

The Sierra



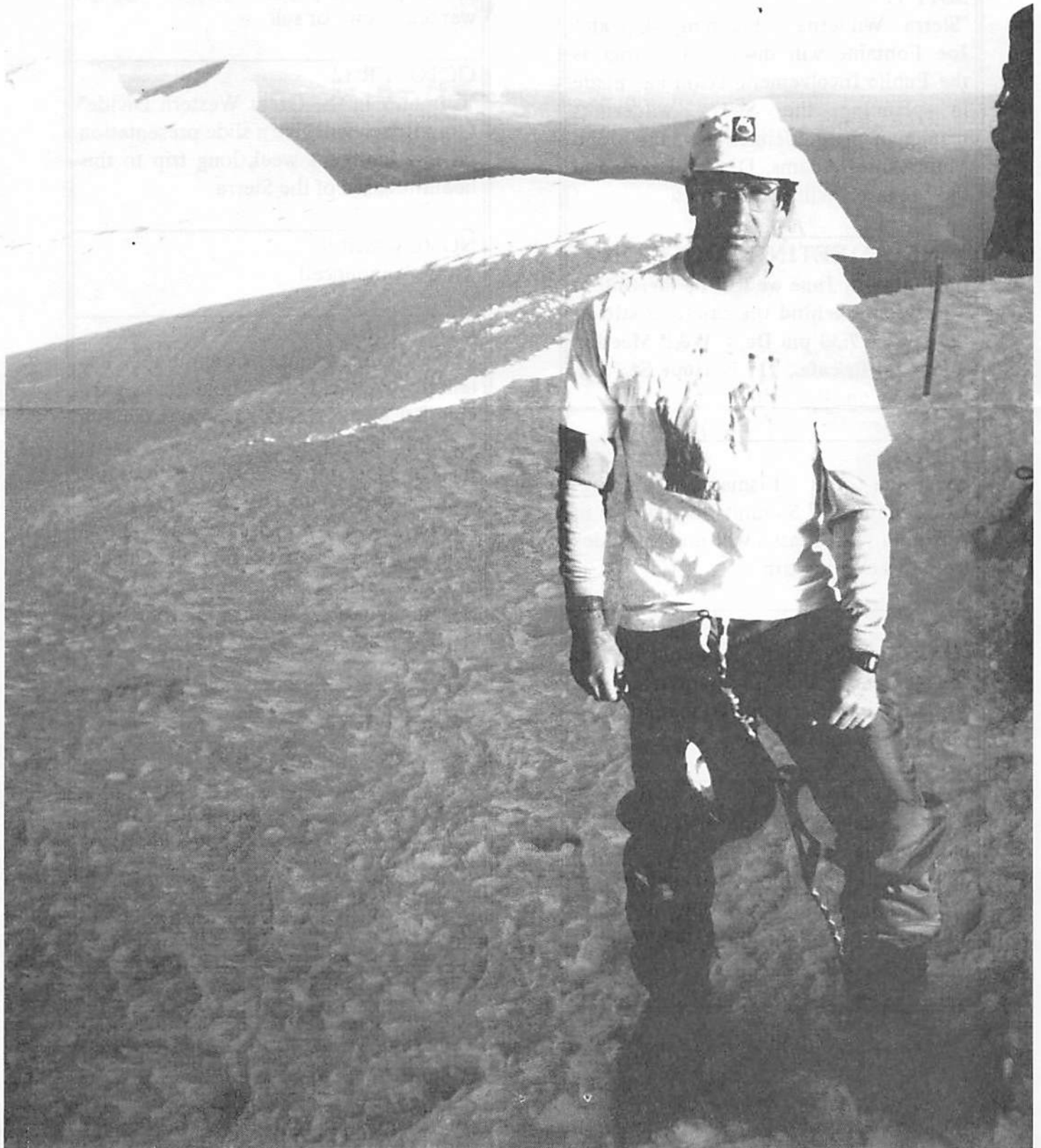
ECHO

VOLUME 38

1994

MAR-APR

NUMBER 2



SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

APRIL 13

"Climbing Mt. Starr King" Bill Oliver's program relates both early historical and recent ascents of the sleek "absolutely in accessible" Yosemite dome.

MAY 11

"Sierra Wilderness Planning -Update"
Joe Fontaine will discuss the progress the Public Involvement Team has made in planning the Sierra wilderness management guidelines for the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes and the Monarch Wilderness areas.

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Beginning in June we will be meeting in a new room behind the cafeteria still at the DWP. 7:30 pm Dept. W&P Meeting Room 1st flr/cafe., 111 N Hope St, LA, Free prkg on site.

JUNE 8

"Australia and Tasmania climbing"
Doug Mantle's 7 Summits list finisher in Australia. Vi Grasso will present slides from this exciting trip.

JULY 13

"Carstenz's Pyramid" Reinhold Ullrich will present a slide program from two trips to climb Carstenz's Pyramid, high point of Australasia.

AUGUST 10

"Inner Ladakh - A Cultural Journey" A multi-media presentation by Andy Selters and/or Melbourne Taliaferro on the people, music, economy, trekking and religion of Ladakhi (Tibetan) life and travel.

SEPTEMBER 14

"Identification Contest - Equipment Swap Meet" Test your Sierra knowledge. An identification contest - with prizes - using slides from our SPS summer 1994 climbs. Then take an opportunity to buy, sell or trade the climbing equipment you've always wanted to own or sell.

OCTOBER 12

"Climbing in the Great Western Divide"
Greg Roach will give a slide presentation on this summer's week long trip to this beautiful area of the Sierra.

NOVEMBER 9

To Be Announced

DECEMBER 14

The Management Committee has tentatively decided to hold this year's banquet at the Greek Orthodox Church Committee hall in Long Beach. This is the same location as 1993. As Programs and Banquet Chair I'd love to hear your reactions to this proposal. Please call or write me with your opinion. I will use this informal poll to make a final recommendation. Thanks for your help. Barbee Tidball 310/424-1556.

PEAK INDEX

Dicks Peak	Mt Hood
Mauna Loa (HI)	Middle Palisade
Mt. Morgan (S)	Mt. Pinchot
Pyramid Peak (#2)	Silver Peak
Mt. Tallac	Mt. Wynne

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

The last several weeks have been a busy time for your management committee. We've put in several hours revising and updating the SPS Policies and Procedures as well as the SPS Safety Regulations. The latter document has been approved by Bob Hicks, Angeles Chapter Safety Chair. These revisions were necessary because of the return of insurance for 'restricted' (rope/ice-axe) trips. The new insurance requirements will mean some additional paperwork for the leaders as well as the participants. Hopefully, this will not take more than a few minutes to complete.

Our two new safety co-chairs are Doug Mantle and Duane McRuer. They will be scheduling snow and rock practices in the near future. These practices will be helpful for members to refresh their skills and/or be checked off for the SPS Mountaineers List. This list initially will be composed of SPS list finishers, and active M and E rated leaders. Those people with equivalent skills may apply to be grandfathered onto the list this year only. Next year, inactive people will be deleted. Membership on the list will be renewed every two years. Ultimately, the decision as to who is eligible for any trip remains with the leader. The Mountaineers List is only a means of providing leaders with candidates who possess certain technical skills.

In an effort to recruit new members and new trip participants, Dan Richter will speak to the San Gabriel section of WTC, Barbee Tidball has visited the Orange County area, and I will take care of Long Beach. My own WTC students have already been given the SPS 'pep talk', so now I'll try to convert the other two Long Beach groups. We plan to distribute a flyer showing selected SPS trips that would be appropriate for newcomers to the section. We are also planning an advertising brochure to be distributed to REI, A16, and Sport Chalet.

A word of thanks to the many members who have renewed at the sustaining level. We do appreciate your support!

Major thanks to all the leaders who have submitted trips for the July-October schedule. Where would the SPS be without you?

Remember that trips too late for the Angeles Chapter schedule may still be listed in the Echo.

Anyone interested in filling in for Mary Sue Miller as Conservation Rep please call me.

Here's to a great year of climbing in the Sierra.

Barbara

Outings Chair Report:**Larry Tidball**

The 1994 SPS Spring and Summer Trip Schedule is included in this issue of the ECHO. We have a total of 49 trips scheduled for this year. This includes 13 trips that would not have been led without the return of insurance for mountaineering trips. Thanks to all of the leaders who have scheduled trips, and special thanks to those leading the mountaineering trips. Those trips that require the use of ice axe, crampons and or roped climbing are restricted to Sierra Club Members, and additional technical requirements for training and experience apply. These trips also have required additional paperwork on the part of the leaders. Thanks for hanging in there through the evolving requirements from San Francisco. Those leading or assisting on 3 or more trips are: Ali Aminian, Barbara Cohen, Randy Danta, Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon, Scot Jamison, Patty Kline, Greg Roach, Larry Tidball, and Steve Thaw.

1994 Sierra Peaks Section Spring & Summer Schedule

March			
	19-20	O:	Trail Maintenance Party: Shepherd Pass Fred Camphausen, RJ Secor
April			
R	16-17	M:	University Pk Bill Oliver, Larry Tidball
R	30-May 1	M:	Lone Pine Pk, Mallory Ali Aminian, Henry Arnebold
May			
	9-29	E:	Nepal Trek Randall Danta
R	14-15	M:	Thompson, Powell Dave Dykeman, Barbara Cohen
R	14-15	M:	Mt. Muir Ali Aminian, Ed Ross
R	28-30	M:	Birch Mtn, Bolton Brown Larry Tidball, Scot Jamison
R	28-30	M:	Birch, The Thumb Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
June			
R	4-5	M:	Mt. Baxter Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
R	11-12	M:	Mt. Langley Ali Aminian, Reiner Stenzel
R	18-19	M:	Bear Creek Spire, Mt. Dade Larry Tidball, Scot Jamison
R	18-19	M:	Mt. Corcoran Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon, Barbara Cohen
	18-19	I:	North Pk, Mt. Dana John Chesick, Charlie Knapke
	24-26	I:	Angora Mtn, Coyote Pk. Barbara Cohen, Charlie Knapke
	25-26	I:	Moses Mtn, N. Maggie Mtn. George Toby, Patty Kline
July			
	2-4	M:	Black Hawk Mtn, Dicks Pk, Mt. Tallac Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
	8-12	I:	Trail Maintenance Party: Cottonwood Fred Camphausen, RJ Secor
			Pass Trail, Mt. Langley
	8-10	M:	State, Goat Doug Mantle, Don Sparks
	9-10	I:	Julius Ceasar, Royce, Merriam Keith Martin, Steve Thaw
R	15-17	E:	Norman Clyde Pk. Dan Richter, Larry Tidball
	15-17	M:	Rogers, Electra, Davis Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
	15-17	I:	Intro: Mallory, Irvine George Toby, Ron Young
	16-17	I:	Red & White, Red Slate Ed Lubin & Darrell Lee
	23-24	I:	Intro: Conness, North Pk. Larry Tidball, Barbara Cohen

	30-31	M:	Mt. Wallace, Mt. Haeckel	Dave Dykeman, Barbara Cohen
R	30-31	M:	Center Pk, Mt. Bradley	Larry Tidball, Greg Roach
August				
	6-7	M:	Recess	Larry Tidball, Scot Jamison
	6-7	M:	Kennedy, Harrington	Barbee Tidball, Greg Roach
	13-21	M:	Newcomb, Hitchcock, Joe Devel, Chamberlin, Pickering, Guyot, Young, Hale, Tunnabora & more.	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
	19-24	M:	Triple Divide, Eagle Scout, Stewart, Lion Rock, Lippincott, Eisen	Bob Wyka, Al Conrad
	26-28	I:	Joe Devel, Pickering	Jim Adler, Kathy Price
	27-28	M:	Harrington, Kennedy	David Underwood, Steve Thaw
September				
	1-4	M:	Merced, Red, Gray, Clark	Barbara Cohen, Dave Dykeman
	2-5	M:	Intro: Tower, Ehrenbeck Pk, Hawksbeak Pk.	Erick Schumacher, Gordon MacLeod
R	9-11	E:	Palisade Crest	Larry Tidball, Randall Danta
	9-11	I:	Vogelsang, Florence	Patty Kline, Ron Young
	17-18	M:	Mt. Mills, Morgan #1	Henry Arnebold, Steve Thaw
	17-18	I:	Sieretta, Smith Mtn.	Jerry & Nancy Keating
	17-18	I:	Striped Mtn, Goodale Mtn.	Greg & Mirna Roach
	24-25	M:	Clouds Rest, Mt. Dana	Mary McMannes, Bob Hartunian
	24-25	I:	Intro: Clouddripper	Patty Kline, Jim Railford
	24-25	M:	Matterhorn, Virginia, Twin	Doug Mantle, Randall Danta
	30-Oct. 2	M:	South Guard, North Guard, Brewer	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
October				
	1-2	M:	Stanford #2, Mt. Morgan #2	John Cheslick, Barbara Cohen
	1-2	M:	Smith, Crag	Barbee Tidball, Scot Jamison
	8-9	O:	Fish Creek Hot Springs	Erik Siering, Bob Sumner
	8-9	I:	Florence, Vogelsang	Barbara Cohen, Dave Dykeman
	15-16	M:	Striped, Goodale	Barbara Cohen, Nancy Gordon
R	15-17	M:	Tehipite Dome	Asher Waxman, Beth Epstein

Trips marked: **R** are restricted to Sierra Club Members. Additional climbing qualifications apply. Contact the trip leader for each trip's requirements.

COVER PHOTO

The Editor advertising SPS T-Shirts on the summit of Mt. Hood.

Be sure you have your own SPS T-Shirt for those memorable summit photographs. Better yet, buy two. One T-Shirt to climb with and one to keep clean and wear around town. Check out the ad in this issue of the ECHO for information on how to order your own SPS T-Shirt.

SPS Membership Report
by Dan Richter 3/10/94

New Members

Peter Rosmarin
6539 Morris Ave.
El Cerrito, CA 94530
(510) 233-5132

John Sarna
545 Windward Way #114
Sacramento, CA 95831-1400

Rob Patten
323 17th Street
San Pedro, CA 90731
(310) 514-3380

Julie Rush
2432 Hildalgo Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90039
(213) 669-8382

Bruce Rorty
Box 7000-965
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
(310) 791-1194

Reinstatements

Al Benson
742 La Grange
Newbury Park, CA 91320
(805) 498-7523

Address Changes

David F. Jensen
P. O. Box 845
El Segundo, CA 90245
(310) 322-7334

Bruce Rorty
(See new members)

Erik Siering
9359 Linclon Blvd# 1252
Los Angeles, CA 90045-7101
(310) 645-0033

Rob Talbert
481 Osgood Court
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
(714) 497-6897

Bob Latter
2 Malaga Place E.
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
(310) 334-4541

New Subscribers

Lihu Mason Chiu
160 S. Michigan #101
Pasadena, CA 91106
(818) 449-7457

Steve Corona
1636 W. Lomita Blvd. #17
Harbor City, CA 90710

.....and a big "thankyou" to all our 1994 sustaining members

Jim Adler, Joe Andrews, Henry Arnebold, W. C. Bradley, Hal C. Browder, Herb Buehler, Fred Camphausen, Pat Christie, Steve Corona, Sid 'San Jac' Davis, John T. Dodds, Peter Doggett, Dave Dykeman, Jim Fijimoto, Mario Gonzales, Vi Grasso, David Hammond, Gail Hanna, Bob Henderson, Rick Jali, Kenneth C. Jones, Patty Kline, Bob Latter, Igor and Suzanne Mammedalin, Gene R. Mauk, Duane McRuer, Jack Miller, Donna R. O'Shaughnessy, John Oakden, Randy Ragland, Bill Samson, R. J. Secor, Ursula T. Slager, Don Slager, Bob Sumner, Rob Talbert, Virgil D. Talbott, Michael Udkow, Lenora Wills, Robert J. Wyka, Pete Yamagata

ECHOES FROM OUR MEETINGS

Minutes from the SPS Management Committee Meeting at the Tidball's 1-31-94

Barbara Cohen started the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Patty Kline, Dan Richter, Larry and Barbara Tidball.

The meeting was spent amending the policies and procedures of the SPS to bring them in line with the Sierra Club's policies in regard to the new climbing insurance. The meeting adjourned by 10:00 p.m.

Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 2-9-94

Barbara Cohen started the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Also present were Bob Wyka, Patty Kline, Dan Richter, Wayne Norman, and Bill Oliver. Larry Tidball and Barbara Tidball arrived at 7:00 p. m.

Old Business: Dan read the minutes of the last meeting which were accepted. Patty reported that we had \$5,337.42 in our checking account and that as of February 1, 1994 \$2,042.63 in the saving account.

New Business: Barbara C. reported that Larry will be the new Council Representative. Barbara T. is looking for a new post-April spot for our meetings. A special meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for 2-28-94 *chez* Tidball to discuss the ongoing insurance issues. Larry is coordinating a letter to former examiners with Doug Mantle regarding whether they would still like to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and was immediately followed by the general meeting in the auditorium. Following the minutes and treasurer's report Barbara reported on the special meeting of the management committee that was held on January 31st to update the SPS safety policy regarding the renewed climbing insurance. A general discussion of climbing insurance issues followed. Larry then discussed the new requirements for outings. After the break Jack Robbins gave a slide show on his climb of Khantegri in Tienshan.

Minutes from the SPS Management Committee Meeting at the Tidball's 2-28-94

Barbara Cohen started the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Patty Kline, Dan Richter, Larry and Barbara Tidball.

1. It was decided to recognize all sustaining members in the ECHO.
2. Barbee reported that a new meeting place was proving difficult to find.
3. A motion was made and passed unanimously that the new Mountaineer's List be started with list finishers and present members of the SPS who are M and E rated. Membership on the list will be for a limited period of time and new members to the list will be required to submit the Mountaineer's List Application to the safety committee. Anyone who meets these criteria and has been omitted should notify the Safety Committee.
4. Another motion was made and passed unanimously that membership to the newly formed Mountaineer's List be in effect for one year and every two years thereafter. For members to remain on the Mountaineer's List the SPS Renewal Form will include a space to list appropriate climbs.
5. Trips for the next schedule were reviewed and approved.

6. It was agreed that the SPS would donate \$25 to the Angeles Chapter Awards Banquet.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p. m.

Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 3-9-94

Barbara Cohen started the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Also present were Patty Kline, Dan Richter, Wayne Norman, Larry Tidball Barbara Tidball Vi Grasso and Asher Waxman.

Old Business: Dan read the minutes of the last meeting which were accepted. Patty reported that we had \$5,485.14 in our checking account and that as of March 1, 1994 \$2,046.16 in the saving account. Barbee said she had not been able to find a better location for our meetings. A motion was made and approved to recommend to the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club that Doug Mantle be awarded the Francis Farquar Mountaineering Award. Barbee discussed potential speakers for the banquet. Larry reported that 47 trips were scheduled for the new season.

New Business: A motion was made and passed unanimously to make Dan Richter Archivist to the Section.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and was immediately followed by the general meeting in the auditorium. Following the minutes and treasurer's report Larry discussed the new trips and reported that before the meeting two new ones had been given to him. Sandra Johnson discussed her work on the Pacific Crest Trail and asked members to volunteer to help. Al Conrad encouraged the members to be involved in the National elections and asked them to consider supporting Jim Dodson. After the break Bob presented a program on the Geology of the Sierra.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Richter

The letter to the right, printed in Sierra Magazine, was written by the editor before the restoration of climbing insurance was announced. The original letter had the following sentence omitted from publication.

As we enter the Sierra Club's second century of environmental activism, let us not forget the role mountaineering played in the club's past and can play again in the future.

DOWN AND UPS

It was terribly disappointing to see the Sierra Club's blatant hypocrisy so proudly displayed in Sierra's anniversary issue ("The Sierra Club Bulletin: 100 Years of Activism and Adventure," September/October). Included in the retrospective were two full pages on "The Climbers." You prominently displayed two pictures of climbers using ropes—ropes that are no longer allowed during Sierra Club outings. The Sierra Club, while taking great pride in its mountaineering heritage, has abandoned the current generation of climbers by failing to support proper training programs and outings that require the use of ropes and ice axes.

Wayne Norman
Sierra Peaks Section, Angeles Chapter
Los Angeles, California

In 1988 the Sierra Club learned that the insurance premium covering its mountaineering and rock-climbing activities was going to go up nearly \$300,000. The Board of Directors decided, with great reluctance, that a shift of resources from other core conservation campaigns to a program utilized by a limited number of chapters was not in the best interests of the Club as a whole. Since then the Club has worked steadily to restore the coverage. This year the additional costs were brought down to less than \$100,000, and the Club will resume appropriately designed mountaineering programs involving ropes and ice axes.

Editor

LAST OF THE SEVEN CONTINENTAL HIGHPOINTS!

On Friday, 18 February 1994 Doug Mantle topped Mount Kosciusko (2228 m, 7,310 ft), the highest peak in Australia. This almost trivial hike was the last of the seven continental highpoints for him, ending a sequence which started just over twenty years ago. He had previously climbed McKinley (N. America), Aconcagua (S. America), Elbrus (Europe), Kilimanjaro (Africa), Everest (Asia), and the Vinson Massif (Antarctica).

Doug was accompanied by seven friends (Vi Grasso, Mary and Rayne Motherall, Katie and Bob Hicks, and Betty and Duane McRuer), who had gone to Australia to be present at this conclusive event. In spite of our entreaties, Doug refused to state that this last great assault was also the most difficult -- perhaps it was the presence of a class of middle school students and their instructors who shared the summit with us which kept him from such an admission. On the other hand, it might have been the possibility that less energetic hikers could gain the peak via a chair lift, followed by six kilometers on a steel grid work track plus one kilometer on an old road.

While climbing the seven continental summits is a most remarkable feat, a very few others have also done so (although I know of no other Sierra Club member who is in this distinguished company). Other Mantle exploits are unique, including finishing:

- o the Angeles Chapter Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) list (247 Sierra Nevada peaks) four times (no one else has done this more than once);
- o the Angeles Chapter Desert Peaks Section (DPS) list (97 desert peaks in California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and Mexico) three (almost four) times (no one else has done this more than twice);
- o the Hundred Peaks List three (one to go for four) times making a triple-triple (no one else has more than one).

On his way he has also climbed the high points of all the western states (the "harder" US high points) and the Mexican volcanoes in the Northern Western Hemisphere; Huascaran and Chimborazo in the Southern Western Hemisphere; Kenya in Africa; Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn, and others in Europe; Mt. Cook in New Zealand; and such assorted major climbs here and there as the Grand Teton and others in the Tetons, Mount Ararat, etc.

On the next day (February 19) he climbed Kosciusko again, and also went over to Mount Townsend (2209m), Australia's second highest. Thus, he has a start on the second time around for the highest, or the first time around for the second highest, of the continents. Of course, he's well along for the latter, with Africa and South America already out of the way -- but Mt Tyree (16,290 ft, in Antarctica) and K2 are very tough!

How the name "Kosciusko" came about for the Australian highpoint is a curiosity. Tadeusz Andrzej Bonawentura Kosciuszko (1746-1817) is, of course, famous in this country for his participation in the Revolutionary War. He came to America from Poland via France in 1776, exhibiting very good sense in fleeing from an irate Cossack father after unsuccessfully trying to elope with the daughter. As a military officer trained in fortification, he was very useful to our side, closing all the roads along the Hudson to Burgoyne's advance thereby contributing to the great American victory at Saratoga and later spending two years fortifying West Point. Although he was given US citizenship and made a Brigadier General, he went back to Poland in 1781. Poland was, as usual, under extreme pressure from the Russians, who ultimately occupied most of the country by 1793. The rest of his life was spent as the Great Polish Patriot, leading insurrections, uprisings, and generally raising hell with Catherine the Great, Napoleon, and anyone else who tried to maintain control over what had been Poland.

OK, so that was Kosciusko -- what was the Australian connection? Since the "First Fleet" of convicts landed in Australia in 1788, and Kosciusko had his hands full in Eastern Europe, there was absolutely no connection between the man and his namesake mountain during his lifetime. But, Poles are everywhere. From 1839 to 1843, an explorer and scientist, Sir Paul Edmund Strzlecki, knighted for his services to the British crown, explored and surveyed vast areas of New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania. Strzlecki was born in Gluszyna, Poland, in 1797, and grew up with Kosciusko as his great hero. During his explorations of the Snowy Mountains region of NSW in 1840, he discovered and climbed Australia's highest peak, which he named in honor of the Great Polish Leader and Patriot. (We heard some local comments that he climbed the wrong mountain, but that may be only an Australian version of another dreadful Polish joke!) So, now you know.

Duane McRuer

Book Review

Why I Climb

by Steve Gardiner

Published by Stackpole Books, Pennsylvania, 1990.

Why I Climb is not a book about one man's internal search for the motivations of climbing. Rather, it is a compilation of the beliefs and feelings of some of the best climbers in the world. The past and present are well-represented among the twenty-nine men and women selected for interviews: Glenn Exum, Brad Washburn, Royal Robbins, Galen Rowell, Dick Bass, Yvon Chouinard, Chris Bonnington, Jeff Lowe, Lynn Hill, and Todd Skinner. It is not clear why the author only interviewed five women for this book - perhaps he didn't feel their contributions were that significant, or perhaps there weren't that many available to be interviewed.

Most of the climbers tell of their own experiences to help describe their feelings about climbing. The reasons, as one would imagine, are quite diverse. Often, insight into the motives is indirect. From Jeff Lowe: "When you are up in the mountains and look down, even the most majestic city looks pretty small; civilization is shown up for what it is, which is really kind of insignificant in the overall scheme of things." Others are more blatant about their reasons. From Jack Tackle: "I feel a need to be in the mountains and be climbing to keep my brains from turning to mush." Perhaps Chris Bonnington's statement is the ultimate summary. "The allure is so great. I must go on. I don't think I could live without climbing."

Since *Why I Climb* is four years old, some may feel that it is already a dated work, for the best climbers of "today" are not represented. But most of the expressions about climbing are timeless, and this book makes for good reading whenever it is read.

Bob Sumner

Another viewpoint concerning the age old question of "why climb?" - Ed.

"I often asked myself why I wanted to climb mountains, but soon realized there was no need. Such questions are unanswerable, and are posed only by those who have never done it themselves."

Joe Simpson - This Game Of Ghosts

REGISTERS IMPERILED?

Complaints from a former chapter chair and outings leader of the Mother Lode Chapter have been lodged against registers on all peaks on the basis that they constitute "litter." The manager of the Desolation Wilderness has agreed and has enjoined the local Peak and Gorge Section to cease and desist in placing any more registers. Reportedly, six cans and books have been removed by USFS Rangers in and about the Desolation area. This includes Pyramid Peak (north), Dicks Peak, Mt. Tallac, and Freel Peak.

The Peak and Gorge Section is in the process of writing a "position paper" regarding its stand on registers; a poll was recently taken with most respondents in favor of registers. However, I have spoken personally with the USFS wilderness manager, a Ms. Karen Leyse, and it appears that no further input will be accepted.

I am not aware of the current extent of these complaints against registers, but I feel that it is of some imperative that the Sierra Peaks Section be notified to state its stance on registers to the various land managing agencies lest additional removals are undertaken. Pete Yamagata

At the February 9 meeting of the SPS Jack Robbins showed slides of trekking and climbing in the Tien Shan Mountains of Kazakhstan. It is a very accessible area, and inexpensive. There are attractive, climbable peaks, like Karaulchitau, 14,000', and Talgar, 15,500', within a week's trekking from the capital city, Almaty.

From 14,000' on the astonishing Inilichek glacier guided climbs of 7000 meter Khan Tengri and 7500 meter Pobeda can be easily arranged through Tour Center Asia, who helped Jack on his visit. If you are interested, and would like a brochure or more information, write or call him at 139 Stonewall Road, Berkeley, CA 94705, 510-849-4039.

Naya Kanga, Nepal (19,180ft)

Trek through Helambu, Gosainkund to Langtang.

Climb Naya Kanga. Or trek only with day hikes in Langtang.

Oct 15 - Nov 6, 22 days; \$2409. 2 week Helambu - Gosainkund trek; \$2169. Prices include round - trip airfare. Contact:

Murray Zichlinsky

519 19th St. #4

Huntington Beach, CA 92648

(714) 536-2198

Ecological integrity, preservation of threatened, endangered and sensitive species, and the role of fisheries management in the Emigrant are topics of much discussion of late. This article written by Roland Knapp which appeared in the February 1994 edition of the *Wilderness Record* (condensed and reprinted here with the permission of the publishers) may shed some light on the nature of the controversy.

The high cost of High Sierra trout - The trout in your frying pan represents a whopping loss of native biodiversity.

A sidebar in the January 1994 *Wilderness Record* described how the transfer of golden trout in the late 1800s from Mulkey Creek to the previously fishless Cottonwood Creek and Cottonwood Lakes has had the effect of preserving this strain of golden trout. Although not entirely true, the story gives the unfortunate (albeit unintentional) impression that transferring fish to fishless waters outside their native range is a beneficial activity. Nothing could be further from the truth. While there are rare examples of fish transfers that have aided in preserving a species or subspecies of fish, the result of all such transfers is the elimination of most of the native fauna in fishless lakes and streams.

One of the best examples of the far-reaching effects of introduced trout on native biota comes from the Sierra Nevada. Historically, almost all of the thousands of streams and lakes above 8,000 feet in this mountain range were fishless. When the glaciers receded at the end of the Pleistocene, they left behind lake and stream-filled hanging valleys separated from lower elevation waters by falls that prevented the upstream migration of trout native to lower elevation waters. These fishless lakes and streams could hardly have been considered

barren, however. They teemed with amphibians such as the mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*), large zooplankton, and bottom-dwelling aquatic invertebrates such as caddisflies, mayflies, amphipods, and water beetles, all of which thrived in the absence of predatory trout.

When Joseph Grinnell surveyed the vertebrate fauna of the Yosemite region between 1914 and 1916, he found the mountain yellow-legged frog to be a particularly common inhabitant of lakes and streams. In his *Animal Life of Yosemite* he wrote, "The Yellow-legged frog is the commonest amphibian in many parts of the Yosemite section...This frog is the species most likely to come to the attention of fishermen and others who may walk along the banks of Sierran streams and lakes." From the records of Grinnell and other early explorers and naturalists, it appears that mountain yellow-legged frogs were found in nearly all bodies of water between 8,000 and 12,000 feet.

In the 1870s, the California Department of Fish and Game, sportsmen's groups, the Sierra Club, and members of the public began introducing non-native trout into the Sierra Nevada's fishless waters. Brook trout (*Salvelinus*

fontinalis) came from their native waters in the eastern United States, brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) from Europe, rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) from streams and rivers draining into the Pacific Ocean, golden trout (*O. mykiss aguabonita*) from the South Fork Kern River, and cutthroat trout (*O. clarki*) from the Great Basin and Rocky Mountains. Norman Clyde, the famous Sierran mountaineer, single-handedly introduced brook trout into hundreds of lakes. In the 1940s, the Department of Fish and Game assumed complete responsibility for fish stocking and continues this practice today, although most current fish stocking involves the introduction of trout to augment existing non-native populations and not trout introductions into fishless waters. A survey conducted in 1991 by scientists from the University of California showed that as a result of over a century of fish stocking, nearly 70 percent of the lakes in the Sierra Nevada now contain non-native trout.

Although the stocking of non-native trout into fishless Sierran lakes and streams is generally viewed as a beneficial action resulting in greatly enhanced fishing opportunities, increasing evidence suggests that these opportunities have come at a

tremendous biological cost. The impacts of predation by non-native trout on native biota were noticed as early as 1924, when Joseph Grinnell wrote, "It is a commonly repeated observation, that (mountain yellow-legged) frogs, in tadpole form at least, do not occur in lakes which are stocked with trout. Adult frogs are sometimes found around the margins of such lakes and they occur in numbers along the streams inhabited by trout, but the advent of fish in a lake sooner or later nearly or quite eliminates the frogs." When Grinnell visited the then fishless Young Lakes in Yosemite National Park, he estimated that there were over 2,000 adult mountain yellow-legged frogs present. A visitor to Youn Lakes today will find a large population of trout but not a single mountain yellow-legged frog. Hikers and anglers would have to walk along a lot of streams and lakes before encountering this once-common species. Since trout readily prey on both tadpoles and adult frogs and since introduced trout now occupy 70 percent of the lakes in the Sierra Nevada, only 30 percent of the lakes remain as potential mountain yellow-legged frog habitat. The decline of the mountain yellow-legged frog is so severe that its listing under the Endangered Species Act is seen as inevitable by many herpetologists.

Although there are five species of frogs and toads in the high elevation Sierra Nevada, characteristics of the mountain yellow-legged frog's life history make this species particularly vulnerable to trout introductions. While other frogs and toads have a tadpole stage that lasts for a few weeks or months during the

summer, tadpoles of the mountain yellow-legged frog require at least one year before metamorphosis to the adult stage. Tadpoles in some high-elevation populations may require up to three years before metamorphosis. As a result, unlike tadpoles of other frog and toad species which can utilize shallow fishless ponds, mountain yellow-legged frog tadpoles are restricted to relatively deep lakes that do not freeze solid in winter-lakes that are now likely to contain trout. In addition, unlike other frog and toad species that overwinter on land, adult mountain yellow-legged frogs overwinter underwater, a trait that restricts them primarily to these same lakes.

In addition to the loss of frogs resulting directly from predation by non-native trout, there is increasing evidence that trout may also have indirect negative effects on frogs. Recent research conducted in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks shows that mountain yellow-legged frog populations are smaller and significantly more isolated from one another today than they were prior to trout introductions. A basin in Kings Canyon National Park with more than 20 lakes that historically contained frogs and no fish, for example, now has only a single lake that still harbors frogs, the only fishless lake remaining in the basin. Because small populations are more likely than large populations to go extinct as a result of random fluctuations in population size, the few frog populations that remain are at an increased risk of extinction even in fishless lakes. In addition, the current isolation of frog

populations greatly reduces the chance of recolonization after a local extinction.

Fish also carry a fungus, *Saprolegnia ferax*, known to kill amphibian eggs. This fungus is particularly common on trout raised in hatcheries, and once transported into an area by the stocking of fish, the fungus may spread into fishless waters. Mortality of amphibian eggs caused by *Saprolegia* was ubutuakkt described for western toads in Oregon, but this fungus was recently discovered on mountain yellow-legged frog egg clusters in the Sierra Nevada.

Ample evidence exists that the impact of trout extends far beyond frogs. Zooplankton communities in fishless lakes are dominated by large-bodied species. The introduction of trout into such lakes results in the rapid elimination of these species and their replacement by smaller-bodied forms. Once lost from a lake, large-bodied species may not be able to recolonize even if fish are removed because of their limited ability to disperse: Large benthic invertebrates such as caddisflies, mayflies, amphipods, and water beetles are also eliminated by trout. Many of these aquatic invertebrates have a terrestrial stage that provides an important food source to insectivorous birds, and their elimination by the introduction of trout may impact bird populations.

The introduction of non-native fish into fishless waters exacts a heavy price on native aquatic biota. In the Sierra Nevada, research on this problem is still in early stage, but it is clear that restoration of some

waters to the former fishless condition will be necessary to conserve even a fraction of these aquatic ecosystems. By working now to restore some Sierra Nevadan lakes and streams to a fishless condition, we will not only

be acting to head off the crises that typically ensue after the listing of a species under the Endangered Species Act, we will also be restoring an essential component of their wilderness quality.

Roland Knapp is a research biologist with the University of California's Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory. He currently spends his summers studying trout and frogs in the Sierra Nevada

Tidbits from The Sierra

Mt. Mendel is widely known for the challenging ice climbs in its northern couloirs. For an entertaining article describing an ice climb of Mendel's right couloir, check out *Rock & Ice* magazine #59, January-February 1994, p. 48.

An article about the Tuolumne Meadows area appears in the Winter 1993-94 issue of *Summit* magazine. Written by Steve Roper, the article discusses the numerous outdoor activities available here, from winter backcountry skiing to casual hiking to rock climbing.

A new newsletter premiered in January. **Altitude, A Newsletter for All Mountaineers**, contains climbing stories and route descriptions from around the world. Climbs in Montana, Canada, Switzerland, and Kenya were detailed in the first issue. The editor is soliciting contributions for future issues, and is also interested in gear and technique articles. A subscription to this quarterly publication costs \$13.20 a year. Short advertisements may be purchased for a nominal fee. The editor also hopes to run a bulletin board for people seeking climbing partners or route information. For more information, write to Altitude, 4 Lincoln Ave., Binghamton, NY, 13905.

The National Park Service is making plans to require climbers seeking "high-risk" peaks to purchase rescue insurance. This is in response to the high volume (and high cost) of search-and-rescues that have occurred in recent years. The areas that will be targeted initially are Denali and Mt. Ranier National Parks. A task force has already been assembled consisting of climbers, rescuers, and NPS staffers, who are working with insurance specialists to resolve the numerous policy and cost issues.

The climbing community is already up in arms since climbing has been identified as only the fifth riskiest activity in National Parks. Backpacking, boating, and swimming generate a much greater share of rescues and costs. Many feel that the rescue costs should be spread out over the entire National Park user community, and not just be targeted at climbers.

If the NPS rescue insurance plan is successful, look for an expansion of the plan into Grand Teton and Yosemite National Parks. It is possible that rescue insurance may someday be required for climbs of Cathedral Peak, Starr King, and other SPS peaks in Yosemite. Fortunately, the NPS has decided to delay a final decision on implementation for at least a year...

Bob Sumner

ECHOES FROM OUR CLIMBS

Mt. Hood

13 June 1993

(A Private Affair)

Sunrise on a mountain always seems to answer the question, which is inevitably posed when I get up at some obscene hour to go climbing, "Why am I doing this?" One would think with all the beautiful sunrises I've seen over the years the question would no longer be asked. Chalk it up to Alzheimer's.

Mt. Hood is Oregon's highest peak, and according to one estimate it is, with the exception of Mt. Fuji, the most frequently climbed glaciated peak in the world. This popularity has, over the years, led to many accidents and tragedies.

My busy work schedule showed an open weekend in June so I decided to make a go of Mt. Hood. Not knowing any climbers in the Portland area, and not being a stud climber like Bob Sumner, I arranged to climb with Timberline Guides, which does mountaineering training and guided climbs on Mt. Hood. A short phone conversation convinced the head guide that I knew which was the business end of an ice axe and had had sufficient experience on snow and ice for them to waive their mountaineering training course. To make the trip even more fun I decided to make a partial ski descent.

When I arrived at my cousin's in Portland, they began to question my plans to climb Mt. Hood. The weather on Mt. Hood had been bad for the past two weeks. Adding to her worry was a front page story in the Friday newspaper about a Southern California skier, who after climbing Mt. Hood got disoriented in the white out and descended the infamous Mt. Hood Triangle. He was rescued, cold and tired, the following day.

Saturday morning found me speeding along the road to Mt. Hood, humming "I Can't Drive 55", and wishing I had the foresight to include a radar detector along with the rest of my essential climbing gear. The weather was clearing as I arrived at the historic Timberline Lodge -- a great place to stay before the climb. A quick check in at the guide's office went well, except for the part about being back at 2:30 a.m. ready to climb.

The climb actually began at 3:30 at the top of the ski lifts, where I dropped my ski's. We roped up in perfect conditions, firm snow, clear skies, a slight breeze and comfortable temperatures.

Our party consisted of a group of six guys from the Portland area doing a male bonding trip and myself. All of us were in our mid thirties and in good condition.

Everyone quickly found their grove and we climbed upwards to a prominent rock formation, Crater Rock. As we moved ever upward the guides would occasionally ask about taking a break, but the group was

feeling so good we just kept climbing. At Crater Rock we did take a short break to put on our crampons and then we were off again.

Climbing up the mountain, we enjoyed outstanding views of the lights from the city of Portland in the distance and the headlamps of other climbers below us. There was only one group of climbers ahead of us.

We took a break at the start of the Hogsback and some of the group dropped their packs for the final summit push. Here the angle increased. After the Hogsback, there was a steeper section through the wondrous volcanic formation called the Pearly Gates. Then we had no where else to climb. As soon as we topped out the group that was ahead of us started down leaving us alone on the summit.

Climbing Mount Hood can be dangerous.
Changing weather conditions have caused tragedy in the past.

Those contemplating the climb may be interested
in reviewing a report on the investigation into the
May 1986 Mount Hood accident,
as printed in *The Oregonian*, dated July 25, 1986.

A grand panorama was set before us: Rainier, St. Helens, Jefferson, Adams, and all the other peaks were part of the skyline. I quickly donned my SPS T-shirt for the required summit photo's.

After twenty minutes on the summit, reveling in the majestic views, we headed down. Along the Hogsback there were queues of other climbers working there way up.

Reversing our route and using some time saving and fun glissades we quickly descended the mountain. I split off from the rest of the group to pick up my ski's for a fun run down the slope, or so I thought.

Unfortunately for me, skiing down an advance run with tired legs, a pack, and not having skied in five months was not the smartest thing I have ever done. Somehow I survived the descent, thankful no one from the Ski Mountaineers Section was there to see my performance. (Hope they don't read this either) -- Wayne Norman

Mauna Loa, Hawaii 12-26-92

"The mystery of life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced." - A. van der Leeuw

This vacation trip started on Christmas Day, which turned out to be an excellent day for travel. There were no crowds at the airport and the plane wasn't full. Several airlines fly from LAX to Honolulu; the flight takes 4.5 to 6 hours depending on the winds. Then a quick 25 minute flight to the Big Island. I selected the moderate-sized resort of Kailua-Kona for my "base camp", though it is farther from the hiking destinations than Hilo. Hilo, however, has more rainfall and is a larger urban city. During my 5 day stay, it rained every day in Hilo, but only once for an hour in Kona.



The tropical air was quite muggy in Kona, rather similar to the Midwest. Gas, restaurants, hotels, and the usual tourist activities are plentiful. There are dinner cruises and glass-bottom boat rides. Also parasailing, snorkeling, swimming, fishing, etc. Plenty of alternate activities for those who don't relish the thought of going from sea level to nearly 14,000' in the same day.

To get to the Mauna Loa dayhike trailhead from Kona, go northeast on State 190 about 35 miles to the Saddle Road, which is State 200. The Saddle Road is the most direct route from Kona to Hilo, but it is very narrow and winding. Accidents are common, so the rental car companies don't permit their vehicles on it. (Of course, no one checks this.) Go southeast on the Saddle Road for about 25 miles to Humuula Saddle at 6600'. To the left (north) is the road to Mauna Kea; one hundred yards further on the right is the unsigned road to Mauna Loa. Follow this poor paved road for about 17 miles to the U.S. Weather Observatory and the signed Mauna Loa trailhead. The elevation here is about 11,150'.

At 13,667', Mauna Loa is Hawaii's second highest mountain. It is a gigantic shield volcano, which means that lava doesn't shoot out in huge explosions (a la Mt. St. Helens), but rather flows out less violently creating a very wide enormous mountain. Mauna Loa is an active volcano and still has occasional eruptions, though most of the lava activity is on the south side, down in or near the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

From the weather station, one can hike the long dirt road to the top, or the fairly direct hiking trail. The trail is about 13 miles round trip and 2600' gain. It is marked with cairns and ducks every 50 to 100 yards, and ascends gently sloping lava fields. Both kinds of lava are present: *pahoehoe*, which is black and has a smooth fluidic appearance; and *'a'a*, which looks like glued jumbles of small very rough rock. There are actually two trails ascending the north slopes of Mauna Loa: they are parallel and are about 1/4 mile apart. Both are marked with ducks.

As I ascended there were large billowy storm clouds creeping up the slopes from Hilo. The wind increased steadily and by the time I reached the crater rim it was apparent things were going to get ugly. There was still more than a mile and several hundred feet to go. I was starting to slow down though; the altitude change from sea level to over 13,000' was catching up with me. Soon the clouds caught me and I continued through pea soup fog by following the ducks. Minutes later the wind gusted and the snow began. By the time I reached the summit it was a full-blown white-out. Signed the register and bailed - no views this time.



After descending 1000' or so, the weather lightened up. I discovered I was on the alternate trail in the lava fields, and that it rejoined the main trail a couple of miles from the trailhead. By 5:00 PM I was back in Kona sipping a mai-tai. It was warm and sunny there, while high above on the peak the clouds were swirling.



The nasty weather continued throughout my stay. (These "pineapple express" storms would pound L. A. a few days later.) I was able to drive up Mauna Kea, though, two days later during a break between storms. From the observatory near the top it is a scant 2/10 of a mile and 230' gain to the highpoint. At 13,796', it is Hawaii's highest point, and the views are excellent.

For hikers, the other main point of interest is the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park at the south end of the island. A person could easily spend a week hiking the backcountry trails, but there are just as many short trails for day users. Of special scenic interest are the Thurston Lava Tube and the Halemaumau Crater Overlook. Also be sure to drive down the Chain of Craters Road to its end near the ocean; there is a temporary visitor center there and you can walk a half mile down to where "fresh" lava has flowed across the road.

For peak-seekers, two books are of interest: *Highpoints of the United States*, by Don Holmes, and *Guide to the World's Mountains* by Michael Kelsey.

Bob Sumner

July 24-25, 1993 - Mt. Morgan South 13,748'

By Darrell Lee

This trip was led by Darrell Lee and assisted by Ed Lubin. This was a provisional lead for Darrell and was billed as a intro trip with the SPS. 6 participants showed up on time at the trailhead at the Rock Creek trailhead for a total of eight including the leaders. The participants included Mike & Cindy Runyan, James Biggs, Jim Hansen, Howard Gross, Jacques Brunier and the leaders.

We leisurely backpacked 4 miles and about 1,200' gain on trail to Francis Lake where we found a small lake with a flowing stream, many excellent tent sites and a fantastic group gathering area complete with fire circle, wind shelter, wood fire grill, rock & log benches and a very clean primitive camping area.

After setting up camp, in the late afternoon, Ed Lubin and 2 others got out their fishing gear and fished in the lake and Ed and Darrell caught a total of 3 nice sized wild trout. Afterwards, we commenced with our "garbage bag salad" in which everyone brought at least one type of vegetable and Darrell supplied the dressing. We gorged ourselves on the delicious salad which included 2 types of cheese, lettuce, mushrooms, broccoli, tomatoes, carrots, celery, green onions, cauliflower and as a special treat, some had wild green onions with flowers that were found in the area all this topped off with a delicious honey dijon dressing. The dinner that followed was also a gourmet's delight.

The potluck dinner featured chips & guacamole, Howard's stuffed grape leaves as appetizers, Darrell's linguine w/fresh mushrooms and wine sauce, Mike & Cindy's gourmet spicy vegetable soup noodles and the group was stuffed before the other dishes (Beef Stroganoff, fresh trout, stir fry vegetables and more) could be prepared so the chefs were asked to hold off so as not to waste the food. The icing on the cake so to speak was the French cheese cake that Jacques contributed brought smiles to all the group.

All the participants headed for the Mt. Morgan South summit at 8:00 a.m. The navigation was very straight forward as the peak was in plain view from camp. The weather was excellent and there was very little snow remaining in the area. The climb consisted of mostly talus and some scree where some contouring to a ridge that we followed for a while then some more contouring to another ridge where we had to climb to the eventual summit before noon. After everyone signed the register and soaked up the fantastic views of the surrounding mountains, lakes and streams, we headed back to camp with visions cold brews and sodas awaiting us at the cars. After signing everyone out, a few of us stopped off at a hot springs for a quick soak before stopping for dinner in Lone Pine and the crux of the climb, the long drive home.

Middle Palisade September 18-19, 1993
Leaders: Barbara Cohen & Nancy Gordon
by Barbara Cohen

This trip had such an overwhelming response that the waiting list started in May! Even though we were not under permit restrictions, the leaders felt that 10 climbers would be a maximum due to loose rock in the chute. We decided to climb the peak on Saturday, hoping for softer snow in the afternoon, rather than Sunday morning.

After two participants shuttled us and our packs to the trailhead, we started hiking at 6:20am reaching Brainard Lake around 3 hours later. We set up camp, snacked, and started for the peak at 10am. Things were going well until we reached the glacier. In lieu of ice axe and crampons, we each had a ski pole. Most members of the group felt that the snow was too steep and hard-packed to proceed safely so they decided to turn around. The leaders and Ali Aminian continued up the icy glacier seeking out more sure footing on the moraine that divides the glacier.

The key to the success of this climb is being able to get off the glacier onto the ledge. This was a little tricky because there was a deep space between the glacier and the rock. The previous party (about 45 minutes ahead of us) had used a rope at this point. We were able to reach the ledge unaided. Soon we were climbing in a chute south of the standard route above the top of the moraine avoiding rock fall from the preceding party. About 2/3 of the way up (13,250'), we found an obvious place to traverse to the standard route on our right. Continuing on class 2-3 rocks, we reached the summit at 3:30pm. After a brief sign-in and photo session, we began our descent down the standard route, crossing over to our original chute 500' above the glacier. Returning to the glacier proved easier than leaving it, and we stayed on the moraine as far as it would take us. When we finally had to step onto the very hard snow, it was difficult walking with only a ski pole for balance. The first 30 feet were tough, after that, it was much better. We made our way back to Brainard by 7:30 without using our flashlights--a rewarding 6250' day! We had the place to ourselves since the rest of the group had packed out. Sunday found us hiking out by 7:30am and an early return to L.A.

This was a successful and exciting trip. Thanks to my co-leader Nancy.

Mt. Pinchot and Mt. Wynne 7/24-25, 1993
Leaders: Barbara Cohen and Randy Danta

Our group of 5 left the parking lot at 6:30 am on 7/24 for the long trek up to Taboose Pass. The amount of water in the trail this year is amazing. The two major stream crossings required some fancy footwork in order to maintain dry boots. We camped at lake 10,800, four lakes north of Lake Marjorie and enjoyed a well-deserved happy hour. On Sunday, we started for Pinchot Pass at 5:45 am. Going up the class 2 west ridge of Mt. Wynne got us to the summit at 8:30. Our next goal was to figure out the easiest route over the class 3 ridge between Wynne and Pinchot. We tried to stay high, first on the east side of the ridge and then on the west, finally moving back to the east and up the easy slope to Mt. Pinchot, arriving around 10:15. We were the first people to visit these peaks this year. The next adventure was to follow R.J.'s book and descend via the northwest face. It went fine for a while, but eventually led us to cliffs which were not so easily bypassed. Ultimately, we made it to a steep snow field. If the snow had been any harder, it would have been much more difficult to make our way down using two rocks in lieu of an ice axe. Ultimately, we made it back to camp at 1:30, to the pass at 3:30 and to the cars at 7:30pm. The participants were Jeff Kent (who got his first 2 SPS peaks), Tanya Ericson, Don Croley and the leaders. Merci mille fois to Randy.

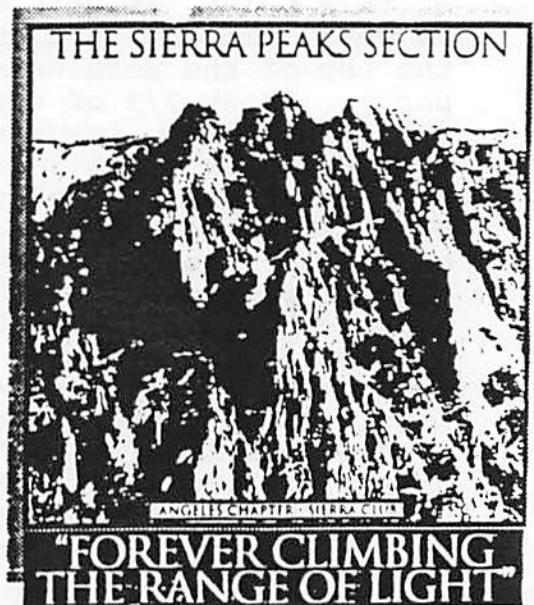
SPS T-SHIRTS

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

Buy them at the 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



CARSON-ICEBERG WILDERNESS, Sept. 3-6, 1993

Six participants met at the 6500' Wolf Creek Trailhead, south of Hwy.4, on a warm, humid and (fortunately) partly cloudy morning. After filling out the SELF-SERVICE Wilderness Permit, we backpacked 2 miles up Wolf Creek, then followed a steep, unmaintained trail, roughly paralleling the west side of Dixon Creek, to a pristine campsite at 8100', 200 yards north of where the trail crosses the creek. As the trail is not shown on the 15' topo maps and its start is difficult to locate, Dixon Creek canyon is lightly used. In addition, there are no cows, whose presence is all too common in many areas of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness.

The next day, on the way to Highland Peak, we encountered a magnificent grove of Western Juniper trees (also called "Sierra Juniper" and "Red Cedar"), some members of which were over 10 feet in diameter. [As it turns out, a little research indicates that these trees typically have diameters up to one foot, but "giants reach a diameter of 16 feet"!] We followed the east side of Dixon Creek to 9100', then crossed the creek and climbed south to the peak's sandy east slope. All six participants reached the summit. The three of us who had climbed the peak along the ridges from Ebbetts Pass some 20 or so years ago marveled at the distance involved.

Sunday, five of us ascended Dixon Creek to its headwaters and climbed Silver Peak (10,774') via the west ridge. The higher unnumbered peak to the north was climbed after lunch. Incidentally, it is these two summits of Silver Peak that stand out in such a spectacular fashion against the backdrop of the Sierras when viewed from the north in the vicinity of Minden, Nevada. From the saddle between the two peaks, we descended 1600' down a steep gully to Dixon Creek, with some good scree running en route. Although Saturday was a beautiful Sierra day, thunder rumbled most of Sunday afternoon, but only a brief shower fell at camp.

The backpack to the cars was accomplished before noon on Monday. One newcomer, Aimee Goglia, proved very well qualified for SPS trips even though Highland was her first off-trail Sierra peak. Other participants were Barbara Lilley, Kay Binney, Ron Rosen and leaders Gordon MacLeod and Roy Magnuson. As always, Roy gets a special thanks for handling the paperwork and the often tedious job of bringing up the rear on an Introductory Trip.

Gordon MacLeod

MARIO GONZALEZ WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR LEADERSHIP TO ASCEND THE FOLLOWING PEAKS: STARR KING, DARWIN, THUNDERBOLT, GARDINER, NORMAN CLYDE, PALISADE CREST, DEVILS CRAG, THUNDER, GLACIER RIDGE, HERMIT, CATHEDRAL. (213) 614-2344

Dicks Peak, Mt. Tallac, & Pyramid Pk #2

October 30-31, 1993 Leaders: Larry Tidball & Barbee Hoffmann

Seven of us from Southern California caravanned in two vehicles to the Tahoe Area to meet up with 4 climbers from Northern California who joined us on this SPS trip. We were able to get away from the L.A. Basin by 3:00PM on Friday, so we managed to get to the trailhead and crash by 12:30. In the morning, we started out from the Glen Alpine trailhead and headed up the trail for Tallac. Barbee's sister and another Bay Area climber had not been at the trailhead, so Barbee stayed back to locate them. (They were located a short ways away, and after 60 minute delay, they headed for Dicks Pass to meet us as arranged.)

The main group followed the trail to the top of Mt. Tallac where we enjoyed the view of Lake Tahoe & Fallen Leaf Lake. Although this is a very heavily used wilderness area, we did not see another hiker on our way up to the peak. The registers from the peaks in the Desolation Wilderness have been removed by the Forest Service with the support of the Peak and Gorge climbing section of the Mother Load Chapter of the Sierra Club. Apparently these peaks see too much traffic, with up to 100 to 200 summitters per summer weekend. With this much pressure, the books are soon filled, scraps of paper are left, and the canisters vandalized.

After leaving the summit of Tallac, we followed the crest west to Dicks Pass, and on to Dicks Peak. This traverse was on very easy terrain, and went very easily. As we arrived at Dicks Pass, we saw the others on their way up Dicks Peak. We stopped for lunch at the pass before heading on up to join them on the summit. After a short stay on top the peak we headed back on down the trail to the cars. On the way back we met a few hikers and backpackers, but not the hordes that can be expected in mid-summer. Fall was in the air, and color was in the leaves.

After arriving back at the cars, we looked for a place to camp. I had originally thought that I could call up and get a reservation for a group campsite. However, all of the campgrounds had closed for the season, even the KOA. We thought about the inexpensive motels in South Lake Tahoe, but they wouldn't work well with our planned Halloween festivities. As it got dark, and we still hadn't located a camp, one of the Northern California contingent offered the use of the grounds around his family's summer cabin in the area. We unanimously and graciously agreed to accept. The festivities included a pot luck dinner, Halloween costumes, and a Jack-O-Lantern. It was the evening to "Fall Back", but we all agreed to delay the start up of standard time until after the hike the next day.

Up early the next morning, we drove down Highway 50 just past Twin Bridges. We parked near some summer cabins just off the highway and SW of Rocky Creek. We hiked to the creek and up the hill about 100 feet before crossing the creek and following a path up to gain a use trail on the east bank of the creek. The creek down at the highway is in heavy brush, and I don't know where the use trail actually starts. Heading on up Rocky Canyon, the trail is well maintained but steep as it climbs up through the forest. This trail does not show up on even the 7½' map. The angle eases off at a meadow, and the trail crosses the creek. A little fainter in places, the trail follows the creek up to its head at about 8400'. From here we wandered up through the woods before heading west up to gain the South Ridge of Pyramid Peak at the 8800' level. Following the ridge was easy on sandy slopes with scattered trees until we reached the talus blocks just below the summit. We had left the cars at 7:45 PDT and left the summit after doing 4000' of gain at 11:15 PST. We returned to our cars the same way we had come, and were on the way home by 1:30. Even with the long drive, we were home by 10:30 PM PST.

This was a great fall weekend, and we got 3 peaks to end the season. The weather was great, cool with some clouds on Sunday. It had snowed a couple of weeks before, but the good weather since then had melted it off the South facing slopes that contained our routes. The north faces of the peaks still had a lot of snow, but we did not encounter any on our hiking routes.

The Southern California group included: Greg & Mira Roach, Erik Siering, Anne Kramer, & Barbara Cohen. Joining us from Northern California were: Janet Hoffmann, Cindy Tracey, Rich Gagny, Pete Yamagata & John Dodds.

Larry

**SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
MOUNTAINEER'S LIST APPLICATION**

Applicant's Name (Print) _____

Phone _____ Address _____

INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Satisfactory completion of these requirements, favorable recommendation by the SPS Safety Chair and approval by the SPS Management Committee are required for the applicant to be placed on the SPS Mountaineers List. Development of the skills needed for sign offs is intended to raise the safety and individual performance standards of SPS trips. The Mountaineers List is used as a basis for participation in some Restricted Trips sponsored by the Section.
- B. Only Sierra Peaks Section qualified safety training instructors are authorized to certify that the rock and snow tests have been satisfactorily completed. If not qualified safety training instructor/evaluator is present the Endurance requirement may be signed for by the trip leader with the concurrence of the SPS Safety Chair.
- C. Completed forms must be mailed to the current SPS Safety Chair for review and recommendation to the SPS Management Committee. The applicant will be notified by mail whether he or she has been approved for participation in the restricted climbs.
- D. The applicant must be an active member of the Section.
- E. The Rock and Snow and Ice Climbing requirements parallel those for LTC "M" level. The SPS accepts LTC "M" level check offs as sign off for I and II, below.

I. CLIMBING ON ROCK

- A. Ability in dynamics of movement (e.g. balance, not dislodging rocks, smooth motions, climbing with eyes, friction, edging, counter force, jams, mantle, etc.).
- B. Judgment and knowledge (route selection, recognition of potential hazards, confidence and calmness in the climbing situation, etc.).
- C. Ability to tie bowline, bowline on a coil, figure 8, (follow through and on a bight), prusik, overhand, overhand follow through, double fisherman.
- D. Properly set up and execute a self-belay body rappel of at least 30 feet and at an angle near vertical.
- E. Demonstrate proper belaying techniques, including setup of an anchor, use of voice commands, climber tie-off, etc.

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirement of this section.

Signed _____ Date: _____

II. SNOW AND ICE CLIMBING

- A. Ability in dynamics of movement (e.g., balance, step kicking, traversing, rest step, plunge step, roped travel, etc.).
- B. Judgment and knowledge (see Rock above).
- C. Handling of ice axe (travel, belay - boot axe, Saxon cross, etc.).
- D. Self arrest (recover from all positions, including on-back, headfirst fall, at speeds that simulate actual falls).
- E. Glissade - demonstrate ability to maintain satisfactory control during a sitting glissade.
- F. Demonstration of proper use of crampons.

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirement of this section.

Signed _____ Date: _____

III. ENDURANCE

- A. On the first day of a two-day trip, must complete a backpack of 3500 feet or more elevation gain, including some 2nd or higher class cross-country travel, in good style and time.
- B. On the second day, must demonstrate ability to climb a peak of approximately 3000 feet elevation gain, return to camp and backpack out.
- C. Parts A and B must be performed in the same weekend on a scheduled SPS trip. (longer trips which require equivalent endurance capabilities may qualify as well - attach a detailed description for Safety Committee consideration).

Trip _____ Date: _____

The applicant satisfactorily meets the requirement of this section.

MOUNTAINEERING SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR

- A. I have personal knowledge of the applicant's mountaineering abilities and recommend he/she be approved by the Management Committee.
- B. I have personal knowledge of the applicant's mountaineering abilities and recommend he/she not be approved by the Management Committee.
- C. I know the applicant only by reputation, but recommend he/she be approved by the Management Committee.
- D. I have too little knowledge of the applicant to make a recommendation.

Signed _____ Date: _____

QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS/EVALUATORS

Testing of applicants for the Mountaineer's List may be performed on any scheduled Section climb, providing the tester is a qualified instructor/evaluator. Those desiring "sign off" should inform the qualified instructor/evaluator at the beginning of the trip.

A copy of the current qualified instructor/evaluators list may be obtained from the SPS Safety Chair or the SPS Secretary.

MOUNTAINEERS' LIST

(From the Sierra Echo, Vol. 16, No. 2)

The Mountaineer designation should do two things: it should provide to a trip leader an indication of a prospective participant's training and basic capability, and it should place upon that individual the responsibility to make the further judgments relative to the climber's own ability to participate in a particular trip at a particular time.

Criteria for inclusion of the name of a member on the Mountaineer's List are generally based on the climber's mountaineering knowledge, the climber's judgment, and the training the climber has received and the climber's demonstrated competence. They, of course, can provide no indicator of a person's physical or mental capability at any given time. Hopefully, any qualified mountaineer should be able to discuss knowledgeably with the leader the demands of a planned trip and then decide whether the climber feels capable of participating.

Inclusion of a member's name on name on the Mountaineers' List should indicate to a trip leader that the person is basically capable in the mountains. Such knowledge may be of real help to a leader in making decisions as situations develop which affect the conduct of the trip. Mountaineers, for instance, ought to be more capable of sharing the responsibilities of leadership should some split of the group be required or of returning safely to a roadhead without leadership if that might be necessary.

Inclusion on the Mountaineers' List is really only an indication that the individual is knowledgeable enough to judge for himself or herself whether he or she is able to participate in any particular outing, not that in fact the climber is so able. One's physical condition is certainly a function of time and circumstances. Listing as a Mountaineer will not assure that one is always able to undertake any hike offered, but should assure that the climber is able and willing to asses his or her own limits.

1994 SPS ECHO SUBSCRIPTION & RENEWAL FORM

**SECTION I
MEMBER INFO**

To continue your ECHO subscription and renew your membership for 1994, fill out this section. Your renewal for 1994 is confirmed by the "24" digits appearing on you mailing label. RENEWAL DEADLINE IS MARCH 31st.

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

Mark this box for address or phone change or correction

IMPORTANT REMINDER: EVERYONE MUST FILL IN THEIR CURRENT SIERRA CLUB MEMBERSHIP NUMBER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE ON MOUNTAINEERING TRIPS

**SECTION II
MEMBER TYPE**

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

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

NAME _____ S.C.# _____ ACTIVITY _____
 NAME _____ S.C.# _____ ACTIVITY _____

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

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

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

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

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

**SECTION III
SUBSCRIPTION
CLASS**

Regular ECHO subscription: \$12.00 annual rate.

Sustaining ECHO subscription: \$25.00 annual rate. Sustaining subscriptions include first class postage for the ECHO and a donation to the SPS operating fund.

Make checks payable to SIERRA PEAKS SECTION. Mail this form and a check for \$12.00 or \$25.00 to the section Treasurer:
 Patty Kline
 20362 Callon Dr.
 Topanga Cyn., CA, 90290

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: Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr, Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290, 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: Dan Richter, 808 4th Street #107, Santa Monica, CA 90403. 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: Dan Richter, 808 4th Street #107, Santa Monica, CA 90403. 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

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SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
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