

The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 37

1993

SEP-OCT

NUMBER 5



SPS TRIPS: 1993

SEPT

3-6	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
4-6	M: Tower Peak	Gene Mauk, Mary MacMannes
4-6	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: Vandever, Florence	David Underwood, Al Conrad
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: Cloudripper	Dave Dykeman, Roy Magneson
25	I: Lone Pine Peak List Finisher	Dale Van Dalsem, 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: Mt. Muir	All Aminian, Henry Arnebold
16-17	M: Corcoran	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
30-31	I: Dicks Peak, Tallac, Pyramid	Larry Tidball, Barbee Hoffmann

NOV

20-21	M: Spanish Needle, Lamont	Sigrid Hutto, Greg Foerstel
-------	---------------------------	-----------------------------

PEAK INDEX

Cartago Peak
 Crag Peak
 Electra Peak
 Iron Mtn.
 Jackass Peak
 Middle Palisade
 Mt. Carillon
 Mt. Goddard
 Mt. Muah
 Mt. Russell
 Mt. St. Helens
 Red & White Mtn.
 Red Slate Mtn.
 Smith Mtn.
 The Cleaver
 Thor Peak
 Tunnabora Peak

SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 13

"Select High Points of Europe" Burton Falk will show slides from his climbs in Europe. Discover the High Points of Europe. (Program was originally scheduled for September)

NOVEMBER 10

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

DECEMBER 8

Banquet Speaker: Kitty Calhoun Grissom. The annual SPS banquet will be held at the community hall at the Greek Orthodox church in Long Beach. This is a beautiful facility and the cater is a great Long Beach Italian restaurant, Buon Gustos. Our speaker is a world renown mountaineer. Kitty will show slides and present a program entitled "The Spirit of Alpinism". Tickets \$25.00. Send check made payable to SPS and SASE to Barbee Hoffmann.

JANUARY 12

"Antarctica" Doug Mantle will show slides and talk about his 1993 trip to climb Vinson.

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

Kitty Calhoun Grissom

by Kitty Calhoun Grissom

Echos from the Chair

Dear Fellow Climbers and Peakbaggers:

At the August 11, 1993, SPS meeting, we had as a guest speaker, Joe Fontaine. Joe is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Sierra Club, and as a private individual he is representing the "Private Backpacker" interests at the meetings currently being conducted by the Forest Service to determine future regulations and management guidelines for all of the Wilderness Areas between Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks.

The new Forest Service Management Plan will cover the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Monarch and Dinkey Lakes Wilderness Areas. This area contains about 40% of the listed SPS peaks. To assist in planning the new Management Plan the Forest Service has formed a "Public Involvement Team" (PIT). This team is heavily weighted with Commercial Packers, Ranchers who graze cattle in the wilderness, The Backcountry Horsemen, Private land in-holders, mining interests, hunters and fishermen. As the "Private Backpacker", Joe is one of the few voices on this team who can speak out for the type of recreation that we all enjoy in the Sierra. You will note that the PIT does not have a Climbing or Backcountry Skiing representative.

At our August 11th meeting, Joe brought us up to date on PIT process and we had a lively discussion about some of the wilderness management issues that the PIT will be tackling in the future. Joe has agreed to accept comments from the SPS and other concerned hikers, and to present our comments at the PIT meetings. In addition, the PIT meetings are open to the public.

So far the PIT has agreed that the Wilderness breaks down into 4 types ranging from the heavily used areas next to trailheads to the almost untouched high alpine regions. There may be different regulation for each of these areas. In addition, the PIT has agreed on 11 issues for analysis and recommendation. These 11 issues are:

- 1) What is the appropriate level and kinds of commercial use in the wilderness? *This includes Sierra Club National Trips, guides and outfitters as well as packers.*
- 2) What measures should be used to limit or minimize the impacts of grazing domestic live stock?
- 3) What numbers of visitors, party size, length of stay and distribution should be allowed while still maintaining wilderness values, character and solitude?
- 4) What is the appropriate kind, level and location for recreational stock use in the wilderness?
- 5) Are the permit and quota systems working/ If not, how should they be modified?
- 6) Are camping or travel restrictions needed to protect resource values and if so, where? What actions are appropriate to reduce the impact or restore sites?

- 7) To what extent should trails be maintained, restored, or eliminated, or added? What types of facilities should be maintained, restored, eliminated, or added? What types of facilities should be provided at trailheads? *This includes restrooms, trailhead sleeping spots, etc.* To what extent should signs be provided?
- 8) What fire management practices are appropriate in the wilderness?
- 9) What role should education play in wilderness management?
- 10) What is the appropriate level of wildlife, vegetation, and fishery management in the wilderness?
- 11) What administrative structures, practices, and/ or activities are appropriate and/or necessary? *This includes bear boxes, Ranger Patrol Cabins, etc.*

Changes to the current Management Plan for these Sierra Wilderness areas can have a profound positive or negative impact on our use and enjoyment of this region. As SPS Chair, I am soliciting your comments on these issues so that I can submit a group response to the PIT on behalf of the SPS. They are looking for general comments and opinions, as well as specific information about specific locations; i.e., the maximum group size and quota limit for the ABC trailhead is too restrictive, or the south shore of lake XYZ is heavily impacted by over camping, and camping should only be allowed on the north shore of this lake to allow recovery of the south shore.

Send your comments to:

Larry Tidball, SPS Chair
1400 Edgehill Road #14
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Climbing Harness Recall

REI has issued a recall of all REI Brand "Alpinist" and "On-Sight" model Climbing Harness sold between 1990 and 1993. This is because of the possibility that the Belay Loop Could Fail resulting in injury or death. Contact your REI store or call (800) 626-4734 for information on a free retrofit.

AFFICIONADOS of The ECHO

The SPS is again selling reproductions of the early volumes of *The Echo*. This year Volumes 8 through 14 are being reproduced; Volumes 1 through 7 can also be ordered. The quality of the copies is limited by the nature of the originals. A few pages are poor quality, but all are readable. The reproductions will be unbound, with 3-hole punch. The price has been reduced to \$7.00 per volume. (Sorry. Single issues are not available.) This price includes the cost of reproducing and mailing the volumes. For those who ordered Volumes 1 through 7 last year, Volume 8 will be free to adjust for the reduced price. Just mail your order to Kathy Price at the address below. Please indicate clearly which volumes you are ordering. All orders should be received with full payment by November 26. The volumes will be mailed in December.

Make check payable to SPS. Send check and order to Kathy Price, 1546 S. Durango Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90035. To receive confirmation of your order, include a SASE. If you have any questions, call at work (310) 497-5062 or home (310) 556-1546.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Barbara Cohen

New Address: Graham Breakwell Jennifer Lambelet
6 Ellen Court 3531 S. Carolina
Orinda, CA 94563 San Pedro, CA 90731

Welcome new members:

Bahram Manahedgi Matthias Selke
P.O. Box 641145 Xin Gong
Los Angeles, CA 1440 Butler Ave. #17
90064 Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 319-0836 (310) 477-6602

Zip code change David Hammond 85745
New phone number Charles & Mary Ann Miller 909/659-0164

Welcome new subscribers:

Victor Anderson Bruce Kutler
2 Sandstone 5017 Kolfax Ave. #4
Portola Valley, CA Valley Village, CA
94028-8033 91601
(415)851-1090 (818)506-5793

Louise Baher
205 Anderson St.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
(310)379-2333

Reinstatements:

Scott & Kris Bailey Brian Smith
6311 DeBarr Rd. #417 2306 Walnut Ave.
Anchorage, AK Venice, CA 90291
99504-1799

Andrea Goulet Paul Backer
1355 Mt Pisgah Rd#19 828 6th St. #3
Walnut Creek, CA Santa Monica, CA
94596 90403-1415
(510)947-1861 (310)451-3448

Ret Moore
1473 Kensington Dr.
Fullerton, CA 92631

Congratulations!!!!!!

Emblem #518 Jeff Gomillion (Split)
Emblem #519 Christine Mitchell (Abbot)
Emblem #520 Mel Daybell (Lyell)
Emblem #521 Ken Jones (Lyell)
Emblem #522 Ken Olson (Goddard)
Emblem #523 Terry Flood (Goddard)

Emblem #524 Jim Adler (Goddard)
Emblem #525 Mirna Roach (Abbot)
Emblem #526 Greg Roach (Abbot)

Senior Emblem #108 Barbara Cohen (Red Slate)
Senior Emblem #109 Judi Richardson (Red Slate)
Senior Emblem #110 Jim Edmonson (Mt.Morrison)

Master Emblem #13 Steven Thaw (East Vidette)

ECHOES FROM OUR MEETINGS

Minutes from SPS meeting July 14, 1993

Present: Larry, Patty, Barbee, Dave, Bob Wyka, Bill Oliver, Vi Grasso, R.J. Secor, and Barbara.

Larry started the meeting at 6:35pm. The minutes were read and approved. Patty reported that we have \$4480.72 in the checking account and \$2013.19 in the savings account. She received a thank you note for our contribution to a bear box. Larry will publish a list of bear box locations in the next Echo.

Barbee gave us information about various speakers and locations for the banquet. The management committee voted to have Kitty Calhoun Grissom as the speaker, the Long Beach Greek Orthodox Church as the location, and Buongustos as the caterer. SPS will subsidize the event to keep the ticket price at \$25.

We now have 268 Echo subscriptions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

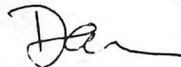
General meeting started at 7:50pm. Banquet decision was announced. Bill T. Russell noted that the USGS incorrectly placed the summit of Crag on the south, rather than on the north on the new 7.5 minute map. Barbee Hoffmann presented an informative slide show on wildflowers of the Sierra.

Angeles Chapter Council Meeting, Monday July 26, 1993

Recognizing that write up formats differ, the Council formed a committee to meet with Laurie Ives and Ron Jones to develop a standard format for write ups for both the schedule, The Southern Sierran, and wherever else write ups might be published.

The Chairman reported that the Executive Committee had decided that leaders who mingle a Chapter-sponsored activity with one run by another, profit-making, organization may have Chapter leadership privileges revoked.

Dan Richter



NEW TRIP ADDED

SPS Trip November 20-21 (Sat-Sun)

M: Lamont Pk.(7429), Spanish Needle(7841): Moderate paced day hikes of these two southern peaks, Saturday climb Spanish Needle, 14 mile RT, 2300' gain, Sunday climb Lamont Pk., 4 mile RT, 2250' gain, and possibly Sawtooth 8 mile RT, 2400' gain. Send SASE and H&W phones to leader: Sigrid Hutto 10410 Carlyle Ct. Cypress, Ca. 90630. (714) 995-6840, Asst. Greg Foerstel

NEW ORANGE COUNTY CLIMBING GYM NOW OPEN

ROCKREATION has just opened Orange County's first rock climbing gym. The new facility has 10,000 sq. ft. of sculpted climbing terrain; bouldering, top roping and lead climbing areas; complete shower and locker facilities; and quality instruction for all ages and abilities. ROCKREATION is located in Costa Mesa, just off the 405 freeway.

FOR MORE INFO CALL 714-556-ROCK

Renown Alpinist Kitty Calhoun Grissom to Present SPS Banquet Program

Kitty Calhoun Grissom is renown as a world class alpinist and she is reputed to be very talented at telling the story of her climbing accompanied by slides to a group. Kitty

Calhoun Grissom will be the 1993 Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) banquet speaker. The SPS banquet to be held December 8, 1993, at the Greek Orthodox community hall at 5761 Colorado in Long Beach will be catered by Buon Gusto's Italian restaurant.

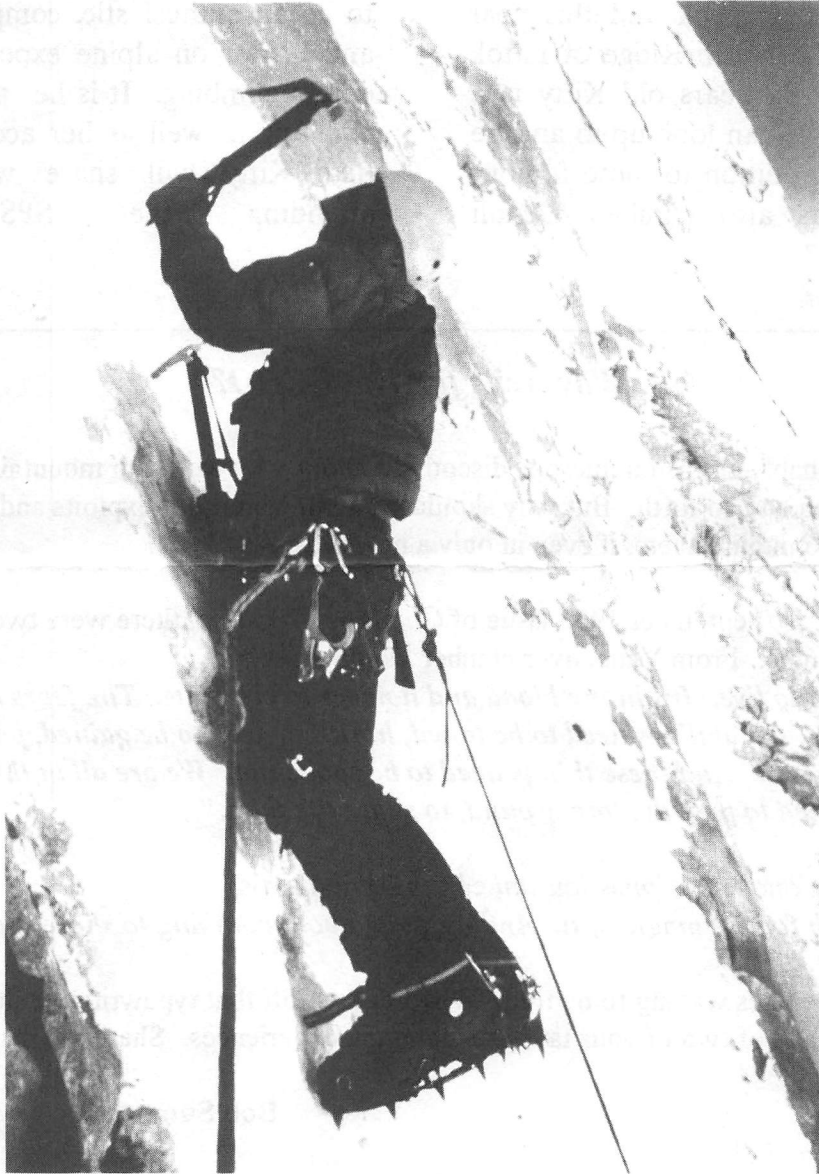
Tickets at \$25.00 each and can be ordered by sending a SASE and check (made out to the

SPS) to Barbee Hoffmann, 4160 Del Mar Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807.

Enough about the details though, and let me give more information on this very special speaker for the SPS banquet. Kitty was raised in South Carolina and

learned to ski in North Carolina. In North Carolina she received her early winter conditioning on the steep icy slopes of the Appalachian Mountains.

Kitty first learned rock climbing while in high school through an Outward Bound course and then went on to combine her winter skills and climbing skills through ice climbing while in college in Vermont. It was the ice climbing that helped Kitty to discover the alpine climbing environment she loves. After college graduation Kitty joined the Outward Bound



climbing staff in North Carolina, and later Colorado before joining the American Alpine Institute (AAI) in Seattle. Kitty has guided for the AAI for seven years in Alaska and aboard.

Kitty's climbing record includes the Cassin Ridge on Denali - 1985, attempted the North Face of They Sager in India - 1986, Dhaulagiri - 1987 becoming the first American woman to ascend the world's sixth highest peak, West Pillar of Makalu -1990 as the first woman to ascend the world's fifth highest peak and this year she attempted the North Ridge of Latok in Pakistan. At 32 years old Kitty is a woman climber we can look up to and be inspired by. In addition to these famous climbs Kitty has also climbed Denali

numerous times, Island Peak in Nepal, Annapurna, Balanca Peak in Colorado and many others.

Kitty has faced avalanches (and been swept away by one) in Alaska and Colorado; heavy winds on Dhaulagiri; and the death of a porter. She is reported to be an enthusiastic, competent climber and leader on alpine expeditions. Kitty enjoys climbing. It is her pleasure in the climbing as well as her accomplishments that Kitty will share with everyone attending the SPS banquet.

Why write for The ECHO?

We've probably all read numerous discourses about why we climb mountains. "Because its there" and so on and so forth. But why should we write about our exploits and adventures? And why bother to publish them, if even in only a newsletter?

In the August/September 1993 issue of *Climbing* magazine, there were two passages of relevance to this topic. From Vancouver climber Don Serl,

"We climb to live. It's in the blood and it needs to circulate. The fears need to be confronted, the abilities need to be tested, horizons need to be gained, paths need to be followed. And these things need to be spoken of. We are all in this together and we need to pass the lore around, to share the tales."

And from former *Canadian Alpine Journal* editor David Harris,

"We climb for the magic of it. And we write about climbing to share that magic."

We all have tales waiting to be told. Why not dust off that typewriter or fire up that PC? And crank out a page of two of your favorite mountain experiences. Share the magic.

Bob Sumner

Mario Gonzalez would be grateful for leadership to ascend the following peaks: Mt. Starr King, Mt. Darwin, Thunderbolt Peak, Mt. Gardiner, Norman Clyde Peak, Palisade Crest, Devil's Crags, Thunder Mtn., Glacier Ridge, The Hermit, Cathedral Peak.
(213) 614-2344

Kitty with Nine Lives

You could tell that Kitty Calhoun Grissom was actually scared. Her eyes were big with uneasiness; her hands fiddled nervously. Oh, sure, she was used to nerve-wracking situations. In 1985, she and Colin Grissom summited the Cassin Ridge on Denali, after being stormbound for five days without food. In 1986, attempting the unclimbed North Face of India's Thelay Sagar, she and Andy Selters spent eight stormbound days at 6400 meters in a broken portaledge, four of them without food. Almost swept off the edge of 8172-meter Dhaulagiri in 1987, she became the first American woman to ascend the world's sixth highest mountain. In 1990, summiting 8470-meter Makalu in lightweight expedition style via its highly technical West Pillar, Calhoun became the first woman to stand atop the world's fifth highest peak.

But this was different. This was a slide presentation.

As Calhoun's exploits have multiplied, so has the demand for these shows. Although shy by nature, Calhoun has become as effective at wielding a projector as she is an ice axe. She sure doesn't sound or look like an alpinist. Her stories are humorously understated, delivered in an incongruous honeysuckle-sweet Southern accent. The five foot three-inch, 32-year-old Calhoun looks young and oddly innocent to be America's top female Himalayan climber. With personal charisma to match her technical abilities and boldness, she could be this country's answer to France's alpine media star, Catherine Destivelle—if she ever wanted to. But Calhoun is modest and oblivious to publicity. She never volunteers her achievements, has written few climbing articles and is rarely photographed.

Kitty Calhoun's petite exterior belies her legendary physical and mental fortitude. Although she doesn't train, she can casually crank 15 pull-ups or jog ten miles. John Culberson, a close friend and fellow American Alpine Institute guide, recalls that on Dhaulagiri, she outclimbed the Sherpas, who had a headstart. She's also known for the ability to stay relaxed and confident in the most harrowing of circumstances, and the raw bullheadedness that has pulled her through numerous terrifying situations. Asked when she was the most scared, Calhoun says simply, "There have been a lot of times I was afraid I was going to die. I think storms are scarier than avalanches. Avalanches are over pretty quickly. But in storms, like on the Cassin or Thelay Sagar, the torture is more drawn out. You have a lot of time to think."

Calhoun has been a hardcore alpinist for more than a decade, during which time she's spent up to ten months a year traveling outside the US, sleeping 80% of the time in tents, cars or bivis. Her "city" wardrobe has consisted mainly of a single pair of corduroy pants. During the years without phone or permanent address, her mail was forwarded to her mother's South Carolina home.

Culberson comments, "We used to call Kitty's car 'Camp Subaru.' She built a platform in the back, put her sleeping bag on top and the gear underneath. Kitty was never really into cleaning."

Even her mother admits cheerfully, "That car wouldn't have passed a sanitation rating. No vermin, but it had an aroma! You could *smell* it coming."

"Her neoprene socks were particularly notorious," Culberson remembers. "When she asked me to join her on Dhaulagiri, I said, 'On one condition. You've got to throw away those neoprene socks.' She just laughed. She eventually sold the car—to another climber. When I got into it two years later, I *still* smelled that Kitty-neoprene-sock smell. It didn't seem to affect Colin [Grissom, her husband], but then he was a college wrestler and that's a really smelly sport."

Calhoun's background seems unlikely for an alpinist. She grew up in South Carolina, a state known more for beaches than bivis. But she has always been driven. Says her mother, "Kitty was an honors student since third grade." In sports, she co-captained the field-hockey team at her private Episcopal high school, played tennis, ran distance track and skied.

Calhoun learned to ski at five on the surprisingly cold, windy and icy slopes of North Carolina. Temperatures often dipped below zero as she trained for racing and served on the ski patrol. Her mother recalls, "One day, when the wind-chill was -30° below, Kitty fell while on patrol and got a mild concussion. When she was brought into the ski-patrol hut, the others had to hide her ski boots to keep her from going back out on patrol."

It was skiing that drew Calhoun to college at the University of Vermont. "I wanted a school really close to the slopes where conditions were steep and icy. I figured that's how I'd improve. Anyone can ski powder out West," she says.

Calhoun had learned to rock climb during high school from an Outward Bound course and started leading in 1979. In Vermont, at the epicenter of New England ice, she discovered ice climbing allowed her access to the alpine conditions she loved. She ticked off many classics at Lake Willoughby and Smuggler's Notch in Vermont, and Frankenstein, Cathedral Ledge and Cannon Mountain in New Hampshire (including the infamous testpiece, Black Dike, which she led in 1981, during her second year of ice climbing).

After graduation in 1982, Calhoun joined the Outward Bound climbing staff in North Carolina, then Colorado, and ultimately moved to the highly regarded American Alpine Institute in Seattle, to guide and climb in Alaska and abroad. Dunham Gooding, head of AAI, who hired Calhoun seven years ago, recalls, "Even at the start, Kitty would try anything." The only stumbling block to international guiding was Calhoun's lack of foreign-language skills, which she solved in typical fashion—by teaching herself Spanish from a Berlitz course and a book. That accomplished, Calhoun used her

days off on climbs like the Bouchard Route on the South Face of Peru's Charcaraju. John Culberson recalls that she also spent free time teaching herself Nepali (from a book) to prepare for the Himalaya.

In the fall of 1986, Andy Selters invited Calhoun to join him on the unclimbed North Face of Thelay Sagar—alpine style (one lead rope and one haul rope). This was her first venture to the Himalaya, and even in the annals of Calhoun's numerous epics, Thelay Sagar still stands out. Although the climbing was steep and difficult, the biggest danger was lack of protection and adequate anchors. The ice was—at most—only two inches thick on the 70° face. Selters recalls that they often couldn't find *any* placements for a full ropelength, so a leader fall would probably have been fatal. Still, they worked up below the crux area at 21,000 feet, when a storm hit. Says Selters, "We didn't know it, but we were in the worst spot. There was a giant slab above us and after only three minutes of snowing, spindrift avalanches started hitting us pretty hard. We actually ended up bruised."

Continuing up the steep face was impossible in the storm. Rapping down through the avalanches was suicidal. They had no choice but to wait out the storm in their broken portaledge. After four days, they ran out of food (except for a half-cup of gorp per person per day) and they still had to sit and wait for four more days until they judged conditions to be reasonable enough to descend. But the worst wasn't over. Rappel anchors were difficult to find, and darkness caught them halfway down, without headlamps (one had broken, the other had fallen), unable to use their portaledge. They chopped a narrow ledge and huddled together miserably, draping one sleeping bag over their legs. They agree that it was the toughest night of all.

"I think that was a real turning point for Kitty," Selters remarks. "Before that, there were plenty of times when she pulled it out because she was tough. Determination counts for a lot in Himalayan climbing, but if you count on it too much, you'll kill yourself. I think on Thelay Sagar, Kitty developed more of a sense of mortality and healthy caution, to balance her formidable determination."

The North Face of Thelay Sagar—eventually climbed in 1991 by a team of Hungarians—was the last expedition Calhoun didn't organize and lead. Or summit. On her two subsequent 8000-meter Himalayan ventures to Dhaulagiri and Makalu, Calhoun's track record is remarkable: of four team members on Dhaulagiri, she was one of three who summited; of six on Makalu, she was one of two. And no one died or left any appendages behind, amazing in itself. Moreover, the expeditions' successes were achieved simply, with small budgets and teams, no oxygen, little impact on native cultures and the environment, and maximal self-reliance.

Calhoun's approach to climbing is as admirable as her accomplishments. Yvon Chouinard says, "Kitty's right up there with the great climbers. But what I find so fantastic is that, while most climbers are bingeing on sport climbing, she's out there by herself, climbing in what I consider to be the ultimate style." Chouinard points out that while Calhoun is hailed for being state-of-the-art, her philosophy is essentially old-fashioned. Even her choice of mountains is telling. She's drawn to obscure peaks with aesthetic appeal and/or technical challenge. After Thelay Sagar, Calhoun turned down a spot on a large, well-funded Everest expedition, aware that success would boost her marketing value for guiding and finding sponsors (particularly since it might have made her the first American woman to top Everest). She opted, instead, for Dhaulagiri with three close friends, explaining, "I figured I probably wouldn't summit on Everest, so I might as well have fun."

On Dhaulagiri, she found plenty of fun—Calhoun-style. The avalanches were so bad, Calhoun's team was the only one to summit that season. But it was a close shave.

On an early attempt, Calhoun, Grissom and Culberson were dragged 350 feet and buried in an avalanche, almost plunging off Dhaulagiri's 5000-foot North Face before a single picket anchor caught the fixed line. Everyone was injured. Calhoun's ice axe stabbed through her clothes and the climbing rope burned into gray muscle matter. Yet, four days later, the trio made a second summit attempt—this time successful. They barely got down ahead of one of the season's worst storms.

Dhaulagiri is a sentimental favorite for Calhoun because it was her first 8000-meter peak, but Makalu holds a different meaning—for its climbing challenges and the teamwork involved.

The route, the very beautiful and difficult West Pillar, is so steep there is little avalanche danger. But without oxygen, altitude itself posed the greatest hazard. Everyone suffered bad respiratory problems. Mark Houston fractured some ribs from coughing; Grissom contracted bad bronchitis; no one could talk much due to sore throats. And Kathy Cosley and John Culberson found they literally couldn't eat enough to compensate for the altitude's physiological drain.

"The climbing was outrageous," Calhoun enthuses. "Extremely steep, exposed, sustained and on excellent rock. But it was hard, because it was very windy, long and drawn-out." Running low on food, in borderline weather, "the least wasted," Calhoun and John Schutt finally made the summit, becoming only the fourth team ever to climb the West Pillar. "We got there because of everyone's efforts. We were a really strong team and worked well together," says Calhoun.

After all these daring achievements, which does Calhoun consider her most satisfying? She responds without hesitation:

"That we've always gone to the mountain with a small group of good friends. And that we came back as good friends." How can we account for such an impressive record? The explanation is complex, and involves luck, determination and instinct. Nick Yardley, a premiere New England ice climber and Himalayan veteran, offers a rational analysis: "Kitty is one of the few modern climbers who did it the right way. She started on small ice flows, then moved up to the next level. She gradually built the experience to be able to make the correct decisions for Himalayan climbing. Kitty has the right mental attitude. She can put up with hardship and worrying. She stays relaxed and confident, keeping her sense of humor."

Dunham Goodings says, "I don't know of any 8000-meter expeditions with smaller budgets or less equipment than Kitty's." Consequently, she may feel less pressure than highly sponsored or visible climbers who are tempted to make decisions against their judgment for fear of losing face or backers. Total cost per climber on Dhaulagiri ran \$3500, including roundtrip airfare. On Makalu, with sponsorship from Black Diamond, The North Face and PMI, cost per climber was \$5000. Contrast that to recent Everest expeditions, with typical budgets of \$100,000 or more.

Between Dhaul- agiri and Makalu, Calhoun's life changed. On New Year's Eve of 1988, she and longtime climbing partner Col- in Grissom married, and moved to New Haven, Connecticut — an inner city with higher crime rates than New York, so Grissom could finish medical school at Yale. (He's now a resident at the University of Washington.)

Calhoun currently devotes considerable time to the Expedition Committee of the American Alpine Club (two years ago, she was elected to the Board of Directors), generating funding for modest expeditions attempting "smaller peaks." She's disheartened by the expedition scene and the media obsession with Everest.

Today, Calhoun is a long way from the single-minded alpinist of ten years ago. Matt Culberson agrees: "Kitty now realizes there's more out there than climbing." While she still occasionally guides for AAI, this June she'll graduate from business school at the University of Washington. Her new goals involve combining marketing with climbing in a more mainstream lifestyle with her husband and, possibly, children. But first, she, Grissom and friends Andy De Klerk and Julie Brugger will attempt the still-unclimbed North Ridge of Latok in Pakistan. Their goal is to have fun, and maybe even summit. They should have an excellent shot at both.

—by Susan E. B. Schwartz

Article reprinted, with permission, from **Rock & Ice**
Magazine #55

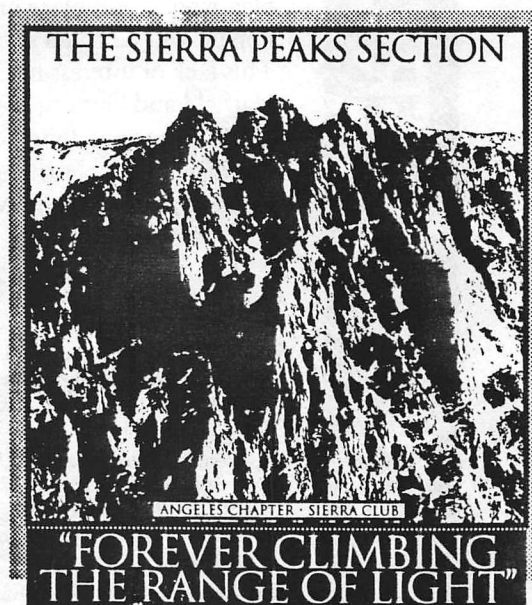
SPS T-SHIRTS

It is not too late to get your SPS T-Shirts. Wynne Benti-Zdon did a great job on the design. The T-Shirts show a great view of North Palisade on the front and the entire SPS list by geographic area on the back.

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

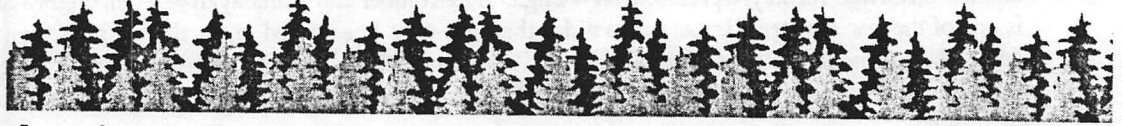
Buy them at the SPS meeting. You can also mail order them through me specifying color and size and enclosing a check (payable to the Sierra Peaks Section) for \$14.00 (\$2.00 to cover shipping).

Patty Kline
20362 Callon Drive
Topanga Canyon, CA 90290



ECHOES FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY - SIERRA CLUB
 NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY - CALIFORNIA ANCIENT FOREST ALLIANCE



Ancient Forests and Civil Rights Threatened

Senators Mark Hatfield (D-OR) and Slade Gorton (R-WA) are threatening to attach a "SUFFICIENCY RIDER" to the Interior Appropriations Bill in MID-September. This rider would insulate the Forest Service from existing federal laws, SUSPEND OUR ACCESS TO THE COURTS, and mandate a specified, illegal amount of logging resulting in overcutting and continued DESTRUCTION OF ANCIENT FORESTS.

Friends of big timber have tried similar attempts in prior years. They were successful in overturning our court injunctions, mandating unsustainable logging levels and limiting judicial review SIX times in the 80's. But, in the past two years, we have successfully beat them back, thanks to a great public outcry from ancient forest activists like you.

Congress needs to hear how important this issue is to everyone. Many in Congress now think that President Clinton is dealing with the ancient forest issue and there is no reason for them to get involved. But, the President's plan won't be in place until next year, and we hope it will be much stronger when finalized. This lack of interest in Congress gives Senators Hatfield and Gorton, both powerful members of the Appropriations Committee, more leverage. Even our friends in Congress like Representative George Miller, are concerned.

Feinstein and Packard Key California Targets

Two Californians are especially important to reach. Letters and calls to Senator Feinstein are critical because she is on the Appropriations Committee, as well as the Judiciary Committee, and she has not taken a position on Ancient Forest Protection yet. Ron Packard (R) from Oceanside, is also key. He is the only Californian on the Conference Committee for the bill. This committee will make the final decisions behind closed doors and it is critical that Rep. Packard hear from all of you. Both of these legislators need to hear how important ancient forest protection and our constitutionally-guaranteed access to the courts are to Californians across the entire state.

Your Help Needed Now!

Please Help!! Write or call Congress and President Clinton immediately and urge them to oppose any Appropriations rider that suspends environmental laws and requires overcutting of ancient forests. No one, not the timber industry, the Executive Branch, or the Forest Service, is above the law. Opposition to sufficiency language is a move to protect the environment and the integrity of the U.S. Constitution.

Please Write or Call Today

Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senate, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. Phone: 202-224-3841.

Representative Ron Packard, U.S. House of Representatives, 2162 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515. Phone, 202-225-2676.

Your Representative, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Capitol Switchboard, 202-224-3121.
 President Clinton, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20500

Also important are:

Senator Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510
 Senator Robert Byrd, Chairman Senate Interior Appropriations Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Representative Sid Yates, Chairman House Interior Appropriations Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Thanks for your help.

For more information contact Louis Blumberg at The Wilderness Society, 415-541-9144 or Frannie Waid at Sierra Club, 510-654-7847.

ECHOES FROM OUR CLIMBS

Smith Mtn, Crag Peak, Jackass Peak

June 19, 1993 by Ann Kramer

This hike in the Southern Sierras was Erik Siering's provisional lead. Dan Richter assisted. The other participants were me, Willie Richter, Asher Waxman, Patty Kline, Bruce Peterson, Paula Peterson, Randy Ragland, Steve Nardi and Vi Grasso. The trip was originally scheduled for May, but postponed due to heavy snow.

On Memorial Day weekend, when Erik scouted the Crag route, we saw traces of snow. On the scouting expedition, I impersonated the rest of a typical hiking group. I was instructed to whine, complain, and request breaks every fifteen minutes. On top of the exposed summit of Crag, the wind was gale force, so we



could not even stand. We hiked through hail and rain on the way back to the truck.

On June 19, 1993, we started from the Smith Meadows trailhead at 6:30 a.m. with clear skies and much better weather. We signed in on Smith by 7:30 a.m., where we found a cheery register greeting from Bill T. Russell and Pat Russell, who had signed in the previous weekend.

As we descended, the rear of the group entertained the rest of us by making dinosaur noises. (*Jurassic Park* opened last weekend.) Willie and Steve were particularly talented. Dan also demonstrated ape noises — Willie's ability is definitely inherited! Further on, I slipped and fell hard on a bush, gathering an extremely impressive bruise in a place that I can't show to just anyone. Erik feels sorry for the bush.

We followed the signed Albanita Meadows Trail past Agua Bonita Springs until its turnoff to Hooker Meadow, then continued on use trail and cross-country via Corral Meadow to the saddle below Finger Rock. We saw extremely lush meadows with beautiful wildflowers, tinkling brooks and lots of very hungry mosquitoes. Albanita Meadows was a little squooshy in spots, while Corral Meadow was dry.

We approached Crag from the south, climbing over the named point on the topo map, thereby avoiding most of the heavy brush near the ridge. At the southeast base of Crag, a prominent crack leads up to the top, avoiding the 'knife edge' on the north ridge. Erik led Dan, Asher and Vi up to the small summit block, while the others waited below. Erik then stationed Dan and Asher at strategic points along the crack to assist the rest of us while he presided at the top of his mountain and Vi took a nap on the rocks below. There was another greeting from Bill T. Russell and Pat Russell. Everybody made it to the summit, photos were taken, then we ate lunch in the warm sunshine. On the ridge descent, Randy fell into a manzanita bush.

Throughout, Erik maintained a brisk pace that only Bruce was consistently able to match. Patty decided that she is only going to sign up for Erik's trips if he is bringing me. Bruce's strength was particularly remarkable because he and Paula had driven up that morning and got very little sleep the night before.

At the turnoff for Jackass Peak near the Smith Meadows trailhead, Randy and the Petersons opted to forego Jackass Peak in favor of an early return to L.A. Erik led the remaining hardy souls up the western side, then south for the scramble to the top. Here, in light of the peak's name, the group brayed in unison, and Patty dedicated the peak to an appropriate acquaintance. There was another greeting from Bill T. Russell and Pat Russell. Our view was breathtaking, again. Throughout the day, we saw, in turn, each of our other two objectives from the top of the third. We returned to our trucks for the post-hike happy hour.
[Round-trip statistics for the day - approximately 16 miles, 3500']

Mt. Russell, Mt. Carillon, Tunnabora Peak, The Cleaver, Thor Peak SPS Trip - August 6-8

R.J Secor kindly assisted me on my provisional lead of this Lone Pine north fork group. We left Whitney Portal on Friday with the group members who could get away early: myself, Tom Sexton, R.J., and Rex Hyon. We were at Upper Boy Scout Lake in a leisurely five hours, with surprisingly little bushwacking. The trail on the north side of the creek was obvious, and above Lower Boy Scout Lake the one of twenty or so trails we settled on, went well. That afternoon myself, R.J., and Rex climbed Thor Peak returning to camp within three hours. Party members arriving that afternoon were Don Tanaka and Kevin Doyle and later that evening, Ed Ross.

The following day we left camp at 7:30 a.m. or so to ascend the Russell-Carillon saddle. We then headed up the infamously exposed ridge of Russell dropping to the north a little bit later than we could have to wind our way up to the summit. From there R.J. took the lead down the North arete to the Tulainyo Lake bowl. We all agreed that given the choice the return to the Russell-Carillon saddle and down would be faster and easier. From there we ascended the easy route up Tunnabora and noting time of day all but R.J. decided against the Cleaver. The main group headed back to the Russell Carillon saddle watching R.J.'s progress. After surmounting the saddle (it's tougher from that side) all but Ed climbed easy Carillon. We were back at camp by 4 p.m. and all but Rex decided to break camp and hike out that night. We were at the cars by 8:00 p.m. Rex and R.J. hiked out the following morning.

Despite the north fork trail difficulties this area has proved itself worth coming back to again and again. Thank you to all the participants who put up with my provisional weekend willies.

Sigrid Hutto

Resounding *ECHOES*

[Bill Oliver]

"Outlaw" Trips Misleading

[This title headed an article in the Feb/58 *ECHO*. It was penned by Vice Chair **Bill Sanders**, who became Chair the next year. The Section was less than two years old.]

I wish to protest the use of the word "outlaw" when referring to outings and to suggest that words "unscheduled" or "non-scheduled" be used in its stead. The word "outlaw" immediately brings to mind an unsavory type character connected with some sort of shady dealings. When "SPS outlaw trip" is seen in a summit register by an outsider it would be only natural for him to assume that this was a trip not sanctioned by the Sierra Club. Even Sierra Clubbers will get this impression. In a recent discussion a member of the Sierra Club and the SPS registered surprise that the Sierra Club looked upon outlaw trips favorably.

The Sierra Club wants people to go on outings in our wilderness areas on their own initiative as well as in organized groups. This is the way to get people interested in conservation of wilderness areas.

The word "outlaw" works against the aims of the Sierra Club and it works against our Section. Outsiders will have little faith in the Sierra Club and its sincerity in its announced purpose if a bunch of "outlaws" are members. Our Section will certainly not gain the prestige it deserves in the Club if we continue to identify ourselves as "outlaws."

Plans are afoot to schedule trips in the future to appeal to new members and hence to increase the size of the SPS. Let us support the Section and the Sierra Club by speaking and writing of "unscheduled" trips from now on. Let us not be a bunch of upstart rebellious outlaws.

[Are "scheduled" trips to be permitted? I say we string up any unsavory type characters pronto!]

SPS LEISURE TRIPS
HORSESHOE MEADOW PEAKS TRIP - JULY 30 TO AUGUST 1

Five eager SPS Leisure Trippers met at the Mt. Whitney Ranger Station in Lone Pine around 6:45 A. M. on Friday, July 30. After waiting a bit for the crowd to die down, we got our Wilderness Permit. Since our route was a non-quota trailhead, this wasn't a problem.

The group, consisting of Campy and Ski Camphausen,, Mary Sue Miller, LeRoy Johnson and Rick Jali (myself), then drove to Horseshoe Meadow. From there we started across the meadow (with some wet wading) and up Mulkey Pass. At the pass, a 4-way trail intersection, we went left along the PCT to a point about one mile west of Muah Mtn, and just north of Ash Meadow. From here Campy, LeRoy and I set out for Muah. It was easy cross-country hiking (and a few false summits; the true one is on the east end) to the top. Weather was warm and clear, as it was on the whole trip, and the views across the Owens Valley were outstanding.

Returning after some wandering, we found our packs and followed the trail around the west end of Ash Meadow. But that wasn't where the water was. So we had to move about 1 1/2 miles east along the meadow until we found flowing water. This made for a bit of a long day, but we finally did make a nice camp.

Next morning, the same three set out for Cartago, again along the PCT which went over a spectacular viewpoint at 10800' about three miles along. Then, about two miles farther south, we left the PCT and dropped east into Death Canyon, heading east for Cartago. Fortunately, we found a little water in the bottom of the canyon, for it was quite warm. Then we went up into the top of Cartago.

I say it this way because it was a strange and fascinating mountain; with wide flat plains of gravel and pine trees surrounded by weird granitic spires. It suggested an ancient ruined city, or a surrealistic movie set. One of these spires (it is said there are 31) is the summit. We scrambled up several; but always saw others that looked higher, and never found a summit register. After two hours of intriguing and exasperating wandering around, we had to leave, so we could get back to camp before dark. We feel we got the peak, tho (maybe) not the summit. But, after all, this was supposed to be a Leisure Trip.

We made it back to camp before dark, and enjoyed another beautiful evening of bright stars and brilliant moonlight. The next morning we waited for the sun to hit our sleeping bags (this was a Leisure Trip, remember?) before getting up and doing breakfast. Then we had an easy trip back out the way we came in. Since no one was interested in Trail or Cirque, we came out a day early on Sunday, August 1, instead of remaining until the next day. Since there was increasing cloud buildup suggesting thundershowers, this may have been a bit of good luck. After all, this was a Leisure Trip, remember?

RED SLATE/RED & WHITE - DOUBLE SENIOR EMBLEM TRIP
AUG 7-8, 1993 by Barbara Cohen

In order to do our share for the 'Year of the Woman', Judi Richardson and I decided to become the first two women to earn their senior emblems on an SPS trip. With our all-woman crew (Barbee Hoffmann assisting), we left the McGee Creek parking lot at 6:20am arriving at Big McGee Lake around 11. After setting up camp, we took off for Red Slate. It was a trudge to McGee Pass on trail, then use trail to the peak--but the view was terrific. For both Judi and I, it was our second peak in the area, having completed all the other requirements for the senior emblem.

While partying on the summit, Paula Peterson presented me with the following poem:

To Barbara, upon climbing Red Slate:

We've followed you, Barbara,
On trips all around.
Through trails and cross-country,
Each peak you have found

Your adventures are famous,
and stories unique
are told of your trips
to capture a peak.

The HPS lost you
to SPS climbs,
All the brush and short drive-ups
Got old in no time.

So on you proceeded
To seek out new goals,
And branched out to sections
Reserved for brave souls.

The DPS kept you
Amused for a while
But your heart seemed to fall
For that SPS style.

The beauty, the danger,
The challenges there...
I think all of that really
Did curl your hair!

You took all in stride,
And lived to tell tales
Of death marches and bivvys
Through hills and through dales.



Cathedral was scary,
But many close calls
Have come and brushed by you
When scaling those walls!

How 'bout Clyde Minaret
It was long and so far,
Too bad you slept out
Oh so close to the car!

And the Williamson trip--
We heard grumbles for weeks
Of how hard it had been
To get up to those peaks.

How many long trips
Have we come with our trucks
To hear you repeat
'You know, this really sucks!'

I guess we all know
That you really don't mean it.
You've loved all these trips
And your senior emblem does prove it!

After the summit celebration, we returned to camp to continue the festivities. Sunday, Barbee agreed to lead Red & White while I slowly swept. We left camp at 7 and took the trail to Little McGee Lake. Approaching from the northeast ridge as described in RJ's book proved to be the easiest route to the summit. It took us three hours up. The descent proved more exciting with lots of loose rock on the southeast face. We were back at camp by 12:30, on our way out by 1:15, and at the cars by 3:45.

This was a great trip--a fun group and all objectives met. Joining us were: Devra Wasserman, the Petersons, Keith Martin, Erik (Eigenvector) Siering, Pete Yamagata, and Jeff Kent. Thanks to Barbee for co-leading.

CALIFORNIA HIGHPOINTER

On July 28, 1993, SPS member Gary Suttle became the first person to reach the top of each county in California, when, guided by expert mountaineer Bill Broeckel and SPS friend Weldon Astle, he climbed North Palisade. Gary is preparing a guide to the highest point in each of the state's 58 counties, to be published by Wilderness Press in 1994. The county highpoints encompass 7 peaks on the SPS list: Granite Chief (Placer), Mount Lola (Nevada), Freel Peak (El Dorado), Mount Lyell (Tuolumne), Mount Ritter (Madera), Mount Whitney (Inyo-Tulare), and North Palisade (Fresno).

Iron Mtn and Electra Pk; 8-13 August 1993 by Campy

The eight of us met at the Mammoth RS on Sunday at 6 am to obtain a wilderness permit and, again an hour later, at the Devil's Postpile parking lot. Rick Jali was assistant leader and we had with us Judy Ware, Delores Holladay, Dave and Mary Ann Campbell, Owen Maloy, George Peck, and I. This was billed as a "leisure" trip for Iron, Foerster, Electra.

George had a bathroom scale set out to weigh our packs; they were 47, 50, 40, and other heavy pounds. "But this trip was supposed to be a 'leisure' trip!", somebody said, and we pondered this leisure trip question over the following 6 days. We got started and crossed the bridge over the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River near the famous basalt columns. Passing the devastation of the recent *Rainbow* fire, we soon came to green meadows and showy displays of wildflowers. We wet-crossed the full-flowing King Creek (upon our return we found an upstream crossing log).

Our pace slowed during the 1700-foot trudge up the Granite Stairway. Several halts allowed "out-of-shapers" to rejoin us. *Group integrity* hallmarks a leisure trip, although, admittedly, it's not as critical on other climbs where the lead group may reach camp hours ahead of the slowest. We arrived at Corral Meadow at 4:30 pm. Eight-mile trail, 8 hours.

Iron Mountain (11,149')

The next morning five of us departed on the trail near camp and climbed through forests and meadows toward the mountain. Delores and Owen had climbed it before so they weren't along. Dave, Mary Ann, and George named the wildflowers and trees as we went. We came to a saddle; cirque basins to the north were filled with snow and half-frozen lakes. We scrambled over the rocky summit ridge. No register or container was found on the summit. To the south we could see a rainstorm over the Sierra and the Inyos.

Camp was moved to Livingston Meadow via an 8-hour trek along a fairly used but negligently maintained trail. We came to Hemlock Crossing and the bridge spanning the North Fork of the San Joaquin. Staying east of the river, we made camp at 4:30 pm after 9 miles of trail through the old growth forest. No thought of fun and games; we were bushed! Tents were pitched, sleeping bags were laid out, and after dinner and a brief camp fire, we were ready to "hang up our feet".

Electra Pk (12,442')

Crossing the big North Fork posed difficulty at first, but then we found a huge, safe snow bridge. After negotiating this and a boulder field, we entered Bench Canyon. Upon crossing Bench Creek we discovered what gave the creek its name; a glacier-polished bench loomed above us and from it cascaded a waterfall. We intended to climb Foerster Pk (12,058') but the unattractive wall climb forced our attention to a nearby secondary canyon. Climbing this let us out conveniently at a basin leading to the foot of the higher Electra Peak. Delores, Owen, and I reached its summit at 3 pm (Rick and George didn't climb on this day; Dave, Mary Ann, and Judy were home by now, as they were along only to climb Iron). From the top we enjoyed the splendid view of the Ritter Range. It was a long day, made longer by my mistaking the canyon with our camp, and I led two of us back on an extra goose chase. We were in camp after dark, 9 mi rt, 4300' gain.

The next morning everybody tried to look like they were still sleeping. I said "It's 7 am, people", and there was a slight stir. The leisure trip idea had finally caught hold. A rest day was available, but too few wanted to climb Foerster afterward. Reasons were given for ditching it and returning some other time. We left, and it took us 2 days to be back at The Mogul in Mammoth for dinner. Thanks go to Rick Jali for his excellent assist.

TRIPLE EMBLEMEES ON MT. GODDARD

August 21, 1993



(L to R) Ken Olson, Jim Adler, and Terry Flood
(Photo by Terry Flood)

While leading a Sierra Club National Outing to the Ionian Basin, August 7 through 15, myself and 12 trip participants made the long climb up Mt. Goddard (13,568') from the east and summited in the early afternoon. We were joined moments later by Jim Adler and Kathy Price who were out on a private expedition and discovered that Jim was getting his emblem on this same peak as were Ken Olson and myself. Pretty amazing.....Even more stunning was when we noticed that each of us had entered the number 58 after our names in the register as in total number of SPS peaks climbed. I have no idea what the odds on that are!

Other trip members on the summit included my assistant, Daren Reid, Eben Crawford, Bond Shands, Jeff and Karen George, Howard Cohn, Gerry Axelrod, Eric Hoffman, Greg Hoffman, John Dodds, and David Creech (who videotaped this entire effort.) The long trek back to the other side of the basin was rewarded with happy hour and mass quantities of food which is the tradition on my national outings.

Terry Flood

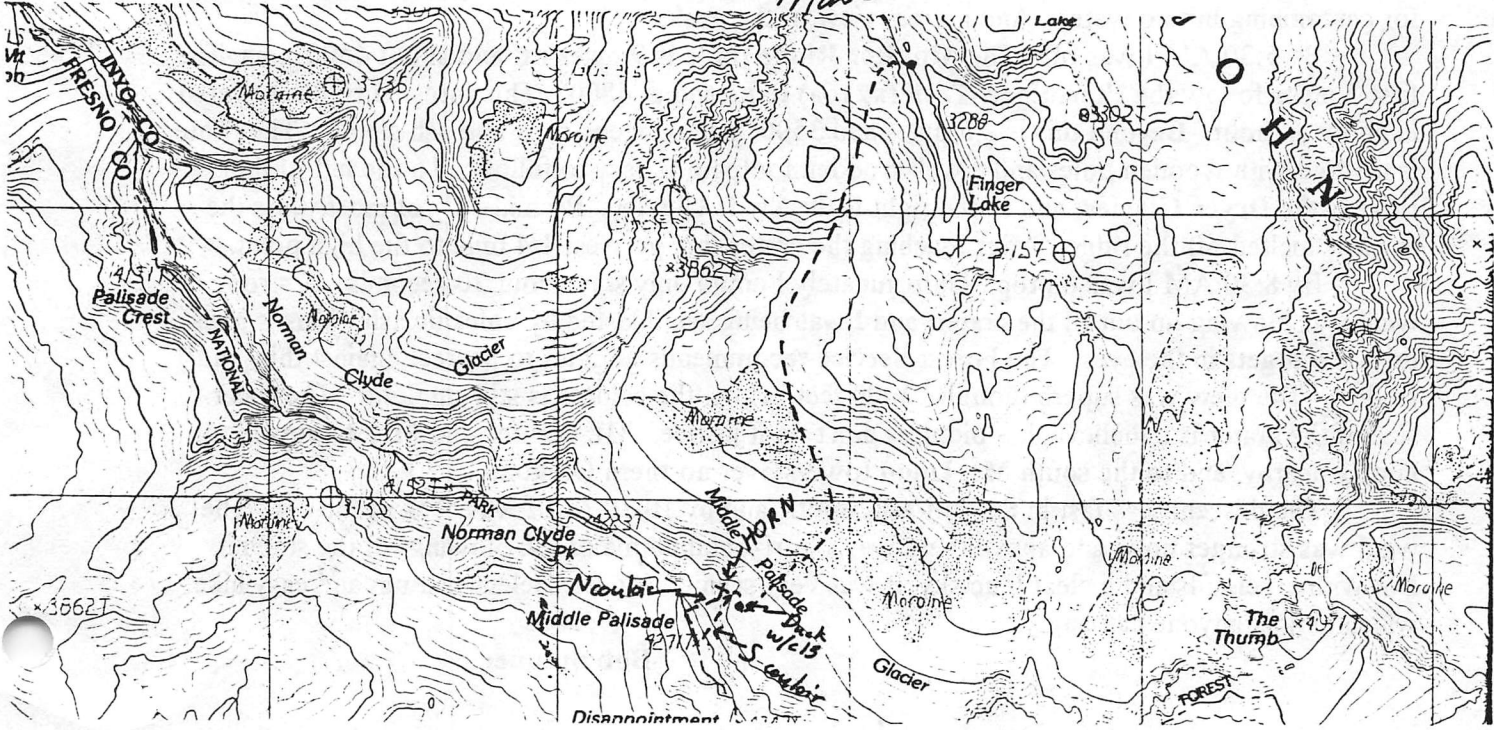


This trip had been originally scheduled as a (San Diego) Sierra Club outing for May, but, due to snow, was relocated to Angora Pk. Our (private) group of five drove from San Diego and spent Thursday night at Upper Sage Flat campground. Up early Friday morning, we completed a self-issue permit and began a leisurely hike up to Finger Lake, feasting on a wide variety of wild berries along the trail. We arrived at Finger Lake mid-afternoon and had time for Mike to instruct a rappel/anchor clinic.

Saturday, our group got a crack-of-dawn start from Finger Lake on a crisp, clear day. There was a light dusting of snow on Middle Pal's E face. We were aware of two obvious couloirs on the peak's E face that lead to the summit. The two prominent couloirs meet at a large "horn" near the base of the mountain just above the N half of the Middle Pallsade Glacier. To get to this "starting point", hike onto and S across the moraine just below the N half of Middle Pallsade Glacier. Then, proceed up the "tongue" between the two glacier "halves" staying near the N end of the glacier's S half. Watch carefully alongside the abutting wall for a strategically placed duck about 20 or 30 feet up the wall. Depending on the glacial melt, and how the glacier abuts the rock wall, pick your way along ice and snow (insteps may be helpful here) up to the "jumping off" point. It wasn't more than 100 to 150 feet of walking (slipping?) on the glacier before we saw the duck. Leave the glacier and ascend a moderate class three pitch to class one "trail" and follow ducks N around to the horn, where you'll have a choice as to which couloir you want/need. We had been advised to use the S-most of the two available couloirs. However, Roper's book somewhat misleads the climber into the N couloir from the "conspicuous patch of white rock". Several expletives in the summit register expressed sentiments to Roper regarding this somewhat unfortunate misinterpretation. Since we had been told the N couloir was a sure thing, we opted for this route. We discovered, upon ascent, that while the N couloir eventually gets you to Middle Pal's crest, and not the summit, it is clearly NOT the easiest way to go. It's high class three and may even approach low class four. Once on the summit's crest via the N couloir, we traversed Middle Pal's "fin" S to the actual summit block. The traverse was challenging (cl3) and we had incredible views down Middle Pal's W face. Had we used the S couloir, this would not have been a problem since the S couloir leads directly to the summit via a series of steep, but easy, ledges, ranging from high class two to low class three. However, it wasn't until from the summit, we were able to determine that the S couloir was, from, as far down as we could see, significantly "easier" than the N couloir. We made the decision to use/try the S couloir as our decent route, figuring it couldn't be any worse than what we had just come up. While tedious, it was much safer. This then led us back to the horn where we rendezvoused with our earlier ascent route. From here, we proceeded around to the class three "drop-off" back to the glacier. Several people picked their way down and skirted over ice caves back to a stable platform. Since I'd carried a 9mm rope ALL day, the rest of us decided to do a 30' rappel down to the same platform. From here, we descended back down the incredibly crummy/loose moraine, with great views of the glacier and the S Fork's drainage. Back at our Finger Lake camp, eleven hours later, we looked back at Middle Pal's intimidating great eastern face with awe, somewhat amazed at where we had been.

Back to Glacier Lodge by noon Sunday, then onto showers and food in Big Pine, and finally, the all-too-familiar trudge/drive back to San Diego. An awesome peak, good leadership (thanks Mike) and participants, perfect weather, and NO bears, made this a euphoric adventure.

Mark



Mt. St. Helens, Washington

8-3-93

Tales of lost loves, jobs, cars, and dogs have overwhelmed the staff. It appears that the pumice they took from Mount St. Helens gave them bad luck. - USFS brochure

Mt. St. Helens needs little introduction. Most of us remember May 1980, when the once conical volcano blew itself to smithereens. Where once stood a 9677' mountain, then stood an 8365' smouldering slag heap. Gone were hundreds of thousands of trees, many lives - both human and animal, and of course the village at Spirit Lake was destroyed in mere seconds.

Thirteen years after the cataclysm, things are certainly back to normal. Roads, both paved and dirt, cover the south side of the mountain. Visitor centers are located at strategic places. Rangers conduct lectures in the shadow of the once-mighty peak. A new trail circumnavigates it. And the area even has a unique identifier: **Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument**.

Unlike Joshua Tree and other national monuments, Mt. St. Helens is not administered by the Park Service, but by the Forest Service. Seems it was their land before the eruption, and they wanted to keep it. Congress agreed of course. The Forest Service does appear to be doing as good a job as the Park Service, and there are lectures, hikes, interpretive programs, and the other usual tourist activities.

Leaving Portland Airport, one goes north on I-205, immediately crossing the Columbia River into Washington. Then north on I-5 to Woodland, and east on State 503. About 5 miles west of Cougar, you'll see "Climber Registration" signs. Stop here at **Jack's Restaurant**. This is where the process of climbing Mt. St. Helens begins. Go to the cashier and put your name on the climbing list. At 6:00 PM she will then issue permits from the list - no shows are out of luck. Up to 40 permits will be issued per day; the other 60 are reserved by mail months in advance. Week days are not a problem - there were only twenty people here at 6. Then sign the climbing register outside - sign out is mandatory upon completing (or not) the climb. Continue east on State 503 through Cougar. A few miles down the road, turn left on Road 83, left on Road 8100, then right on Road 830 (dirt) to the **Climbers Bivouac** trailhead at 3750'. There is an outhouse and space for carcamping but no water. And a great view of the peak.

By 5:30 AM I was off. The **Monitor Ridge** route is 9 miles r.t. and about 4500' gain. The first 2 miles follow the **Ptarmigan Trail** (#216a) to its end at 4800'. This forested trail is covered in about an hour. Beyond this is 2.5 miles and 3500' gain on steep rock and ash slopes. The route is marked with wooden poles and a well-trodden footpath is easy to follow. To the left of the ridge is the **Dryer Glacier**, and to the right is the **Swift Glacier**. By mid-July of most years the snow is melted off the ridge. After reaching the crater rim, go west 1/4 mile to the high point.

By 8:30 AM I was on top. Unfortunately I could only stay about 30 seconds. A strong wind was blowing up out of the crater, and I was being sandblasted by volcanic ash. This is painful when it gets in the eyes. The Forest Service recommends goggles to protect against this, and so do I. The view was superb though. 3000 feet below, the caldera is still smoking. The sheer size of the crater is unbelievable - pictures don't do it justice. **Mt. Ranier** and **Mt. Adams** loom hugely nearby, and to the south **Mt. Hood** towers over northern Oregon.

The descent was fast in the soft ashy spots, and by 10:30 AM I was back at the car. The wind was stronger now, and above there was a horizontal plume of ash blowing off the summit. But with no clouds and a clear blue sky, it was very scenic. Mt. St. Helens is a fun and easy hike which almost anyone can enjoy.

Bob Sumner

Published six times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter.

- EDITOR:** Wayne Norman, 436 Flower St., Costa Mesa CA, 92627, (714) 646-8588. ECHO copy deadlines are the third Saturday of odd numbered months. Priority is given to legible, typed, single spaced copy. Laser-printed or other high quality copy is preferred. Floppy Disks (IBM/MS-DOS format) are especially appreciated. Use letter quality setting on dot matrix printers. If you would like your submission returned to you, please enclose a SASE.
- SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$12.00 per year, due by March 31st. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Sustaining membership is \$25.00 per year, and includes first class postage. Submit new subscription applications and renewals to the section Treasurer, and include your Sierra Club membership number. New applications received after October 1 are credited for the subsequent year. Only one ECHO subscription is necessary for multiple members of a family residing at one address. Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club or the SPS are not tax-deductible.
- ADVERTISEMENT:** Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the following rates. Private trip announcements: \$1.00 for the first 4 lines and \$1.00 for each additional line. Other announcements and product/service advertisements: \$1.00 per line or \$25.00 for a half page space. Reach out to our climbing constituency and place an ad today! Send copy and check to the Editor.
- ADDRESS CHANGES:** Send address changes to the section Secretary: Barbara Cohen, 2160 Plaza Del Amo #172, Torrance 90501. The ECHO is mailed via 3rd class mail and will not be forwarded by the post office.
- PEAKS LIST:** Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending \$1.00 and a SASE to the section Secretary.
- MISSING ISSUES:** Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Barbara Cohen, 2160 Plaza Del Amo #172, Torrance 90501. Extra copies of the 30th Anniversary ECHO are available by sending \$4.50 per copy to the section Mailer. Copies of the Tribute issue (Nov/Dec 89) are also available from the Mailer for \$2.00. Prospective new members: for a one time complimentary copy of the ECHO, send 52 cents in stamps to the Mailer
- AWARDS:** All prices include sales tax. Emblem pins (\$16.50), senior emblem pins (\$12.00), list finisher pins (\$15.00), and section patches (\$2.00) are available from the section Treasurer: Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr, Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290. Make all Checks Payable to the SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
-
-

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
3345 Wilshire, Suite 508,
Los Angeles, CA, 90010
"To explore, enjoy, and preserve"

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 36438
Los Angeles, CA