

# The Sierra



# ECHO

VOLUME 36

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MT. EVEREST: THE SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

**SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS**

**DECEMBER 9 WEDNESDAY**  
**SPS ANNUAL BANQUET. "Mt Everest: Peak-bagger's Delight". Randy Danta and Doug Mantle will share their expedition.**

**JANUARY 13 WEDNESDAY**  
**"Broad Peak". R.J. Secor will show slides from this 26,400' peak in the Karakoram of Pakistan.**

**FEBRUARY 10 WEDNESDAY**  
**"Mt Mera & Island Pk". Dave Petzold will present slides from his recent trip to Nepal.**

**MARCH 10 WEDNESDAY**  
**"Kings/Kern Divide". Larry Tidball & Bill Oliver show slides from a climbing trip in this scenic area.**

**APRIL 14 WEDNESDAY**  
**"K2". Peter Green will show slides from his trip to the second highest peak in the world.**

**MAY 12 WEDNESDAY**  
**"Mt. Hood". Pat Christie & Nancy Jensen will present slides from their climb of the highest peak in Oregon.**

**JUNE 9 WEDNESDAY**  
**"Aconcagua". Dave Dykeman will show slides from his climb of the highest peak in South America.**

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!

COVER PHOTO: Randy Danta (left) and Doug Mantle returning to Camp 4 at the South Col after summiting Mt Everest. Photo taken by Guy Cotter, the New Zealand guide who led the summit. Photo provided by Randy Danta.

**SPS SPRING TRIPS 1993**

APRIL

17-18 O: Trail Maintenance Chuck Stein, RJ Secor, Fred Camphausen

MAY

1-2 I: Homers Nose Greg & Mirna Roach

15 I: Crag, Smith, Jackass Erik Siering, Dan Richter  
 15-16 I: Olancha Greg & Mirna Roach

22-23 I: Muah, Sawtooth #1, Lamont Barbara Cohen, Charlie Knapke

JUNE

4-7 M: Cirque, Trail, Muah, Cartago Leisure Trip Rick Jali, Fred Camphausen

12-13 I: Moses, North Maggie George Toby, Patty Kline  
 12-13 I: Colosseum, Cedric Wright Maris Valkass, Igor Mamedalin

20-27 I: Iron, Foerster, Electra Leisure Trip Fred Camphausen, Rick Jali

JULY

9-13 O: Trail Maintenance Chuck Stein, RJ Secor, Fred Camphausen

SOME TRIPS MAY BE TENTATIVE DEPENDING ON CURRENT SNOW CONDITIONS.

PEAK INDEX

Adams Pk	Lone Pine Pk
Alta Pk	Mt Mallory
Cartago Pk	Malaysia HP
Castle Pk	Mt Muah
Cirque Pk	Pyramid Pk #2
Deerhorn Mtn	Mt Reinstein
Dicks Pk	Mt Shasta
East Vidette	Sierra Buttes
Mt Elwell	SirrettaPk (2)
English Mtn	Smith Mtn
Finger Pk	Spanish Mtn
Mt Florence	Tinker Knob
Freel Pk	Tunemah Pk
Mt Langley	Vogelsang Pk
Mt Lola	West Vidette



## ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

Time does fly when you're having fun. It really seems like just yesterday that I wrote my first "Echoes from the Chair." Now, with my final effort, I'd like to recall some highlights from the past year and give some due credit to a few individuals.

Certainly the Section's outings program was once again a great success. And, one again, I'd like to thank Outings Chair Barbara Cohen and all the leaders for making it happen. This has truly been a year to remember and I'm already looking forward to next year.

T-shirt sales have been better than any of us expected. The Management Committee has authorized Patty Kline to order 75 more shirts.....so get them while they last! Get some for Christmas gifts or whatever. Anyway, many thanks to Patty for her effort.

The Management Committee was finally able to revise the SPS Policies and Procedures. I'd like to thank Vice-Chair Bob Sumner for his effort. As a matter of fact, I'd like to thank Bob for all the support he has given me this past year. I owe him a lot!

My goals as Chair have been simple: keep the Section going, have a busy outings program, have a great banquet and do all of this without any ego trips or political nonsense. I'm thankful to the entire Management Committee, especially Larry Tidball and Bob Wyka for their thoughtful support in helping me realize these goals. See you at the Banquet!

*David Regal*

*SPS Chairman*

### WAYNE'S WORLD

Congratulations to new ECHO Editor Wayne Norman. He will be taking over the editorship of this newsletter starting in January 1993. Please support him by: sending in your trip reports, both public and private; sending in photographic contributions, both for the cover and the interior; sending in short articles of Sierra and/or mountaineering interest; and sending in any other items that will help keep the ECHO the #1 newsletter around. I know Wayne will do a great job, so let's help him out however we can.

*Bob Sumner*

# ECHOES FROM OUR READERS

Dear Editor;

This is a response to the comment about "outlaw climbs" at the end of the Resounding Echoes at the bottom of page 8 of the Sep-Oct 1992 Echo. It may be of interest to the current membership.

## RESOUNDING RESOUNDING ECHOES, AND OUTLAW CLIMBING Rick Jali

In the early days of the SPS, and amid the controversies between "climbers" and "hikers", the term "outlaw climb" was used for any outing done by SPS Members, but not scheduled by the Section. It was not derogatory; the term today would be "private trip". Lots of outlaw climbs were done and descriptions of them were often printed in the Echo.

The origin of the term is obscure, but it may have originated with the (Seattle) Mountaineers in the late 1930's, and is related to the founding of REI. At that time, ice axes were very expensive and difficult to obtain in the USA, as they had to be imported from Europe. Thus, few climbers had them or knew how to use them properly.

In spite of this, however, the Mountaineers had evolved a method for "herding" large numbers of people up snow climbs. Climbers would be tied into roped groups of 8 or 10, and 3 or 4 such groups would traverse upward back and forth across a snow field. Below each group would be 1 or 2 "lieutenants", who would rush to stop anyone who started to slide downwards. Below the lieutenants would be the "captain", or leader, who would watch over all this, and direct additional lieutenants to trouble areas as required.

Only the captain, and some of the lieutenants, would have ice axes and any knowledge of their use. The others might have walking sticks or staffs, or nothing at all. As a climber got through (survived?) a number of climbs and got experience, he would be "promoted" to lieutenant, and given ice ax training and helped to find an ice ax of his own.

In 1938, REI was founded to solve the problem of obtaining ice axes and other climbing equipment that was otherwise not available. Soon, many climbers were buying their own ice axes from REI and going out on their own climbs. The Mountaineers' leadership became very upset about this, not only because they felt these climbers were inadequately trained, but more because it threatened their supply of future lieutenants for their scheduled climbs. So at one point the Mountaineers actually outlawed the unauthorized use of ice axes by their members. But the climbers continued such "outlaw" climbing anyway, and this is probably the origin of the term.

(continued)



The end of the story is that the "outlaws" fomented a revolution and shortly thereafter elected a slate of candidates that formed a majority of the Mountaineers' Board of Trustees. The policy was changed, new climbing methods and training programs were formed, and climbing went on in a more modern way. This story is told in more detail in the book, "REI, 50 Years of Climbing Together", by Harvey Manning.

Since the SPS was founded shortly after all this took place, the term "outlaw climb" may have come along from this source. I would be interested to hear from any other SPS Old Timers about this subject. (to be continued?)

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## **CONSERVATION** By Mary Sue Miller

Seemingly remote to concerns about the Sierra Nevada is the population issue. However, many conservationists argue that the crux move to resolving any conservation concern is population stabilization. The Angeles Chapter and the national Sierra Club support this viewpoint with their educational and financial resources. They recently witnessed a stunning 11th hour victory when the 102nd Congress appropriated \$430 million for international population assistance programs. The Sierra Club will build on Congress' new awareness of the importance of family planning to arm for an appropriation of \$725 million in the fiscal year, 1994. Dare we envision that the Amsterdam Declaration that states the U.N. goal of making family planning accessible to all families on the globe by the year 2000 will be feasible because of growing U.S. support?

As escapees from the LA basin via Highway 14, we have witnessed the dramatic impact of population growth in the Lancaster-Palmdale area. We may be seeing a similar impact soon along the I-5 escape route. The Los Angeles County Planning Commission has already approved a factor, outlet development for the intersection of I-5 and State Highway 138 just south of Gorman. The Sierra Club opposes the project on the grounds that it will pollute the underground aquifer, negatively impact air quality and wildlife habitat including the Condor Recovery Project, and compromise the area's famous spectacular wildflower displays in the early spring. You can express opposition by writing the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors at the Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, CA. 90012.

Bishop resident and long-time SPS member, Campy Camphausen, reports that a new Sierra Club group has formed encompassing Inyo and Mono counties. Apropos the area, they have aptly named themselves, The Range of Light Group. The SPS Management Committee is in favor of our pursuing communications with this group and with the long-standing Eastern Sierra Committee in order to keep us more closely informed with Sierra conservation and use issues.

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## **NEW PEAKS LIST**

The 16th edition of the Peaks List has been approved by the SPS Management Committee and is available from the SPS Secretasry. Because only minor changes were made, it will not be distributed to all members. There were no changes to the content of the list per se.

Peaks with the same name that were formerly differentiated by the numbers #1 and #2, are now differentiated by S (south) and N (north). The index has been moved to the first page where it is easy to see. The paragraph on emblems now recognizes achievements beyond first list completion. Typographical errors were corrected.

Bill T Russell 10/92

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Bob Wyka

Congratulations and thank-you to the latest SUSTAINING MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS: VI GRASSO & JOHN DODDS

## New ECHO Subscriber

L. M. Giles  
4142 W. 175th St.  
Torrance, CA 90504  
310-370-2766

## Reinstated Members

JOHN O. OAKDEN  
25052 Via del Rio  
Lake Forest, CA  
92630  
714-768-7730

CHRIS SHAW  
1630 30th St. #215  
Boulder, CO 80301

JOHN DODDS  
1505 Kirker Pass Rd  
#157  
Concord, CA 94521  
510-827-9139

## New List Finishers

GEORGE TOBY  
Alta Peak #37  
DAVE PETZOLD  
Sirretta Peak #38  
TINA STOUGH  
Bloody Mtn. #39

## New Emblems

BRIAN SMITH  
Mt. Kaweah #516  
HENRY ARNEBOLD  
Humphreys #517

2ND Sr. Emblem (Climbed  
qualifying peaks twice)

R. J. SECOR  
Taylor Dome  
11 Oct 92

## Address Changes

MARIO GONZALEZ  
707 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA  
90017

TINA STOUGH  
4832 E. Third St.  
Long Beach, CA  
90814

MIKE MANCHESTER  
5100 Via Dolce #102  
Marina del Rey, CA  
90292-7209

## Phone No. Change

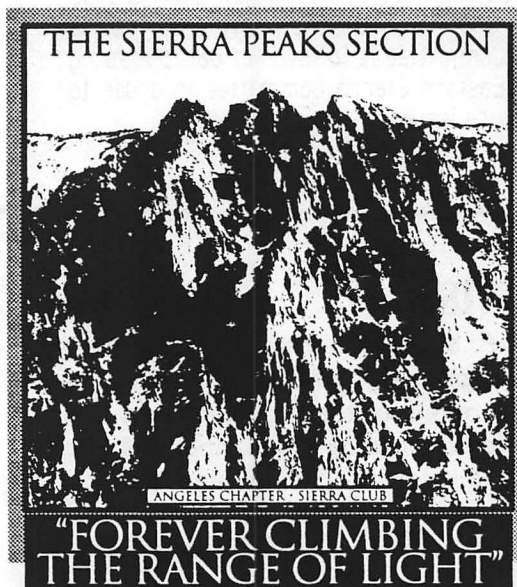
FRANK SANBORN  
707-459-4852

## SPS T-SHIRTS

After having sold most of our stock of 150 T-shirts, I am happy to say that we have 75 more new ones. Wynne Benti-Zdon did a great job of designing the front and back. The front has a view of North Palisade and the back has the entire SPS list by geographic area.

They are priced at \$12.00 in 3 colors: ash (sweat-shirt grey), fuchsia, and yellow. There are 3 sizes: medium, large, and extra large.

Buy them at the Banquet or at an SPS meeting. Mail order them through me specifying color and size and enclosing a check (payable to Sierra Peaks Section) for \$14.00 (\$2.00 to cover shipping).



Patty Kline  
20362 Callon Drive  
Topanga Canyon, CA, 90290

(H) 310-455-1956

## PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

I'm working toward my senior emblem and would be grateful to be led to CLARENCE KING and NORTH PALISADE. Mario Gonzalez, (213) 614-2344.

WANTED: Plastic Boots Women's size 7 - Contact Vi Grasso at (W) 310-826-5202 or at (H) 310-207-3875.



## MT. EVEREST PUZZLER

[From the last *ECHO*:

Using only eleven of the twelve letters in "**Mount Everest**," rearrange the letters to come up with a single new word. Hint: the new word could describe Everest summitteers like SPSers Randy Danta, Doug Mantle and Ang Karma Sherpa. Bonus points if you can also provide a two-word solution. Communicate your response to Bill Oliver by mail or home phone message no later than 11 November to appear in the next *ECHO*. Solutions will be announced at the 9 December Annual Banquet.]

A single correct response was received - that from Jim "The Everest Puzzleman" Raiford:

Dear Bill,

I suppose the eleven-letter word you are looking for to describe Doug and Randy's climb of Mt. Everest is **Venturesome**.

As it turns out we could reverse this and get a two-word answer: Some Venture. Another possibility is Stout Veneer. But I think the words you are actually looking for are

**Utmost Nerve**.

If you permit a little freedom, we can find a phrase using all twelve letters: Sure to Meet NV (envy). And if you permit that, you'll have no trouble with U to Men 're Vets or, considering the danger of the mountain, we get Sure T' Veto Men or U See Torment.

Now that we've beaten that horse to death, how about the native name of the mountain - CHOMOLUNGMA.

We discover what it takes to climb the high mountains: Mo' Macho Lung.

If we want to discover where they got water, from Randy Danta we get A Dandy Tarn. If I complain how hard it is to climb these mountains, from Doug Mantle I get Lament U Dog!

Anyway I'm obviously very busy so I must sign off.

Sincerely, Jim Raiford

[Original source: The Sunday Puzzler - heard on radio station KCRW, National Public Radio, Morning Edition.]

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## Resounding *ECHOES*

Bill Oliver

(Continued from last *ECHO*. The main issues on the 1957 election ballot were whether the SPS should sponsor climbs of Class 3 peaks, should Humphreys and North Pal be approved for Emblem status and, if so, should Mt. Sill be dropped as an Emblem Peak. The balloting results appeared in the December '57 *ECHO*:)

### Class Three Landside

Mt. Humphreys and North Palisade need only the formality of recognition by the Mtn. Committee to assume their place on the list of SPS Emblem Peaks. The membership saw to this by approving the addition of both peaks by substantial majorities. It was Humphreys by a landslide, 48 to 17, while North Pal won a closer contest, 38 to 27. The proposal to eliminate Mt. Sill went down to a crushing defeat, 53 to 12, substantiating reports of its great popularity. This leads to the precedent-breaking situation of two emblem peaks being immediately adjacent (Sill and North Pal). There are now 14 emblem peaks, with 10 still required to attain the badge.

The issue of whether the SPS should schedule 3rd Class trips was settled with the biggest majority of all, 61 to 5 in favor. However, almost every pro vote was qualified to the effect that safety should be strongly stressed, and higher than class 3 should be left to the RCS. (66 out of 94 questionnaires were returned.)

(The Emblem List attained its current complement of 15 peaks in 1966 with the deletion of Mt. Sill and the additions of Mt. Clarence King and Split Mtn.)

# ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

SIRRETTA LIST FINISHER  
10-10-92  
DAVE PETZOLD

Well, after better than eight years of knee-popping abuse I've finally finished The List! I'm particularly happy that I was able to do this with the company of my entire family and climbing friends too numerous to name here. This is not the end of anything. I intend to continue climbing, although, perhaps not quite as aggressively as I have been. Here's how the day went.....

23 climbers met at the Sirretta Peak trailhead in Big Meadow. After signing in we started up the trail at about 9:00 AM. We followed the trail, taking the right fork at the junction almost to the saddle east of the peak. From there we followed a ducked use trail to the top.

Once on top, corks flew, cameras popped, and I got more champagne on me than in me. It was truly a great celebration, lasting more than an hour. Finally, Gene Mauk led a short cut route back to the trail and back to the cars. On the way back, what I had done began to sink in. The SPS List is a monster and I was very proud that I had finished.

Later that evening a tremendous potluck dinner was enjoyed by all. Dinner was followed by a warm, friendly campfire which allowed me to recall some experiences with those in attendance.

I'd like to thank all who attended and shared my joy. I'd especially like to thank Gene Mauk, Vi Grasso, Bill T. Russell, and Jim Murphy for being assistant leaders.



List Finishers (from top left): Jim Murphy, Dave Petzold, Bill T Russell, RJ Secor, Vi Grasso, and Gene Mauk. Photo by Pat Christie. Provided by Patty Kline.



George Toby SPS List Finisher  
Alta Peak 11,204' Sept 19,1992

It was a beautiful sunny day and 27 SPS'ers joined me on the easy hike up to Alta Peak. It was 4100' gain but we had wings on our feet and never noticed it. There was trail all the way. We started at Wolverton in Sequoia Park. The trail goes to Panther Gap, Mehrten Mdw, and up to the peak. What a glorius occassion on top. Congradulations, good will, and mirth abounded to the tune of popping champagne corks and all those hugs and kisses from our lovely Sierra Club ladies. Among the prominent hikers on top were list finishers Gene Mauk, Bob Emerick, Roy Magnuson, and Vi Grasso. Vi finished just a year ago on Stanford. She was the 36th finisher; so I am 37th.

As is my coustom the assistant leader leads down. So Al Conrad lead the charge down and I was the sweep. Then as the crowd thinned out and I was strolling along in the rear, it really began to sink in that I actually did it. The chase was over, and I really did not want it to end. It seemed that all was at peace and even the mountains were smiling at me to share my joy. What a great satisfying feeling.

Wayne Wurzburger dashed ahead to ice down the drinks and with the help of the McCoskers, Martha Flores and others prepared three picnic tables in a row for the party at Lodgepole Campground in Sequoia Park where most of us were camped. The party continued with 36 people. There were moutains of food, many toasts, more champagne, wine, beer, and soft drinks to celebrate the double whammy of the list finisher and my 71st birthday. I was 71 the day before. I am now the oldest list finisher. Norm Rohn formerly held the record at age 68. The party continued well into the night. Mary Motheral brought a big pile of wood and kept the fire going. Gene Mauk and Al Conrad MC'ed the party. I want to thank all those great folks that gave birthday cards and such nice gifts. The three "Marys", Mary Sue Miller, Mary McMannes, and Mary Motherall performed a song and dance number to the theme of "Gorgie Porgy". It was a happy, rousing party and I thank all the good SPS'ers that made it possible. All that food they brought, Wow.

Ron Jones had previously announced that he intends to become the oldest list finisher, and will hold off finishing until the year 2003 on San Joaquin Mtn. He only has two peaks to go. I wish him good luck and hope to be with him when he does it.

My utmost thanks to the many leaders, climbers, and hikers that helped me climb all those peaks as I plodded along thru the years to get there. My first peak was Mt. Lyell in Yosemite in 1965.

Happy Climbing

*George*

CONGRATULATIONS

The SPS Management Committee would like to express a sincere thanks and congratulations to Dave Dykeman, who became the first person to ever lead all of the peaks on the SPS list. Dave completed this quest on September 26 by leading Kearsarge Peak. Good job Dave.

## Mt. Muah (11,016') & Cartago Pk. (10,480' +)

June 6-7, 1992

Igor and Suzanne Mamedalin and Ron Jones

We advertised this spring climb in the Southern Sierra as an 'introductory' SPS outing. Enough people believed us and at one point we had over 33 participants signed up for the trip. Saturday morning, after a fine breakfast at BJ's in Lone Pine, Ron and I showed up at 7 AM sharp at the Lone Pine Ranger Station to pick up our individual permits. To accommodate the large number of participants, two permits for 15 each were surreptitiously obtained after listening to the obligatory 15 minute video on the Sierra wilderness and hiking etiquette. The latest tip on the preferred method for dealing with used toilet paper is to pack it out .. don't bury it or burn it.

Arriving at the Horseshoe Meadow roadend a couple of minutes after the appointed 8 AM departure time, the leaders found 28 eager participants chomping at the bit ready to stomp the trail. Dark grey clouds accompanied by intermittent drizzle discouraged two participants and their dog from leaving the cozy confines of their vehicle. Hence, at 8:30 AM, a throng of 26 hikers along with two dogs headed down the trail toward Ash Meadows. Heading across the Horseshoe Meadows and up to Trail Pass we joined the Pacific Crest Trail. Six to seven miles later and after a couple of ups and downs we reached Ash Meadow. While the tail end of the Chinese dragon was catching with the head end, the leader ventured into the meadow to find water. Potable water was found about 1/2 mile east of the where one first sights the meadow from the trail; at the western most end (1 mile from the trail) of Ash Meadow there was enough water to form a running gurgling stream. We decided to camp at the 1/2 mile point on the northern edge of the meadow.

After a leisurely lunch at our campsite, we headed for Mt. Muah which lay directly northeast of our campsite. Only 18 participants showed interest in the peak. Less than an hour from camp the first bunch of climbers led by Suzanne gained the summit amid flashes of distant lightning and peals of thunder. With electricity in the air everyone hastened to sign the register and vacate the summit for safety. All that started from camp made the summit; for several summiters, Mt. Muah became their first Sierra peak. We appreciate the WTC, and its BMTC predecessor, for generating such summit fever among each successive generation of hikers and climbers!

Returning to camp, everyone headed for their camping stoves to partake in the 'gourmet' wilderness experience. Extravagant dishes were prepared and presented to Ron Jones for his seasoned judgement. Darrell Lee won the 'wilderness gourmet' crown, along with a bottle of fine wine, with his fresh chicken fettuccini entree prepared from raw ingredients right there at the 10,000'+ camp spot! Mountain House and Richmore .. we're putting you out of business. We appreciated everyone's enthusiastic participation in this contest .. there were many good dishes prepared and presented to be enjoyed by all.

Sunday morning, fourteen hikers set out for Cartago Peak following the Pacific Crest Trail until almost due west of the peak. From that point we traversed the headwaters of Death Canyon regaining the crest with some expert navigation help from Greg Roach. Once on the main crest, we gained the Cartago summit plateau only to be baffled by at least a dozen 50 foot summit of relatively equal height. After climbing one false summit, Ron and Greg found the true summit with a register at the southeast corner of the plateau. Everyone, including one dog, climbed the correct summit block and then headed back to camp by retracing the steps of our approach. About two miles from camp the clouds caught up with us and amid thunder and lightning hail fell covering the surrounding hill sides with a fine white coat. Arriving back in camp, drenched, by 4 PM we were greeted by Jim Kilberg and a few other participants that stayed back that day to enjoy some exploration in the camp's locale.

After breaking up the camp in haste, everyone headed back down the trail toward the cars. Along the way the clouds receded and the sun broke through in time for a fine sunset. Tired and exhausted, the group slowed its pace sending the more energetic participants on out toward the cars. The leaders along with the stragglers arrived back at the parking lot in the dwindling twilight recounting and recalculating the exact mileage covered that day .. was it 18, 21 or 24 miles? From the sign out sheet left at the cars, we determined that everyone had safely returned from the wilderness and proceeded to head down the hill for dinner at BJ's in Lone Pine and a long drive home. Many thanks to Suzanne and Ron Jones for assisting and to everyone for making this a successful and enjoyable trip.



**DEERHORN, EAST VIDETTE & WEST VIDETTE SEPT 5-7, 1992**  
**TIDBALL/OLIVER**

Labor Day weekend at the Onion Valley parking lot was a zoo. Arriving Friday night, the lot was jammed full, cars everywhere (and people in sleeping bags hoping not to be run over by late arrivals). Saturday morning we awoke from our spot between two parked cars to find that someone had set up a tent in the drive aisle 2 feet from the trunk of our car. (They were still in the tent when we left an hour later.) I had a permit for 8 people, and we assembled at 7:00AM. Mario Gonzalez had slept on the porch of the Ranger's trailer so as to be first in line. He got his own permit, and then we were 9. Also grouping in the parking lot was Scott Sullivan's CMC trip to the same area. We ended up camping next to each other at Vidette Meadow and sharing happy hour and the campfire, but did not conflict on our peak objectives. Besides the leaders and Mario, our group consisted of: Delores Holladay, Barbee Hoffmann, Paula & Bruce Peterson, Tom Sakowych, and Charlie Knapke.

After backpacking over Kearsarge Pass, we arrived at Vidette meadow where we met by previous arrangement: Greg & Mirna Roach, Dale Van Dalsem, and Judy Ware. They had all come in a few days early to climb some extra peaks, fish and just relax. After trying to fit our food bags into the crowded bear box, our original 9 started for **East Vidette**. We hiked up the John Muir Trail through 2 stock gates. Then following the recommendation of Greg & Mirna (they climbed the peak the day before), we left the trail, crossed the creek and headed up the peak. At this point 2 of our group decided to head back to camp as they expected the climb might be too much for one day & jeopardize their chances for Deerhorn the next day. I waited where we left the trail for Barbee to catch up. She had forgotten to bring her camera from camp, and had run back to get it. On the way to catch up with the group she smelled smoke as she passed a campsite. A deserted smoldering campfire had flared up just as she was passing. She threw a burning log in the creek, and was a one woman bucket brigade bringing water, one liter at a time, from the creek to pour on the hot coals of the campfire. In the meantime Bill was leading the balance of the group up the gully just north of the East ridge of East Vidette. We caught the group about 2/3rds of the way up the gully, and we all continued on up to reach the East Ridge just past a gendarme. From here the route was up the class 2-3 ridge to the summit. After returning to camp we shared a massive Happy Hour (including a great bottle of wine carried in by Mario) with the CMC group.

Sunday was planned as a big day with Deerhorn and W. Vidette scheduled. We headed up the hill south of Vidette Meadow and soon intersected the use trail on the west side of Vidette Creek. We follow this trail up to the Vidette Lakes, and then past the last big lake we headed for **Deerhorn** by angling up the right side of the canyon wall up a gully & slabs. This avoided the talus slope directly at the head of the main valley. At the base of the NE buttress of the NW peak of Deerhorn we took a break, and Bill & Tom went searching for water. The ponds they had expected to find near the peak were dry, and they were out. Unsuccessful, the group shared their water around. At this point, Judy decided to wait here while the group did Deerhorn.

We headed up the NE buttress of the NW peak through the obvious line of weakness. This was a little steep & loose so we had to be careful with a group of 12. Part way up the face of the buttress, I intersected a use trail coming in from the talus field to the right. This route was not visible from below. Soon we gained the crest of the buttress, and following many ducks we climbed up almost to the summit of the NW peak before traversing to the saddle between this peak and the main summit. At the start up the traverse some ducks lead up, and some lead down to sandy ledges with footprints. This looked like the way to go, but turned out to be a dead end. After climbing back up, the correct way was found. This whole buttress is fun 3rd class. From the saddle we went up the ridge directly to the summit. The summit area is small, and we took turns on top while signing in, and then headed back to the saddle for lunch. Several of the group commented on the high quality of this peak and climbing route. It was fun.

Back at the base of the buttress, we found a bit of glacier runoff amongst the boulders, and the thirsty ones replenished their bottles. At this point those wanting **West Vidette** left the rest of the group to traverse to that peak. Bill led the remainder back to camp, and Dale signed out to do W. Vidette at a slower pace with Judy. My unflagging group of Mario, Tom & Barbee headed off for the SE slopes of the peak. Two ridges of the West Spur must be passed before reaching the correct basin. We traversed at about 11,700'. It looks easy to pass the second intervening ridge at this altitude but there is a big cliff on the north side of the ridge, and we had to drop down about 200' to enter the correct basin. Once in the basin, it was over moraine & talus to reach an obvious right angling 35-40° ramp. This ramp leads to a slope above that continues up and right to reach the south ridge 2 bumps from the summit of **West Vidette**. After a quick sign in, we headed down the North Ridge to reach the top of the NE chute at 12,000'. We went down this chute towards the lower Vidette Lakes and the use trail back to camp. This chute is very loose and we were glad we didn't have to go up it! We arrived back in camp at about 7:00PM. Dale & Judy came in about an hour after dark to join the happy hour already in progress. Great Peaks, Great Day!

Sunday Dale, Judy & Tom signed out to do more climbs on their own. The rest of us had a leisurely hike out to Onion Valley.

Larry

MT. FLORENCE & VOGELSANG PEAK

Sept. 17-19, 1992

Bob & Anne Wright

Anticipating a glorious fall weekend in the Sierra, we picked up our permits at the Tuolumne ranger kiosk at 8:30 Friday morning and headed out toward Vogelsang Camp via the trail that follows Rafferty Creek. To assure a leisurely trip we added a day to Igor Mamedalen and Larry Tidball's August 5-6, 1989 route.

Spotty clouds became dark thunderheads over Vogelsang camp so we decided to climb Vogelsang on the way out and push on closer to Florence. By the time we reached Vogelsang Pass it was hailing. Thunder showers followed us down the other side to Lewis Creek, where there are some good campsites in the trees. We chose one to the right of the trail near where Florence Creek cascades down a granite face on its way to Lewis Creek. We were 7 1/2 hours and 11.5 miles on trail from Tuolumne Meadows. We had climbed 2,200 and just descended 1,760 ft. from Vogelsang Pass to 9,160 feet.

A break in the weather allowed us to heat some soup and hang our food. The ranger had shown us one of the new bear proof food containers but told us the mountaineering shop only rented them in the summer. A poly-vinyl tube with a screw-on top it weighs under 3 lbs. and is bomb, or rather bear proof. We weren't overly concerned because on the way in a CCC trail party told us they hadn't seen a bear in this canyon all summer.

In the morning there wasn't a cloud in the sky, but there were claw marks on the dead tree leaning over our tent. With day packs we hiked a short way back up the trail to find the use trail that Mamedalen and Tidball described. It ascends southward and upwards through the forest on the east side of Florence Creek. There are three beautiful lakes above, we followed the north shore of the first and then stayed south of the rest. Florence Lake, identifiable by its east finger, is at 9,851 feet. You climb through big, but stable talus to lake 10,541 where you head toward the prominent saddle at 11,200 ft. From there it's a straight shot to Mt. Florence at 12,561 ft. Dale Van Dalsem had signed the register the month before, "climbed from the south." And yes, Van Dalsem later told us, "the southern route is easier." Our return trip was a retrace, but be advised not to drop down too quickly from the summit to the west. You may find yourself bush-whacking.

In hindsight, it was good for us to get a leg up on the Florence climb. Because of the cross country travel, it took us 10 1/2 hours to climb 3,400 feet in 7.5 miles. We spent the night at our same campsite on Lewis Creek.

Sunday was warm and sunny; the bears didn't get our food and the leaning tree hadn't fallen. It was an easy hike over the pass to Vogelsang Peak. We avoided the talus in the gully ( we had enough on Florence) by hiking west - close to, but south of the trees where we dropped our packs. At the base of the cliffs we contoured south to the saddle and from there it's an easy walk-up to the peak at 11,516 ft. 9 hrs., 12 3/4 miles, and 2,333 ft. climbed - This was our easy day.

## MT. LANGLEY & CIRQUE PEAK

(SPS Scheduled Trip)

August 15-16, 1992

**Leader: Dan Richter, Asst: Asher Waxman**

Myself, Asher Waxman, Devra Wasserman, Erik Siering and John Dodds met Saturday morning at the trail head to the Cottonwood lakes at 6:00 am ready for an early start. We packed in and made camp just NW of Cottonwood Lake #1. We approached Langley from the next bowl north of the Old Army Pass and found it to go smoothly over class 2 talus and rock. This is an excellent route which seems much better and less round about than either the New or Old Army Passes.

Thunder clouds were threatening so we hurried to the summit of Langley and stayed just long enough to sign in and then beat a hasty retreat. After we descended to the plateau from the summit area we got a bit wet and were regaled with thunder and lightening about the summit as we returned to camp.

Sunday we slept in till seven, broke camp and moved our packs to South Lake and headed out for Cirque. We approached the peak from Cirque Lake and found easy going up the East Ridge and the chute to its left. If I were to take this route again I would go directly to the ridge from South Lake. We had a delightful lunch on top and all congratulated John on his return to Sierra peak bagging after a hiatus of some years.

We returned to our cars via the lovely South Fork trail and were out early for the drive home.

Dan Richter

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## SMITH MTN., SIRRETTA PEAK, September 19-20, 1992

**Leaders: Jerry and Nancy Keating**

Mild, cloudless weather favored this SPS Southern Sierra outing.

Nine persons signed up, but three withdrew and one other person was a no-show.

Smith Mtn. (9,515') was climbed Saturday morning from the north via a forested route that required about one hour of cross-country hiking for the five participants, including Keats Hayden Gray. Then the group motored over Sherman Pass to Big Meadow where we took the Twisselmann Trail to 9,500 feet, then followed a well-ducked route WSW to Sirretta Peak (9,977'). Four participants reached the peak in two hours, while the fifth relaxed at the trail's high point. Noted the register contents was the book placed in 1963 by an SPS party led by John Robinson.

We car camped and had a pleasant fire Saturday night along Salmon Creek about 150 yards below the trailhead and Sunday morning declared the trip officially ended so the drivers could proceed home via Kernville at a leisurely pace. Doug Hatfield and Betty Jones, however, opted first to complete a quick climb of nearby Taylor Dome.

—Jerry Keating



SPANISH MTN  
October 10, 1992  
Bob Sumner/Barbara Cohen

This trip was originally scheduled as a Goat Mtn dayhike, but a few weeks before, the leaders realized the errors of their ways and switched it to Spanish Mtn. With this in mind...

The best way to start a west side trip is to leave early, and the leaders did just that. By 4:30 Friday afternoon, we were at The Sawmill in Shaver Lake consuming deceased duck (with orange sauce) and other tasty morsels. Then on to the Rancheria Creek trailhead where we idled away a couple of hours until bed. Very decadent and very relaxing.

The hour before sunrise saw ten participants sleepily preparing for the hike: Paula Peterson, Diann Fried, Maria Giles, Jim Brown, Charlie Knapke, Erik Siering, Jim Raiford, Rex Hyon, Keith Martin, and Donna O'Shaughnessy. We announced a 6:45 AM departure and the rebellion commenced. "You said seven on the phone!" shrieked one. "I won't have time to make coffee" grumbled another. And so the grumbles continued. The leaders took pity on the minions and mercifully granted an extra 15 minutes. Two no-shows, however, were placed on the permanent waiting list.

By 7 AM we were chugging along the trail. A fire off to the west had fouled the air to a lower quality than LA air, and the visibility was perhaps four miles. We kept a decent pace despite the stench, and by 11:40 AM had topped Spanish Mtn. Our route had been: east on trails to the saddle near Wet Meadow, then southwest to Lake 8632, then x-c south and around Pt 9613, and over Pt 9850 and on up to the 10051 summit. A cool breeze greeted us there, though the visibility remained poor. A 45 minute stay was offered and readily accepted by all. Twelve large lizards lounged on the rocks and enjoyed the October sunshine, and they basked with smiles on their faces.

We returned to the trailhead at the same moderate pace and 4:20 PM saw all present and accounted for. This was the last SPS trip of the year for most, and we were happy to have done it. And happy to commence happy hour. Charlie's hood became our table, and soon it overflowed with chips and dips, cookies, strawberries, cake, beverages, and other desirable munchies. Rex prepared some excellent dumplings for us, which were well received. Rex had an impressive hike and will soon be joining the SPS.

As darkness neared, the campfire was joined. Soon Barbara and Keith were alternating jokes, most of which left us gasping for air. Personally, I will be avoiding gamblers and chewing gum after hearing their humor. The medley continued for a couple of hours, and by 9 we were hitting the sack on this fairly warm autumn night.

Sunday morning saw the group splintering into two fragments. Donna, Maria, the Jims, and leaders converged for breakfast at The Shaver Country Kitchen in Shaver Lake (open 6 AM to 2 PM ) before driving home. Good grub. Paula, Diann, Charlie, Erik, Rex, and Keith hiked up Three Sisters, having departed early in the morning. Their hike went well, but they returned to find Erik's vehicle had a dead battery. A pair of jumper cables remedied this, and all returned home safely.

This trip was ... well ... fun. As they all should be.

*Bob*

SPS LEISURE TRIP; NORTHERN PEAKS

15-18 October 1992

Leaders: Rick Jali and Fred Camphausen

After enormous difficulties, mainly in getting used to the very long lead times for Schedule and Echo announcements, we finally did the first SPS Leisure Trip, to the northernmost five peaks on the SPS List. At one time, there were six SPS'ers signed up, but finally there were only Rick (this writer), Campy and Ski (Campy's wife).

On Wednesday, 14 Oct, we drove to Hallelujah Junction, 22 miles north of Reno, and then west through Chilcoot, and north again to a USFS campground. This night, like all the others, was a car camp (this is a Leisure Trip, remember?). The next morning, we drove to Frenchman Lake and then followed Forest Service roads towards Adams Peak (8197'). We had both USGS topos and the USFS Plumas NF map, but not all of the roads are shown, so we had to guess. Good thing both of our cars were 4WD! We got to a point about 1 mile north of the peak; later we found we could have driven even closer.

From there it was about an hour's walk to the summit. There was a register. It was a nice day, with good views. After an early lunch, we descended, drove out through Chilcoot and Portola (enjoyed the Railroad Museum), and after dinner in Blairsden, continued south to the Lakes Basin for our second camp.

The next morning (Friday) we set out from the campground along good trails to Mt. Elwell (7812'). The Lakes Basin is well named; the 3 mile trail passed numerous beautiful lakes set in forested basins. The peak was soon reached; no register was found, but again we enjoyed an early lunch on a lovely day with great views.

That afternoon, we drove south to scout the approach to Sierra Buttes. At Packer Lake, we saw road signs pointing towards the peak. We followed them, through increasing difficulties. Soon it was 4WD time again, and by the time we had reached the end of the road, we were only 1/4 mile from the summit lookout! If the rest of the road had not been closed, we could have driven to the bottom of the 100+-step ladder leading to the lookout. Again, no register (the lookout was closed), but great views. Later, we drove on to Sierra City, where we had a delicious dinner at an old inn called Busch & Hutchinson (sp?), and then drove on to our third camp at Jackson Meadows Reservoir.

On Saturday morning, we set out for English Mtn (8373'). The USFS Tahoe NF map showed a road to English Mountain Ranch at Jackson Lake, but this is private and closed, so we started from another road about a half-mile north. We went cross-country to the west of the rock buttresses on the north and then up gentle forested slopes to the summit rocks. The high point is near the south end of the rocky summit ridge. The peak could be equally easily approached from Forest Service roads on both the east and the west. There was a register; and again good weather and views.

(Continued)

This time it would have been simpler to have stayed in the area and cooked dinner in, but this was a Leisure Trip, so we drove out to Sierraville for dinner.

We returned in time to find the Mt. Lola trailhead, near where we had camped the night before. What we did not find was a road going south between the designated trailhead and the last cattle-guard to the east. This road is not marked but it parallels the trail for about two miles; finding it would have greatly reduced our hiking on Sunday.

Sunday morning was overcast, windy and cold. But we set out for Mt. Lola along the trail. After going through forest with bright fall colors, a meadow with a beaver dam and up a long slope, we arrived at the summit. No register, but lots of "ruins"; rock walls built as shelters. We stayed behind one, but not for long. We quickly returned to our cars and set out on the drive back home, satisfied that we had reached all of our objectives.

In many ways this was the SPS at its best. We had used the List to guide us through new country, and had not only enjoyed some good hiking and climbing but also seen some very beautiful places which none of us had seen before. And we had plenty of time for other sights and pleasant dining as well. It was a very successful first Leisure Trip.

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Lone Pine Peak and Mt. Mallory  
25/26 July 1992

Bob Wyka and Al Conrad

Six climbers met at the Meysan Creek trail access road off of the Whitney Portal Rd at 7 A.M. We gained elevation quickly on this clearly marked trail arriving about 1100 A.M. at the 3300m contour on the 7.5 min map. Here we left the trail at a sign labeled "Grass Lake" and proceeded SSW about 1/4 mile to a nice camping area just south of Grass Lake and within sight of the scree slope leading up to Lone Pine Peak. The peak was climbed by all after lunch and we were back in plenty of time to have a happy hour and to finish eating dinner before dark.

On Sunday we were off at 6 A.M. minus two climbers whom elected to have a leisurely hike out. From our camp we climbed in the wooded area west of Grass Lake then followed the stream which took us up to the upper Meysan Lake. From the south end of the lake we headed south to an almost snow free and easy third class chute. When I was here two weeks earlier this chute was full of snow and required ice axes. After reaching the flat it was an easy climb reaching the summit at 9:30 A.M. Retracing our steps down we were back out to the cars at 3 P.M. The weekend weather was perfect and almost mosquito free! Many thanks to Al and to the participants Ellen Miller, Eric Lesser, Delores Holladay, and Hoda Shalaby whom all made it a really enjoyable weekend.

*Bob*



FIVE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PEAKS Sept. 23-28, 1992 Urs & Don Slager

Pyramid Peak #2 (9983)

We hiked to the base of the peak from Highway 50 up the Rocky Canyon drainage. The hike goes quickly, but there are no views until about 8500 ft at the top of the drainage. There is a good trail until it disappears in a heavily grazed meadow at which time it, or cow paths, appears from time to time. The last several hundred feet are up some very large but very stable talus blocks.

The view down to the lakes below illustrates the name of Desolation for this wilderness.

Dicks Peak (9974)

A trail from Fallen Leaf Lake begins after a couple of miles of road, which is blocked by a locked gate. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile beyond the gate the Forest Service has built a major parking area with rest rooms and plenty of parking but, for unknown reasons, has not yet opened the gate. The trail joins the PCT after a few miles, and the PCT ascends to Dicks Pass. From here there is a use trail over a small black rise, and then several paths lead up to some class 3 rock which is probably avoidable. We came down a ravine with much sand and loose rock but is quite easy and safe hiking for a small group.

It would be a very pleasant hike except for the tendency to "improve" the trail by dumping a layer of unstable rubble over the path. However, much of the rubble is placed between a boundary of 6-8" wooden beams which are much easier on the feet.

No register was found on the peak. It may be incorporated into a most impressive circular wall of stones built as a wind shelter.

Tinker Knob (8949)

A good trail goes up on the north side of Squaw Creek for about 4 miles, joining the PCT about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the north of Granite Chief. The PCT is in good shape and goes past the foot of Tinkers Knob in another 3 miles, after first descending about 500 feet. The summit is a very easy climb of about 200 feet.

Castle Peak (9103)

There is a "Castle Peak Area" parking lot about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of Donner Summit. From here we went directly to the base of the peak and up a loose drainage to the summit area. We climbed what appeared to be the highest summit block only to find a register book with a note by Pete Yamagata that the true summit was the second one to the east. This has the 40 foot of Class 3 on the south side with many firm holds; it presented no problem.

From the peak we could see the PCT and a route to it which appeared to save a lot of bushwhacking. The PCT crosses a dirt road which leads to the parking area, but the PCT goes parallel to the Interstate back to Donner Pass. Either walk on the road, or cut toward the Interstate on a conspicuous use trail to avoid walking  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile on the highway.

(Continued)

### Freel Peak (10,881)

We have hiked this area from several directions, and prefer the following route: Turn off the Pioneer Trail on Oneidas (about 8 miles from downtown South Lake Tahoe). Oneidas continues as a paved narrow road about 5 miles to a gate which is usually locked. Follows the now dirt road keeping left at the N. Fork of Trout Creek drainage, where there is a use trail, steep and sandy in places, up to the new Tahoe rim trail at a saddle. From here the remnants of a relay station can be seen on Freel Peak. Freel can be reached directly after a short rocky scramble. Alternately, the Rim Trail can be descended about 400 feet, skirting the North side of Freel and hiking cross country a short distance to the drainage between Freel and Job's Sister (which is almost as high as Freel). Here a trail goes the entire way to the summit.

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## **REINSTEIN, FINGER & TUNEMAH August 21-24, 1992**

(A private death march)

When I do a *Death March* I don't want anyone around to share in the gore. This trip's stats total 64 miles and 16,000' of elevation gain. It's bad enough to do it to yourself, let alone leading some unsuspecting folks along. So with time available this summer, I decided to climb these distant peaks alone.

After driving up to Shaver Lake Thursday night, I got my permit at the Ranger Station when it opened at 8:00 AM. After driving into the Wishon Reservoir "Woodchuck" Trailhead, I got a nice early 10:00AM start. Logging along the highway had the road closed intermittently in several areas. This day I backpacked up over Crown Pass and down to the trail junction at 9100' on the North Fork of the Kings River arriving at 7:00 PM (18mi./3700'gain).

Day 2: I moved camp up to Portal Lake, grabbed my daypack and headed for **Reinstein** using the good trail that goes as far as the lake between Division & Battalion Lakes. From there, easy slopes lead up to the peak. Heading back towards camp, I intersected another use trail leading from the south shore of Pearl Lake, past Chapel Lk. and on to Midway Lk. From here it is cross-country to **Finger Peak**. I continued South from Midway Lake about 1/4 mile, and then turned sharply Left to avoid dropping into a valley. I climbed up the side wall of this valley, staying high (just below a band of cliffs) until I reached the talus at the head of the valley. From here I crossed to a chute at the right side of the valley, and soon reached the Kettle Ridge divide at 11,360' (just at the "R" in "Ridge" on the 15' Mt. Goddard topo.) From here it is across the slopes and up the talus blocks on the west ridge of **Finger Peak**. By the time I got back to camp it was another 9 hour day (14mi./5600'gain). You can save 2100' of gain on day 2 by doing Finger on day 3 on the way back from Tunemah. But you add 1000' of gain to the already long day 3.

Day 3: From Portal Lake I ascended the use trail just left of the creek to reach Midway Lake, and retraced my route up to the Kettle Ridge divide. From here it is a 900' drop down into Blue Canyon and past the 2 lakes at 10,400', then it's up to the 11,400' pass over the divide into Alpine Creek. After dropping down to the creek it is only 1400' of gain to the summit of **Tunemah Peak** via the SW slopes. The register of this seldom visited peak is a *Who's Who* of SPS list finishers (and almost no one else). After retracing my route back to camp back over the 2 divides, and arriving there at 3:30, I packed up and moved camp back to my first campsite along the N. Fork of the Kings River. (14mi./5400'gain) 12 hours.

Day 4: I backpacked out to Wishon Reservoir, (18mi./1300'gain) grabbed a quick 25 cent shower at the Wishon Village RV Park, and headed out to Shaver Lake for a late lunch.

These peaks are a lot of work, the trails are very dusty from all of the horse traffic, but the Blackcap Basin, Blue Canyon and Alpine Creek are beautiful areas.

Larry Tidball

## Shasta On The Fourth

Bob Hartunian 7-4-92

Back in May, I was called by a woman named Izzy who wanted to climb Mt. Shasta on the Fourth of July. She thought it would be enjoyable to experience fireworks on the slopes. After checking out her physical abilities, I agreed that a few sparks were still left in me, so we made plans.

Good information for climbing Shasta can be obtained from the Five Seasons climbing store, 426 N. Mt. Shasta Blvd., Mt. Shasta, CA, 96067, if you request copies of Mt. Shasta Climber's Review and Mt. Shasta/Castle Crags Wilderness map; both mailed to you for \$10.01. Call them at (916) 926-3606.

On with the story. I flew to Sacramento, got picked up in her MB 450 "camping sedan" and we eventually drove to the town of Mt. Shasta. Like Rainier, Shasta dominates the area, visible from at least 50 miles away as a stationary white cloud. It had snowed several days before, leaving a foot of new, consolidated snow down to 7500' - perfect for climbing.

The standard southern route on Shasta is known as "Avalanche Gulch" which starts at Bunny Flat trailhead on Everitt Highway #A10 out of Mt. Shasta. Base camp is usually located at Helen Lake (10,440'), about 5 miles from the car and 5 miles from the top. A maintained trail leads from the trailhead 2 miles to a Sierra Club stone cabin (7900') with a caretaker, camping spots for tents and good running water, but too close to cars for the base camp. From the cabin, a path of flat stones leads upward to a use trail switchbacking on a rocky glacial moraine that blends into Avalanche Gulch. We took out ice axes and moved up the Gulch in soft snow and burning sunlight to the bench of Helen Lake.

After setting up camp on the snow, Izzy expressed a desire to tan her upper body without incurring tanlines. I, of course, agreed and joined her in the process while other climbers in the area took our pictures over and over and over again. Never knew I was so popular...

Because of the new snow, all water had to be melted, taking considerable fuel and time. By nightfall, I was still filling bottles and making supper in the dark. Totally-tanned Izzy felt the altitude and rested in the tent while low clouds opened and closed between us and the clear stars above.

The morning of the Fourth was perfect. I counted 28 climbers ahead of us moving up 25°-35° snow toward the "Red Banks," a horizontal band of reddish volcanic rock protruding through the snow at 12,900'. Several times during the ascent, we came across women whose crampons fell off and we stopped to help. During one assist, my 20-year old, green helmet decided to slip away and slid 2,000' down the snow and over a ridge, never to be seen again. Meanwhile, Izzy discovered an ear lobe still white and exposed herself at every opportunity.

Above the Red Banks is a long snow slope called "Misery Hill" that tops out around 14K' on a flat approach to the summit rocks. However, Izzy had color problems at 13,200', turning a bit pale before showing her breakfast. She decided to descend while I trudged up to the top to admire the green valleys and hills of Northern California and Oregon. The register was very formal - a large book with edge-gilding and lots of spiritual comments.

We met at camp, gradually returned to the MB and civilization in time for evening fireworks. It really was a great Fourth, but I never saw much of Izzy afterward. Perhaps I'll run into her on a sunny rock in Death Valley in the summer.

*Bob*



## IN HIGH PLACES: MALAYSIA

Burton A. Falk

Advance bookings are recommended for lodgings and huts at Kinabalu Park, home of 13,451 Mt. Kinabalu, Malaysia's highest peak. The problem is to ascertain if you've got them or not.

Let me explain. In January two years ago, my son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Nancy, and I decided to make an April attempt of Mt. Kinabalu. I sent an immediate letter to the booking agents, Sabah Park Headquarters, in the city of Kota Kinabalu (K.K.) on the island of Borneo, requesting lodging reservations. Then I waited. By early March, having received no reply, I began making phone calls--only to find the line was either busy or left unanswered. At the end of March, my wife, Jo, and I left on our portion of the trip with still no confirmations. And it wasn't until April 25th, the day we walked into Sabah Park Headquarters, that I found my anxieties were unfounded.

"Certainly you have reservations, Mr. Falk. We sent you a confirmation and all the information back in February. Didn't you receive them?"

Mt. Kinabalu is South-east Asia's tallest mountain, the highest point between Northern Burma and New Guinea. The massif is a youngster as mountains go, born just 1-1/2 million years ago, when a mass of granitic rock that had been cooling and hardening under the surface for several million years began to rise and break through the overlying crusts of softer rocks. Erosion by heavy rains and, later, by ice and glaciers shaped the new mountain. Today, the sculpted and streamlined summit plateau--which is continuing to rise, perhaps as much as 5 mm per year--is a magnet for climbers from around the world.

Steve, Nancy and I started our drive toward Kinabalu Park in mid-afternoon, April 25th, leaving Jo at the Tanjung Aru Beach Hotel, a wonderfully posh resort located on the shores of the South China Sea, just south of K.K.

As we wound into the jungle mountains on a well-paved but twisting road, a thunder storm which had been brewing all day crashed down upon us to the extent that even with our wipers operating at high speed we couldn't see a thing. On two occasions we were forced to pull off the road and wait for the torrential downpour to let up. At 6:30 p.m., the weather clearing, we arrived at the Park, and checked into a handsome modern building, the Annex, our lodgings for the night. After a tasty meal of fried rice, sizzling beef, beer and tea at a nearby cafeteria, we returned to our room to discover that, though quite contemporary in design, our lodgings were strictly third world in terms of insect control. A remarkable managerie of creepy-crawly things were share our room for the night, including a couple of moths with 6" wingspans. No doubt that explained the aerosol bottle of bug repellent that we had been dispensed upon our check-in.

The next morning, after a hardy breakfast in the cafeteria, we drove to park headquarters, where we paid a climbing fee of \$10 Malaysian (\$3.70 U.S.) each. It was there that we were also assigned our required guide, Anthony, who was to accompany us on the two-day adventure for a mere \$37 U.S., plus tip.

We left the car in the headquarters parking lot, took a short bus ride (\$2.50 Malaysian each) to the trailhead (no parking available), and began our climb at 8:30 a.m. The trail, which starts just below 6,000', lead first through a fairly level ar-

of rain forest, but soon turned much steeper, for, in order to reach the Luban Hut, 5,000' of elevation must be gained in just over four miles. We found long sections of steps with handrails as we climbed higher.

When we started, the weather was warm, sunny and humid. As we continued upward, stopping every half hour or so at the thatched-roofed rest stations along the way, it became noticeably cooler. At the 8,000' level, we entered a zone of curiously warm clouds, drifting up from below. At 9,500', Anthony led us off the trail to find and photograph the rare, insect-devouring Nepenthes, more commonly known as "Pitcher Plants".

We reached the 11,000' Luban Hut at 1:30 p.m., where we checked into one of its commodious dormitory rooms. We spent the balance of the afternoon relaxing on the hut's veranda, playing Uno with three fellow climbers from the Netherlands and watching still another massive thunder storm build up over Borneo. That evening, we enjoyed a surprisingly good dinner at the hut's cafeteria, and, in anticipation of a 3:00 a.m. start for the summit, got to bed by 8 p.m. Sleep did not come easily, however, as, outside, the storm had begun to rage in its full electrical fury. There was so much lightning, in fact, and it was so unremitting, that it was almost possible to read by it--no kidding.

At 2:30 a.m., we arose to discover that it was still raining. We dressed quickly and snacked on toast and tea. Just after 3:00, clad in rain gear and carrying flashlights, we started up the sodden trail, following the beams of the hikers, most of whom had left ten or fifteen minutes earlier. At 12,000', the jungle abruptly gave way to barren rock, and the steep trail, which is demarcated by ropes the rest of the way to the top, began to moderate. In order to keep warm, Steve, Nancy, Anthony and I pushed hard up through the dark, rainy night. We hiked so fast and passed so many climbers, in fact, that we eventually wound up at the head of the pack, where, looking back, we could see a long, lighted, twisting snake of climbers stretched out below us.

Reaching the 13,000' summit plateau at 5:30 a.m., we were pleased to note the first glow of dawn and that the weather was improving. We also discovered there is no well-defined high point on the weathered granitic plateau but rather a number of smooth promontories possessing colorful names, such as Ugly Sister Peak, Donkey's Ears, Lion's Head and Mushroom Peak. Low's Peak, the true high point, was named after Sir Hugh Low, a British officer, who first climbed the peak in 1851. We reached this peaklet from the plateau by an easy 2nd class scramble.

Once on top of Malaysia, we hunkered down with an ever-growing number of climbers to await the sunrise. The summit rocks eventually became so crowded that we were literally pushed off our perch by the later arrivals. When dawn finally broke at 6 a.m., we hastily shot the requisite summit photos, orange sunlight full in our faces, then beat a nippy retreat for the Luban Hut, where, arriving at 8 a.m., we enjoyed a hardy hot breakfast.

The trip back down was uneventful. We reached park headquarters at 11:30 a.m. and were swimming in the magnificent pool at the Tanjung Aru Beach Hotel by early afternoon.

Arriving home in early May and catching up on my mail, I found the long-lost reservation confirmations had indeed been sent. Why they took two months to reach California remains a mystery.

ODDS AND ENDS There is a twice daily bus from K.K. to Kinabalu Park (7:30 a.m. and noon; fare, \$3.25 U.S. one way), which is considerably less expensive than renting a car at the K.K. airport at \$90 U.S. per day.



1993 SPS ECHO SUBSCRIPTION & RENEWAL FORM

SECTION I  
MEMBER INFO

To continue your ECHO subscription and renew your membership for 1993, fill out this section. Your renewal for 1993 is confirmed by the "93" digits appearing on your mailing label. RENEWAL DEADLINE IS MARCH 31st.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ S.C.# \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_  
 DAY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EVENING PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Mark this box for address or phone change or correction.

SECTION II  
MEMBER TYPE

I am renewing my SPS membership as an 'active' member. My section activity this past year was \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., climb, supply refreshments). Only 'active' members may vote in the section elections held in October.

Other SPS members residing at the above address are listed below. (Fill in this section if you wish to receive just 1 ECHO; otherwise fill out a separate application for each ECHO subscription desired).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ S.C.# \_\_\_\_\_ ACTIVITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME \_\_\_\_\_ S.C.# \_\_\_\_\_ ACTIVITY \_\_\_\_\_

I am renewing my SPS membership as an 'inactive' member.

I wish only to subscribe to the ECHO; I am not an SPS member.

After March 31st or a lapse in membership, I wish to be reinstated as an active member. My last year as an SPS member was \_\_\_\_\_. I have done the following activities to qualify me for reinstatement:

I hereby apply for membership in the SPS. The six peaks that qualify me for membership and the dates climbed are listed below. At least two of the peaks climbed were with the SPS. My Sierra Club membership number is listed above.

Peak Name	Date Climbed	With SPS?	If yes, Leader Name

SECTION III  
SUBSCRIPTION  
CLASS

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 1400 W. Edgehill Rd. #14  
 San Bernardino, CA, 92405

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