

The Sierra



ECHO

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SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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.

OCTOBER 12

"Climbs along the John Muir Trail"
Greg Roach will give a slide presentation on climbing and the geography along the John Muir trail and other selected nearby climbs.

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.

JANUARY 11

"Sierra Wilderness Planning - Update"
Joe Fontaine will discuss the progress the Public Involvement Team has made in planning the Sierra wilderness guidelines for the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes and the Monarch Wilderness areas. See Nov/Dec Echo for current PIT issues discussion. Come prepared to share your views.

FEBRUARY 8

"Climbs in the Palisades" Larry Tidball will present a program on the peaks of this classic Sierra climbing area.

MARCH 8

"Cho Oyu" R.J. Secor will present a program on his attempt to climb 26,900 foot Cho Oyu in in the Himalaya.

1994 Sierra Peaks Section Fall Schedule

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.

PEAK INDEX

Mt. Assiniboine
Bugaboo Spire
Cirque Peak
Mount Dana
Mt. Harrington
Joe Devel Peak
Kennedy Mtn.
Lamont Peak
Mt. Langley
Mt. Mallory
Norman Clyde Peak
North Peak
Mt. Pickering
Polemonium Peak
Mt. Robson
Sawtooth Peak #1
Mt. Temple

COVER PHOTO

Greg Child

On the Summit of K2

Photo supplied by Greg Child

URSULA SLAGER DIES

Ursula Slager climbing Norman Friday August 19, some words husband, Don

I wish to club members expressed their sympathy at She loved the sorely missed by

Ursula went trip in October encouraged by led her up several work toward the which she Clarence King in She was the many leaders trips and was for LTC when it

Later she Senior Emblem Darwin in July of she had hoped to Master Emblem

complete the "mountaineers peaks". Finally, she had some expectations of eventually completing the SPS list as she continued in good physical condition.



Ursula Slager Aug. 5, 1994. Photo by Patty Kline

died while Clyde Peak on 1994. Here are written by her Slager.

thank the many who have regrets and Ursula's death. Sierra and will be all of us.

on her first SPS 1985 and was R.J. Secor, who emblem peaks, to SPS Emblem achieved on September 1987. appreciative of who arranged about to sign up was abandoned.

obtained her by climbing 1991. This year qualify for the as well as to

Ursula Slager and the Braille Institute

The Southern California Mountaineering Association and the Braille Institute sponsor rock climbing workshops twice a year for visually impaired adolescents. Don Slager has suggested that friends of Ursula who want to make a donation in her memory support this activity. Monetary contributions will be used to purchase climbing equipment (shoes, harnesses, ropes, etc.) Donations of used equipment are also welcome. Contact Gerry Cox for information about donating equipment or volunteering your time to support the workshops. Monetary donations should be made payable to the Braille Institute and mailed to: Gerry Cox, 443 Manila Ave., Long Beach, CA 90814-2025. (Phone 310-494-6941)

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

As we move into October and the Sierra climbing season winds down, I hope that all of your trips have been successful. Many of our outings have been attracting new and enthusiastic climbers. Let's keep encouraging them to become active SPS members.

Now it is time to start thinking about next year's management committee. You will be receiving a ballot under a separate mailing and I urge you to vote for the five candidates of your choice. You may mail the ballot to me or bring it to the November meeting. At that time, ballots will be counted and the top five will be announced.

A tip to those climbers who always wear shorts: by the end of the summer, have you noticed a distinct 'line of demarcation' between the tan on your legs and the much lighter skin on your feet and lower leg? I recently tried Vuarner's sunless tanning lotion and was pleased with the results.

The next 'Echoes from the Chair' will be in the November/December ECHO which you can pick up in person at the banquet. Let's have another great turnout this year. The date is December 14. Hope to see you there!

On a sad note, I am sorry to report the passing of Ursula Slager who was killed while climbing Norman Clyde on August 19, 1994. Ursula was an inspiration to many of us. At age 69, she was the oldest active woman climber that I knew. She truly will be missed.

Barbara

ECHOES FROM OUR MEETINGS

Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 7-13-94

Barbara Cohen started the meeting at 6:40 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 \$4137.41 in our checking account and \$2057.79 in the saving account. The revised Mountaineers List was presented and approved.

New Business: It was moved and approved to present Doug Mantle and Randy Danta their Francis Farquhar Awards and Ron Jones his Oliver Kehrlein Award at this year's

banquet. It was also moved and passed to supply each with two tickets to the banquet. Barbara Cohen will head this years nominating committee for the management committee elections and will be helped by Vi Grasso. There will be a special ballot mailing for the elections.

Dan read an blurb he had written on the section's founding in 1955. Erik Siering will look into some anniversary climbs. Barbee will start early preparations for the banquet. A meeting will be held at the Tidball's on September 21st to get the plans under way.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 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 Doug Mantle introduced Reinhold Ullrich who gave a very interesting presentation on his attempts to climb Carstensz Pyramid on Irain Jaya in New Guinea.

Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 8-10-94

Barbara Cohen started the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Also present were Dan Richter, Wayne Norman, Larry Tidball, Barbara Tidball, and Duane McRuer.

Dan read the minutes of the last meeting which were accepted. Barbara read a letter from Patty reporting that we had \$3736.80 in our checking account and \$2061.60 in the saving account. Duane suggested that the Section should publisize that it had supported its restricted climbs by sharing in the insurance costs. Larry reported that the Section had indeed paid out \$1,025.00 so far for insurance on its resricted trips. It was agreed that any further additions to the Mountaineers List will appear in the Membership Reports. Barbee then presented the lastest version of the brochure for review, which is very close to completion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 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 Karen Leonard introduced Mel Taliaferro who gave a colorful presentation on his visits to Ladakh.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Richter

Sierra Peaks Slide Identification Contest and SPS Swap Meet

The September SPS meeting featured a Peaks Identification Contest. 16 slides of various Sierra peaks were shown. R.J. Secor won 1st place identifying 14 of the slides. Greg Roach was, a close 2nd with 13 correct identifications and Barbara Cohen won 3rd place with 10.

Prizes were zippered nylon and mesh bags by Outdoor Research. The 1st place bag contained a \$20 gift certificate to REI, 2nd a \$15, and 3rd a red outdoor essentials imprinted bandanna.

The Swap meet appeared to be a success, I hope everyone bought the perfect missing piece of gear.

SPS Banquet
Greg Child

"Serious Climbing, treads a thin line between recklessness and calculated risk, the path marked only by intuition, capricious and flawed instinct." Mixed Emotions, by G. Child

Greg Child is a photo-journalist, writer, climber, and consultant to the outdoor industry. His writings include the books Thin Air and Mixed Emotions, a regular column in Climbing magazine and features in Outside, Summit and other publications. Greg writes of himself in Mixed Emotions, that "I've never been certain whether I'm a climber who writes or a writer who climbs.

Greg Child will be the SPS 1994 Banquet speaker on December 14th. The Banquet will be held at the community hall of the Greek Orthodox church in Long Beach and will be catered again this year by Buon Gustos. Greg has outlined a program for the SPS that will include highlights from:

- ◆ "My apprenticeship in Himalayan climbing, in 1981, with Doug Scott, Don Williams, etc., on Shivling in India. This was a major new route on a 21,500 foot peak. We took 13 days, during which I blew up a tent and fell 600 feet on the descent.
- ◆ Gasherbrum IV, in Pakistan, 1986. On that 26,000 foot peak I summited with 2 others on a new route. Just below the summit we had a forced bivy without sleeping bags, a rather chilly experience at -30 F.
- ◆ The world's second tallest peak, K2, in 1990, via the 3rd ascent of the North Ridge. Camel trekking through the west Chinese desert, crossing flooding rivers, and the oxygenless ascent with a storm approaching make for a dramatic story.
- ◆ Trango Tower, a 20,500 foot rock spire in Pakistan. I made 3 attempts before climbing this vertical walled peak. On one attempt a storm nearly killed us after 13 days on the wall; on another we narrowly escaped a massive avalanche just before the summit.
- ◆ Mount Hunter, Alaska. "The Wall of Shadows", a new route I climbed with Michael Kennedy over 9 days in Spring 1994 on Hunter's true North face. Probably the hardest route I have climbed, with extreme ice and rock climbing on a perpetually frozen wall."

Greg Child promises to be a challenging, exciting and humorous speaker.

Order Tickets by mail from Barbee Tidball or purchase tickets from any SPS management committee member. Send ticket orders to Barbee with a check made out to SPS and a SASE at 4160 Del Mar Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807. Questions? Phone 310/424-1556.

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.

- **Bolting and Fixed Anchor Regulations** The National Park Service is considering regulations to *"affirm the essential role of fixed anchors as climbing safety equipment and allow their continued use in National Parks and National Park Wilderness under guidelines to be developed on the local park level."* (Access Fund, Access Notes, Summer 1994) In general this means anchors would be accepted under Wilderness Act provisions, but not the use of power drills. On BLM lands and the Forest Service a different attitude is shaping up. These agencies have currently drafted regulations the will ban bolts and fixed anchors and may even go so far as to remove existing bolts. The Access Fund does not believe any final decision will be made by the three agencies for 6 months either independently or even more so collectively. Your letters are needed to encourage adaptation of policies that allow responsible use of fixed anchors for safe climbing. Write Assistant Secretary of Interior, George Frampton, Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C St. NW, Wash. DC 20240 in support of the proposed regulations. Write Keith Corrigan, Chief of Wilderness Resources for the BLM 1849 C St. NW 204LS, Wash. DC 20240-9998 and John Twiss, Wilderness Program Coordinator for the Forest Service, PO Box 96090, Wash. DC 20090-6090 and urge them to adapt regulations consistent with the Park Service.
- The Library Foundation of San Francisco is planning a Wallace Stegner Environmental Center. The center will be housed in the new main circulation library and shall serve as a resource for persons researching environmental issues. The facility will include books, computer material and conference facilities. For information contact the Foundation at 220 Montgomery St., Suite 406, San Francisco 94104, (415)391-5582.
- Clinton shall be convening a task force to look at ways to reduce auto emissions. Many activists and scientists believe 45-mile-per-gallon standards should be set for cars by the year 2010. As climbers we drive thousands of miles each summer to achieve our goals. We shouldn't forget to be sure that our vehicles are running clean. In addition now is a good time to write your congressional representatives and urge them to support strong fuel efficiency standards in the talks this Fall.
- Anniversary: September 3, 1964 the Wilderness Act was signed.
- The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee moved in late June to halt U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from eliminating recreational use of wildlife refuges. "The Committee directs the current activities be continues unless it can be clearly determined that such activities threaten other refuge purposes.....Eliminating programs because they might be inconvenient to manage is not an option."
- September 30th was the deadline to send letters to Bruce Babbitt regarding RS 2477 rights-of-way. Under Hodel the claims on "pre-existing" right-of-ways have become a grab for development. Denali faces some of the strongest changes and problems. But then too think what the policy could mean to packers in the Sierra! "Wise Use" groups are pressing Congress. RS 2477 needs to be controlled or the effect on national parks and wilderness areas will be to criss-cross the areas with roads.
- Elections are coming up in November. Vote to support the Environment, it is our Future.

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

DENALI CLIMBERS FACE DISCRIMINATION, OUTRAGEOUS FEES

Denali. Hunter. Foraker. The Kitchatna Spires. The names of these legendary alpine challenges are known to climbers around the world, and all are found in Denali National Park in Alaska. Yet climbers may soon find these peaks beyond their means... that is, beyond their capacity to pay for access.

Following Denali's 1992 climbing season, in which 11 climbers died and the park spent over \$200,000 on climber rescues, the National Park Service's review of ways to make climbers pay for their rescues in national parks, and intention to develop a pilot program at Denali, was well publicized. First, the Park Service proposed to recover rescue costs from climbers at Denali in advance of any rescues. However, in less than a year the notion that climbers should pay for rescues had become a mandate that climbers should pay for all climbing "facilities and services." Meanwhile, as Denali proposed to tax climbers in this manner, the park secretly planned to spend over \$1 million for new "facilities" to support its climbing program.

The Access Fund has vigorously opposed Denali proposals aimed at forcing

climbers to subsidize general operating costs since the idea gathered momentum last year. In conjunction with the American Alpine Club, local climbing organizations like the Mazamas and the Mountaineers, and the climbing industry and guide services, the Access Fund has worked both at Denali and in Washington, DC to persuade the NPS that climbers should not be singled out for "cost recovery" efforts. However, direct input from climbers to both the NPS and to state and federal legislators is required to fight the Denali policy and prevent more widespread discrimination against climbers.

On January 8 in Seattle, the Access Fund and the Mountaineers sponsored a meeting between climbers and NPS officials to discuss the issue. Organized by Elden Altizer of the Access Fund and Marcia Hanson of the Mountaineers, the meeting drew nearly two hundred local climbers and Park Service officials from around the country. At this meeting the Park Service unveiled its initial proposal: a "user fee" of \$500 per climber to climb in Denali. The NPS maintained that there was precedent for such fees, but the example cited was the \$75 per group fee assessed river-runners in the Grand Canyon — hardly a basis for charging individual climbers nearly seven times as much in Denali. Climbers, guides, volunteer rescue groups

and law enforcement agencies suggested that a better alternative would be for the Park Service simply to provide fewer climbing services.

At the end of February the NPS approved the final proposal for new climbing policy in Denali, which would begin with the 1995 climbing season. The Park Service described the policy as a cost-sharing partnership... only climbers are the only Denali visitors targeted for "defray[ing] operating and rescue costs." The final draft recommends a climbing fee of "only" \$200 per visit. The policy also calls for mandatory 60-day advance registration, and expansion of climber education services. In addition, Denali proposes to spend \$1.4 million to construct a new climbing center, although this detail was not revealed in public hearings. Presumably the new climbing fee is intended to pay for this "improvement."

While it remains to be seen whether the new Denali policy has the long-term effect of reducing climber rescues and therefore costs, over the short term its effects are clear: reduced climber access, a "tax" imposed only on climbers, and perpetuation of government "services" that climbers are willing to do without.

The Denali climbing fee is not only a severe threat to climbers' access; it represents also a terrible precedent for recreation management. Will the Park Service levy a fee on every hiker and other recreational user of our national parks, to recoup the costs of providing facilities and programs specific to each user group? If not, the agency is discriminating against climbers. If so, the ability of all Americans to enjoy their wildlands heritage is endangered.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

There is no time to lose. Write a letter TODAY to the following influential congressmen and insist that climbers be treated fairly on our public lands. Climbers are willing to "pay to play" in our national parks, as long as this concept is applied broadly to all visitors. Write:

The Hon. George Miller, Chair of the House Interior Committee, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. J. Bennett Johnston, Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

BOLTS STILL FOCUS OF CLIMBING POLICY DEBATE

The "bolting issue" may seem boring to most climbers, but to some influential land managers, bolts are very much a problem, especially in wilderness areas. For the past two years, this issue has grown in controversy, to the point where many government bureaucrats and interest groups are aware of it. Now, land managers at every level are prepared to ban bolts in wilderness!

While climbing is not necessarily dependent on the freedom to place bolts, in most areas climbing cannot be accomplished without some use of fixed anchors. Hundreds of this country's most historic, popular and challenging climbing resources are found in designated or proposed wilderness. The urgency of resolving the bolting issue in a way that protects both wilderness resources and climbers' ability to be responsible for their

own safety cannot be overstated.

The Access Fund believes that climbers must become much more active in defending their traditional freedoms. The key to this defense is agreeing to give up a non-traditional freedom: the use of power drills where they are already prohibited. It is imperative that the climbing community recognize that power drills are illegal in wilderness areas, and comply with this modest restriction.

The Access Fund has devoted considerable time and resources to a broad-based, grassroots effort to influence climbing management policy, especially where it concerns the use of fixed anchors in wilderness areas. A report on our progress:

Working in Washington

Local officials from all the federal agencies that manage wilderness are waiting for direction from Washington, DC on bolting policy. In early

Please see Bolts, Next Page

BOLTS, continued from Page 1

February, Access Fund representatives, joined by American Alpine Club president Jed Williamson, met with senior officials from the US Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management in Washington to discuss fixed anchor use in wilderness and proposed climbing regulations. The Access Fund also met with environmental groups and with congressional staffers from key House and Senate committees.

In these meetings we learned:

(1) *Draft regulations of climbing in wilderness are being prepared by officials more disposed to preservation of wilderness values than recreation;*

(2) *As climbers are a relatively small user group, we need to obtain at least an acceptance of our use of bolts in wilderness from leading environmental groups, so that wilderness managers can develop regulations without fear of legal challenges.*

Access Fund representatives met again with key land managers in April, and Access Fund National Coordinator Paul Minault participated in the Forest Service Wilderness Officer Line Training Workshop in Missoula, Montana in early June. Perhaps most importantly, the Access Fund asked for and received an audience with Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt on June 6. At this meeting, the Access Fund's John Juraschek and Brad Udall informed the Secretary that proposed regulations could have severely damaging effects on climbing and other human-powered backcountry recreation, and asked the Secretary to ensure that critical climbing policy decisions would not be made without substantial public input. Babbitt agreed to give our request his personal attention.

National Summit on Outdoor Recreation

In April 1994, the Access Fund was proud to join the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America (ORCA) in sponsoring the National Summit on Outdoor Recreation, a landmark event which brought together the outdoor industry, recreational and environmental groups, land managers, and other government officials to discuss crucial issues bearing on outdoor recreation.

Particularly important was the dialogue in the working group on fixed anchors in wilderness. Senior officers from the Park Service, BLM, and Forest Service joined representatives from environmental groups in questioning climbers' right "to climb anything that has potential" as well as the

legality and appropriateness of bolts in wilderness areas. Climbers, represented by Todd Skinner, Mariah Cranor, Michael Kennedy, Kathleen Beamer from REI, Doug Scott (an expert on the Wilderness Act), Brad Udall and Sam Davidson, maintained that exploration and adventure are the core of the "climbing experience," that climbers should not be subject to restrictions on access that do not apply to other user groups, and that bolts are an appropriate use of wilderness.

Initially, no land manager or wilderness advocate would agree that any use of fixed anchors in wilderness was acceptable. But after two days of talk, the group drafted a "working paper" outlining compromise positions on wilderness management and fixed anchor use. This paper essentially reaffirmed the Access Fund's position: fixed anchors are permissible under the Wilderness Act; power drills are prohibited in wilderness, and the level of fixed anchor use which will be allowed should be determined on an area-by-area basis through wilderness management plans.

A Negotiated Agreement?

After the Recreation Summit the Access Fund, the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club and the National Parks & Conservation Association agreed to continue discussion of the fixed anchors in wilderness issue, with the working paper as a basis for negotiations. REI assumed a leading role in sponsoring these negotiations, and arranged a meeting in Boulder, Colorado on May 25. This meeting produced an improved draft of the working paper, and renewed commitments to find agreement on language which could serve as the basis for regulations. Any agreement on this issue will include the principles that fixed anchors, properly managed, are acceptable in wilderness, and that climbing should be managed by the same strict standards which apply to other uses of wilderness.

Status of Regulations

The Access Fund has stayed in constant contact with the agencies drafting new regulations of climbing in wilderness. These regulations are in various stages of development. The Park Service's regulations await final approval from Assistant Secretary of the Interior George Frampton. After Frampton's approval these regulations will be subjected to a comment period. Reportedly, these regulations affirm the essential role of fixed anchors, as climbing safety equipment, and allow their continued use in national parks and national park

wilderness under guidelines to be developed on the local park level.

The BLM's regulations have been drafted and are being reviewed by government legal counsel. Sources say that these regulations would prohibit bolts in all BLM wilderness areas; we do not know if this means existing bolts would be removed.

The Forest Service also has drafted regulations pertaining to climbing in wilderness, but further work is on hold pending a policy decision by the Chief Jack Ward Thomas. The Access Fund's Sam Davidson and Paul Minault met with Deputy Chief Grey Reynolds and Lyle Lavery, Director of the USFS Recreation, Cultural Resources & Wilderness Management division, in April. Reynolds and Lavery told the Access Fund that any agreement forged between climbers and environmentalists on fixed anchors in wilderness would assist the agency in setting policy and preparing new regulations.

What To Do Now

It is vitally important to keep pressure on land managers to make climbing policy which allows fixed anchors in wilderness. The Access Fund believes that any agreement climbers can enter into with leading environmental groups will advance this cause. Therefore we are continuing to negotiate with various environmental organizations, are maintaining regular contact with influential land managers, and are working to inject better understanding and more objectivity into the bolting issue.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

(1) Write to Assistant Secretary of Interior George Frampton, (Department of Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240) and urge him to approve immediately the proposed National Park Service regulations pertaining to climbing and fixed anchors. The Access Fund believes these regulations were prepared intelligently, with significant input from climbers and the general public, and deserve climbers' support.

Write to Keith Corrigan, Chief of Wilderness Resources for the BLM (1849C Street NW 204LS, Washington, DC, 20240-9998), and John Twiss, Wilderness Program Coordinator for the Forest Service (US Forest Service, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC, 20090-6090) and urge them to adopt climbing regulations consistent with those developed by the Park Service.

SPS Membership Report

by Dan Richter 9/19/94

New Members Welcomes!

James Watts
2910 Mallard Ave
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(805) 493-1449

Leroy Fellows
11692 Magnolia Street
Garden Grove, CA 92641

Willie Richter
808 4th Street #107
Santa Monica, CA 90403
(310) 393-3607

Ann Kramer
P. O. Box 71773
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Paul E. Graff
1365 Ruberta Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201-1409
(818) 246-3724

Leslie Hofherr
P.O Box 1115
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
h:(310) 459-4264 w:(310) 206-3929

Gregory W. Colley
22311 Cohasset Street
Canoga Park, CA 91303
h:(818) 883-6600 w:(818) 558-1099

Reinstatements Welcome back!

Ret Moore, Ellen Miller, Tom McNicholas, Victoria Hoover, Matthais Selke & Xin Gong, Signe Swenson (*Echo*), Steve Voigt (*Echo*), Ken Deemer, Carl Smetko, Michael Stein, Ronald Webber, Brian Smith, Ralph White, Baharan Manahedgi, Bill Heubach, and Andrea Goulet (*Echo*),.

Address Changes

Graham Breakwell
1170 Alta Mesa
Moraga, CA 94556
(510) 631-9617

Ross Yates
890 Autumn Canyon Way
Henderson, NV 89015-9662
(702) 565-8827

Richard L. Anglin Jr.
2115 Heather Lane
Del Mar, CA 92014-2244
(619) 792-0220

Michael B. Sanson
6277 Frondosa Drive
Malibu, CA 90265

Bob Sumner
615 Riverstone Lane, Apt. 115
Agoura, CA 91301

Name Change
Cindi Runyan to
Cindy Okine-Runyan

New Subscribers Thank you!

C. A. Landa
5030 Pacifica Drive
San Diego, CA 92109

Robert Evans
12802 Bonita Heights Drive
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Accomplishments Congratulations!

List Finish plus Master Emblem # 2: Dave Dykeman on Mt. Clark 9/2/94
List Finish # 42: Joe Stephens on Observation Peak 8/13/94
List Finish # 43: Sue Wyman on Mt. Morrison 9/17/94
List Finish # 44: Vic Henney on Mt. Morrison 9/17/94
Senior Emblem # 112: Patty Kline on Table Mtn. 8/3/94
Emblem # 532: Keith Martin on Mt. Lyell 7/23/94
Emblem # 533: Dan Richter on Olancho Peak 8/7/94
Emblem # 534: Mike Fredette on Mt. Kaweah 8/11/94
Emblem # 535: John Sarna on North Palisade 8/8/94

Sustaining Members Thank you!

Victoria Hoover, Cyndi Okine-Runyan

Additions to the Mountaineers List

Graham Breakwell, Ali A. Aminian, Joe Andrews, Pat Christie, Terry Flood

In Memorandum

Ursula Stager 8/19/94

ECHOES FROM OUR CLIMBS

SPS Trail Maintenance Project, 8-12 July 1994 by Campy

It was Smokey Bear's birthday. We were asked by Wilderness Manager Diana Worman to do something different this year. Our Shepherd Pass adopt-a-trail has held up pretty well while part of the Pacific Crest Trail in the district needed work. I hiked to the area in May with Diana and Calder to see what needed to be done. It is Calder's trail--she manages it. We found dead trees over the trail between Cottonwood Pass and Sequoia and rocks had fallen in. Peaks available for climbing were Mt Langley and Cirque Pk. We decided to locate our camp at Chicken Spring Lake.

The usual suspects. We met at 7:30 am on Friday at the Cottonwood Pass trailhead. There were ten people including Diana and Calder: RJ Secor (Co-Leader), John Secor, Bill Sampson, Peter Leth, Eivor Nilsson, Barbara Reber, and Ski and I. People actually returned after working before--Bill was with us both prior years, Peter came two years ago, and John Secor has done it I don't know how many times.

Klondike Kate. We loaded our packs to be carried by the mules and took day gear for the 4-hour hike to our camp. Diana and Calder brought the usual hand tools to be loaded and this time some new ones showed up: whipsaws, wedges, a hammer, and an 11-pound boilermaker's sledge. The twelve-foot whipsaw was bent into a U-shape and bound up with rope for carrying. Diana did this. She and Calder probably also loaded the mules.

We forgot our Burgies. It was a nice day and we didn't have anything to do so we sat on rocks by the lake waiting for our gear. It arrived on government mules from Dixon Ranch in Bishop rather than being carried by the local packer's. They came lightly loaded. The mule guide said that he was giving extra mules some trail experience. We had only given him our packs and he wondered why there wasn't any beer.

IQ barely above room temperature. We put up our tents and it was still pretty early. Peter said he wanted to climb "Trailmaster Pk" (12,336') just above our camp. He took off and he climbed it but then he also climbed Cirque Pk (12,900'). I now knew who was strong enough to use the whipsaw.

Heavy mettle. The next day we hiked up the trail with our tools. Our first stop was at a big tree across the trail. We all tried out the whipsaw but Peter and Bill did it the best. I stood on top of the log driving big wedges into the cut to spread it apart. Two-person teams were given 12 minutes per round. Arms got tired and we could tell who wasn't trying very hard by seeing whether the sawdust pile was bigger on one side of the log or the other side. Barbara and Eivor shoveled dirt onto the bypass trails around the tree. We also shoveled and barred rock from the trail to the National Park boundary.

Drink first before bathing. The next day was more trail work but it was a shorter day. We split into two groups and Bill and Peter sawed up more trees while the rest of us barred rocks out of the trail. Some big boulders we smashed to bits using the sledge. The good thing about camping at the lake was we could swim after work and wash off layers of sweat and trail dirt.

Alternative to angioplasty. Diana and Calder left for Lone Pine on our climbing day. They said they had to go back to work. RJ and Peter climbed Mt Langley (14,042') and they carried a replacement ammo box and register. Bill, Ski, and I did Cirque. Eivor hiked down to Siberian Outpost while Barbara read a book and John snoozed in camp. On Tuesday we broke up forbidden campfire rings and then we left for home. Next year we'll go back to Shepherd Pass. It will be with mules again to haul up our camp gear and we won't forget our Birkenstocks.

Polemonium Peak

July 3, 1994 - Larry Tidball & Bill Oliver

Polemonium, also known as Sky Pilot, is a familiar, yet startling, sturdy, blue-violet Sierra wildflower. Seldom seen below 10,000 ft, it is often found nestled in rock crevices among the 14er summits. [The word originates from a Greek plant.]

Polemonium is also, of course, the name of a Sierra 14er. Officially recognized by the US Board on Geographic Names in 1985, it was given an elevation of 14,080 ft. Unfortunately, the 1982 7.5 min quad has misapplied the name to peak 13,962' - about 0.4 mi SE of the true summit. Polemonium Peak does not appear on the SPS list, perhaps due to its recent official status. Not to worry! The Vagmarken Club counts it toward their "14 Over 14" Award (twelve in the Sierra plus White Mtn and Shasta).

Polemonium defiantly tops, and guards, the east ridge approach to the U-Notch in the Palisades. It is directly above and opposite the "4th class" wall/chute on the west side of the notch, this chute presenting the crux to success on North Pal. The peak was first topped on the Sierra Club's High Trip of 1931 by Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson, John Olmstead and Charles Dodge, while traversing from North Pal to Sill. The route was repeated in the opposite direction on the High Trip three years later by Lewis Clark, Ted Waller, Julie Mortimer and Jack Riegelhuth.

In "*California Fourteeners*" (which focuses on the easiest summit routes), Porcella and Burns note: "The summit of this unobtrusive fourteener (they list it as ~ 14,200') is as challenging as any in the Sierra Nevada. It requires not only rock climbing skill, but a good healthy set of nerves as well. The final summit block requires Class 4 climbing regardless of which side of the mountain is ascended." They detail the SE ridge approach, which can be reached either from the Palisade Glacier side via the North Couloir on Mt. Sill, or from the Palisade Basin side past the Polemonium Glacier.

On Sunday of the July 4th weekend, Larry Tidball and I set out with friends from Sam Mack Meadow at 5:30 am. [I had arrived on Sat to join eight other SPS companions, who had been "wiping out" the area since Thurs.] The shrund was reached at 8:30. Though the snow bridge was not in good shape, the incipient moat was handily breached. We topped the U-Notch about 9:50 and stowed our crampons in our packs. [The U-Notch would actually be better-named the W-Notch, as a rocky prominence straddles notches at both side walls.]

While our friends turned their attention west to North Pal, Larry and I sharply focused our sights on Polemonium to the east - for both of us our last 14er. RJ's "*High Sierra*" guide describes the route. The target notch up on the right skyline is readily evident from the U-Notch. The first pitch commences immediately at the base of the east wall: a short upward diagonal to the right, then up a moderate crack for what ended up being half the length of our 150-ft rope. From this belay stance, we remained roped but simply walked in tandem over low-to-high 3rd class rock to the target notch.

Then it was a short-up-left followed by an around-a-corner-to-the-right to commence the second pitch. (These two short moves might also be belayed.) This pitch began with a little fresh-air traverse to the right, followed by a sustained effort up an open-book crack for another half-rope length. The summit, now in sight, was then readily claimed at 11:30 with only a moderate-to-high 3rd class effort. No pro was placed on this full-rope-length "3rd pitch."

Our location was confirmed by the bolted Sierra Register Committee box. The upper half of the 4th class chute route to North Pal was still closely in view - and quite a few climbers were working this approach, most of whom were based on the Palisade Basin side.

Larry and I eagerly eyed the gnarly ridge route tenuously connecting us with Mt. Sill. After nearly an hour top-side, we ultimately opted to rendezvous with our companions back at the U-Notch. Re-tracing our ascent route, with our single rope we were just able to handily rappel the two half-rope-length pitches. Camp was hungrily reclaimed at 5:00 - just in time for a high Sierra happy hour. I would rate the first belayed pitch as very low 5th class and the second as about 5.2 - 5.3. They went well with our leather boots. An assortment of about eight small-to-medium stoppers/hexes work well, a few Friends or Camalots even better. A 150-ft rope is adequate, a 165-footer even better.

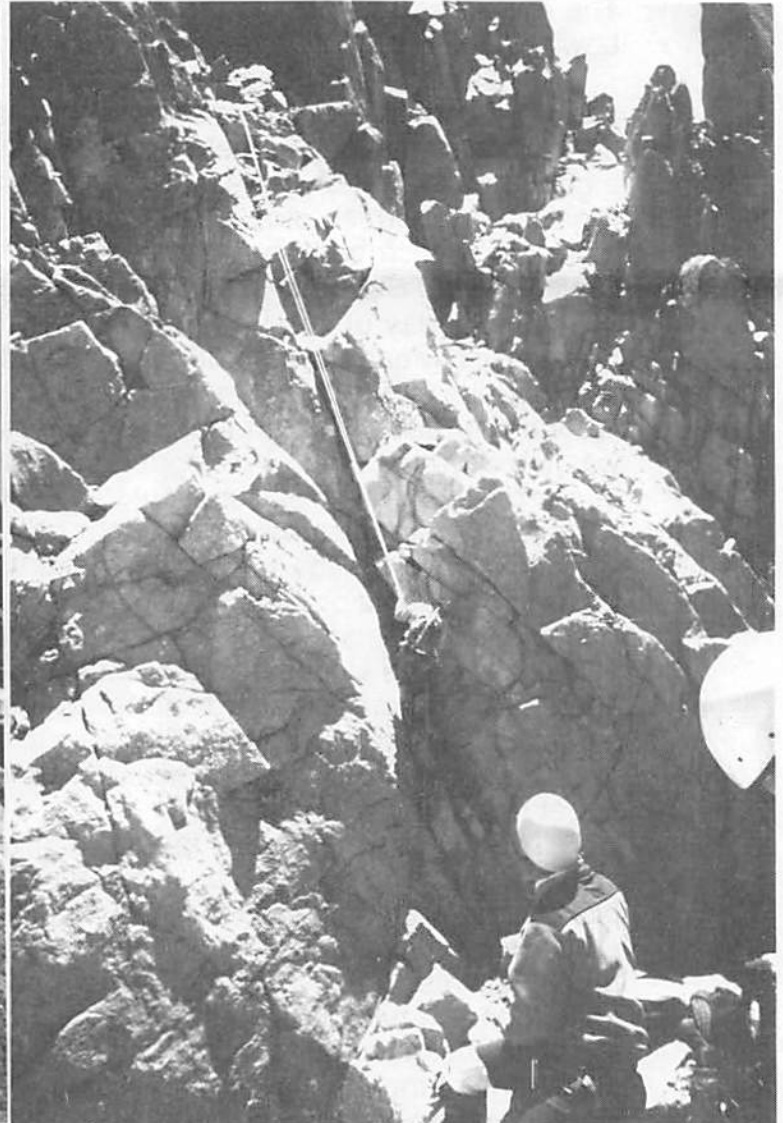
Polemonium is a gnarly flower and steadfast companion to our Sierra 14ers. It is also a 14er peak offering a challenging and enjoyable climb.

Bill

3rd Pitch to Summit

Rapping 1st Pitch

Target Notch



TRIP REPORT from SAWTOOTH and LAMONT

MAY 22, 1993

Leaders: Barbara Cohen and Charlie Knapke

This trip was originally scheduled as Muah, Sawtooth, and Lamont, but due to excessive snow, we had to omit Muah. We started hiking from the campground at the end of the Chimney Peak road off Ninemile Canyon. The PCT took us to a saddle where we started up the ridge to the peak. The brush was not a problem. We reached the summit in about 2 1/2 hours, enjoyed the view, and headed down. Since it was around 1 PM when we returned to the cars, we decided to go for Lamont the same day. Following the steep, dusty trail in the heat of the afternoon was a real joy, and we stopped often for water. After finally reaching the north summit, we had a welcome rest on top.

We returned to the cars around 6 PM and most of the group decided to go home that day. This trip had many newcomers to SPS. All but one cleared out on Saturday! Our smaller group camped at Walker Pass Campground, partied, and the next day, 3 went to try Owens, the leaders and Vi hiked HPS peak Mayan and headed for home. The new participants were Carol Snyder, Mark Bender, Tom Sumner, Matthias Selke, Xin Gong, James Camp, and Henry Shavelle. "Old timers" were Devra Wasserman, Paula and Bruce Peterson, Terry Flood, Mike Kelley, Vi Grasso, Scott Sullivan. Thanks to Charlie Knapke for his capable assistance, as always.

North Peak and Mt. Dana

June 18-19, 1994

Leaders: John Cheslick and Charlie Knapke

The weather was just beautiful for this late spring trip in Yosemite. Charlie and I were a little concerned that we would have to cancel the trip due to snow since this was only an "I" rated trip but the conditions were great. There were small patches of steep snow along the route but they were easily avoided.

Saturday a large group of 15 eager hikers met at Saddlebag Lake for the climb up North Peak. Once around Saddlebag Lake we hiked up the gentle east ridge that goes up to the east face of North. From there we traversed west and then up North's south slope to the summit ridge. Then it was an easy scramble to the top. This trip had a lot of SPS newcomers on it even though it was not billed as an "Intro" hike. For six people, this was their first Sierra peak with the SPS. They are: Howard Simon, John Neff, Joanne Andrew, Theresia Glover, Leroy Fellows and Ray Soucy.

Saturday evening we were able to secure a group campsite at Tuolumne Meadows. We had a great potluck with a couple of huge salads and a chocolate desert made by my wife along with fine music supplied by Ray with his guitar.

Sunday was an easy day with a quick (less than 5 hrs rt) climb of Dana which had magnificent views of Yosemite and Mono Lake on this clear day. Then it was time for some refreshments and chips down at the trailhead before the long drive back to LA.

Mt. Mallory, 13,850'
July 15-17,1994
Leaders: George Toby & Ron Young

This trip was listed in the schedule as an Introductory climb. We did have some new people to the SPS. The Forest Service is very stingy with permits in the Whitney area, and limited me to 7 people. Participants were Tom & Lynn McInally, Steve Nguyen (pronounced New), George Thomas, Hoda Shalaby and the Leaders. The backpack up to Meysan Lake was a routine gain of 3,500' except the trail ends abruptly at a meadow above Little Meysan Lake. There is a hit and miss use trail to Meysan Lake, 11,500'. Arriving at camp we found the scree chute going up from Meysan Lake to the LeConte / Mallory plateau was filled with snow. It froze during the night and without ice axes was not climbable. So I decided to go up a steep rocky chute two chutes to the east. One member took one look at it and signed out, saying it was too much for him. Undaunted we proceeded up the chute. It was slow going with loose rock and some class 3 rock. We made the plateau without incident and went on to climb Mallory. Easy going except for big boulders at the top, a challenge to our new climbers. This was the first SPS for three of our group. They were overjoyed to make it. Also their first spectacular alpine views.

Now the problem of how to get down from the plateau. The rock chute we came up was not a good down route; just too loose. Amazing luck. We intercepted a lone climber on Mallory who did come up the big snow chute. He said there was just enough rock and dirt next to the snow to make it. He had also scouted the route around Mallory to Irvine and did not recommend it. Very loose and steep. So we scratched Irvine and made it down the snow chute route back to camp all in one piece. We made one crossing of the snow in the sunshine at the bottom of the chute. NO problem, the sun softened the snow. We spent a very pleasant evening in camp and hiked out the next morning. We met in Lone Pine for lunch at PJ's restaurant. A bunch of happy new SPS'er. My thanks to Ron Young for guiding our new people up the mountain and leading us out. Happy Climbing,

Norman Clyde Peak (13,920)
(Sierra Peaks Section Sierra Club)
Friday - Sunday July 15,16,17, 1994
Leader: Dan Richter, Asst. Leader: Larry Tidball

Larry and I were joined by Barbara Cohen, Asher Waxman, and Greg and Mirna Roach Friday morning for the leisurely pack up to Finger Lake. This was to be the first E rated restricted trip since the return of the Club's climbing insurance. It was also my last provisional lead before receiving my E rating as a leader and I had a few butterflies in my

stomach. The weather was warm and beautiful and our spirits were high. The climb in was easy and we were at Finger Lake and making camp by lunch time. We dozed and relaxed for the rest of the day in anticipation of the next day's climb.

On Saturday we rose at 4:00 a.m. and were climbing toward Fire Bird Ridge by 5:00 a.m. We passed the notch on the ridge on its East side via a squeeze chimney a few yards before the notch. We moved out onto the North Face a little before 8:00 a.m. as the ridge begins to rise toward Norman Clyde at a prominent duck. I tried to stay fairly close to the North Northeast Ridge following as long lines as possible and found many good opportunities to progress. We passed the large slabs led by Mirna via the Lichen Chimney Variation on their left. We were soon at the false summit and reached the top of the peak at 11:55 a.m. A rope was used only once for one of the climbers at the top of The Lichen Chimney for one move.

We had lunch on the summit as we relaxed and enjoyed the spectacular views. On descent we made three 150' rappels from existing runners which left us below the slabs. I found second class down climbing towards the middle of the face and then an easy traverse had us on Fire Bird Ridge by 4:30 p.m.

We slept in Sunday morning and returned to the cars before noon. Barbara, this one was for you, and you know I love you madly.

Kennedy & Mt Harrington
August 6-7, 1994
Leaders: Barbee Tidball & Greg Roach

The weather was warm, no very hot! I had been warned so we moved the trip start time up to 6:00 am. Erik Siering and Eileen Ricks wiped the sleep out of their eyes faster than the rest of the group, so they raced up to the 6000 foot elevation ridge and waited for us slow pokes to join them. However - us slow pokes were slow enough to get to see a bear enjoying the ripe currants at about 5000 foot elevation and just off the trail.

The route we took was from the Deer Cove trailhead (no permit required) up to Wildman meadow. The old 15 min. maps show trails leading towards the Park boundary and along Deer Cove East. It turns out that the trail near the Park boundary is much easier to follow to Wildman Mdw. We selected this trail for our trip up to the meadow, but on the way home we attempted, unsuccessfully to locate the Deer Cove East trail. We could see the trail, as a use trail heading off from the fork at 6000 feet, but it was not locatable from the Wildman Mdw. area.

Saturday after setting camp just below Frypan Mdw. and not in the Park boundary (Wildman was dry), we climbed Kennedy. The views were wonderful, but there can't be any other reason for including this peak on the SPS list. 12+ long, hot hours on trail from the cars and back to camp certainly do not make this a "fun" peak.

On Sunday, we did have "FUN". Mt. Harrington was a pleasant 3rd class peak. Erik, Eileen, Greg & Mirna Roach, Barbara Cohen and I summited Sunday morning before the

weather became too warm. Evelyn & Phill Reher unfortunately missed this peak and Kennedy when Evelyn became a bit ill after the hike in on Saturday.

The route up Harrington is a solid 3rd class climb and ropes should not be needed. We approached the peak from Grizzly Lakes hiking North towards the Eastern ridge. A couple different routes were used to climb up to the ridge East of the saddle below the summit. Each route led to the ridge and then we climbed West to the saddle just below the summit. The route to the actual summit climbs up around the North face of the peak and up the ridge. In each case where a section looked a bit hard to reach, a check around the corner would reveal an alternate route. On the down climb we attempted to drop directly towards the lakes from the saddle. Our route met with moderate success, but a smoother route without long "slides" down the slab should be found. The ridge approach takes a little more distance, but the rock has good hand holds

The hike out to our cars Sunday was grueling and HOT! We all headed straight for the Kings river as soon as we dropped our packs. The cool river felt fantastic.

A great trip, especially Mt. Harrington and the Kings River. Thanks to Greg for leading with me. Barbee

MT. PICKERING & JOE DEVEL PEAK

AUGUST 26-28, 1994

Leaders: Jim Adler, Kathy Price

Our already small participant list was further reduced by three cancellations, leaving only five of us at the trailhead. Aside from the leaders the three participants were Peter Rosmarin, Eric Lesser, and Annemarie Schober.

Friday morning, a little after 7:00 we hiked to our camp site on Rock Creek via Cottonwood Pass. We camped at a very nice packer camp site on the east side of the creek directly opposite (south east) from the Erin Lake outlet. We arrived in camp in time to have a leisurely evening. We ate a "garbage bag salad" and eyeballed our route up the peaks which, contrary to the map, appeared to be sheer cliff.

Saturday morning we started at about 7:00 and climbed up along the outlet stream of Erin Lake. Before reaching the level of the lake we turned to climb Pickering via the broad southerly face of the south-east ridge. We climbed to the top of the ridge mostly on granite slabs, with some second class bouldering. We generally followed the ridge to the summit, traversing slightly towards the saddle, after crossing the plateau at about 3900 meters. We reached the summit at about 10:30 a.m.

After a rest and view break on the summit of Pickering we followed the ridge down to the Pickering—Joe Devel saddle and up to the summit of Joe Devel. As we started to climb up Joe Devel, an impassable point was reached and it was necessary to follow a loose use trail on a ledge on the west side of the ridge. We reached the summit at about 1:45 p.m. This route is rather rough class two and at times rather loose. After eating lunch we made a rather leisurely return to camp via the southwest slopes of Joe Devel (lots of loose scree), hitting Rock Creek just below the lakelet at 10,476 feet.

Sunday morning Peter signed out to stay in the mountains a few more days, and the rest of us hiked out via New Army Pass. On the way out all of us, except Annemarie who already had the peak and decided to spend the time resting at a lake instead, climbed the "bonus" peak, Cirque. We were back at the cars by about 4:00 p.m., after taking a brief cross-country shortcut to get from the New Army Pass trail to the Cottonwood Pass trailhead. — Jim Adler

**A Silver Anniversary for Doug
Doug Mantle Tops 20 SPS Peaks Again
by Bill Oliver**

Joe Devel Peak seems to have become popular lately. I dayhiked it on 16 July (futilely hoping to find my camera, left on the summit while leading a SPS trip two years earlier). Recent register entries included Vic Henney and Sue Wyman on 6/19 (just short of their imminent joint List Finish); Randall Danta and Alice Danta on 7/10; and Doug Mantle on 7/14.

Doug's entry added: "That's 20 SPS peaks for the year. That's the 25th year in a row." (That alone equals 500 ascents.) He also wrote "5X" after his name! Way to go, Doug. Take a break - then go for it. John Muir must be right: time spent in the mountains is not deducted from one's life.

Among many other accomplishments, Doug is a triple triple [according to my Spell Checker I've just repeated the same word - intentionally!] List Finisher (SPS, DPS & HPS) and is once around on the seven highest continental summits.

At the SPS Banquet in December, he and Randy Danta will be honored by the presentation to them of the Sierra Club's *Francis P. Farquhar Award* for distinguished mountaineering. Also to be honored is Ron Jones with the Club's *Oliver Kehrlein Award* for illustrious outings leadership. On this joyous occasion we will acknowledge and thank them as well for their prodigious and enduring leadership and service contributions within the SPS and the Angeles Chapter. Way to go, guys! We are very proud of you.

A LIST IN CANADA?

Five hours away, via air to Calgary, then car to Banff, is peak-baggers Paradise, the Canadian Rockies. It's the Alps without the crowds (well, except in the tourist centers of Banff, Jasper, and Lake Louise).

The rock generally is a tad rotten compared to the Sierra. But spots like the Bugaboos, are Yosemite-class. Plus, awesome snow and ice routes abound. Access is excellent. They claim the weather has some drawbacks, but it never caused me delay. I admit, I never saw it rain in Scotland, either.

There are 11 bizillion peaks in the Rockies (proper), and the series of ranges from Alberta to the B.C. coast which includes the Purcells, Cariboos, and Selkirks.

The folks up here never heard of Norman Clyde. Instead, it's Austrian guide Conrad Kain, whose exploits of the 1910s made him the preeminent climber of the period, pioneering 5.6 rock and 50° ice thirty years before such routes were contemplated in the Sierra. Many of his first ascent routes remain classics.

This August I spent a dazzling two weeks up here, climbing Mt. Robson, Mt. Assinaboine, Bugaboo Spire, and Mt. Temple.

Mt. Robson, 12,972', is the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies, and one of the world's great mountains. An ice-encrusted Titan, it rises 10,000 vertical feet from its base. It creates its own weather, and some years allows no ascents. Not 1994, I trust?

From Lake Louise my guide and I drove four hours to Mt. Robson Provincial Park. We eschewed part of the grueling hike in helicoptering directly to the Robson Glacier at about 8,000'. A quick, roped, slog brought us to the Robson-Resplendent Col where we went, in twenty minutes, from swatting flies in the heat, to bracing against hail and thunder. Next day, five hours of traverse over loose rock, crevasses, and ice took us to the Dome, directly under the Kain Face Route. Summit day, we clambered by head lamps over 1,500' of perfect snow, negotiated the hairy traverse to the icy slopes of the Roof, the final 1,000'. Frequently front pointing (eek!), passing ice bulges on our right, we arrived on top, a four hour effort.

When he led his first ascent route in 1913, Conrad Kain reportedly chopped over 600 steps, to the point from which "Gentlemen, I can take you no further." He then bounded into - the unknown, descending the south face, as he judged our ascent route too dangerous to descend.

Our return was more high-tech, and more humbling. Ten rappels (I was lowered several times like a potato sack) followed by respite in a sudden storm, then our friendly helicopter whisked us to my waiting rental car.

Next up: Assinaboine, "The Matterhorn of the Rockies", done up in technicolor bands of gray and red rock, and snow. It's rated a 5.5 by our north ridge route, seems easier in perfect weather.

From Canmore, near Banff a good dirt road leads to Spray Lakes, from which it is a 20 km hike to Magog Lake, with its mind-magogling scenery. There, first-come-first-serve cabins, a luxury lodge, or campsites are all available. By now, however, I'm into helicoptering, so we flew in, through a driving rain, with plenty of time to load up and grunt in the 2,000 vertical feet above Lake Magog over an intricate ledge system, to the Hind Hut.

This fine building sits on the high saddle near the north ridge of Assinaboine, at about 8,800'. It sleeps 12 or so, but we had it all to ourselves.

Next morning rise and off was scheduled for 4:00 a.m., but clouds and rain were only slightly subdued by the time we inched out tentatively, at 8:00 a.m. Guide Grant Statham declared us, "suckered by a patch of blue" when clouds closed in, but despite 50-yard visibility the whole way, he headed perfectly up the route, over which we climbed short-roped, through six pitches of 4th and 5th class with a few spots of ice and fresh snow thrown in. We hit the 11,870' summit by 11:00 a.m. Back at the hut by 2:00 p.m., we hoisted loads and lumbered back to the cabins at Lake Magog.

Next day, 20 km out, heli service is only semi-regular; I shall complain spiritedly to the Provincial Authorities about this at my first opportunity.

Now came an unplanned treat--the Bugaboos. These fine granite spires jut thousand of feet straight out of a vast glacier marshmallow, topping 10,000 feet.

Here again our paths crossed that of Conrad Kain. His 5.6 route up the south ridge of Bugaboo Spire in 1916 was North America's hardest rock climb to that point, so sheer and daunting that no other route was put up for 42 years.

The approach from Banff goes through Radium Hot Springs, then leaves the pavement for 45 km of logging road, to a parking lot completed by swatches of anti-marmot chicken wire.

No helicopters.

Then a tenuous trail scoots 2,200' up in three miles to the, of courser, Kain Hut.

Complete with a 2 x 3' picture of the great guide, Kain Hut is a three-level affair with cooking facilities and views like from Glacier Point. It's well sighted for all the popular routes on Bugaboo, Snowpatch, Pigeon, and other spires.

From Banff, we attained the Hut comfortably by 3:00 p.m., in perfect sunshine. Next morning, we were off at 5:00 a.m., cramponing up the Crescent Glacier to the Bugaboo Snowpatch Col. We then worked up the rubbly class 3 lower ridge to the final 1,000 feet. We switched to rock shoes and roped up for these 6-7 pitches, mainly class 4, with increasing exposure.

The Gendarme Pitch is the crux, very much like Whitney's Fresh-Air traverse. That Kain, in hob nail boots, struck up three big class 4 moves, then up-and-boldly-over, into the unknown, via 5.6., impresses. That I did too, kind of impressed me--into the rock. Beyond, we strutted an airy, easier ridgeline to the south summit, then, with a short rappel and a half-hours scramble, we were on top.

I finished up my trip two days later, on "the Ultimate Rockies Scramble", the southwest ridge of Mt. Temple. This is a famous, scenic peak of rock and snow bands, most easily climbed from lovely Moraine Lake, near Lake Louise.

It's 6,000 feet of gain, with perhaps four spots of class 3, on crumbly rock, to the 11,800 foot top. There are aesthetic and challenging routes all over Mt. Temple, but the southwest ridge is not among them. Perhaps, I cheated, then.

These were just a few of the "must do" peaks up here. Along with Mt. Edith Cavell, Mt. Louie, Mt. Alberta, more Bugaboos, they are just the start of a formidable, er, List.

Two excellent reference books are readily available in Calgary, Banff, Jasper, etc.: Kane, Scrambles in the Canadian Rockies, Rocky Mountain Books, Calgary, 1992; Dougherty, Selected Alpine Climbs in the Canadian Rockies, Rocky Mountain Books, Calgary, 1991. For the Bugaboos there's: Green & Benser, Bugaboo Rock. A Climbing Guide, The Mountaineers, Seattle, 1990.

I climbed with a guide from Yamnuska, Mr. Grant Statham. The Guide from Yamnuska, I should say. I can't imagine a fellow more personable, enthusiastic, and competent, probably not Conrad Kain himself. Grant is at P.O. Box 2447, Canmore, Alberta, Canada TOL OMO.

--Doug Mantle

Tidbits from The Sierra

Just reported from 1992 is Peter Croft's solo traverse of **The Minarets**, from South Notch to Ritter Pass. This was only the second traverse of the long, exposed ridgeline, which involves climbing of up to 5.10 on rock of questionable quality. Croft completed all 16 summits in one very long 21.5 hour day. He stated, "This was my longest day on anything, and my hardest day in the mountains."

Croft, who now lives in Bishop, has made other impressive solo traverses in the High Sierra. He also made a one-day traverse on the Sawtooth Ridge, from Cleaver Peak to Matterhorn Peak, and a one-day solo traverse from Ruby Peak (just NE of Mt. Mills) to Bear Creek Spire.

Two articles about **The Sierra** appear in the Summer 94 issue of *Summit* magazine. The first article, *The Hidden Sierra*, is a short conceptual piece that explores the joys of rambling off the beaten path. The second article, *The Remote Sierra*, provides suggestions and directions to some of the less-traveled areas of the High Sierra.

Bob Sumner

Book Review

Mountains and other Ghosts

Short Stories by Dermot Somers

Published by Diadem Books, London

Dermot Somers is an Irishman, and as a mountaineer he is quite accomplished, having completed ascents of the six great Alpine north faces. He has also climbed in the Andes, Yosemite, and the Himalayas. His stories have appeared for many years in climbing journals and the *Irish Press*, but this is his first assembled collection. The stories have a strong Irish and British influence, and most of the settings are European.

Somers' love of the mountains is clear as many of the stories have climbers as the central characters. These tales are quite entertaining. *Facelift* tells of a soldier obsessed with first ascents; he resorts to blowing up a classic rock face to create new routes. *The Climber Who Courted Death* examines a young climber's personality and exploits through letters he wrote to a friend before his death. *Climber and Walker* tells of a couple climbing the Walker Spur on the Grand Jorasses, and reveals their entirely different reasons for climbing. Perhaps the most dramatic piece is *Nightfall*, where two Irish friends make the last climb of the north face of the Eiger, while the nuclear holocaust of World War III breaks out around them.

These stories are not typical reading, since they provide an Irish perspective of the world. Irish place names and phrases are common throughout, but if these are ignored, the high quality writing is apparent, and these poignant tales will be remembered.

Bob Sumner

40th Anniversary Kickoff Meeting

On September 21, at the Tidball's, there was a meeting to plan events for the 40th anniversary of the SPS. Topics discussed included the banquet, special anniversary climbs, exhibits, 40th anniversary commemorative T-shirts, and articles for the ECHO. Committees were formed to coordinate the major events. Barbee Tidball and Mirna Roach are heading the Banquet committee; Greg Roach is looking into scheduling anniversary climbs; Dan Richter and Patty Kline are planning special SPS exhibits and will look into making 40th anniversary commemorative T-shirts; Bill Oliver, Bob Sumner and Wayne Norman will publish articles on the early days of the SPS in the ECHO.

If you would like to help in celebrating the SPS's 40th anniversary, please contact Barbee Tidball (310) 424-1556.

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

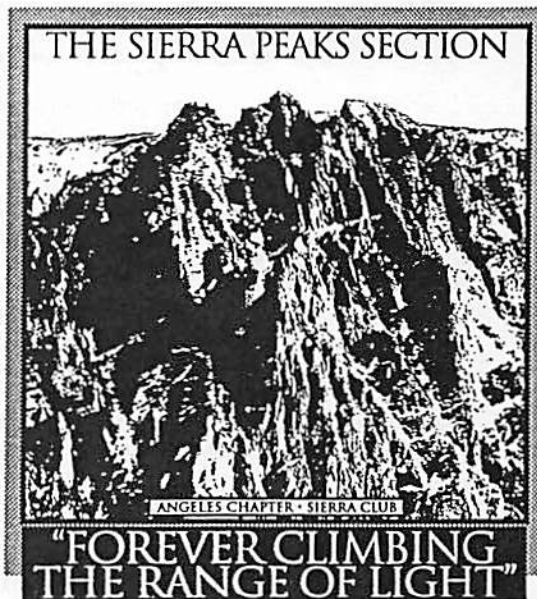
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND SPS T-SHIRTS

Don't miss out on ordering one of our great SPS T-Shirts. We reordered so now we have ash (sweat-shirt grey), the most popular color, available again. They also come in fuchsia and yellow. There are 3 sizes: medium, large and extra large.

Design is by Wynne Benti-Zdon and features North Palisade on the front and the entire SPS list by geographic area on the back.

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



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- 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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