teleferico, a gondola, which lies out-of-sight of the Refugio trail, can in 10 minutes whisk your non-climbing companion to a terminal 600' below the summit, leaving only a half-hour hike up a well-trodden trail to complete the adventure. On the day of our climb, we found the Refugio trail to be virtually deserted--until we came to the junction of the trail leading from the top of the gondola, that is. At that point we encountered a small mob of tourists, most of whom were dressed in light-weight resort clothing and fragile footwear, struggling up and down the final rocky portion of trail. They looked quite uncomfortable in the cold, thin air, where the temperature was at least 30 degrees cooler than at the beach resorts they had left that morning. They, on the other hand, probably thought that we dusty, aweat-stained climbers were crazy for going to such unnecessary effort when the gondola was so readily available.

The gondola, it should be noted, is frequently closed, even in moderate winds, due to swaying. When a closure does occur, climbing is the only way to reach the summit. No matter how one reaches the top, however, the view from the summit is well worth the effort.

Las Canadas National Park offers several other fine hikes and climbs, including a day-long traverse of the south-eastern caldera wall. The Parador Nacional de Las Canadas, a government-run hotel located near the foot of Tiede, is a convenient and hospitable spot to base any exploration of the area.

Pico Tiede can be climbed year-round, although occasional snowfalls do occur in the winter months.

The Compleat SPSeR

by Bill Oliver

The Handheld GPS Receiver

Tired of being lost? Need new direction in your life? Have trouble finding the North Star? Can't figure out magnetic declination? How about something that's immune to whiteouts, blackouts, and brownouts. The Global Positioning System [GPS] is a constellation of (soon to be) 21 Dept. of Defense [DOD] satellites which orbit the earth twice a day. With a GPS receiver, users can determine position information from anywhere in the world in 3-D (latitude, longitude and altitude). The nominal accuracy of positioning is +/- 15 meters in commercial models. [The military versions are much more accurate, but DOD controls and purposely degrades the particular signal received by commercial versions.]

The cheapest model offered by Challenge Electronics, Inc. [Warren, New Jersey] is their Sony Pyxis GPS model - \$995.00 (no sales tax to Calif.; S&H \$18.50 by UPS or \$28.50 overnight). Weight with 4 AA batteries is 1lb 5 oz. For more info/brochures call them at 1-800-LAT-LONG. [Topos not included.]

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Enroute to a trip in the Western Sierra, Barbara Cohen and myself stopped to eat at DeCicco's Italian Restaurant in Sanger. It is located behind the McDonalds on Academy Ave. Prices ranged from \$7 to \$19 for dinner entrees, which included the usual host of pasta offerings, and several chicken and fish choices. Pizza and veal also.

The restaurant was nearly empty on Friday evening, and we were seated promptly. The waitress tried real hard to spill water all over me, but quick hands prevented an embarrassing blunder. Fake flowers and real candles were present on every table (they forgot the candle on ours). Clean restrooms and decent ambiance, especially for Sanger.

The fresh Italian bread was very good. Everything else was average: soup, salad, spaghetti, ravioli, and tortellini. Ho-hum. We asked why the sauces on the spaghetti and tortellini were so watery. "Because the sauce is fresh" replied our waitress. (One wonders what thick sauce would mean). The lasagna was the only item worthy of a star.

If DeCicco's was in L.A., it would bomb. Big time. But in Sanger, it's as close to paradise as you can get.

Bob Summer

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