

The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 37

1993

MAY-JUNE

NUMBER 3



SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JUNE 9

"Aconcagua" Dave Dykeman will show slide from his climb on the highest peak in South America.

JULY 14

"Wild Flowers & Plants of the Sierra" Barbee Hoffmann will show slides and identify many of the flowers and plants seen on a Sierra trip.

AUGUST 11

"Sierra Environmental Concerns" Joe Fontaine a Sierra biodiversity expert will speak on current environmental concerns in the Sierra. Of particular interest will be Joe's current work on the Public Involvement Team planning Sierra wilderness management guidelines.

SEPTEMBER 8

"Select High Points of Europe" Burton Falk will show slides from his climbs in Europe.

OCTOBER 13

"Identification Contest" Test your Sierra knowledge. An identification contest using slides from SPS summer 1993 climbs, Sierra places and peaks will be held. Prizes and Fun!

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 the main lobby). 7:30 P.M.
Newcomers Welcome!

COVER PHOTO

Chris Shaw setting up the first rappel off Norman Clyde Pk.

by Ed Lubin 9/1/91

PEAK INDEX

Homers Nose
Haltia (Finland) Carrauntoohil (Ireland)

SPS TRIPS: 1993

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
26-27	I: Vandever, Florence	David Underwood, Al Conrad

JULY

17-18	I: Blackhawk	Larry Tidball, Barbee Hoffmann
23-25	I: Split, Prater, Tinemaha	Jim Adler, Jim Fleming
24-25	M: Morgan (south)	Darrell Lee, Ed Lubin
24-25	I: Pinchot, Wynne	Barbara Cohen, Randy Danta
24-25	M: Corcoran	Bill Oliver, Larry Tidball
24-25	I: Clouddripper	Suzanne Mamedalin, Igor Mamedalin
30-Aug 1	I: Merriam, Royce, Julius Caesar	Dave Petzold, Carolyn West
30-Aug 1	M: Gemini, Seven Gables	Larry Tidball Barbee Hoffmann
30-Aug 2	M: Cirque, Muah, Cartago, Trail	Rick Jali, Fred Camphausen
31-Aug 1	I: Sawtooth, Needham	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon

AUGUST

7-8	I: Langley, Cirque	Dave Petzold, Dave Dykeman
7-8	I: Red Slate, Red & White	Barbara Cohen, Jim Ralford, Barbee Hoffmann
8-15	M: Iron, Foerster, Electra	Fred Camphausen, Rick Jali
14-15	M: Center, Bradley	Larry Tidball, Bill Oliver
19-22	M: Arrow, Ruskin, Pyramid, Goodale	Igor Mamedalin, Suzanne Mamedalin
20-22	M: Junction, Tyndall, Keith, Bradley	Dave Dykeman, Barbara Cohen, Dave Petzold
20-23	M: Deerhorn, East Vidette, West Vidette, Center, etc	Al Conrad, Bob Wyka
28-29	I: Sawtooth, Needham	Barbara Cohen, Charlie Knapke

SEPI

3-8	M: Highland, Silver, Pk 10,820	Gordon MacLeod, Roy Magneson
4-6	M: Split, Prater, Tinemaha	Dave Dykeman, Dave Petzold
4-6	M: Brewer, North Guard, South Guard	Greg Roach, Barbee Hoffmann
4-8	M: Tower Peak	Gene Mauk, Mary MacMannes
4-8	M: Wynne, Pinchot, Ruskin	Larry Tidball, Bob Wyka
10-14	O: Trail Maintenance Party	Fred Camphausen, R.J. Secor, Chuck Stein

11-12	I: Koip, Gibbs	Ron Young, George Toby
11-12	M: University, Independence	Dave Dykeman, Dave Petzold
11-12	M: Sawtooth, Spanish Needle	Bill T. Russell, Pat Russell
18-19	I: Baldwin, Bloody	Jim Adler, Paul Cooley
18-19	I: Pickering, Joe Devel	Barbee Hoffmann, Larry Tidball
18-19	M: Middle Palisade	Barbara Cohen, Nancy Gordon
18-19	M: Clouddripper	Dave Dykeman, Roy Magneson
25	I: Lone Pine Peak List Finisher	Dale Van Daisem, Dave Petzold
25-26	I: Smith, Lamont	Jerry & Nancy Keating
25-26	I: Spanish Mountain, Three Sisters	Patty Kline, Ron Young
30-Oct 4	M: Conness, North, Excelsior, Dunderberg	Rick Jali, Fred Camphausen

OCT.

2-3	I: Baxter, Diamond	Ron Jones, Maris Valkass
9-10	M: Clouds Rest, ??	Bob Hartunian, Mary MacMannes
9-11	I: Gilbert, Johnson	Dave Petzold, Carolyn West
15-18	I: Sonora Pass Peaks	Rick Jali, Fred Camphausen
16-17	M: Corcoran	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
30-31	I: Dicks Peak, Tallac, Pyramid	Larry Tidball, Barbee Hoffmann

SOME TRIPS MAY BE TENTATIVE DEPENDING ON CURRENT SNOW CONDITIONS

Well, it's time to pull out our backpacks and dust off the peak guide as we gear up for another summer season in the Sierra. After the Winter and Spring out in the Desert and in the mountains on skis I know that I am looking forward to the beautiful Sierra peaks, lakes, and meadows filled with wildflowers. Well... after this year's snowfall, I may have to wait a few weeks to appreciate the higher lakes and meadows. They will still be snow covered for a little while yet.

The snow pack seems to be well consolidated and would make for great spring snow climbs of some of the peaks that are rubble heaps without snow. However, insurance regulations are still in effect prohibiting the use of ice axes on Sierra Club trips. As a reminder to trip leaders, if snow on your intended route would require ice axes for safety, you must cancel the official SPS trip. SPS members are not prohibited from climbing the scheduled peaks as a private trip, provided that the SPS trip is officially canceled prior to the participants leaving home. If the SPS trip is canceled at the trailhead, the climbs may not be led by the leaders as a private trip.

The Management Committee would like to welcome Dan Richter as our new Council Rep. and Barbara Reber as the new Safety Chair. The section is working with the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park to place additional bear boxes in the wilderness areas of the park. Patty Kline has made the arrangements with Park Superintendent, J. Thomas Ritter to accept a donation of \$425 from the SPS. This will purchase and fly into the wilderness one back-country bear box.

The Management Committee has adopted a new sign-in sheet incorporating the Release and Waiver of Liability Indemnity Agreement. The wording of the waiver remains the same as previously used, but it is now on the same piece of paper as the sign-in. This will simplify the paperwork chores for the trip leaders.

Now let's get out there and climb some peaks!

Larry

20 HIGHEST PEAKS IN THE UNITED STATES

<u>Mountain</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Mountain</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>State</u>
1. DENALI	20,320'	Alaska	11. BEAR	14,831'	Alaska
2. SAINT ELIAS	18,008'	Alaska	12. HUNTER	14,573'	Alaska
3. FORAKER	17,400'	Alaska	13. ALVERSTONE	14,565'	Alaska
4. BONA	16,421'	Alaska	14. WHITNEY	14,496'	California
5. BLACKBURN	16,390'	Alaska	15. ELBERT	14,433'	Colorado
6. SANFORD	16,237'	Alaska	16. MASSIVE	14,421'	Colorado
7. VANCOUVER	15,700'	Alaska	17. HARVARD	14,420'	Colorado
8. CHURCHILL	15,638'	Alaska	18. RANIER	14,410'	Washington
9. FAIRWEATHER	15,300'	Alaska	19. WILLIAMSON	14,375'	California
10. HUBBARD	15,015'	Alaska	20. BLANCA	14,345'	Colorado

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by BARBARA COHEN

Welcome new member:

Elaine O'Connell
3577 Bond Street
San Bernardino Ca
92405-5712

Change of phone number:

Richard Baker Harry Freimanis Bill Tryon
W 818/783-3834 W 714/732-9266 W 310/530-7700

Mirna & Greg Roach

W 818/354-1984

Scott Sullivan

W 310/392-3000

Change of address:

Dave Petzold & Carolyn West
163 Castleton DR.
Claremont, Ca 91711
H 909/626-4298
~~W 714/724-2419 (Carolyn)~~
~~W 213-485-6333~~

Jane McMahon
P.O. Box 3178
Wrightwood, Ca 92397
H 619/249-6379
W 619/868-4958

Sigrid Hutto

4802 Tiora Dr. #103
Huntington Beach, Ca 92649

Ron Young
1237 Pauma Valley Road
Banning, Ca 92220
H 909/ 845-1066

Tom Sexton

10410 Carlyle Ct.
Cypress, Ca 90630
H 714/995-6840

Bob Sumner
780 Southview Rd. Apt B
Arcadia, Ca 91007
H 818/446-4424

Bob and Marta Hethmon

P.O. Box 8498
759 Tulip Drive
Green Valley Lake, Ca 92341

New subscribers:

Darrell Lee
P.O. Box 12024
Marina Del Rey, Ca 90295
H 310/450-8595
W 310/578/6677

Gus Ordonez
P.O. Box 2155
Hawthorne, Ca 90251
H 310/326-6262

Jeffrey Kent
522 Lazy Creek Circle
Fullerton, Ca 92631
H 714/870-5933

Carol Snyder
3465 Catalina Dr.
Carlsbad, Ca 92008
H 619/758-0691

**MOUNTAIN REGISTER REPORT
UPDATE**

Ours is not the only Section reporting missing registers. I've been informed that Hundred Peaks is having the same puzzling disappearance of registers experience. Hopefully, these strange incidents will get cleared up some day.

The peaks missing registers or needing renewal (and the more accessible ones an ammo box), were listed in Sept/Oct Echo of '92. Since then I've received additional input from Gustave Stroes, Bill T., Joan Dodds and Mark Adrian.

<u>*Need Kit</u>	<u>+Register +½ full</u>	<u>+ Register ½ full - (But can wait)</u>
*Basin	+Bloody	+Birch
*Gray	+Cirque	+Finger
*Pyramid #2	+Clark	+Kern Pk.
	+Foerster	+Mokelumne
**Clarence King	+Gayley	+Moses
**Conness	+Izaak Walton	+Reinstein
**Dick's Peak ✓	+Mt. Keith	+Split Mtn. ✓
**Emerson	+Lone Pine	+State
**Goode	+Maggie	+Taylor Dome
**Humphreys	+Mt. Langley ✓	+The Thumb
**LeConte	+Mt. Lamarck ✓	+Twin Peaks
**Matterhorn	+Lone Pine	+E. Vidette
**Middle Pal	+Mallory ✓	
**Mt. Muir ✓	+Reinstein	
**Mt. Tallac ✓	+Rockhouse	
**Stanford #2 ✓	+Tehipite Dome	
	+Silver	
	+Thor	
	+Tyndall	
	+Vogelsang	

The list is essentially the same as last year, except for the ones I've added. This is so as to refresh your memory and tap your willingness to carry on placing and replacing summit registers. As it was done last season, leader led or private trips, I encourage you to continue reporting on summit findings. Any input will be very much appreciated.

- *Kit: Canister, Reg. Book(s), Pencils.
- **Registers disappeared - Nothing on the Peak
- + & + Register book only

Vi Grasso, Mtn. Records

Minutes from SPS meeting Feb 10, 1993

present: Larry Tidball, Dave Petzold, Barbee Hoffmann, Patty Kline, Bill Oliver, Vi Grasso, Kathy Price, Barbara Cohen.

Larry started the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Old business: a safety chair is still needed.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Patty reports that our treasury has \$5741.01. She contacted the Yosemite ranger who said that no new bear boxes will be placed. She will contact the Sequoia ranger next.

New business: Dave reported that LTC recommends that all overnite backpacks should be led by I (or above) rated leaders--not by O leaders. The SPS management committee is in favor of this proposal. Vi is submitting a list of peaks needing registers or cannisters to the Echo. Larry mentioned that those who are opposed to the new \$23 trail fee permit should complain to the L.A. Co. Board of Supervisors. Larry will speak to Lori Ives regarding an ad in the Schedule as a donation to the Chapter. Barbee distributed a questionnaire asking what type of programs people would like to have.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm followed by general meeting and Dave Petzold's slide show on his recent trip to Nepal.

Minutes from SPS meeting March 10, 1993

present: Larry Tidball, Dave Petzold, Patty Kline, Barbee Hoffmann, Wayne Norman, Mary Sue Miller, Bill Oliver, Barbara Cohen.

Larry started the meeting at 6:40pm. Minutes read and approved. Barbara Reber is the new safety chair. Patty reports 153 members have renewed so far including 41 sustaining members. Non-renewing members will be published in the next Echo. The treasury has \$6949.73. We will find information about accounts that will pay interest. The Chapter address will be corrected on future Echoes. Dave reports that 42 trips were submitted for the next schedule. Recognition was given to those leaders with several trips: Dave Dykeman, Larry Tidball and Dave Petzold-7 each, Barbee Hoffmann-6, Barbara Cohen-5. Barbee reported that July's program will be on wildflowers and plants, August will have an environmentalist from the Eastern Sierra, Sept. will feature Burton Falk on select high places in Europe, and Oct will be a slide identification program. All t-shirts have been sold and we will order 75 more. The Mt. Whitney ranger district says that no new bear boxes will be placed and encourages the use of cannisters. Mary Sue gave conservation report. SPS will join Sierra Alliance. We may swap newsletters with the new Range of Light group in Mammoth. Meeting adjourned 7:30pm followed by general meeting. Permits for local areas are available at Sport Chalet. Chuck Stein reported that the trail maintenance trip scheduled for July 11-12 will be rescheduled to Sep 10-14. Slide show presented by Bill Oliver and Larry Tidball on their trip to the Great Western Divide July 1992.

Respectfully submitted.
Barbara Cohen, Secretary

Minutes from SPS meeting April 14, 1993

Present: Larry, Barbee, Dave, Patty, Wayne, Bob Wyka, Bill Oliver, Bill T. Russell, Barbara.

Larry started the meeting at 6:43 pm. Minutes read and approved. Wayne will send a write-up to the Range of Light group describing the SPS. Larry wrote to Cathy Benton at San Francisco office mentioning that insurance is a major concern of the SPS. He also wrote to the new activist group in Mammoth, the Sierra Alliance. We are on their mailing list. Patty gave treasurer's report. \$2000 in a savings account will earn \$60 interest. Our balance is \$4772.43. Wayne will find out about half-tone on the Echo so the cover will look better. New T-shirts are here. The SPS will donate \$425 for a new bear box. The management committee voted unanimously in favor and will suggest the first packer site in Milestone Basin or the Big Arroyo for its location. When the box has been placed, we will write an article in the Southern Sierran. The July/Aug Echo will have the 93 membership list. Dave can no longer be Council Rep and the position is now open. Larry would like Bill T. to have the SPS list available on disk. Wayne will ask Ron Jones to update the index to peak trip reports in the Echo from 1990. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 followed by general meeting and Peter Green's slide show on his trip to K2.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Cohen, Secretary

PRIVATE TRIP The Clark Range of Southern Yosemite. Five day trip to climb four peaks on the SPS list. Good conditioning, backpacking, and exposed third class climbing skills required. August 8th - 12th (SUN-THUR). Larry Hoak (213) 931-2614 and Jack Miller. SASE to 838 S. Orange Drive, LA, CA 90036-4912.

NEPAL Trekking Peaks

Rolwaling trek with climbs of Ramdung (5912m/19439ft) and Parchamo (6187m/20,298ft). Oct 10 - Nov 7 1993

(Climbs optional. Non-climbers welcome.)

\$2576 includes round trip airfare. SASE to:

Murray Zichlinsky

519 19th St. #4

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

22 March 1993

Dear Sierra Peaks Section,

As I look out my office window toward the Sierra Crest, I can't help but think of the upcoming summer season, and of course the Sierra Peaks Section!

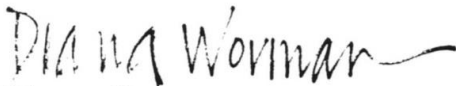
I spoke with "Campy" recently...and we agreed that there is too much snow this year to enable an early season trail maintenance weekend. We both felt it best to focus our efforts on the longer trip, later in the season (September?).

I know that the trail maintenance trips take alot of your free time when you could be doing something more relaxing and less physically taxing. I do want the SPS to know that your time and effort do not go unnoticed or unappreciated. This past winter, our office received several inquiries and compliments about the excellent condition of the Shepherd Pass Trail, wanting to know who the responsible party was. I passed along the information that it was because of the SPS Section of the Sierra Club that the trail was in such great shape.

As it gets closer to the date of the Shepherd Pass Trail Maintenance trip, I hope that you will consider spending some time with me and your fellow SPS'ers working in a beautiful area of the Sierra. We DO work hard, but we have fun too!! This year we are going to make the trip a little shorter in the hopes of accommodating more of your schedules.

Thanks for all the work you have done in the past! Contact me or one of the SPS Adopt-a-Trail folks if you are interested in doing some trailwork later this summer!

Sincerely,



Diana Worman
John Muir Wilderness Manager
Mt. Whitney Ranger District

CONSERVATION

While not directly related to Sierra Peaks issues, information on State Senate Bill 684 may interest you since we SPers do so much driving. Please refer to the flier reproduced below. At this time, SB 684 has already passed the Insurance Committee, and by the time this ECHO reaches you, it will have been passed or rejected by the Judiciary Committee. If the former occurs, you will probably get to vote on SB 684 as an initiative on the November, 1994 ballot. The viewpoint in this flier is that of the Union of Concerned Scientists, 23976 Shattuck Ave., #203, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Since reality finds many of us living and working in Los Angeles even though dream time and leisure time may place us in the Sierra, I am calling your attention to the May-June issue of the SOUTHERN SIERRAN in which the Sierra Club announces its endorsement of Mike Woo for Mayor of Los Angeles. I believe that reading about this political endorsement merits your attention.

Mary Sue

Dear UCS Supporter:

We need your help to ensure that the state legislature gives an innovative environmentally-sound policy a fair hearing.

Legislation introduced this year in the California State Senate would have tremendous energy and environmental benefits by giving drivers a financial incentive to drive fewer miles, thus reducing consumption of fossil fuels, and resulting air pollution. Senate Bill (S.B.) 684 would require motorists to purchase automobile insurance at the gas pump at the same time they buy gas. The price of gas would be increased by 30 to 40 cents per gallon; those who choose to drive less would pay less in automobile insurance premiums.

Pay-at-the-pump auto insurance would also eliminate a persistent problem in California: the uninsured motorist. If we all bought insurance when we refueled, everyone would be covered and we wouldn't have to pay for uninsured motorist coverage, as we do today.

This is not government-run insurance. The 30 cent or so premium per gallon would merely be collected by the state (like sales tax is presently collected), then paid out to insurance companies on a pro rata basis based on market share.

We need your help to keep this legislation alive. When it was introduced by State Senator Art Torres in January, it received enormous press attention at both the state and national levels. Many consumer and social justice, as well as environmental groups support the bill, which incorporates a no-fault liability system as well as the pay-at-the-pump aspect. In spite of the high level of public interest, this bill has been assigned to both the Insurance and Judiciary Committees of the State Senate, where supporters fear it will be killed due to the overwhelming influence of groups like the California Trial Lawyers Association, which opposes any bill implementing no-fault.

If Senate Bill 684 passes, Californians should have the opportunity to vote on it as an initiative on the state ballot in November of 1994. If this bill does not make it out of committee, it will not get the public debate it deserves, voter will not have a chance to support major insurance reform and the energy savings and environmental benefits associated with it will be forfeited.

Please write to your state senator today. A vote is currently scheduled for April 14 in the Insurance Committee. The Judiciary Committee could vote soon thereafter, if the bill passes the Insurance Committee. If your senator is on Insurance or Judiciary (members listed on reverse), please write or call making the following points:

* S.B. 684 is a sound policy which has energy and environmental benefits and will save the insurance consumers of California at least \$1 billion a year in uninsured motorist coverage premiums.

* S.B. 684 should be given serious consideration by both committees and reported out so that the full legislature can consider the plan.

* The voters of the state of California should have the opportunity to vote on this innovative auto insurance system, and unless your state senator supports it out of committee, we will never get that chance.

\$10,000 a head for Everest

Nepalese authorities announced in July that the cost of a permit to climb Mount Everest would rise five-fold to \$50,000, effective September 1, 1993. The peak fee covers a team of up to five members; two additional members will be allowed (at \$10,000 each), with a maximum team size of seven. In addition, only one permit will be granted for each route, effectively limiting traffic to four teams per season on the Nepalese side of the mountain, where there are four recognized routes: the South Col/Southeast Ridge, South Pillar, Southwest Face, and West Ridge. The team size restriction will apply to other mountains in the Everest region, although multiple teams will be allowed on each route.

The measures were undertaken in order "... to lessen the pressure in the area and to conserve the environment," according to the Nepalese Ministry of Tourism. Expeditions to the Everest region will also be required to bring their trash out of the mountains and back to their home countries, a requirement that will be enforced by the posting of a cash deposit that will only be returned once the trash is shipped out of Nepal.

Mountaineering will also be allowed in the summer months for the first time in many years, effective in 1993. At present climbing is only allowed during the spring, fall, and winter in Nepal.

From the Editor: **Background Noise**

Special Thanks to Greg & Mirna Roach who led the first SPS trip of 1993 to Homers Nose on May 1 and then sent me a report of their trip in time to make this edition of the ECHO. Hopefully all the other trip leaders will follow this timely example and send me reports of their trips.

The rivers are going to be full this year (and not just with sand). R.J. Secor contributed this up to date information in an article on this page.

Did you ever wonder what are the 20 highest summits in the United States? Wonder no more. Bob Sumner sent a list of the aforementioned peaks with their elevations. (a couple are in California, Pg. 3).

Finally an article on Low Impact Wilderness Recreation was submitted by Barbee Hoffmann. The SPS should always practice the principles of Low Impact Backpacking lest we love the wilderness to death.

SPS Intro. Trip: June 26-27 (Sat-Sun)

I: Vandever Mtn. (11947), Florence Pk. (12432): Provisional Lead: Moderate paced climb of two scenic peaks in Mineral King. Sat 10 mi., 4150' gain climb Vandever. Sun 5 mi. 2500' gain climb Florence, return to cars 8 mi. This is a good intro. trip to find out what the SPS is all about. Send SASE H&W photos to leader: Dave Underwood 26111-D Framton Ave., Harbor City 90710: Asst. Al Conrad.

1993 UNIMPAIRED SNOW MELT RUNOFF FORECASTS

These figures are the water runoff forecasts in percent of normal, based on a 50 year average. They do not necessarily represent the amount of snow on the ground, but instead indicate the water levels we can expect to find during stream crossings this coming spring and summer.

Owens, 141%; Kern, 128%; Tule, 111%; Kaweah, 137%; Kings, 158%; San Joaquin, 160%; Merced, 156%; Tuolumne, 144%. -- R.J. Secor

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



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- Sierra Magazine A one year subscription to Sierra, our award-winning magazine
- Discounts on publications, including our distinguished books and celebrated calendars.
- Worldwide Outings Program
- Local Chapter Membership conservation news and invitations to outings and events.

New Member Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	\$35	\$43
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CONTRIBUTING	\$100	\$108
LIFE	\$750	\$1000
SENIOR	\$15	\$23
STUDENT	\$15	\$23

W-706 FRIP No.

Enclose check and mail to:
Sierra Club

Dept. H-115
P.O. Box 7959
San Francisco, CA
94120-7959

Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publication (\$1). Dues are not tax-deductible.

Field Recruitment Incentive Program (FRIP)
by Patty Kline

Did you know you can give money to the SPS without spending a cent? Just get a friend to join the Sierra Club or give a gift of a new membership in the Sierra Club. \$15 of the membership will go to our section. All you have to do is include our FRIP # (706) on the Application.

ECHOES FROM OUR CLIMBS

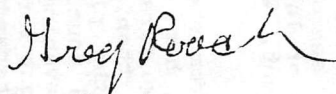
SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
SIERRA PEAK SECTION
HOMERS NOSE (9023')
May 1, 1993

A group of three, Steve Nardi, Mirna Roach and myself, set out Saturday morning from South Fork Campground to climb Homers Nose. It was a beautiful spring day. The birds were singing, the wildflowers were out, and the rivers were full of water thundering down the mountain sides to the valley below.

The route we followed is the abandoned Coffeepot Canyon Trail up to Salt Creek Ridge and then southeast up the ridge to Homers Nose. There is a good description given of this route in Self-Propelled in the Southern Sierra Volume 2 by J.C. Jenkins. Jenkins describes it as a backpack setting up camp at Bennet Creek. I think it makes a better strenuous day hike 5200 ft elevation gain and about 14.6 miles. The reason I suggested a day hike is the route is brushy and the camp site is small with room for maybe 2 tents. The campsite is over grown with brush as well. Keep an eye out for ticks and poison oak on the way up for the first 3 miles.

On the positive side this is a good spring conditioning hike from foothill woodlands filled with wildflowers and streams to the mountain top with snow and a good view of the Mineral King area.

Best wishes



Greg Roach

Climber & Earth Collide - \$Update\$

Bill Oliver

[Refer to original narrative in February '93 *ECHO*.]

Subsequent to my rescue, retrieval and recovery (redundant alliteration), I received several unsolicited notices in the mail: the bill from the Joshua Tree Ambulance Assn. was \$1114 (includes \$10/mile for the 47 miles from J Tree to Palm Springs), the various charges from the Desert Hospital Trauma Center totaled \$4505, and the attending physician came in at \$632 - Grand Total = \$6251.

Fortunately for me, I have very good Blue Cross medical coverage through my employer. My out-of-pocket share of the expenses came to \$279 - only 4.5% of the total. There were no charges for the rescue itself - neither from the Nat'l Park Service nor from its volunteer SAR group. (I made a \$50 contribution to the latter a few days after the fall.)

More Lessons Learned:

Since there's no guarantee against an unexpected fall, it behooves mountaineers to carry adequate medical insurance (and the use of a hardhat might **not** be totally uncool). The Sierra Club could no longer afford climbing insurance, late in 1988, when premiums suddenly skyrocketed following some costly accident settlements. It should be noted that, in general, the injured parties were not litigious. Rather, they finally felt forced to sue the Club after they had exhausted their medical benefits.

For at least about the past half dozen years the SPS has made annual contributions, usually \$100 each, to the three Search & Rescue organizations most relevant to the Sierra: China Lake SAR, the Inyo County Sheriff's Posse, and Sierra Madre SAR. Although not in this case, over the years many of us have benefitted from their heroic efforts.

Burton A. Falk

The high point of Finland is a modest 4,355' peak, spelled, depending on the map you're reading, Halti, Haltia or Haldi. It lies in Lapland, 190 miles north of the Arctic Circle, at the extreme north of the "Arm of Finland," an area where the boundaries of Finland, Norway and Sweden look as if they were laid out by a demented jig-saw puzzle designer. That Halti lies in Finland instead of one of its Scandinavian neighbors is about as logical as one of California's gerrymandered electoral districts.

Before leaving the U.S., our group of five spent a good bit of time and effort in attempting to determine the best way to approach Halti. Studying a map of Finland, especially its 120 mile long, 25 mile wide "arm," which lies squeezed between the northern boundary of Sweden and extreme northern portion of Norway, was the initial and most discouraging step of the process. The peak, it appeared, lay 24 air miles from the tiny settlement of Kilpisjarvi, or three day backpack. One of our group, however, wrote to the Finnish travel bureau for more information and was soon rewarded with two substantially more palatable alternatives.

First, the travel bureau reported that a hike was indeed possible. "The terrain is very varied and beautiful(sic). And it is not so hard to hike. Another possibility," they continued, "is to go by car fairly near Halti (about 10-20 km), and then walk." The route they suggested involved driving to a lake, Guolasjarvi, in Norway, and beginning our hike from there. Last, they reported that "aeroplane services" were available, and mentioned two local firms.

A few weeks later, one of the two companies, Polar-Lento OV, responded with a letter of their own: "The most convenient way to go there (Halti) is to take an airplane. Here is a company, Polar-Flight, which has been operating in the Kilpisjarvi over ten years arranging tours to the fells of the 'Arm of Finland.' The plane can take you to the lake, Pitsusjarvi, which is situated about 10 km south of Haltia. From there you can walk to the top, the way is not difficult to go, you need not to climb. But the journey is worth making. You will see untouched wilderness, the highest fells of Finland and lots of lakes." To us, their letter was a masterpiece of enticement; we booked reservations.

It took us three and a half days to drive from the base of Galdopiggen, Norway's highest peak, to Kilpisjarvi, home of Polar-Lento OV. Upon entering the small resort village, we first checked in at the trailer/office of float plane operation, then, with the help of the company's office manager (besides the pilot, the company's sole employee), we exchanged money and found Holiday Village, our accommodations for the next two evenings. The pleasant two bedroom + loft cabin (\$170 U.S. per night for the five of us) was just over a year old, and built to withstand even the fiercest winters. The windows, for instance, were triple paned, and the doors air tight. The building, which was located in a grove of stunted birch trees and was equipped with a dishwasher,

a combination washer/dryer and a sauna (correctly pronounced saw-oo-na), all instructions for which were in Finnish. That night on Finnish T.V., we watched a procession of hulking Finns compete in the Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling matches.

Next morning, after a "white" night, during which the sun never completely set, we were up and at 'em early. Since the small float plane could carry only four including the pilot, the five of us had to make two flights from Kilpisjarvi (jarvi means lake in Lapp) to Pitsusjarvi. By the time the second flight arrived at the remote lake, it was 9:30 a.m. Ahead of us, directly up a barren valley to the north, stood Halti--there would be no route finding problems for us today. We started off along a rocky use trail along the lake shore, soon passing a primitive fisherman's cabin. As we continued up the wide, treeless, grassless valley, the trail became increasingly obscure. Two and a half hours into the hike, reaching the base of the peak, the trail petered out altogether. We rock hopped up the slopes for a half hour or so, clambered up a large patch of snow, and finally, about 12:30 p.m., arrived at the broad summit area, which was covered with a dozen or so tall rock cairns. The largest cairn--one which seemed to be at a slightly lower elevation than the others, held the register, a sequentially-numbered log book. To my astonishment, while signing in, I discovered that I was number 31,378. It seemed improbable that more than thirty thousand people could have climbed this remote pile of rocks. As I sat on the summit, mulling over the perplexing situation, a group of six Finnish climbers materialized from out of nowhere and also signed in. They were members of two families who had hiked into the back country to spend a week fishing for salmon and trout. One of the Finns told me that the ascent of Halti is a popular cross-country ski trip, and that perhaps even more skiers than hikers reach Halti's summit. Maybe so, but I still have my doubts regarding the total number of summiteers.

Our trip back to the lake and the 4:30 p.m. pickup by the float plane were uneventful. The following day we had an easy drive to Nikkaluokta, Sweden, starting point for the climb of Kebnekaise, Sweden's highest.

To be truthful, fellow climbers, Halti is not much of a mountain (or a fell, as the Finns call it). While standing on its summit you can view several substantially higher and more interesting peaks just across the border in neighboring Norway. To experience the barren beauty of the area is what makes this trip worthwhile, however. As we flew in, for instance, we could look down on the rolling terrain and see the sun reflected off a thousand tarns, streams and seeps; an isolated shack here and there, summer residence for the Lapp families who drive their reindeer north each summer--even an occasional reindeer. This is a remote land; this is a land for those who savor the essentials.

ODDS AND ENDS: The village of Kilpisjarvi has only 108 year round inhabitants. During the mid-winter, it's dark for nearly 24 hours a day. In the spring, however, as the days lengthen, the area becomes a bee-hive of activity for cross country skiers. Courses are laid out all over the countryside, including one popular trip to a monument at the convergence of the boundaries of Finland, Norway and Sweden.



Burton A. Falk

It rains a lot in Ireland--take it from me. Thanks to inclement weather, my first attempt on 3,414' Carrauntoohil, the country's highest peak, was a complete wash out. The following year, 1988, back for a second try with several more climbers involved, heavy rainfall once again played a major role.

Carrauntoohil lies along a low mountain range, the Macgillycuddy's Reeks, at the eastern end of the Iveragh Peninsula, one of the five adjoining peninsulas which splay into the Atlantic Ocean along the south west coast of Ireland. The Iveragh is separated from its neighboring peninsulas by Dingle Bay to the north and the Kenmare River estuary to the south, and its main claim to fame is the "Ring of Kerry" drive, which winds around its most picturesque perimeter. Killarney, the largest town near Carrauntoohil, is a popular tourist destination and, as such, has excellent rail and bus connections to most other large cities on the Emerald Isle. A smaller town, Killorglin, lies closer to the peak, and, except for a week in August during Puck's Fair (a celebration with pre-Christian roots involving, among other things, a wild mountain goat being caged on top of a pole in the central square), it is substantially less crowded and touristy than Killarney.

On July 26, my two sons, my daughter, my two daughters-in-law to be and I--my wife having sense enough to stay dry at the hotel--drove our rental van through a maze of narrow, winding roads, toward the Knocknafreaghaun Youth Hostel, situated at the mouth of Hag's Glen, three air miles NNE of Carrauntoohil. We parked at the end of the road, just beyond the hostel, in a farmyard, where we were set upon at once by an effusive farm wife intent on selling us souvenirs. Not wanting to appear ungrateful for all the free parking, we lingered awhile to purchase a map and a handful of postcards. When we finally opened the gate into the adjoining sheep pasture, ready to begin our adventure, it was 10:15 a.m. To our relief, the rain which had plagued us since our arrival in Ireland two days earlier had stopped, and the sun seemed ready to shine through.

We set our course up Hag's Glen, toward the cloud-covered Macgillycuddy Reeks to the south. About a mile out, amid the wet grass and wet sheep, we spotted what we thought was a trail on the opposite bank of the Gaddagh River, up which we were hiking. We forded the stream--most of us slipping on wet rocks, filling our boots with water--to discover that there was, indeed, not just a trail, but a road on the western side. It was about that time that the weather began to turn for the worse--an ominous sprinkle started to fall. We followed along the road for another twenty minutes or so, until it dwindled away on a rocky shelf between two lakes, Lough Gouragh and Lough Callee (Hag's Lake), at which point it started to rain in earnest. Although we all donned wet-weather gear, the heavy downpour, combined with a blustery wind, soon

soaked us to the skin.

We pressed on, however, toward Devil's Ladder, a steep, rocky chute, the standard climbing route, which leads one directly from the 1,500' elevation to the 3,000' summit ridge. Unfortunately, when we got close enough to see the chute clearly, we found that it had become a water course. There was no way we were going to climb it that afternoon. Instead, we turned left a quarter mile to the east and began climbing a grassy nose, which also led to the summit ridge.

It was about halfway up this hill that the mutiny occurred. The girls, it seems, had become cold, wet and discouraged. They wanted to turn back, leaving us three men to continue. I sighed. I really wanted to bag the peak, but I didn't feel right about letting the girls go back alone--none had had any real route-finding experience. I was about ready to return with them, when my youngest son, Steve, said, "Come on, Dad. This is your second try. I'll take them back." I didn't argue. With rain streaming down our faces, we agreed we'd meet back at the van.

After parting company, Bret and I continued up the soggy slope, coming out on the summit ridge, just below the clouds, about a mile to the east of Carrauntoohil's summit. We were so close to the clouds, in fact, that as we hiked along the rolling ridge toward the peak, we were often totally enveloped by the swirling fog. It took us about twenty minutes to reach the shallow saddle at the top of Devil's Ladder, where, looking up to the NW, we saw a line of rocky cairns leading toward the mist-shrouded summit. Having no reason to dawdle, we began to climb the rocky slope, finally reaching the large cross on the summit at 1:45 p.m. I took a couple of photos of Bret standing at the base of the cross, and, although I was only a few feet away, his features were barely discernable due to the heavy mist.

We then jogged back down to the summit ridge, where we found that the cloud layer had lifted slightly. To the north, patches of sunlight could be seen shining across the Irish countryside. As we descended the grassy slope the rain began to taper off, and it stopped altogether as we sped past the lakes and down the road. We reached the van about 4:15 p.m., where Steve and the three girls--who all had returned to the hotel for hot showers and dry clothes--were waiting for us with a thermos of steaming hot tea and a bag of Irish cookies. A nice finish to a wet day.

Total time: 6 hrs; total round trip distance: 11 miles; total elevation gain: 3,200'.

Carrauntoohil



ODDS AND ENDS: Carrauntoohil can also be climbed from the west, beginning at Lough Acoose, via the Coomloughra Glen Horseshoe (both of the horseshoe-like ridges which enclose Coomloughra Lough lead to the summit), and from the east, first climbing Cruach Mhor, then following the main ridge (about half of which Bret and I covered as we couldn't climb Devil's Ladder).

In his Guide to Ireland's 3000-foot Mountains, H. Mulholland suggests another, perhaps better, way to begin the climb, i.e., rather than depart from the Youth Hostel and cross the Gaddagh River, begin on the opposite side to start with.

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