

# 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 at the DWP, 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

Dept. W&P, 111 N Hope St, LA, Free prkg on site.

### **AUGUST 9**

**"Conversation With a Tramp"** Video (wide screen) showing of Lee Stetson's re-creation of John Muir. September

### **SEPTEMBER 13**

**"Climbing Along The Muir Trail"** David Underwood will present slides and talk about his solo trip along the Muir trail.

### **OCTOBER 11**

**"Trees and Shrubs of the Sierra"** Last time we looked a wildflowers...to complete our plants study Barbee Tidball will present a guide to identifying and information on historical uses of the trees and shrubs we pass along the trail in the Sierra.

### **NOVEMBER 8**

**Climbing Demonstration & Practice** Ropes, climbing gear, knots, climbing systems. The SPS Safety Committee will set up demonstrations, climbing equipment methods, introduce new equipment.

### **DECEMBER 13**

**SPS Annual Banquet: Celebrating 40 Years of Sierra Climbing** Our speakers this year will be SPS members telling their stories. Watch the coming Echoes for historical tales and brush off your old memories. Photo contest, Historical photo gallery. Location: La Canada Flintridge Country Club. Tickets \$25.00. Send SASE and a check made out to the SPS to Barbee Tidball, 3826 Weston Pl, Long Beach, CA 90807. Questions? Call 310/424-1556.

## **PEAK INDEX**

**Mt. Baxter  
Mt. Conness  
Heart Mountain  
Mt. Mendel  
North Palisade  
Olancha Peak**

## **COVER PHOTO**

*Heart Mountain, Canadian Rockies*

**Photo by Wayne Norman**

## **SPS 40th Anniversary T-SHIRTS**

Celebrate 40 years of SPS climbing by ordering a 40th Anniversary T-Shirt. The same design beautifully done by Wynne Benti-Zdon features North Palisade on the front. On the back is the entire list of 247 SPS peaks with the caption "1955-40th Anniversary-1995." Buy them for \$12 at an SPS meeting from Patty Kline or order them through the mail. This special edition is in ash in 3 sizes: medium, large and extra large. Add \$2 for shipping, making a total of \$14 for mail order. Make a check payable to the Sierra Peaks Section. Send your order to Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga Canyon, CA 90290.

## **The Editor is on E-Mail**

My E-Mail address is:

**Norman#m#\_Wayne@DLVD.MDC.COM**

Comments, Trip Reports, other inputs, etc. can be sent to me at the above address. Please send attached files as Word for Windows 2.0, ASCII or Text Files.

## SPS Outings Schedule: August 5 - October 31, 1995

Dates	Peaks	Leaders
<b>August</b>		
Aug 5-6	I Merriam, Royce	Tom Sexton, Sigrid Sexton
R Aug 12-13	E Mt. Starr King	Maris Valkass, Igor Mamedalin
Aug 12-13	M Stanford, Morgan	Sigrid Sexton, Beth Epstein
Aug 12-13	M Mt. Gayley	Rob Talbert, Tony Pond
Aug 12-17	M Pyramid, Arrow, Striped, Goodale Cardinal, Ruskin, Marion	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
R Aug 19-20	M Dragon Peak, Kearsage Peak	Barbee Tidball, Scot Jamison
R Aug 25-28	E Mt. Starr King, Mt. Clark	David Underwood, Randy Danta
Aug 26-27	I Iron Mtn.	Beth Epstein, Sigrid Sexton
<b>September</b>		
Sept 2-4	M Tehipite Dome, Spanish Mtn.	Igor Mamedalin, Maris Valkass
Sept 2-5	I Piute, Volunteer, Pettit	Al Conrad, Bob Wyka
Sept 8-10	I Hale, Young, & Picket Guard	Ron Hudson, T.B.A.
Sept 9-10	I The Thumb, Birch Mtn. (WTC)	Joanne Andrew, Patty Kline
Sept 9-10	I Sawtooth, Sirretta	N & J Keating, Walt Whisman
Sept 9-10	O ** Alta Peak	Michael Lorr, Dave Dykeman
Sept 9-10	M Mt. Mills, Mt. Dade	Charlie Knapke, Barbara Cohen
R Sept 9-17	M Milestone Basin Peakout	Igor mamedalin, Ron Jones
Sept 16	I Warren	Larry Tidball, Barbee Tidball
R Sept 17	M Cathedral	Larry Tidball, Barbee Tidball
Sept 16-19	I Iron Mtn Backpack	Gordon Macleod, Dave Underwood
Sept 16-17	M Mt. Eisen	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
R Sept 22-24	M Mt. Lyell, Mt. McClure	Ali Aminian, Henry Arnebold
Sept 23-24	I Mt. Morgan #2	Charlie Knapke, John Cheslick
Sept 23-24	I Royce, Merriam	Patty Kline, Ron Hudson
Sept 23-24	I Cloud's Rest, Mt. Dana	Mary McMannes, Bob Hartunian
Sept 23-24	I Sawtooth Pk, Needham Mtn.	Jim Adler, Kathy Wood Price
Sept 23 24	I Mt. Tom	Scot Jamison, Barbee Tidball
Sept 30-Oct 1	I * Alta Peak, Mt. Silliman	Rich Gnagy, Greg Roach
Sept 30-Oct 1	I Mt. Tyndall	Dave Endres, Randy Danta
Sept 30-Oct 1	I Mt. Baldwin	Beth Epstein, Nick Moore
Sept 30-Oct 3	I Goat, State, and Marion	Al Conrad, Ali Aminian
<b>October</b>		
Oct 14-15	I Sawtooth, Needham, Vandever	Evelyn Reher, Ron Jones
Oct 14-15	I Sawtooth, Lamont	Asher Waxman, Rudi Beuermann
Oct 14-15	I Koip, and more	Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer
Oct 21-22	I Moses Mtn, N. Maggie Mtn	Tina Stough, Doug Mantle
R	= Restricted to Sierra Club Members	
**	= List Finish	
*	= SPS 40th Anniversary	

**FOR SALE: Men's almost new heavyweight mountaineering boots: 10 1/2 D Asolo yukons (actually fits size 10 feet) \$85. Large Kelty Trekker Frame Pack (worn once, don't like frame packs) \$75. Call Igor Mamedalin, Work: (714) 453-6600; Home: (714) 786-3918.**

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

# ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

People have had trouble finding chairs to sit on at our last two general meetings. We have new members and subscribers showing up as well as a good turnout from the ongoing membership. The Angeles Chapter fiasco over whether to charge for the Schedule of Activities has fueled passions that has brought new life to the Chapter as well as debate to our meetings. As your chair I'm glad to see all this discussion and healthy dissent. I must say that I find troubling that only one side of this debate is appearing in the Southern Sierran. The SPS in the May general meeting voted to support an ad in the Southern Sierran supporting a free Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities. ExComm in its wisdom, or lack of it, tabled a motion to allow it to appear and thereby censored it at least till the fall. The Southern Sierran appeared purged of all dissent with a number of articles supporting the decision to charge for the schedule. As a result of the controversy the July/October schedule has gone out without charge.

Our Special Projects Coordinator Anne Kramer represented the SPS at special session of the Chapter Finance Committee on May 24th and presented us with a detailed and very well received report on the proceedings at which many ideas to mitigate the Chapter's financial problems were presented.

On another note I want to thank Bonnie Sharpe and the ExComm for voting to provide the SPS up to \$900 this year to cover our leaders insurance costs on restricted trips. ExComm made it clear that they not only supported the work that our leaders and the SPS does in leading restricted trips, but that they considered it so important that even in this time of financial austerity they should give us more than we asked for. Bonnie felt it should be more than just a "Band-Aid" for this year and that they expect us to ask them for help each year as the need arises. On top of this our thanks must also go to Carleton Shay and the HPS management committee who at the suggestion of Southern Courtney also gave us \$200 towards leader insurance costs.

I hope the SPS will not ever have to ask its leaders to pay to lead a restricted trip.

The first joint meeting of the SPS, HPS and DPS is being put together by Barbara Tidball and will be held in January 10, of 1996. We hope this will become an annual event and we are also talking with the DPS and the HPS to put together some joint meetings of the Management Committees to discuss issues we have in common. The General Meeting will be run by all three chairs and will feature a multi-media slide presentation by Jim and Sylvia Gallagher, probably on the San Bernadino Mountains. Barbara and Harry Freimanis will handle the publicity.

We also climb mountains too. While many of our spring trips have been canceled due to the great amounts of snow still in the Sierra, many are going and we have a great schedule that will be in full swing by the time you read this. Tina Stough reports that Vi Grasso's mountain register records were turned over to her by probate. Please remember to send Tina your register reports.

I look forward to seeing you on the peaks. Climb on!

Dan Richter 6/21/95

From the Editor:

### **Background Noise**

Preparations are under way for the 40th anniversary ECHO. This issue celebrates the 40th anniversary of the founding of the SPS. It was 40 years ago in July that the proposal for a new section, the Sierra Peaks Section, was submitted to the Ex Comm. The following is an excerpt from **EARLY DAYS OF SPS RECALLED BY FIRST CHAIRMAN** from Sierra Echo, Vol. III, No 2, May-June 1959, by Frank Sanborn:

*Late in July, 1955, Frank, Chuck, and Pat went before the Executive Committee, informed it of the intent to organize the section and requested official permission to form the SPS. After due deliberation, the Executive Committee granted official permission to organize within the framework of the Sierra Club. Thus the Sierra Peaks Section was formally launched...*

The rest of this article by Frank Sanborn will be reprinted in the Banquet (Nov-Dec) issue of the ECHO.

**OOPS.** The date of the June meeting in the last three ECHO's was incorrectly given as June 12. The meeting was on June 14. This error was pointed out to me after the previous ECHO had gone to press. One SPS member from Bakersfield drove up on the 12th and found that he had come on the wrong day. Please accept my apologies in this matter.

For future reference remember the SPS meets on the second Wednesday of each month. If there is a special meeting on a date other than the second Wednesday it will be noted with proper exclamations, fanfare, etc.

### **Letters to the Editor:**

Dear Wayne:

I am writing to oppose the \$9.00 per year charge for the Schedule of Activities. I have read Bill Oliver's letter, in the last Lookout, attempting to justify the charge, and I think he, and the other Ex Com members, are missing the point.

The Schedule has always been free, and it is part of what I get for being a member of the Sierra Club. In fact, the only reason I joined the Sierra Club was so that I could get the Schedule for free instead of having to buy it at Sports Chalet. Further, as far as I can tell, the only benefit I get from my Sierra Club membership is my free Schedule.

I suspect that the Ex Com will be surprised to hear that I consider the Schedule to be the only benefit of Sierra Club membership. In fact, that is true. I consider the Sierra magazine and the Southern Sierran to be worthless. I am not aware of anything else that the national Sierra Club or the L.A. Chapter are doing for me. Of course, I realize that there are some "conservation" activities going on, supposedly on my behalf, but I don't know anything about them. If anyone would ever tell me about these "conservation" activities, or ask me how I feel about them, I might reel differently about being asked to pay for them via my Schedule subscription.

Obviously, the L.A. Chapter needs to balance its budget. Dramatic changes must be made in order to do that. At this point, it is pretty clear that charging for the Schedule will not work.

I do want to respond in particular to two of Bill's points:

**"One staff member was laid off and the other three full-time staff were reduced to 90% time"**

When I first read this statement, I was outraged. I could not imagine what these three 90% full time employees did. The Schedule is entirely a volunteer effort. The Southern Sierran cannot possibly take that much time. What else is there to do?

Since then, I have learned that the L.A. Chapter has a Director of Development, who does fund raising, a Director of Conservation, who does conservation, and an Office Manager. I have also learned that the single largest line item in the L.A. Chapter's expenses is salaries. I suggest that we fire the Office Manager. I don't know her. I am sure that she is a very nice person. We can't afford her, and we need the other people more. For the amount that we save in her salary, we can get a voice mail system to answer the telephone and restore the free Chapter-wide Schedule.

**"A carefully-designed telephone poll was conducted late in December to assess the feasibility of charging for the Schedule."**

I am sure that this telephone poll was very carefully designed.  
Sincerely,

Ann Kramer

#### **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 14, 1995.

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, 17561 Medford Avenue, Tustin CA 92680-1950. Completed applications forms must be returned to the Registrar NOT LATER THAN October 7, 1995.

#### **Just for Fun**

From the **High Country News** - Montana

At least one hiker will think twice before snoozing again in the Montana Wilderness. Bill Gustafson, napping on the banks of the Flathead River, was oblivious to the fact that a garter snake had crawled onto his chest.

As is nature's way, the snake attracted a circling hawk, and it dove in for the kill. Gustafson awoke just in time to see the hawk diving straight toward him. It snatched the snake cleanly, leaving only small scratches in Gustafson's chest. The incident was witnessed by two nearby fishermen. - submitted by Ron Jones

**SPS Membership Report** by Dan Richter 7/7/95

**New Members.....Welcome!**

Bob Beach  
5624 Calle De Ricardo  
Torrance, CA 90505-6225  
(310) 375-0898

Gwen Hembrook  
7160 Ramsgate Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
(310) 645-0264

Linda McDermott  
7319 Jellico Avenue  
Van Nuys, CA 91406  
(818) 342-8337 w: 986-3883

John Hlavac  
934 N. Maple Street  
Anaheim, CA 92801-3432

Eileen Ricks  
3775 Monteith Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90043  
(213) 295-1713

Erik W. Peterson  
151 Twilight Vista  
Altadena, CA 91001  
(818) 798-8584 w:(213) 850-1165

**Address Changes**

Gary Larsen  
4 Hidden Valley Road  
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

Heidi Zimmer  
7076 Sunland Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93001

Glen Dawson  
141 Anita Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91105

Larry & Barbara Tidball  
3826 Weston Place  
Long Beach, CA 90807

**New Subscribers Thank you!**

Tom McDonnell  
23 Shooting Star  
Irvine, CA 92714  
(714) 651-1424

Craig Flewell  
1903 Paso Real  
Rowland Heights, CA 91748  
(818) 964-6882

Penelope May  
31512 Egan Road  
Laguna Beach, CA 92677

Haven Fern  
1348 Erin Avenue  
Upland, CA 91786  
(909) 946-5705 w:387-7688

Donald Porter  
11471 Tampa Ave. #151  
Northridge, CA 91326-1758  
(805) 520-7833 w:532-5441

Sofia Gelpi  
949 W. Adams Blvd., Apt. #5  
Los Angeles, CA 90007-2495  
(213) 742-0359

Joe Selzler  
3021 Verano Place  
Irvine, CA 92715  
(714) 856-3476 w:824-3172

**Sustaining Members for 1995 Thank you!**

Baharam Manahedgi, Beth Epstein, Bob Hartunian, Chuck Stein, Elmer Martin, Bill Lingle.

**A Quote:**

*"When you try to climb a mountain to prove how big you are you almost never make it. And even if you do it's a hollow victory. In order to sustain the victory you have to prove yourself again and again in some other way, and again and again and again, driven forever to fill a false image haunted by the fear that the image is not true and someone will find out. That's never the way."*

**Robert Pirsig**

## **ECHOES FROM OUR MEETINGS**

### **SPS Management Committee Minutes**

**April 5, 1995**

The meeting convened at 6:35 P.M. **Attendees:** Dan Richter, Patty Kline, Wayne Norman, Barbee Tidball, Harry Freimanis, Dave Underwood, Greg Roach, and Mirna Roach

#### **Old & New Business:**

Dan started the meeting by presenting a list of members who did not renew their membership this year. Six Committee members (Dan Richter, Barbee Tidball, Wayne Norman, Harry Freimanis, Patty Kline, and Mirna Roach) divided this renewal's list to make reminder calls.

The critical budget situation was the main topic for the meeting. Barbee Tidball volunteered to call all the restricted trip leaders and find out whether they are going to pay for their own insurance expense.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of March 8, 1995, were reviewed, corrected, and approved by the Committee.

**Treasurer's Report:** Patty reported the expenses for March; the checking account has \$4930.71 and the savings account has \$302.69. The new T-shirts with the Anniversary logo are ready to go on sale; \$12.00 each.

**Outings Report:** Greg presented the upcoming outings. There are 42 trips scheduled from July through October. Seven of these scheduled trips are restricted.

**Outreach Coordinator:** Harry briefed us regarding the positive response the SPS received from the WTC groups.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

#### **General Meeting Summary**

Dan conducted the general meeting and each member from the Committee gave their status report.

The speaker for this evening was Peter Green who presented slides on his climbing to Dhaulagiri (26593 ft), in Nepal.

The general meeting concluded at 9:30 P.M.

### **SPS Management Committee Minutes**

**May 10, 1995**

The meeting convened at 6:30 P.M. **Attendees:** Dan Richter, Patty Kline, Barbee Tidball, Harry Freimanis, Tina Stough, Duane McRuer, Greg Roach, and Mirna Roach

#### **Old & New Business:**

Dan opened the meeting by presenting the agenda to the Committee.

**Secretary's Report:** The Committee approved the minutes of April 5, 1995.

**Treasurer's Report:** Patty reported the expenses for April; the checking account has \$5190.42 and the savings account has \$303.25. For the month of April there were 93 sustaining members.

**Council Report:** The Council met on April 24, 1995. The Council recommended that the ExComm support financially the SPS with \$625 to be used to defray the costs of leadership insurance to allow safe mountaineering activities to continue in our Chapter. Dan will go to the next ExComm meeting to represent the SPS financially situation.

**Safety Committee/Snow & Rock Check-offs:** Duane presented the results of the snow and rock check-offs. There were 9 participants and 7 leaders/examiners for the rock checkout. The snow checkouts had 10 participants and 6 leaders (4 leaders for 2 days; 2 leaders for 1 day). The following examiners contributed toward their insurance: Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer, and Bill Oliver. The Management Committee approved the expenditure.

**Outreach Coordinator:** Harry reported that all sport shops still have SPS brochures.

**Insurance Proposal Restricted Trips/Rock Checkoffs:** It was suggested to use the ExComm money (if we receive it) to pay the checkoff examiners. One of the suggestion was that make the participants pay the cost of leaders' insurance. The Committee decided to postpone making a decision until the next meeting.

**Banquet & Programs:** At 7:15 P.M. Barbee was going to present the banquet status but the Management Committee got interrupted by the DWP for not letting in the Sierra Club members come inside the building due to their security tightening. Patty and Barbee spoke with the Head of Security then the general meeting followed.

#### **General Meeting Summary**

Dan conducted the general meeting and each member from the Committee gave their status report. Duane McRuer presented the rock and snow checkoffs' results. Dave Bybee presented the Cons regarding the ExComm decision to increase the Schedule. Bob Marshall also presented the Cons pertaining this issue and made a point that this increased will not help the budget but instead will make the Schedule disappear because people will stop buying it. The purpose of him speaking



tonight was to ask the SPS members to support him to put an ad in the Southern Sierran. Maris Valkass, ExComm Chair, spoke in favor of the increase and stated the critical budget situation. The members present voted whether the Section should endorse this ad in the Southern Sierran. Results were twenty in favor, five opposed, and five abstained. Those members in favored donated \$101.00 after passing an envelope around the room.

The speaker for this evening was Gary Gunther, Forest Ranger in the Eastern Sierra, who spoke regarding his experience as a ranger in the eastern Sierra and his duties as a backcountry ranger. He emphasized the importance of low impact while hiking in the backcountry. He showed critical problems that he constantly comes across, e.g., Hiker without permit, camping too close to water, illegal fires, defacing trees, over used trails that damage the vegetation, animal impact on the flora and fauna, and trash left behind by regular users.

The general meeting concluded at 10:15 P.M.

#### **SPS Management Committee Minutes June 14, 1995**

The meeting convened at 6:25 P.M. **Attendees:** Dan Richter, Wayne Norman, Barbee Tidball, Patty Kline, Annie Kramer, Tina Stough, Greg Roach, and Mirna Roach

#### **Old & New Business:**

**Secretary's Report:** The committee approved the minutes of May 10, 1995.

**Banquet & Programs:** Barbee presented the location for the banquet on December 3, 1995. The committee approved to have the banquet at the La Canada-Flintridge Country Club by a regular vote; three members were in favor, and two members against it.

**Treasurer's Report:** Patty reported the expenses for the month of May; the checking account has \$5065.00, and the savings account has \$303.83. Dan suggested that it would be a good idea to put this money on a money market fund in order to earn better interest rate.

**ExComm Insurance Report:** Dan reported that the ExComm committee donated up to \$900 toward our SPS leaders' insurance coverage. Dan will send a letter to Bonnie Sharp thanking the ExComm for their contribution to our Section.

Patty will send an invoice to the ExComm regarding the contribution money.

**Outings Report:** Greg presented the outings report and mentioned that some trips got cancelled

due to bad weather in the Sierras.

**Angeles Chapter Schedule Donation:** Annie Kramer spoke regarding the Special Session Finance Committee Meeting held on May 24, 1995. The purpose of this meeting was to suggest a feasible fundraising alternative for the purpose of making \$44,000.00 and rescinding the schedule subscription fee.

**Joint Meeting Climbing Sections Management Committee:** Dan suggested to meet with the other sections' management regarding the long term health of the sections. Dan proposed to meet at least twice a year with the two other sections. Three members voted in favor to meet twice a year; one members abstained; one member against it. The first joint meeting climbing sections' management committee is schedule for January 10, 1996, in the San Bernardino area.

**Other Items:** Our membership increased during the month of May due to the brochures; twenty-one new members have joined our Section.

The management committee adjourned at 7:30 PM.

#### **General Meeting Summary**

Dan conducted the general meeting and each member from the committee gave their status report. There was an extensive report by Annie Kramer regarding the Angeles Chapter Schedule Donation. The speaker for the evening was Bill Oliver who gave a wonderful slide presentation regarding his trekking in the Inca trail to Machu Picchu, Peru.

The general meeting concluded at 10:00 P.M.

## **ECHOS FROM THE PAST**

by RON JONES

An ongoing series from Echo 38-6, 39-1, 2 & 3

### **Forty Years Ago In the Angeles Chapter**

*At this point I wish to acknowledge my sources consulted for this ongoing "pre-history" of the SPS. I wrote many of the founders and early SPS members, many of whom I knew and had climbed with back in 1962, and quite a few replied. A few (like Pat Meixner Gentry, living in WA, I don't have an address for) Some details and stories varied from individual to individual and in those cases I tried to pick a reasonable consensus. By no means are all founding members of the SPS but all are early members who recall the early stories. Thanks to those who responded: Tom Amneus, Bud Bingham, Roger Gaefcke, Rich Gnagy, Jerry Keating, Izzy Lieberman, Barbara Lilley, Frank*

*Meyers, Chuck Miller, Lee Owings, John Robinson, Tom Ross, Frank Sanborn, Andy Smatko, & John Wedberg. Anyone with more history or info please contact me-- Ron Jones, 119 No Helen Drive, Fullerton CA 92635.*

On July 4, Frank Sanborn and Roger Gaefcke (who still is an Angeles Chapter leader and listed in the Chapter Activity Schedule) led a knapsack committee group of 30 to camp at the Sphinx Lakes. The next day, 5 made an unsuccessful try to climb North Guard, 3 climbed The Sphinx and 13 climbed Mt. Brewer. The only mishap of the trip was the sole of June Kilbourne's boot (she became the publisher of Summit Magazine) which fell off and had to be taped back. Also over the Fourth holiday, Toni Gamero and Howard Hill led a knapsack trip to LeConte and Mallory Peaks. Frank Sanborn led 30 on August 6-7 to camp at Lower Meysan Lakes. On Sunday, 24 climbed to the summit of Lone Pine Pk. In an account of the trip, the Southern Sierran of September, 1955 noted that, "Lone Pine Pk will be one of the qualifying peaks for membership in the new Sierra Peaks Section of our Angeles Chapter which is now forming." On August 13 and 14, John Delmonte and Bob Bear led a Desert Peaks Section climb to base camp at Anvil Camp and the next day over Shepherd Pass to the summit of Mt Tyndall. Other participants included Don Clarke, Kermit Clemans, Willard Dean, Chuck Gerckens (who still makes our register containers), Don Graham, Frank Sanborn, Bob Schmelzer, Leo Scotti, Bob Sheller, Clyde Smith, Jim Swineheart and Steve Wilkie.

By July, 1955, Roger Gaefcke and Frank Sanborn thought that they should begin trying to get a Sierra Peaks Section accepted by the Angeles Chapter. That month they took their proposal to the Chapter Excom, which met at that time at the Chapter office in the Philharmonic Building, north across First Street from Pershing Square.

At the time it was feared some Chapter outings leaders and maybe Excom members, might feel that there was no need for a Sierra Peaks Section as a number of Sierra trips were already being led by the Chapter. However the Excom was friendly to the proposal. It included the Chairman Bob Bear, two-year Chapter Chair and a strong active leader in the Rock Climbing Section, hiker and backpack leader who was Chair of the DPS in 1951, and was a founder of the Chicago Mountaineer's Club; Also Sparky Wilson, Sierra Club High Trip leader and participant for 19 years; Lloyd Balsam, Treasurer, outings leader and active in the DPS; Parker

Severson, founder of the DPS, a very strong outings leader who made quite a few first ascents in the Sierra; Louise Werner, who with her husband Niles, were strong outings leaders and climbers. She was a 4 year Excom member and had already climbed all the Pacific Coast 14,000ers and some in Mexico; John Mendenhall, who was active in the Chapter Rock Climbing Section and who led a number of climbs. So, the Excom included a lot of strongly oriented mountaineering types.

Frank Sanborn worked at the time as a Travel Counselor with the Auto Club of California and had easy access to their maps. He drew up a first draft list of 100 peaks all of which appeared on Auto Club maps, ranging from Matterhorn Peak in northern Yosemite to Owens Peak in Kern Co. The list included 10 Emblem Peaks, including Mts Needham and Sill. Several early Sierra climbers realized that this list, although a good start, was not inclusive enough and so Miles Brubacher chaired a Peaks List Committee and with the help of Roger Gaefcke and Owen Blackburn, set out to expand this list. In addition to the Auto Club maps they used Hervey H. Voges' new book, A Climbers Guide to the High Sierra, published the year prior, in 1954, by the Sierra Club.

#### **Thirty Years Ago**

New members this period in 1965 included Tom McNicholas, Fred Hoepfner, Nate White and Ben Neffson. Roy Michael earned Emblem #100 and Tom Ross became List Finisher #2. Arkel Erb led Ruth and Claude Karimi, Ron Jones and 14 others to Baldwin and Red Slate. Ken McNutt led 18 to Lone Pine and Mt LeConte. Six made the summit of Lone Pine before a severe electrical storm turned back Paul Nelson and the remainder of the group only 100 yards from the summit. Jerry Keating and Gordon MacLeod led the first scheduled climb of Silver Peak. Dick Jali led 20 on a climb of Mt Baxter.

#### **Twenty years Ago**

SPSer Paul Kellow fell to his death on the Swiss Matterhorn during a July climb in 1975. Dick Ramirez and Mel Johnson led a group of ten on a 50 mile, 2-day climb of Mt Goddard. Jim Murphy and Paul Kluth led Clarke and Gray. Ted and Anna Lou Pinson led 22 on a climb of Langley. New Emblem holders included "Campy", Bob Hicks, Milda Endzins, Jim and Pat Butler, Eivor Nilsson and Mary Bihl.

HAPPY TRAILS, Ron Jones

## ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

### **Mt. Conness**

July 1-3, 1994

A Private Leisure Trip by Wayne Norman

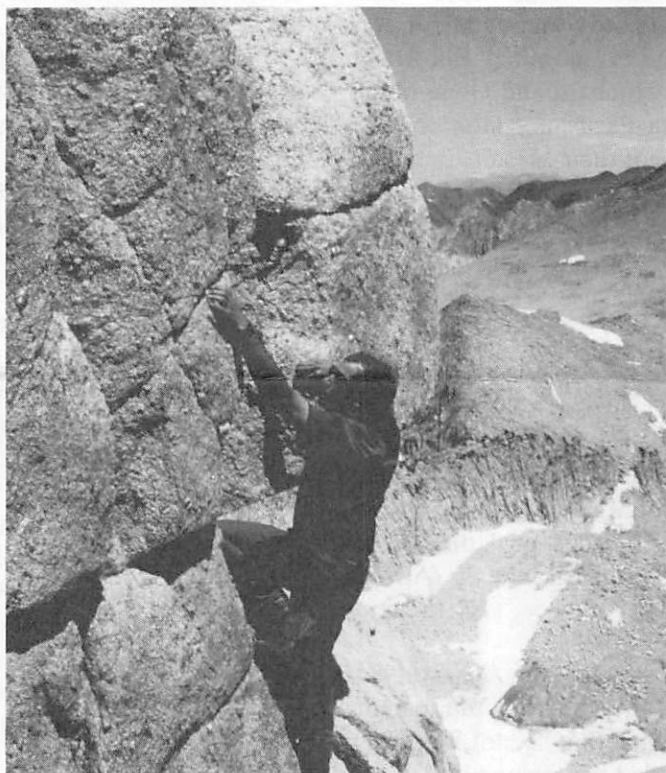
A nice leisurely weekend is what I wanted. And of course a fun, picturesque peak. Mt. Conness via Young Lakes offered this and more. An easy backpack, fish filled lakes, great views, and of course Mt. Conness. Two friends also thought this would make a fun weekend, Alan Pendley and Mitch Miller.

After waiting too long to pickup our permit (why can't they just leave the blasted things in a box like the Forest Service???) we drove to the trailhead and headed out. A pleasant backpack and a little searching brought our group to a good camping area. Three people, three two man tents (no light backpacks in this group), and all the tents situated out of snoring range of the each other.

A civilized start the next morning found our group following the use trail (I've seen "maintained" trails in worse shape) up towards Conness. The peak is really a class 1 trail walk except for maybe a few class 2 moves near the summit. There was minor disappointment on the top, and a lot of searching, due to a missing summit register, (Larry Tidball replaced the missing register later in July) but that couldn't dampen our spirits to

be alone on the summit with clear skies and fantastic views.

After almost two hours on top, eating, sleeping, taking pictures and exploring we headed back down. On the plateau below the summit there were a couple of fun rock formations that made for some great bouldering and photos opportunities.



The editor bouldering on the plateau below Mt. Conness

Bouldering at 12,000' and with hiking boots is quite exhausting. On the way back to our camp we visited all the Young Lakes and watched some people attempt to bathe under a cold waterfall. (I had a nice warm shower thanks to my handy solar shower.) The next morning brought an early start that had Alan and me out of the Park by noon. Mitch stayed longer taking more pictures. On the hike out we ran into some real climbers (as opposed us scramblers) who were going to attempt one of Mt. Conness's technical routes.

Some have questioned taking three days to do a peak that can easily be done as a day hike. All I can say is this is the type of trip that started my climbing career and I never want to get so wrapped up in bagging peaks that I forget to enjoy the mountains. -- Wayne Norman

### **Mt. Mendel**

Sept. 27, 1994

Private Trip by Frank Meyers

Paul Magliocco and I climbed Mt. Mendel via the east face route last fall. Paul had attempted the peak previously via the northeast ridge and considered that difficult class 4. The discrepancy from the class 3 rating of the guidebooks may be due to the strong climbers of the first ascent party; Bud Bingham and Don Clarke were climbing everything in the fifties. We entered the chute opposite the moraine, probably at the end of the Darwin Glacier, although that is somewhat remote. This large chute becomes a ledge leading right, matching the R.J. Secor Guide. The traverse up and right takes one above the steep part of the east face. We found a prominent, broad ledge leading left (but not ascending) and followed it back to a less steep area above our starting point. This area I call the amphitheater. Continuing up and right, we were able to turn the upper cliffs on the right. This took us to the upper part of the northeast ridge, perhaps 100 yards from the summit, which is located where the ridge joins the summit plateau. Along the ridge we avoided a steep section by crawling through a hole. The last obstacle we overcame was an eight-foot rise onto the summit area. This last may have been easy class 4; I believe it could be avoided by going farther west, but the north-facing areas were covered by snow. We never did see R.J.'s chute with loose rocks and chockstone. There were rappel slings near the summit and on cliffs below it. Our route was easy and we had no inclination to rappel anything. I believe the route is class 2, except for

the last few feet to the summit plateau. There is one exposed spot of five feet on the lower ledge on the easiest way, but by keeping to the inside of the ledge any need for a rope for anyone can be avoided.

Paul had been over Lamarck Col twice before; both times he returned in a snowstorm. This trip was no exception. At dawn a storm came in at our camp at the Upper Darwin Canyon Lake. We headed out in limited visibility, abandoning our plan for Mt. Goethe and the Keyhole. We crossed north of the Lamarck Col snowfield, being happy to avoid the possibly hazardous footing there. Unlike my one and Paul's two previous trips out in the snow here, the snow did not stop as we descended. It was mostly wet and sometimes the wind came up. Conditions were approaching whiteout at times and we could not see the trail except perhaps occasionally. We made camp early, hoping to rejuvenate ourselves in the tent. I was dismayed to find my newly waterproofed sleeping bag cover was hardly water-resistant at all. Then we found my tent wasn't waterproof either. At least we had lunch food to eat without having to cook. This was the worst night I have spent in the mountains, worse than any of the three nights I have spent without a sleeping bag. Finally dawn came, and with it clear weather. We found ourselves just above the trail crossing over to the switchbacks leading down to the Lamarck Lakes, where we reached the snow line. Sun and blue sky never seemed so good!

### **Almost Olancha Peak**

April 8-9, 1995

We started out with the greatest confidence and hopes, but the canyon had her own challenges in store for us. Olancha Creek forges a beautiful and rather rugged canyon on the Eastern side of Olancha Peak. I had read Bob Rockwell's description of the route a couple years ago in the CMC news letter and planned to someday try the Olancha creek/Southeastern couloir route. This year I hoped would be the year for Olancha.

Bill Oliver and I planned the trip as a two day trip and we had hoped to be on snow by 6000 or 6500 feet. Well nothing went as planned. First, Bill had to cancel when he was needed to help a friend in Los Angeles. Beth Epstein graciously agreed, when I called begging for a co-leader. Then as you shall learn the canyon wasn't quite as simple as we'd assumed....but then you know what assume makes!

Our goal was 3-4 hours to camp on Saturday and 11-12 hours to the summit and back to the cars on Sunday. We started out climbing an extra 600 feet of very loose rock and lost 2 1/2 hours Saturday. Then the canyon was more rugged than we'd imagined it. If we crossed the creek (and its too numerous to count water falls were climbed around) 20 times we did it 40 times. Not to complain our group was passed by the CMC tigers lead by Bob who has traveled this canyon six time previously. Actually their foot prints when we could find them helped us to finish locating the "good" camp site by 7pm. So much for a leisurely 3 hours.

Sunday we realized that climbing to the summit was probably not in our reach but 5 of us set out by 6am to climb up to the snow and check out the route further. (Note: the CMC tigers left camp at 5:45am,

summitted by 1:00pm, were back to camp by 5pm and out to their cars by just after 8pm).

Camp was at 6100 feet and after climbing around at least 5 more waterfalls and scrambling up an other 1000 feet we reached snow by 8am. The snow was firm and travel easy! We continued up to about 8200+ feet watching the CMC group in the distance climb over the 9800 ridge level. The route look great and we plan to return.

Not only was the climb exciting but, while just starting to climb on the snow we turned and saw a medium sized black.brown bear just 50 feet below us. We were surprised to see the bear in this rugged a canyon and the bear was surprised to see us. One look at us and he dug in his supper long cramp-claws and sprinted up a snow field and on up the canyon side.

The 5 us, Beth, myself, Peter Zurla, Mario Gonzales, and Brian McLaughlin headed back to camp by 1:00pm to meet the rest of our group for the afternoon climb out. Our travel again wasn't super fast. We left camp at 2:00pm and were at our cars by 8:45pm.

Everyone I believe enjoyed the experience, but next time we'll return for a three day trip.

Route notes: Exit 395 on to the Walker Creek road. Drive 4.2 miles to a good parking/camping site. Consolidate into high clearance/4 wd vehicles. Go back down the road about 2/10th of a mile, turn North and cross the creek. Follow this road just over a mile and park, or we observed the CMC group crossed the creek again and continued maybe

another 1/2 mile towards Olancha creek. Hike high up the South side of Olancha Creek crossing a few ridges. Keep at about the 5500 elev. on the ridges and look for notches to climb up and around. Bob has left a few ducks on the ridges, but the rock is crumbly and the ducks may not always be there. Climbing is 2 - 3rd class. After you pass the second major water fall (the falls are way below in the canyon) go over one last ridge and then drop down to the creek. From here the route follows the creek closely all the way to camp at 6100 feet. Bob discovered this campsite and it does appear to be one of the best. Above the 6100 site you'd have to carry packs around a couple of the steeper waterfalls and then travel to snow to camp. In a lower snow year this might be easy. From 6100 continue following the creek to the head of the canyon. From here climb steeply up the ridge and then turn North/Northeast toward Olancha. For an average paced group I'd suggest 1 day to camp, 1 long day for the summit and 1 day out. Also note some of the waterfalls you climb around are really class 4 - someone would be hurt badly if they fell. Some leaders might preferr a rope. but that will really slow you down too much.

Thanks to Peter for pulling me out of the creek...I really didn't want to try that waterfall slide! and Thanks to the other participants. Joe Seltzer, Heidi Zimmer, Steve Nguyen, Mark Wallace, and David Smythe for seeming to enjoy our adventure!

Barbee Tidball

## Heart Mountain & the Canadian Rockies

May 1995

Wayne Norman

"Fifty Switzerland's in One." This was how the Canadian Rockies were described at the turn of the century in an attempt to lure wealthy tourists to visit this majestic country. And lure them they did. Tourists traveled over from Europe and across Canada via the Canadian Pacific Railroad to visit the Crest of a Continent. Swiss Guides were hired to lead gentleman (and ladies) up various mountains while luxury resorts like the Chateau Lake Louise & Banff Springs Hotel were built to accommodate the Victorian Era clientele.

Today, a motto of that era is found, engraved on a nameplate below the statue of William Cornelius Van Horne, at the elegant Banff Springs Hotel; "Since we can't export the scenery we must

import the tourist." This is as true today as it was then.

It was into this mountain wonderland that I chose to spend my honeymoon. Without boring (or exciting) anyone with the most of the details of our honeymoon; my wife, Ruth, and I did one "scramble" during our stay.

I picked up a copy of the just released, revised, edition of Scrambles in the Canadian Rockies. (This was almost the first thing I did after getting into Banff.) After reading through the guide we decided to climb Heart Mountain (a romantic sounding name) for our first climb as husband and wife.

*(The weather was about a month behind normal for this time of the year and there was much unstable,*

*avalanche prone, snow. We saw evidence of many avalanches during our stay. These snow conditions kept us off the high peaks.)*

Driving to the trailhead one sees that Heart Mtn is shaped, as its name suggests, like a heart. We parked at the trailhead and hiked up the trail paralleling the highway to a trail junction. From here we could see the route up the ridge.

The first part of the hike is up a steep trail with plenty of small, loose rocks. Two-thirds of the way up we came to the "crux" of the route a short 3rd class section. The correct route is marked by small orange plaques, visible from above and below. These were placed to aid climbers in finding the correct route, i.e., reduce accidents.

After the short 3rd class section we found steeper climbing than the first half of the climb with more snow and loose rock. A couple of hours after starting my lovely bride (even in hiking boots) and I topped out.

The views were awesome. To the north and west, the peaks of the Banff area stood tall against the skyline with more and higher peaks in the distance, while eastward there was the vast expanse of the plains extending as far as the eye could see.

After a short break on top, as we were getting ready to head down, a group of three climbers joined us on top. One of the three instantly caught my eye; he was shod in sandals and was carrying a golf club! After a short rest they made a tee out of snow and hit a few shots off the edge. Since we were about 750 meters off the deck, the x and y components of momentum are independent, taking into account drag due to air resistance, anyway, the balls went a LONG way.

We took our leave of the golf fanatics and made our way leisurely down the mountain, thankful at one point for those orange plagues, and back to our cars. A fun scramble for two newlyweds.

## North Palisade

Private Trip

Memorial Day Weekend Trip - May 26-29, 1995

The trip description in the Scree and on the email broadcast generated responses from several people. On the trail we were four. I'd had very little luck convincing the other climbers (now they believe me) to leave early and pack in to Lon Chaney's cabin on Thursday evening, but I wasn't going to lose any sleep over it so I left Fremont Thursday morning and got to the Big Pine trailhead hiker parking lot after six that evening. Reserved permits aren't required until June 29 this year so I filled out a self-issue permit with the campground host, dropped the pack at the end of the road, parked the car in the hiker parking lot and started walking back up to the pack. The trail which starts up from the end of the road is getting washed out and overgrown near the streams. With this added bushwhacking it may be easier for the North Fork to just start up the trail from the hiker parking lot. Got to the cabin about eight and had a nice long restful night's sleep there on the porch while the rest of the group was driving the lonely highways 'til the wee hours of the morning and not reaching the cabin until nine on Friday.

Friday was a beautiful crystal clear sunny typical Sierra day. Past the cabin the snow soon covered the trail. We trudged for a few hours trying to get our packs as high as possible for camp. Two of us stopped ~11,800 at 2:30 and camped in the little tarn

above Sam Mack Meadow. The other two stopped an hour later at the meadow. The post-holing was particularly noticeable on the slope leading from the stream up to the meadow. We spent the next five hours melting snow, cooking, and gassing up for the next day. There was no running water after crossing the stream at ~10,500, and even there we were digging down a few feet in the snow to find it.

Saturday was a grey overcast day with darker clouds that kept dropping lower. The two of us that had camped higher crossed the bergschrund and took turns kicking steps in the deep snow up to the U-notch. The 'schrund wasn't a big problem with enough snow to walk across. We reached the notch about 10:00 and kept watching and waiting for the weather to give us a sign. The peaks were socked-in, with clouds blowing from the South through the notch. To the North we could see several squalls below us. To the South we couldn't see anything most of the time. After about an hour and a half we got snowed off just as we were getting ready to go on belay. We'd thought we might at least go up the chimney while waiting for the weather. The two pitches in the chimney had looked passably clear of snow, etc. with some ice in the first pitch. It continued snowing on and off as we went back to camp where we found the other two waiting. Later in the afternoon the sky cleared mostly with some



clouds around the peaks and some snow squalls passing through. At times we wished we had stayed at the U-notch and given it a try, but we had left good snow steps for the next day. Around camp we decided to forego T-bolt and take another run at North Pal on Sunday.

Sunday was mostly clear with a few clouds around the peaks. We got back up to the U-notch about 8:00 where some students from UCSD soon joined us. The wind was chilly and the sun felt great when the clouds let it through. We climbed slowly up the two pitches clearing snow and ice from some of the holds, making more work than usual. We carried our ice axes and crampons along - wearing the crampons for the first pitch. In the past I've left both at the U-notch. By 1:00 four of us had climbed to the top of the 4th class chimney. One of the UCSD hopefuls had joined up with us and we went

for the top. With the fresh snow everywhere we belayed much of the way to the summit, which is usually a scramble. After a traverse we dropped down ~80' on the South side of the ridge and then back up to the summit boulders. We got baked through this section with clouds now widely scattered and the wind quiet on the South side. The register was buried in a couple of feet of snow and eluded us despite a fair amount of poking around with an ice axe, but we have pictures for those who require proof. We were back to the top of the chimney by 5:30 where we used two 120' 8.5mm ropes tied together for two rappels, back to the U-notch by 7:45.

Monday was clear and beautiful. We packed out to the cars by 11:00 and drove. Trip participants were Craig Clarence, Steve Shields, Tony Cruz, Jeff from UCSD, and myself. - Joe Stephens

### **Mt. Baxter**

A Private Trip, June 10-11, 1995

By Bob Sumner and Erik Siering

This year's record snowpack provided many April-like snow climbing possibilities well into the spring season. We took advantage of this, and settled on Mt. Baxter as a desirable objective.

We departed the Oak Creek trailhead around 6:30 AM. Just before we left, we encountered Tina Stough and Greg and Mirna Roach who were coming in to climb Black and Diamond. Despite the warm Owens Valley temperatures, we motored up the trail arriving at a good campsite (elev. 9850') at 10:30 AM. All the higher campsites above were buried under snow. We thought about going for the peak, but eventually decided we didn't want a less-than-fun Baxter experience like the one Dale had (see the Echo, Sept-Oct 1990, p.11).

After lunch the Roaches arrived and we idled the afternoon away amidst pleasant conversation. Tina did an afternoon ascent of Mt. Mary Austin, and was rewarded with a lengthy (2000'+) glissade down one its north-facing chutes. Another backpacker, Gene, also shared our campsite and regaled us with tales of the bizarre camaraderie shared by hang glider folk.

Sunday morning was clear and windy and we left camp around 5:45 AM. We continued west up the Oak Creek drainage eventually turning north to pick up the Baxter Pass trail at 11,500'. The next 600 feet were mostly melted off due to the slope's southern exposure. We topped the crest at 12,200', passing over the steep remnants of a cornice.

A couple of glissades brought us quickly down into the basin NE of Baxter Pass. We dropped to around 11,200' then traversed north aiming for the small lake just SW of Baxter. This entire area was snow-covered and the lakes were still frozen. There was no sign of life anywhere - a slice of winter in the middle of June.

The snow was still firm on Baxter's SW slopes so we cramponed up a broad chute which placed us on the summit plateau about 1/4 mile from the summit. The register was buried under several feet of snow so we made no attempt to find it. The view was superb but we didn't enjoy it for long; a bitterly cold wind chased us off the peak. As we left we saw two climbers who were ascending Baxter from the southeast. (They described that approach as a hot trailless brushfest.)

We glissaded back down to the little lake, then had an unpleasant posthole walk back across the basin. It was windless down lower and hot; it felt like a "UV cooker". We re-crossed the crest south of Baxter at the "ol" in the word "zoological" on the Kearsarge Pk 7.5. A nice chute provided a 1300 foot glissade to within 5 minutes of camp - this is a highly recommended shortcut when snow is present. (Tina and Greg arrived back at camp just minutes after us having successfully completed their climb of Black and Diamond.) We packed up and boogied on down the trail reaching the cars by 5:40 PM. A good way to do Baxter.

**Sierra Peaks Section, Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club  
SPS Mountain Register Report**

You can help maintain register books and containers on SPS peaks by supplying the following information to the SPS Mountain Records Chair. It is suggested that you use this report form and that you fill it out on the summit. The SPS recommends that full books be left on the peaks for future climbers to enjoy.

A list of peaks needing containers or books is published in the SPS newsletter, The Sierra Echo. Containers and side stitched memo books are available from the Mountain Records Chair at SPS meetings or by arrangement. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Person making the report:

Date of the report:

Name of peak:

Date of climb:

Describe the type of container, its condition, and need for a larger container (e.g., Sierra Club rectangular box, SPS cast aluminum cylinder, ammo box, brass pipe, nested tin cans, Sierra Register Committee aluminum box):

Describe the register book or books, give dates of opening and closing, percent full of current book? Is there an unopened book in the container? What kind of books are there, e.g., poor small top spiral, SPS side-stitched 3" by 6" memo book, Sierra Register Committee bound record books.

Comments:



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