

The Sierra



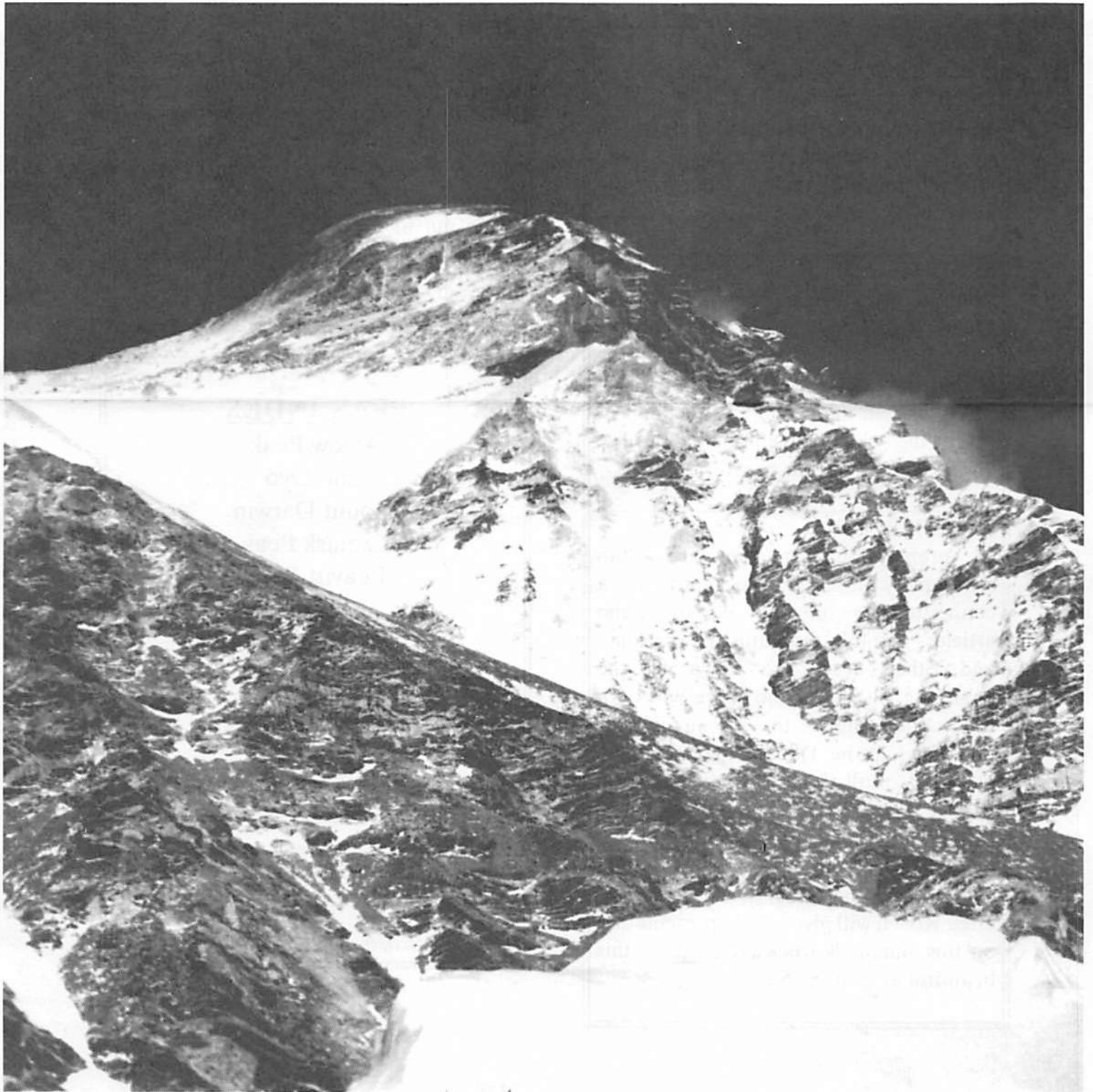
ECHO

VOLUME 38

1994

JULY-AUG

NUMBER 4



SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Sierra Peak Section meetings will be held in the Los Angeles 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.

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.

SEPTEMBER 21

In preparation for the SPS 40th anniversary. We are forming a committee to organize climbs, Echo articles, monthly programs, the banquet and other events to celebrate the anniversary. At 7:30pm there will be a first organizational for anyone who is interested, at the Tidballs. Dinner to be provided. Call if you will be attending, Barbee 310/424-1556.

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

"40 Years of Adventures" Royal Robins will present a stimulating talk accompanied by slides of his rock climbing, river running and other adventures.

DECEMBER 14

SPS Annual Banquet. Speaker - Greg Child.

Greg will present highlights of his trips to Trango Tower, Shivling, K2, Gaserbung 4 and Alaska. Location - the community hall of the Greek Orthodox church in Long Beach catered by Buon Gustos. Tickets \$25.00.. Send check made out to SPS and SASE to Barbee Tidball, 4160 Del Mar Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807.

PEAK INDEX

Arrow Peak

Cho Oyo

Mount Darwin

Lamark Peak

Leavitt Peak

Moses

North Maggie

North Palisade

Pyramid Peak #1

Mount Shasta

Mount Starr King

COVER PHOTO

Cho Oyo (26,906 ft)

Photo by R.J. Secor

1994 Sierra Peaks Section Summer Schedule

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
16-18	M:	Rogers, Electra, Davis	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
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.

Added Trip

September 25, Sunday SPS - LTC

I: Grinnell Ridge Navigation:

Advanced Navigation Noodle for checkout or practice to satisfy E-level navigation requirements; M-level OK if openings. To receive homework assignment, send SASE with navigation experience, qualifications, rideshare information, H&W phone numbers to Leader: HARRY FREIMANIS, 256 Kauai Lane, Placentia CA 92670, H (714) 579-1403; W (714) 732-9266. Asst: Rob Tablet.

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

Now that the Sierra climbing season is in full swing, I trust that everyone's trips are going well. The feeling of "I don't know why I'm doing this" hopefully has been replaced by a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

Thank you to the leaders of our 49 trips and special thanks to those leading restricted trips. If the peaks were not challenging already, now the paperwork is! Thanks to the leaders of intro/leisure trips. Perhaps these trips will generate new members.

Now is the time to start thinking of next year's management committee. Don't be shy! Contact me for a spot on the ballot. The top 5 vote getters become the 5 voting members of the management committee. They determine who holds which job: chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, programs. There are also appointed positions. Nominations are due by the end of the September meeting, ballots will be mailed in October and counted at the November meeting.

Speaking of the November meeting, our program will feature Royal Robbins. November is also your opportunity to buy tickets for the December banquet.

I invite you to participate in our committee which is now forming to plan the SPS 40th anniversary celebration next year.

Safe and happy climbing to all!

J Barbara

Leadership Training Course Available

Registration is underway for the Angeles Chapter's Leadership Training Course, a program to prepare Chapter members to be qualified Sierra Club Outings Leaders. The course begins with an all-day seminar to be held at the Griffith Park Ranger Station on Saturday, October 15, 1994. All applicants must be Sierra Club members and have participated in at least five Club hikes or trips.

Club members wishing to enroll in the course should send a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope to Alice Danta, LTC Registrar, 12452 Woodlawn Ave., Tustin CA 92680-2435. Completed applications forms must be returned to the Registrar NOT LATER THAN September 30, 1994.

A Thoroughly feminine costume.....

"A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains" by Isabella L. Bird, written in 1873

".....a half-fitting jacket, a skirt reaching to the ankles, and full Turkish trousers gathered into frills falling over the boots ----a thoroughly feminine costume for mountaineering"

SPS Membership Report
by Dan Richter 7/11/94

New Members Welcome!

Bonnie Robinson
30025 Avenida Tranquila
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274-4514
H:(310)-544-2069 W:(310)-985-1806

Beth Epstein
5147 Almaden Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90042
(213) 256-7794

Reinstatements Welcome back!

Keith Schoenheit
501 Pacific Street #207
Santa Monica, CA 90405
(310) 396-0564

Jan Rayman (*Echo* Subscriber)
2306 Walnut Ave.
Venice, CA 90291

Kent Santelman
924 Walnut Ave.
Burbank, CA 91501
(818) 845-4207

Brian Smith
2306 Walnut Avenue
Venice., CA 90291

Rex Hyon
1760 Via Pacifica, M205
Corona, CA 91720
(818) 762-0041

Address Changes

Heidi Zimmer
5050 Garford Street #41
Long Beach, CA 90815

Michael Lorr
3490 Highwood Ct., #89
Simi Valley, CA 93063
(805) 526-5298

Left of Roster in error.

Jane Edginton
2733 Buena Vista Way
Berkley, CA 94708
(510) 843-6966

New Subscribers Thank you!

Joanne Andrew
12141 Cherry Street
Los Alamedos, CA 90702
(310) 598-7883

Teresia Glover
401 N. Genesee #101
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(213) 852-9893

Accomplishments.....Congratulations!

Emblem # 529 Neal Scott on North Palasade 9/9/90
Emblem # 530 Erik Siering on North Palasade 6/18/94
Emblem # 531 Asher Waxman on Darwin 7/3/94

.....and a big "thankyou" to all our 1994 sustaining members who didn't make the last ECHO

Diann Fried, Jane Edginton, Jennifer Lambelet, Bonnie Robinson.

ECHOES FROM OUR MEETINGS

Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 6-8-94

Barbara Cohen started the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also present were Patty Kline, Dan Richter, Wayne Norman, Larry Tidball, Barbara Tidball, and Doug Mantle.

Old Business: Dan read the minutes of the last meeting which were accepted. Patty reported that we had \$4807.15 in our checking account and \$2057.79 in the saving account.

New Business: Barbee presented a rough of the brochure for comments. Larry reported that the first two restricted outings had gone well. Dan reported that the section had been formed in October 1955 so that the 40th anniversary would fall in 1995 not 1996 as previously thought. Safety Chair Doug presented Dave Underwood's name for addition to the Mountaineers List which the committee approved. Doug also reported to the committee that, by the fall, rock and snow check-offs would be available to members.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. and was immediately followed by the general meeting in the Los Angeles room. Following the minutes and treasurer's report climbs and upcoming climbs were discussed.

After a short break Vi Grasso gave a delightful presentation on Doug Mantle's convivial finish of the Seven Summits on Kosciusko in Australia.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Richter

ECHOES FROM OUR PAST

"Now, after one and one half years of existence, our Section has 56 members and a record of successful trips from Yosemite's Matterhorn down to the lower Kern's Owens Pk. Formed in July, 1955 the Section has already accomplished much in its main purpose of getting as many Sierra Club members as possible acquainted with the Range of Light."

With these words Frank Sandborn opened the first issue of the Sierra Echo in February 1957.

At the DPS banquet this May I was talking to John Robinson about the up coming fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Section. I asked him if he might want to repeat what I thought was the first led trip to Deer Mountain in May of 1956. He told me that in fact the Section was approved in October of 1955 and that many trips had been led in 1955 but Deer Mountain was the first one they were able to get into the schedule.

I asked the Club historian Bob Cates to see if he had documentation of the date of the founding. Bob could not find Excom minutes for that period but he did find the September issue of the Southern Sierran a write up of a trip to Lone Pine Peak in August 6, 1955 by Frank Sandborn and thirty Club members and guests with the following quote: "Lone Pine Peak will be one of the qualifying peaks for membership in the new Section of our Angeles Chapter which is now forming."

Bob also found in the November 1955 issue of the Southern Sierran in a column by Chapter Chairman Bob Bear: "With enthusiastic leaders like Lloyd Balsam and Frank Sandborn we have seen the establishment of the West L. A. Group, and the Sierra Peaks Section as vital units of our Chapter."

I look forward to seeing you all at the fortieth anniversary banquet in December of 1995.

Q.E.D.

Dan Richter
Archivist and Secretary SPS

CONSERVATION TWO LINERS

Following are short "two liners" on current conservation issues that may be of interest to SPS members. Remember make your voice heard...write letters, call be active...some one else will not do it for you.

- **Nordic Voice** is a group formed to promote the interests of Nordic skiers in California and to work on the preservation of back country winter recreation areas. The group is very active working with the forest service on issues like ski trails, Sno-Park and others. Subscriptions to their news letter are free, however, donations are appreciated. Nordic Voice, P.O. Box 1211 Livermore, CA 94551.
- Timber sales bans in the Northwest were lifted June 6, 1994. Clinton's proposal for managing the spotted owl forests is under attack from environmental groups and the timber industry. Judge Dwyer will begin hearing arguments in the Clinton proposal September 2. This autumn may bring results to this on going problem. Note these issues do not only affect the Northwest. The Trinity Alps Wilderness/South Fork Salmon River are affected by the lifting of the timber sales ban.

- The Desert bill has encountered a major Republican "set-back" The House version H.R.518. Hunting and off road vehicles seem to be the main confrontational issues. The House vote in early July to allow hunting in certain areas, down grading the land from Park status was seen as a major obstacle to the expected fast passage of the final Desert Bill. Write your Senators and Congressmen. This bill has dragged on way too long we need a decision.. and I hope the decision is to pass the Desert bill.
- Collecting plant seeds in the wild is a great experience, especially if you get the plants to grow. Many varieties of Sierra plants can be cultivated in your home garden. State and National parks are illegal to gather and plant material in, including seeds, but National forests are not. Along with timber-cutting, stock-grazing, mining etc. the Forest Service district offices issue permits for collecting small amounts of seed for non-commercial purposes. Along with your permit you will be given a list of sensitive species found in the forest - obviously these plants can't be collected.

If you want more information on any of these issues call - Barbee 310/424-1556.



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NORTHWEST ARETE

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U NOTCH COULOIR
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Sierra Peaks Section Sierra Club
Mountaineers List
July 14, 1994

Adler, Jim	Heusinkveld, Henry	Pinson, Ted
Amneus, Tom	Hicks, Robert S.	Raiford, Jim
Arnebold, Henry	Hoak, Larry	Randel, Tom
Barnes, George	Holladay, Delores	Reber, Barbara
Bartell, Ron	Holleman, Deanna D.	Richter, Dan
Beach, Richard	Holleman, Gerald W.	Riley, Ray
Benson, Al	Holmes, Don W.	Ripley, John
Beymer, David	Hubbard, George W.	Roach, Greg
Bloland, Paul A.	Hudson, Ronald F	Ross, Tom
Borad, Don	Hutto, Sigrid	Russell, Pat
Browder, Hal C.	Inskeep, Jon Z.	Russell, William T.
Bradley, W. C.	Jali, Rick	Schumacher, Eric
Brown, Lloyd	Jamison, Scot	Santelman, Kent
Buehler, Herb	Jones, Ronald A.	Secor, R. J.
Burge, Dennis	Keating, Jerry	Sexton, Tom
Camphausen, Fred	Keating, Nancy	Shay, Carleton B.
Cheslick, John	Lieberman, Izzy	Smith, R. Steve
Cohen, Barbara	Lilley, Barbara J.	Sparks, Don
Conrad, Allan	Lubin, Edward	Stein, Chuck
Croley Jr., Don R.	Macleod, Gordon J.	Stenzel, Reiner
Danta, Randall	Magnuson, Barbara	Stephens, Joseph S.
Davis, Sid 'San Jac'	Magnuson, Roy	Stough, Tina
Dykeman, Dave	Maloy, J. Owen	Sullivan, Scott
Edmonson, James M.	Mantle, Doug	Sumner, Bob
Emerick, Bob	Mauk, Gene R.	Talbert, Rob
Epstein, Beth	McMannes, Mary	Talbott, Virgil D.
Erspamer, Edna	McRuer, Duane	Thaw, Steven
Fletcher, Elton W.	Meador, Robert L.	Tidball, Barbara
Freimanis, Harry	Meyers, Franklin J.	Tidball, Larry
Gnagy, Rich	Miller, Charles B.	Toby, George E.
Goebel, Mark & Joy	Motheral, Mary Gygax	Underwood, David L.
Gordon, Nancy	Murphy, James	Vandervoet, David
Grasso, Vi	Nilsson, Eivor	Wankum, Joe
Gray, William J.	O'Shaughnessy, Donna	Waxman, Asher
Guenther, Gary	Oliver, Bill	Wright, Bob
Harsh, Sherry	Palmer, Don	Wyka, Robert J.
Hartunian, Robert T.	Petitjean, Jon	Yamagata, Pete
Hellman, John	Petzold, Dave	Young, Ron
Henderson, Bob	Price, Kathy	Zdon, Ed

If you have been left off the list in error or feel you should be on it, please inform me. Applicants should use the Mountaineers List Application forms and present them to the Safety Committee.

The following two articles, submitted by Bill Oliver, are taken from the Fall '93 *Yosemite* - the Journal for Members of the Yosemite Association. The action in the first story, written by Malinee Crapsey, took place in Sequoia & Kings Cyn National Parks.

The Death of Bear No. 583

He probably started his life close to where it ended. Most likely he was one of two blind 10-ounce cubs, born to a mother who was fast asleep in the rotted base of a large fir tree. The next year and a half were spent with his mother, learning to forage for what nature provides - spring's green meadow grasses, the yellow jackets and ants of summer, and manzanita berries and acorns in the fall.

Ready to mate again, the mother would have driven him away to fend for himself. By then it was his second spring. It was time for her to get on with the business of producing another healthy cub, and for him to grow to maturity in the solitude normal to adult bears.

It was that same spring that he discovered human food. He might have found it first along a trail, or in a parking lot, perhaps right next to a bear-resistant garbage can where someone had missed. Food may have been left on a picnic table, unattended. He weighed barely 100 pounds, and it must have been hard for people to resist feeding this scraggly and lanky adolescent. In early June he was spotted at a dumpster. The problem was recognized and cleaned up, but he had already learned that where humans are, so is easy food.

Reports of his feeding habits, and at least one incident of aggression, led to his trapping. A National Park Service wildlife biologist, Dianne Ingram, weighed him, put a colorful tag in his ear for easy identification, and gave him his name - #583. He was released, but because he was a problem bear, he was fitted with a radio collar that allowed biologists to track his movements.

Dianne's assistant, Cindy Shultz, spent many hours radio-tracking #583 and chasing the young bear away from trouble. We also spent time talking to people about the importance of keeping food away from bears.

In July #583 knocked down a night security guard after running out of a building he had entered in search of food. He later bluff-charged a woman and child, coming within five feet of them before turning away. He entered a restaurant kitchen and took food while a person was present. There were many other incidents, despite Cindy's efforts.

Bears are not destroyed for finding garbage or stealing food but for aggressive or extremely destructive behavior. Even a small bear can do tremendous harm to a person if it is frightened or aggressive. Past relocations of problem bears within the Park had failed. The bears either returned to the site of capture or died. So the order was signed to destroy #583.

Dianne knew his patterns. He typically began his foraging between 8:00 and 9:00 pm, when truly wild bears begin to bed down for the night. Bears that have become habituated to human foods adopt activity patterns that mirror those of the sources of their food. Preferring to avoid the humans themselves, they wait until activity dies down after dark, then get up and take advantage of what's been left behind. The youngster's radio collar told the story; by 8:15 pm he was up and moving.

At 8:45 Dianne intercepted him, fired a dart rifle, and trailed him for ten minutes until the drug took affect and he fell asleep. By then night had fallen. With the help of three other employees she rolled #583 onto a stretcher, and they carried him back to the truck, trying not to stumble on the dark trail.

After a short drive to a secluded area, Dianne and another biologist took the bear from the truck, laid him on the ground, and shot him through the head. They knelt to take off his ear tag and collar, then pushed his body over a steep embankment. His final resting place was the only natural thing about his death.

Destruction of a bear is quiet. "During the procedure you're very focused and careful," says Dianne. "You're dealing with rifles and ammunition and a hazardous drug. Afterwards there's no talking. You just pack up your gear and get in the car."

After a while, according to Dianne, the "if only" discussion begins. "We say, 'If only we could reach everyone to tell them about food and bears.' And we search for ways to improve our efforts."

Later this year, when winter's snows start to fall, the bears will again go to their dens. Come January, another generation of tiny cubs will be born. Nature, in her generosity, will give us another chance to keep them wild.

Malinee Crapsey works for the National Park Service in the Public Affairs Office at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

The State of the Park - Fall, 1993

Park Superintendent Michael V. Finley

Black Bears

Our biggest problem today continues to be the human-bear interactions. In 1988 we killed eight bears; in 1992 the Park Service disposed of seven bears. We had 750 incidents. In 1993 we've disposed of four bears so far, and we're anxiously hoping that the three cubs of the mother that we had to destroy will not also have to be destroyed. Unfortunately, bear behavior is like that of a crack cocaine addict. When exposed to human food, it's something they don't easily or naturally shake. So it's not the bears that are a problem - we are the problem.

In 1991 we had \$186,000 in property damage. Visitors' broken windows, vehicles torn down, tents ripped up. In 1992, \$168,000 in property damage, and so far this year we've had \$90,000 in property damage. The sow that we killed several weeks ago had been relocated before. We weighed carefully what we should do. We decided to err on the side of the sow and the cubs. We spent \$4500 and flew her to one of the most remote locations we could find in the northern part of the Park. In three weeks she was back in Little Yosemite Valley, where she proceeded to swat a visitor, almost taking out his jugular. We felt at that time, unfortunately, she had to go. That left us the three cubs, the ones that we're watching that we hope we don't add to our statistics this fall.

... So think of a way to raise the consciousness about bear boxes. It's terrible that we have killed 88 bears since 1975. We can do better, and we'll look for your continued support in that arena.

[Note: The top of Half Dome has been closed to camping to protect the Mt. Lyell salamander. Another factor in the closing was the continued loss to fire wood of what few trees existed on top.]

Regular Membership in the Yosemite Association is available for \$25/year: P.O. Box 230, El Portal, CA 95318. (209) 379-2646. Member benefits include the *Journal Yosemite*, 15% discount on books, etc. and 10% discount on seminars.

From the Editor:

STATUS OF TRIP REPORTS

The majority of trip write-ups in this issue were from private trips. While private trip reports are welcome, the core of the ECHO should be made up of scheduled SPS Trip Reports! Where are all the trip write-ups from scheduled SPS Trips??? To date, I've received three trip reports from this years trips, and two were from the same person. Where are the rest of the trip write-ups???

Leaders, if you are to busy leading trips to do the write-ups, ask one of the other participants to do it. The next ECHO deadline is September 17. Hopefully there will be more than three write-ups submitted by then.

(My thanks to George Toby for his timely write-ups.)

Tidbits from All Around

The January 17 Northridge earthquake seems to have caused only minor damage to the nearby climbing area at **Stoney Point**. According to a report in *Climbing* magazine, "one large boulder moved about three feet, and a 20-foot flake fell off another" destroying a 5.9 route.

An entertaining story about a climb of the *Regular Route* on the Northwest Face of **Half Dome** appears in the March/April 1994 issue of *Rock & Ice* magazine.

Good news. The National Park Service has agreed to lower the newly imposed **peak fee** for climbing Alaska's Denali starting in 1995. Bowing to the severe pressure placed on it by the climbing community, the NPS lowered the fee from \$500 a person to \$200.

ECHOES FROM OUR CLIMBS

CHO OYU

I joined a commercial expedition to Nepal over April and May to climb Cho Oyu (26,906'). We flew to Lukla from Kathmandu, and approached the mountain from the south via the Lunaq Valley. We established our base camp on April 21 at 17,100' along the Nangpa Glacier, about 4¼ miles south of the Nangpa La. We then crossed the Nangpa La (18,753';

suspects were either the IMC or DAV Summit Club expeditions.)

Camp 3 was reestablished on May 6, and Camp 4 (in reality, a bivouac with a tent and stove, but no sleeping bags) was placed at 24,000' on May 7. The next day, our leader Mal Duff (Scotland), Dave Horrex (England), José Delgado (Venezuela), Clive



Camp 2 (20,200') on Cho Oyo. Photo R.J. Secor

technically speaking, we were in Tibet north of this pass), and climbed the classic west ridge route on the mountain. We established Camps 1, 2, and 3 at 19,000', 20,200', and 22,500' on April 25, April 28, and May 3. Camp 3 was damaged by high winds on May 5, with the loss of four man-days of food. This, combined with the apparent theft of ten man-days of food from Camp 2 on May 1 or 2, put a major strain on our high altitude resources. (For the record, the

Jones (New Zealand) and Pasang Gombu Sherpa (Nepal) reached the summit. This party returned to Camp 4 in deteriorating weather that night, and sometime during this period, Clive frostbit the toes on his right foot.

On May 8 Neil Lindsey (England), Rick Nowack (a fellow Californian!) and I set out from Camp 2 with our sleeping bags (but scant other supplies) for our summit bid. Above Camp 2 the route followed the crest of the west ridge, with some fixed ropes,

to the base of the 300' ice cliff at just below the 22,000' level. There was a dearth of snow on the mountain this season, and this cliff consisted of hard, dense blue ice. My highly skilled friends told me that it was only Scottish 2, and they casually front-pointed it with their semi-full expedition packs, as if they were spending a winter afternoon at Lundy Canyon (but the frozen waterfall ice of the Eastern Sierra is a lot softer than this stuff). I couldn't get anything to stick, except for the ascender on the

sirdar, Chwang, wisely replied: "Death is up there, life is down here, and we can't eat money anywhere."

Everyone returned to either Camp 2 or 1 the next day, and I dined on sunscreen at Camp 2 that night. Clive's frozen toes were grey, blue, purple and swollen, and he and I swapped our right boots so he could hike out; he could only wear my size 11 Jannus without the liners! We were all back at base camp by May 11, and by Friday the 13th we all assured



Sherpas at Camp 2 (20,200') on Cho Oyo. Photo R.J. Secor

fixed rope, of course. Cutting steps was impossible, and there was no spare rope available for Neil or Rick to give me an upper belay. After two hours I managed to drop a mitten and only climb two-thirds of the way up the cliff in rapidly worsening weather. I was in over my head and I returned to Camp 2. Our Sherpas there were glad to see me (they attempted to dissuade us from making our attempt that morning, due to the lack of food). I offered them a bonus to lead me up the ice cliff the next day, and our

Clive that his toes looked a lot better. And on that ominous date we began our return to that other world.

The other expedition members were Englishmen Geoff Pierce, David Holl, and Joe Simpson. Yes, that's right, Joe Simpson the author of *Touching the Void*, *The Water People*, and the forthcoming *This Game of Ghosts*. (Nick Clinch once said that name dropping is a sure sign of lack of achievement.) But, seriously, this was a great trip, with highly skilled, yet

personable climbers (I sometimes felt I was on an SPS trip), and I am glad that I went. And it was the best organized commercial expedition that I have ever been on. I recommend Mal Duff to all of my fellow members.

He can be reached at Ascent Travel, 20 Mid Causeway, Culross, Fife, Scotland KY12 8HS, United Kingdom.

R.J. Secor

Mt. Starr King

10-11 June 1994

(Private Trip)

(The editor would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill Oliver for his excellent article on climbing Mt. Starr King. The article and his slide presentation were of tremendous benefit to us on our climb.)

Why won't the Park Service put wilderness permits out in a night pickup box, like the forest service does, so backpackers and climbers can get an early start on the trail? Why ask why?

The Wawona Ranger Station opens at 8 A.M. By the time we picked up our permit, made one last pit stop, drove to the trailhead, resorted our climbing gear (a perverse ritual) and hit the trail it was

10 A.M. Far too late. We would be thankful later for the long June day. As we were leaving the parking area at Mono Meadows we noticed a truck parked next to us had a Rockreation sticker on the window causing some speculation as to how many other climbers we would see on this trip.

It was 100° in Fresno and almost 80° on the trail as our group of three made its way to Mt. Starr King, making us wish we had started much earlier. We dropped our packs around 12:30 and after lunch amused each other trying to hang our food. (The ranger at Wawona asked us to report any bear sightings or incidents. We didn't see any bears on this trip.)

Bill Oliver's photo of the route on Starr King appears on the cover of this year's Jan-Feb Echo 1994 Volume 38 No. 1.

We headed for the peak well after 2 P.M. The weather was still hot and we soon realized we hadn't brought nearly enough water for the climb. Faced with the choice of being thirsty or going back to camp to get more water, losing altitude and time in the process, we decided we were going to be thirsty.

Our route was the South East Face. The approach from the west was to head for the saddle between

trailing a rope. Mike Wolfe was the third man up. When Mike made the ledge, I handed the rack to him and he led the second pitch and again I cleaned the gear while trailing the second rope. It was fun climbing on quality Yosemite granite instead of the crud so many of the rest of the peaks in the Sierra are made of.

From the top of the second pitch it was a short walk to the summit for the prerequisite photo's. The summit



Wayne Norman, Mark Calkins, & Mike Wolfe on the summit of Mt. Starr King

the middle summit and the southern summit. A fire in 1991 burnt away a lot of brush, making our approach straight forward and relatively brush free. Once at the aforementioned saddle we went north over the middle summit and down to the saddle between the middle summit and the main summit. From the saddle we followed the route as shown on the Jan-Feb 1994 ECHO front cover. Mark Calkins led the first pitch, then I followed cleaning the route and

register showed a group of climbers made the ascent the pervious day and we found nice new slings left on the route, saving us the need to waste our slings. We spent about half an hour on top before heading down. The rappels went smoothly and we were soon heading back to our camp, racing the sun, tired and thirsty. We made camp about 7:30 grabbed our water filter and raced to the stream to quench our thirst.

The next morning we packed up early to beat the heat and hiked back to our cars. The most amazing part of our trip was we didn't see another

person the entire trip. A true rarity in Yosemite.

-- Wayne Norman

M t S h a s t a (1 4 , 1 6 2 ')
A Private Trip ~ Friday & Saturday May 27 - 28, 1994
Dan Richter

Tom Randel, Leslie Hofherr, Asher Waxman and I stuffed ourselves into my 4Runner and left Thursday afternoon from L. A. with packs and gear hanging from the roof rack. Talk ranged from snow conditions to Lemurians from the lost land of Mu with sense organs that look like a walnut on their foreheads and live within Shasta. We made Williams and a cheap motel that night about an hour north of Sacramento. Friday morning was glorious and by mid morning we were at the Fifth Season Shop in Shasta buying Tom a new pair of cool gloves and renting a second snow shovel for me. After lunch we drove up to Bunny Flats and we had a leisurely climb up to Helen Lake via the Sierra Club cabin at Horse Flats. We were on snow from just before the cabin. We dug in at Helen Lake, got our tents up and began to melt snow for water and supper. Being ahead of the holiday crowd we only saw four or five other tents.

It was a bit windy that night and as we left camp to climb Avalanche Gulch a little after six we could see clouds above Red Banks. Climbing was easy on crisp corn snow up to Red Banks but as we reached the start of Misery Hill we entered a white out and the winds were quite strong and ice began to form on our clothing and gear. Half way up Misery Hill three climbers passed us and another joined us who was afraid of getting lost. We stopped to evaluate the conditions as gusts were now knocking us down and the ice was close to an inch thick on our clothes and axes. The lone climber wandered on and disappeared in the whiteness. Asher worrying about him followed him in spite of our shouts. Soon the three climbers appeared going down with the lone climber but no Asher. They had passed him in the white out. The wind was getting very strong but I was damned if I was going to leave Asher alone and remembering the John Muir's account of finding shelter by the summit fumaroles we pressed on. The winds abated a bit as we got higher nearing the top of the clouds and soon we saw Asher coming down. We were so close to the summit we decided to press on and soon we were signing the register.

The icing was so bad that my glacier glasses kept freezing over, and as I was leading, I kept taking them off and putting them under my wind jacket to melt the ice off so I could see the route. Halfway down Misery Hill I realized that I had forgotten to put them back on sometime before the summit. We came out of the clouds at Red Banks and were back in camp by mid afternoon and broke camp and were back at my truck by six.

That night I woke and could not see. My eyes ached and everything was a blur. A doctor at a local hospital bandaged my eyes. We drove home via Burney Falls and Lassen all of which I had to be led around at. My bandaged eyes gave rise to a great deal of humor before they came off the next day (they painted eyes on the bandages among other jests).

North Palisade (14,242')
A Private Trip ~ Friday - Sunday June 17 - 18, 1994
Dan Richter

Tom Randel, Leslie Hofherr, Asher Waxman, Erik Siering and I met at the trail head to Sam Mack Meadow Friday morning determined to help Erik get his SPS emblem. We were pleased to see SCMAers Ellen Holden and Nancy Jensen who were going to climb Sill via the Swiss Arete. We took our time as we were carrying heavy packs laden with snow and rock gear, two ropes, and pro. We set up camp at Sam Mack Meadow early in the afternoon and relaxed and rested for the big day on Saturday.

We rose at 4:00 and were off by 5:30 Saturday morning. Conditions were very good and we crossed the bergschrund easily on solid snow bridges and were soon climbing



L to R: Leslie Hofherr, Eric Siering, Asher Waxman. Front: Dan Richter

the U Notch Couloir on crunchy snow. We had an early lunch at the U Notch and then Tom led us up The Open Book.

The climb over to the summit area was gorgeous. The sky was clear, just a bit of wind and not too cold. Some kids at camp had told about a 40 foot chimney that went right to the summit from the west side so we took a look at it. I climbed up about 25-30 feet of 4th class put in a piece and belayed Tom through a couple of 5th class moves to the top. Soon we were all on the summit congratulating Erik who had just earned his emblem.

We rappelled the summit and then down The Open Book. Some of the party wanted a rap down the main body of the couloir so I set lines and we leisurely returned to camp getting down to the glacier at sunset and camp after dark. Thanks to Tom Randel from all of us for fine 5th class leads.

Mt Darwin (13,830') Mt Lamarck (13,417')

A Private Trip - Saturday - Monday July 2 - 4, 1994

Dan Richter

Asher Waxman, Erik Siering and I met at the North Lake trail head Saturday morning. This was to be Asher's SPS emblem trip and we were in a fine mood. The climb up and over Lamarck Col was delightful, a clear pristine day and easy climbing. Arriving at the sandy ledges at the spring below the col at 12,200 feet we met Jim Murphy and Mary Sue Miller, in to climb Mendel, and some of the large party that Steve Thaw was planning to take up Darwin the next day. Asher's emblem was rapidly turning into a social event.

I had a blistering altitude headache so I took a nap and then at 4:00 we took a before dinner climb to Lamarck.

Sunday morning we got off just after six and we were soon on the glacier on our way to the notch. Seeing runners on the rocks on the left side of chute we took a look and soon realized it wouldn't go so we crossed over to the right side and joined Steve's group of nine climbers who were just arriving. To get to the ridge we put up a fixed line to get everyone past one exposed snowy slab and I cut one step in blue ice at the top of the notch.

The ridge to the summit went smoothly and Asher moved out ahead to the summit blocks and his emblem. Asher, arriving at the summit, began free climbing the back of the block. As Asher climbed, one of Steve's party, Tom, free climbed the front of the block and belayed me up where I met Asher on the top to congratulate him. Asher and I down climbed the back as Tom set up an anchor to belay people up. As Asher and I were having lunch watching the others summit I remarked that

I had forgotten to photograph him on top so he free climbed it again so I could take the obligatory emblem shot. Erik, Asher and I slipped off before Steve's group and were back in camp about 6:00 p.m.

The walk out Monday morning was very pleasant and we were in Bishop for lunch.

Moses and North Maggie
June 25-26, 1994

George Toby & Patty Kline

Two late cancellations and two no-shows reduced our group to 11. We met at Shake Camp, just next to the pack station corrals at Mountain Home State Forest. Trail 31E15 begins there. Good car camping and toilets. We hit the trail at 8:15 for an easy backpack to a good campsite at the North end of Long Meadows, just 100 yards South of the Tule River crossing. This was a mixed group. A couple of veteran climbers and mostly new people to the SPS. The trip really became an intro trip and at a slower pace. We established camp and headed for Moses. Starting at the Tule River crossing we took the trail $\frac{1}{4}$ mile North to a green and wet meadow with a black snow marker 31E15. Then West up forested slopes to just below the ridge. Then South below the ridges, dropping down here and there, crossing several side chutes to almost even with the peak and up to the summit. The ridge is very jagged but the summit is rather flat. There was some low class 3 en-route. You don't see the summit until you are almost upon it. All 11 made the peak. A snow bank helped us quench our thirst.

Due to the slower pace time was now a factor, so we headed NE more or less straight down the mountain in a large gully and through a thick forest that took us directly back to camp. A much shorter route, arriving in camp conveniently before sundown. This would be a steep but better route up and down. Going down we found a water bottle marked "BILL- T". (Nice to know Bill - T took this route). We also encountered a young bear in the forest. It was a real handsome bear about a year old. It was very curious and got up on a bluff and watched us hike on down. No one was very anxious to gather firewood so Happy Hour and dinner were held under the glow of headlamps.

Sun morning at 7:00 am we headed North to the same meadow, crossed the Tule and up thru a thick forest to pick up a prominent gully heading East, picking our way thru the brush. The gully veers to the South and narrows down into a rocky chute that ends at a saddle at 9,500'. Then due East to the summit of N. Maggie staying on the North side to avoid the brush. The weather was beautiful both days with great views of this beautiful forested area, from both peaks. These are fun climbs. We returned to camp by more or less the same route. This is very pretty country. There is a flowing stream in the big gully that flows into the Tule. But it is not shown on either the 15 min Mineral King topo or the 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ min Moses topo. Interesting.

We got back to camp early and hiked out for an easy drive out in daylight to about Bakersfield. I think our newcomers to the SPS enjoyed the trip and most expressed a desire to join the SPS. Patty and I had dinner with two newcomers in Bakersfield. Delightful.

Happy Climbing

George

July 3, 1994: Climbed Leavitt Peak with brother Ned Dodds, 17 year old niece Karen Dodds and Karen's friend, Shelley Pope.

We left Echo Summit at around 0630, and arrived at Sonora Pass at around 0830, via Luther and Monitor Passes. Climbing almost immediately from Sonora Pass, we summited at around 1300. After not climbing in years, Ned was very slow. Shelley felt headaches and nausea at around 10,000 feet and Karen charged ahead, staying in sight at all times (soccer helps!).

At 100 feet below the summit, Shelley refused to go any farther, citing headaches, nausea, and loose rocks. Karen felt 'not normal;' neither had been to this altitude before. So we discussed the effects of altitude as well as the grandeur of summit vistas while waiting for Ned. Shelley and Karen ate a little lunch and drank a little water. After a few minutes rest, we all made the peak.

The peak is broad and easy. We found the register under a small cairn on the apparent high point. The register had been placed by Pete Yamagata in 1991. Book one is full; book two is almost blank, with entries just on page one.

We met two SPS'ers on the peak: Mark Adrian and Richard Carey, both of the San Diego area. We yakked a while about mutual acquaintances and previous climbs, as well as Mark's rescue radio. What a small world!

The view from the peak was phenomenal: Banner and Ritter some 50 miles to the South, Mt Rose (or Freel Peak?) to the North. I could make out Mt. Diablo's vague outline through the valley haze about 125 miles to the West. Of course, Round Top, Highland, Mokelumne, Stanislaus and Tower Peaks were near at hand.

We left the summit around 1345, and judging from their distance ahead, Shelley's headache and nausea as well as Karen's 'not normalness' went away immediately. No further reports of loose rocks. Returned to the car around 1700. Back to Echo Summit at around 2000 after using up a lot of time trying to call Grandma Eunice (SPS Emblem #149) at the cabin via podunk telephone companies. It would have helped immensely had we written down the phone number...

Great Day Hike! Pacific Crest Trail to just below the peak, a couple of minor snow patches, use trails to the summit. And beautiful scenery.

Respectfully submitted, John T. Dodds.

Arrow Pk (12,958') and Pyramid Pk #1 (12,177'): From Paradise Valley

July 1-4, 1994

Igor and Suzanne Mamedalin (a private adventure)

Climbing these two peaks from the west has been an itch on our minds for several years. We have scheduled to lead this climb a few years ago only to cancel it at the last minute due to work commitments. We have heard/read that these two peaks have been previously climbed from the west on at least two occasions: Dick Beach going up Arrow Creek and Ron Jones going up "Window Creek" (the drainage due west of Window Peak). Dick reported dense brush on the route while Ron reported less brush. Both routes require a gain of approximately 6,000' to the first peak and then an additional 2,200' to reach the second peak. Of course, we had to do it!

Deciding at the last minute, we took an extra day off work and headed for Cedar Grove in Kings Canyon National Park without a permit on the Fourth of July weekend. Arriving at the roadend at 2 AM we found nobody sleeping on the doorstep of the ranger's kiosk, but the day use parking lot next to it did have a dozen cars parked (ominous sign). After going to sleep comfortably in the truck, Igor was awakened at 5 AM by a full bladder. Surveying the parking lot he noticed several sleeping hikers beginning to stir. After hastily emptying the bladder, he rushed to the ranger's kiosk and claimed first place in line, beating the next hiker for the coveted position by only 5 yards. By 7 AM, the time at which the ranger starts to issue the limited number of "first come first served" permits, at least 20 people have gathered at the doorstep. One group of accursed hikers arrived to claim the 7th position in line after spending the night sleeping on the doorstep of the wrong ranger station (six miles earlier) and receiving a \$25 ticket for camping without a permit at an undesignated site. Mistakes can be costly. At 7 AM, the window of the ranger's kiosk opened and Igor successfully obtained a permit for two people to go up to Paradise Valley .. it was the only permit to be issued for that trailhead that day, all other spaces have been previously reserved. You can imagine the expression on the faces of the awaiting crowd; for safety reasons, it was fortunate that the rangerette in the kiosk was armed.

The first day of this extended Fourth of July weekend was spent in a leisurely 11 mile amble along the South Fork of the Kings River to Upper Paradise Valley. After setting up camp, bathing in the river, and having dinner we were visited by an unabashed young bear. In late afternoon light, the bear circled the camp (ours and others) several times approaching us to within 8 feet. That night, with food stashed in a bear box, we were not bothered by any bears.

Saturday morning after an unplanned late start (7 AM) we headed up the Woods Creek trail with the intent of bagging both summits that day and climbing perhaps Perkins on Sunday. After visually confirming the abundance of brush on the Arrow Creek route, we decided to follow Ron's route up Window Creek. Window Creek is reached after two and one half miles from the crossing at the confluence of Woods Creek and South Fork of the Kings River. From this point we headed up cross country staying on the west side of the creek. We encountered several patches of dense manzanita; in retrospect, the east side of the creek is slabbier and might be less brushy. The ascent lessened in steepness at about the 10,000' level and Pyramid Peak came into view for the first time. Progress had been slow but we continued to follow the course to the obvious saddle just west of Pyramid Peak reaching the summit at 3 PM. Pyramid's summit register dates back to 1962 and has not yet been snatched by the Sierra Register Bandits. Arrow Peak was still clear across the Arrow Basin and time was running short. What to do? At this point Suzanne suggested that we go for Arrow Peak and perhaps bivy on the way back. Why not? The days at this time of the year are warm and long, afterall.

Getting off the Pyramid ridge and into the Arrow Basin did not prove to be easy. After several attempts to down climb, we had to return back to the ridge due to sheer drop offs. Finally we abandoned the attempt to find a direct route down and resigned ourselves to a more circuitous route that finally put us at headwaters of Arrow Creek 4 hours after leaving Pyramid Peak. At this point it was late and we were tired. We decided to bivy first and climb Arrow Peak in the morning. The first part of the night was tolerable as we huddled beneath a 4oz space blanket; by 3 AM it got to be too chilly forcing us to get up and start a campfire around which warmed ourselves until the dawn at 5 AM. After a breakfast of banana chips, carrot sticks, and a left over bread roll we headed for Arrow Peak at 5:30 AM. The final slog up the cruddy southern slopes of Arrow Peak were debilitating .. we reached the summit by 9 AM. The original Arrow Peak summit register has been snatched and current register only dates back to 1991.

From Arrow Peak we dropped back down into Arrow Basin and decided to take our chances following Arrow Creek rather than re-negotiate the Pyramid ridge to get back to Window Creek. Arrow Basin and the upper parts of Arrow Creek are seldom visited and are very scenic with spectacular panoramas of Gardiner and Brewer. We enjoyed our decent crossing the creek several times and staying on its southeastern side for the final drop through the cliffs. At the bottom of the cliffs is where the real trouble began .. a dense forest of willows, aspens and other botanical crud greeted us. For almost two hours and the last half mile we trashed through the jungle .. at times wading through the middle of the creek .. to reach the South Fork of the Kings River. We arrived at our 'base' camp in Paradise Valley at 3:30 PM that day. Whew!

Monday morning we packed out by 7:15 AM and reached the car at the roadend by 11:30 PM. A fine adventure was had, but access via Taboose Pass might have been more expedient.

Book Reviews

Thin Air - Encounters in the Himalayas

By Greg Child

Eiger Dreams - Ventures Among Men and Mountains

By Jon Krakauer

The Laurel Expedition Series, \$5.99
Published by Dell Publishing, New York.

In 1992, Dell Publishing started the Laurel Expedition Series of books, which are reprints of previously published books. What is important about this is the medium - they are published in pocketbook (4 X 7 inch paperback) form, which means they are handy and inexpensive. The original editions of these books cost around \$15, so at \$6 they are a bargain. The current line has nine books, with a few more on the way. Unfortunately, the prices for the new ones will be higher since the original line never caught on as a mass-market paperback.

Thin Air is the story of three different climbing expeditions to the Himalaya: Shivling, Lobsang Spire/Broad Peak, and Gasherbrum IV. The tales contain moments of humor and times of tragedy. In his smooth flowing style, Child skillfully weaves in tidbits from the recent and remote past. As the trek to base camp progresses, we see how history has affected the region and its people, as well as the effects of overpopulation and commercialization. There is a small spread of black and white photos but no maps. This is a major drawback, since the reader is left to visualize (or refer to other sources) in tracking the expedition's progress.

For all the success that is achieved, the book has its darker moments. As Child and companion Peter Thexton near the summit of Broad Peak, Thexton falls victim to altitude sickness. They descend but it is too late, and he soon dies. It is a heavy blow to Child. Though with mixed emotions, he returns to the Karakoram three years later to attempt Gasherbrum IV. The ascent of that peak becomes a struggle to survive, but Child and his friends are victorious and escape with their lives. But the return to base camp is unpleasant again, for Child learns that a dozen climbers have just been killed on K2, including a friend of his.

Eiger Dreams is different in that it consists of a series of short essays about various mountain-related sports. Krakauer covers it all here: bouldering, ice climbing, canyoneering, paragliding from atop Mt. Blanc, rock climbing, Himalayan expeditioning, and so on. Most of these stories have been published before, especially in *Outside* magazine.

Krakauer must also be complimented on his writing style, for these pieces are a joy to read. The book starts strongly with a story entitled, appropriately enough, "Eiger Dreams". This tells of Krakauer's own aborted attempt on The Nordwand. Farther along, the chapter "Chamonix" tells us of the French obsession with dangerous mountain sports, and the daily paraglider crashes in that town. An interesting look at Denali is presented in "The Flyboys of Talkeetna", where Krakauer examines the lives of the pilots who constantly challenge the treacherous winds of that mighty peak. Capping off the book, "The Devil's Thumb" tells us of Krakauer's coming-of-age experience while soloing that dreaded Alaskan peak. Only two chapters are weak, but even good books need some filler.

For good mountain reading at a bargain price, you can't do much better than these two.

Bob Sumner

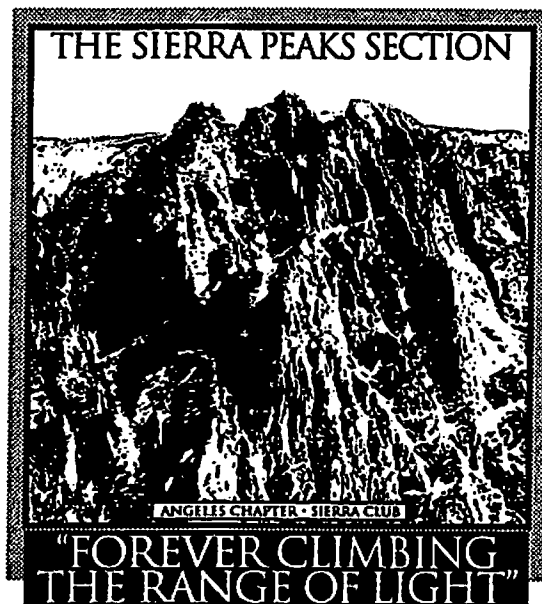
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