



SIERRA ECHO

VOL. I, NO. 1.

FEBRUARY, 1957

A QUARTERLY

THE DEAN SPEAKS

- Frank Sanborn

Now, after one and one half years of existance, our Section has 56 members and a record of successful trips from Yosemite's Matterhorn down to the lower Kern's Owens PK. Formed in July, 1955 the Section has already accomplished much in its main purpose of getting as many Sierra Club members as possible acquainted with the Range of Light. Many of our trips have seemed rough and overly strenuous to some, but the fact remains that the only way to really know and love this magnificent range is to put a knapsack on your back and hike deep into it. I am proud to have been one of the founders of this Section and to have served as its first chairman. Now I take this occasion to give my best wishes to our new chairman, Bud Bingham, and to our other 1957 officers: John Robinson (Vice-Chairman), Barbara Lilley (Secretary), and Pat Meizner (Treasurer). Chuck Miller heads our Mountaineering Committee and

(Cont. on p. 2)

IMPORTANT !!!

Our Angeles Chapter is sponsoring a travelogue by Charles Eggert at Thorne Hall of Occidental College on March 7. Look for the full page ad in the new schedule.

The SPS has been asked to get behind the ticket sales of this event. 960 seats must be sold! Let's get behind this event. It can well be a feather in the cap of our section

Mail your checks to Bud Bingham, 1837 Maple St., Pasadena 8. Tickets will be returned by mail.

* * *

SUMMER SCHEDULE

ANNOUNCEMENT

Any section member planning to schedule a summer trip for the SPS please attend the section meeting at club headquarters on Feb. 2nd at 7:30 p.m., or contact Roger Gaeke, the schedule chairman, before that time. Suggestions on types of trips you would like to see scheduled will also be appreciated.

* * *

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

by Bud Bingham

The new year is upon us; New officers and committees with the help of the members will plan another interesting year. All members are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings, to express their ideas on the future activities of the section. Our monthly meetings will comprise of the section business, excellent color slides will be shown by a designated member and a short snack at the Biltmore will top the evening. Enjoy a combination business meeting and an informal social get together with your hiking friends. Meetings are held at Club Headquarters on the fourth Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

Future scheduled S.P.S. trips will be planned so that the more strenuous will alternate with easier hikes. watch the schedule; The trips will be planned at a frequency of about one every other weekend throughout the summer. Knapsackers who do not wish to climb the peaks are encouraged to come and join the gang

(Cont. on p. 2)

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.

OCTOBER 11

"Trees and Shrubs of the Sierra" Last time we looked at 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.

JANUARY 10

Joint Meeting of the SPS / DPS / HPS Climbing Sections. A meeting to celebrate all the climbing sections. The evening will be a great time to meet old and make new climbing friends. General meeting and refreshments followed by a multi-media slide presentation "San Bernardino Mtns." by Jim & Sylvia Gallagher.

FEBRUARY 14

Sierra Climbing Program or Equipment Practice Session. Plans to be announced in future Echo.

Future Programs I'm looking for a climbers with interesting climbs or trips to share with the SPS at a future meeting. Contact Barbee if you have a program (310) 424-1556.

PEAK INDEX

Bierstadt Peak

Mt. Elbert

Mt. Evans

Gray Peak

Olancha Peak

Sawtooth Peak

Mt. Shasta

Sirretta Peak

Mt. Starr King

FRONT COVER

In celebrating our 40th year as a section we have reprinted the original cover of the first SIERRA ECHO

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.

SPS Outings Schedule

Dates	Rating	Peaks	Leaders
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
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

** = List Finish

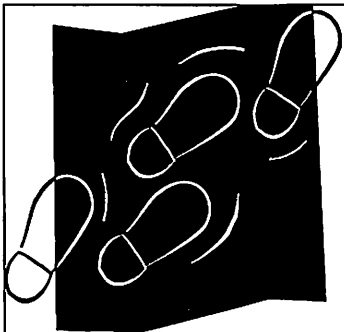
Added Trips

Jan 27 Sat, SPS Rock Checkout, Mt Rubidoux: For Mtnrs List as well as M and E Leader aspirants. For info SASE leaders: Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer.

Feb 24-25 Sat-Sun, Snow Checkouts: For Mtnrs List and LTC M and E candidates. Location to be announced. Prerequisite seminar. For info SASE leaders: Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer.

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

Nepal Trekking Peaks



I am considering either a 15 day trek to Langtung including a climb of *Naya Kanga* (19,180ft). Total time; 22 days. Approximate cost w/air; \$2,500. Or... A 19 day trek to *Rolwaling* including climbs of *Ramdung* (19,439ft) and *Parchamo* (20,298ft). Total time; 28 days. Approx. cost including air; \$2,700. If interested, please call:

Murray Zichlinsky (310) 376-8999

Yosemite alert! On a recent trip to climb Cathedral I spoke with Hal Browder, SPS member, climber and Yosemite Trust director. Hal informed me that the draft of the Valley Implementation Plan including transportation issues had been released. The Park Service at a cost of \$3,000,000.00 has determined that the best solution to traffic in the park is to build a large multi-story parking structure in the valley! The Yosemite Restoration Trust are amazed by the Park Service's plan. The study refused to consider areas outside of the Park and it appears has spent millions developing a plan that goes against all past environmental, Park Service and visitor plans. I will keep you posted on this critical Yosemite issue, or you can become involved with the work of the Yosemite Trust. Call Hal Browder, Coarsegold, 209/658-7231 or write Yosemite Restoration Trust, 116 New Montgomery St, Suite 526, S. F., CA 94105 for a free newsletter. BHT.

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

I do not think we conquer peaks. We may conquer our fears and self doubts, but mountains cannot be conquered -- we simply go to them.

I read in the Sunday New York Times this weekend about two young rangers, Sean Ryan, 23, and Phillip Otis, 22, who died on Rainier last week trying to rescue an injured climber.

"The snow has all melted out around my camp, unleashing both green grass and beautiful purple, red, white, and yellow wildflowers," Sean wrote his parents. "The sun is still shining off the snow on the summit, whose glaciers will continue to feed the waterfalls and rivers that fill my water bottle and lull me to sleep each day." In describing him his father said: "He felt the back country was a sacred place. He wanted to educate others, and he liked to be able to use his skills to help others."

Phillip's professor of religion at Bates College, in describing him said: "Phillip was interested in a link between Western religions and our generation's responsibility in caring for the environment. He saw humankind as having the responsibly to be stewards of the earth."

Reading about these wonderful young men reminds me that we go to the mountains because of who we are, and of whom they help us become.

On a lighter note, It seems that the we outings folks are a nuisance to ExComm. A lot has been said about the Schedule of Outing fiasco and I don't want to add anything here. Its pretty clear that for whatever reasons the Schedule will no longer be distributed free and that contrary opinions, in the form of the "Save our Schedule" ad or letters to the editor of the Southern Sierran, will be quashed. So be it.

I suggest that as part of the initiative of the joint meetings of the climbing sections we should all get together and publish a Climbers Schedule. We can do this in our own newsletters, and with suitable disclaimers, we might publish some of the climbs and activities of our sister organizations.

We should also look at the many redundancies that the SPS, DPS and HPS have and explore how we might reduce some of them.

Barbara Cohen is chairing the nominating committee for this fall's management committee elections. I hope as many of you will run as can. In this time of change and transition we need your commitment.

It has proved to be another great season and I look forward to seeing all of you at our fortieth anniversary banquet in December.

Climb on!

Dan Richter 8/24/95

SPS Membership Report by Dan Richter 9/12/95

Address Changes

Michael Lorr
610 South Seward Avenue
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 653-5203

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

Ken Deemer
2401 Pine Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
h: (310) 546-4012 w: 587-3390

Frank Sanborn
1430 Birchwood Ave. #108
Bellingham, WA 98225

New Subscribers Thank you!

Dennis Hiipakka
8335 Bridgeport Drive
Hilmar, CA 95364
(209) 667-1723

Pat Dunn
11612 Chenault Street #5
Los Angeles, CA 90040
(310) 472-2921

Christopher Jain
512 Veteran Ave. #211
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 824-2050

Eric Fitzgerald
201 N Hollywood Way #212
Burbank, CA 91505-3428
w: (818) 845-1159

Krisztina Peterfy
637 Levering Ave #1
Los Angeles CA 90024
h (310) 824-4819, w (805) 447-4289

Accomplishments.....Congratulations!!

Emblem #539, Tom Randel on Split Mountain 7/30/95

ECHOES FROM OUR MEETINGS

SPS Management Committee Minutes

July 12, 1995

The meeting convened at 6:30 P.M.

Attendees: Dan Richter, Wayne Norman, Barbee Tidball, Patty Kline, Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer, Greg Roach, and Mirna Roach

Old & New Business:

Secretary's Report: The committee approved the minutes of June 14, 1995 with some corrections.

Banquet & Programs: Barbee needs programs for the next schedule. She asked Doug and Duane to do a presentation regarding demonstrations and practice sessions on ropes and snow skills. She asked for another program on an about the Sierra trips. David Underwood volunteered to do one.

Treasurer's Report: Patty reported the expenses for the month of June. The checking account has \$4162.31 and the savings account \$304.39. She handed out a summary of SPS budget. As we stand, SPS is staying very stable. Barbee will compare this budget report with her previous budget summary. Patty did some research on the different kind of accounts to earn better interest rate. Dan will work with Patty to find another bank to put this money in.

Outings Report: The committee approved one trip that Doug Mantle submitted for a rock check off.

Archives: Dan reported that the Vi Grasso estate has been settled and the SPS Mt. records have been released.

The management committee adjourned at 7:25 PM.

General Meeting Summary

Dan conducted the general meeting and each member from the committee gave their status report. Christine Mitchell and Ron Bartell presented a delightful slide show on their trip near K-2. They did this trip through the Canyon Explorer last year. Both did an excellent job in presenting their trekking.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

SPS Management Committee Minutes

August 9, 1995

The meeting convened at 6:30 PM

Attendees: Wayne Norman, Barbee Tidball, Patty Kline, Doug Mantle, Tina Stough, Harry Freimanis, Greg Roach, and Mirna Roach

Wayne Norman conducted the meeting this evening.

Old & New Business:

Secretary's Report: The committee approved the minutes of July 12, 1995, with some corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Patty reported the expenses for the month of July. The checking account has

\$304.97 and the savings account \$4143.85. The budget summary was reviewed and compared with the previous year. Barbee concluded that we need to find out how much money is coming in from restricted trips.

Nominating Committee: Dan spoke to Wayne by phone regarding finding someone to be in charge of recruiting members to run for office next year. Barbara Cohen has accepted this position. The ballots should be out in the September's Echo issue.

Editor: Wayne sent postcards to members who have not renewed their membership. Dan had phoned everyone in the committee to see if we approved of sending these postcards.

Mountain Records: Tina has received all the SPS records from Vi Grasso's estate. She mentioned there is a low supply of canisters and will check to see if she can get more canister made.

Outreach Coordinator: Harry Freimanis attended the Council meeting and the Angeles Chapter Schedule was the hottest issue. The outcome was that the Excom took a vote 5-3 to charge subscription. The Council approved to charge \$9 for subscription until the Chapter funding are balanced again.

The SPS committee members approved to have Harry Freimanis be the alternate SPS representative to the Council meetings.

The management committee adjourned at 7:30 PM.

General Meeting Summary

Wayne conducted the general meeting and each member from the committee gave their status report. Greg gave the outings report and some people reported about their private trips. A great deal of time was spent on the conservation issues. Barbee presented a video showing Lee Stetson's re-creation of John Muir entitled "Conversation with a Tramp."

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

By RON JONES

The Conclusion of a 6-part series on the PRE-HISTORY of the SPS which started with ECHO 38-6

Forty Years Ago In the Angeles Chapter

Excitement grew among the Sierra climbers and backpackers over the considerations of the Chapter Excom on the proposed aims of the fledgling SPS and its bylaws, which the Chapter had been formally

considering since July. A Sierra climb I missed in my last pre-history account was a scheduled Desert Peaks Section climb over Shepherd Pass on August 13 and 14, 1955. It was written up in the Southern Sierran for September 1955. Mt Tyndall was led by John Delmonte and Bob Bear and climbed by a group of 11, including John & Bob, Don Clarke, Kermit Clemans, Willard Dean, Chuck Gerckens, Don Graham, Frank Sanborn, Bob Schmelzer, Leo Scotti, Bob Sheller, Clyde Smith and Steve Wilkie (still around and living up north). It was reported the Tyndall was a very interesting and worthy peak and, "That in the future such trips in the Sierra would be conducted by the new Sierra Peaks Section" (implying that in mid-August the acceptance of the SPS was a pretty sure thing --? RonJ)" Another trip I missed appeared in the October Southern Sierran. This was a 7-day Sierra backpack from Parchers Camp into the Dusy Basin. Participants included Roger Gaefke, Ted Maier, Pat Meixner, Chuck Miller, Jim McGoldrick, Frank Sanborn, Bob Smeltzer, Dick and Lucy Woodward. On the 3rd day, Monday, August 22, they climbed Mt Sill and then knapsacked over a pass to Palisade Lake. Here Roger Gaefke drank long and deeply at the stream (in the days before giardia --RonJ). Soon after, others in the party noticed a strange odor and it filled the camp all night. The next morning, in scouting around they found a packer's horse which had been destroyed. To hasten decomposition, a few days before, the packer dynamited the horse to bits. There was decaying meat in the water, on the ground, hanging from tree limbs. I haven't heard why Roger was the only one to drink the water (below the remains of the horse?) but several folks became apprehensive and got Roger to swallow some Halazone pills to perhaps minimize the effects of the water. The next day everyone took the Muir Trail over Mather Pass and Wednesday they packed to Bench Lake where the day was spent loafing and fishing. That night Roger became seriously ill and the next morning he passed into unconsciousness. Frank Sanborn and Dick Woodward hiked out over Taboose Pass to notify a doctor and the sheriff. The rescue party with mules and horses arrived at Bench Lake at 3:30 the next morning. At daybreak, Roger was placed on a stretcher between mules and the whole group hiked out over Taboose Pass. Roger was diagnosed with viral pneumonia, encephalitis, and maybe some heart involvement. He was lucky to have recovered, but recover he did to participate further in the

founding activities of the SPS and also to suggest the name "Sierra Echo" for its first issue in 1957 (Roger and I have later done some wonderful backpacks together on Hawaii and Roger is also a skillful ocean sailing skipper in the Angeles Chapter--RonJ).

A note of interest brought up by Chuck Miller, who first climbed with the "outlaw" group in 1955 follows: "The practice of the group climbing peaks was to try to sleep at home on Friday evening and then get up about midnight, drive to the roadhead, put on the packs and take off. I remember Frank Sanborn is one who can sleep anytime he wanted to, so he was happy with that starting arrangement. I was worn out when the hiking started and it turned out a number of others were too. We suggested driving... from Foothill Blvd and the Angeles Crest Highway in La Canada as soon as everyone could get there after work, driving to Mojave for dinner, and then on to the roadhead, which usually was about midnight, where we rolled out our sleeping bags and slept until early morning. Everyone seemed to like that better."

Meanwhile Sierra climbs in September were led off with a Labor Day trip on September 3-5, sponsored by the Knapsackers to the Mono Recesses, and led by Toni Gamero and Howard Hill. Also over Labor Day the RCS led a scheduled climb of North Palisade and other peaks in the Palisades. Yet another Labor Day trip was successful traverse of the Sierra between Onion Valley and Cedar Grove. Izzy and Dan Lieberman, Lyle Gaston and Miles Brubacher hiked from west to east and Pat Meixner, Lee Owings and Ted Maier hot-footed in the reverse direction allowing for a key exchange. Izzy "spider" Lieberman led a "fascinating if not hypnotic" climbing route up The Sphinx, finding only a cairn and leaving the first register. A week later on September 10-11, Frank Sanborn and Frank Bressel led Florence Peak for the Knapsackers. June Kilbourne reported 20 people on the trip, most climbed the peak from Florence Lake and were on the summit by 10:30 am Sunday. Several folks chose to climb Vandever on this trip. On September 17-18, the Desert Peaks Section again crossed over to the Sierra and scheduled Tunnabora with George Wallerstein and Frank Sanborn as leaders. The last Sierra climb I could find in Chapter schedule #149 for 1955 was Trail peak led over October 1-2 by Frank Sanborn and Owen Blackburn. There was a private "outlaw" trip (a term used widely among

CSM on this trip also

Sierra climbers until maybe 1964-65 to indicate a private, non-scheduled climb) in early October 1955 to Mt. Needham. Frank Sanborn, Pat Meixner, Chuck Miller, Lee Owings, Barbara Lilley, John Robinson and perhaps others climbed the peak. John forgot and left his boots at home so made the climb in smooth leather-soled loafers. He never again forgot his boots. They crossed over the crest and made the climb probably from below Columbine Lake or from Lost Canyon. This route to Needham makes for a 2000 foot gain (instead of a 900 foot gain from Sawtooth Pk). It was from this experience that Frank later suggested Mt Needham, the highest peak in the Mineral King area, as an Emblem Peak. Mt Needham remained as an emblem peak for one month and was removed as an emblem at the first SPS meeting, in November 1955.

On October 16, 1955 a number of hopeful Sierra climbers attended the Excom meeting at the Angeles Chapter headquarters at the old Philharmonic Auditorium Building on the north side of 5th Street, opposite Pershing Square. It was feared that some of the Chapter membership and maybe some of the Excom were opposed to the formation of a Sierra Peaks Section as they were "selfishly claiming the Sierra for themselves". Some felt that a new Section, whose venue of activities was so far removed from the Los Angeles area, would not be approved. When the matter of authorizing the formation of the SPS came up, enough home work had been done, the matter had been studied for several months by the Excom, and Excom Chair, Bob Bear, a Sierra climbing leader himself, made the vote an easy affair. Frank Sanborn, Roger Gaefcke, Miles Brubacher, Pat Meixner, Leo Scotti, Frank Bressel, John Robinson, Bob Sheller, some or all probably attended the presentation. One attendee reports, "The approval went quite smoothly. Frank formally presented the request for the Section. The request was considered, discussed briefly, voted on and approved (unanimously--RonJ). Thus was born the SPS. As I recall afterwards we all went downstairs (and across to the basement of the Biltmore Hotel --RonJ) and we all celebrated with chocolate sodas". This recognition of the SPS formation was announced on the front page of the November, 1955 issue of the Southern Sierran in an article by Bob Bear, the outgoing Chapter Chair.

The SPS Bylaws had been drawn up by a core group consisting of: Pat Meixner, Miles Brubacher, Bud

Bingham and Frank Sanborn. As Frank Sanborn stated in January 1956, "Now, modern super-highways and high-speed cars put the Sierra within reach of everyone in California....the purposes [of our Section] are centered around the development and expansion of weekend mountaineering in the Sierra, consisting of knapsack hiking (back packing--RonJ), camping, fishing, mountain climbing (mostly non-rock climbs -FrankS) and comradeship." A few years later Frank stated that the Section "is slanted toward those who prefer to hike or, at the most, scramble up low third class routes. Many members of the Section from the beginning wanted to keep it as a hiking Section while others felt just as strongly that it should become a mountaineering Section. Even in 1960 SPS members overwhelmingly preferred more exploratory and beginners trips, and strongly preferred moderate trips over those of a strenuous or an easy nature. Jerry Keating recalls that "the SPS had a strong emphasis on exploration....Mountaineering obviously was important, but so was backpacking that introduced members to areas they either haven't visited or wanted to visit in more detail. A number of early trips, in fact, involved no peaks....

I doubt that any of the founding members envisioned climbing all of the listed peaks. That type of goal simply wasn't part of early campfire conversations. However, getting an Emblem was, and that process prompted members to get a feel for virtually all major parts of the Range of Light." Izzy Lieberman states, "there was also for many years a "Family Backpacking" sub-section led by members...such as Ted Maier and myself.

Bud Bingham drew the only design submitted in the contest for the SPS emblem, our present badge showing Mt Williamson with a cloud and a pine bough. Bud responded to me that he, "was not satisfied with the drawing. It did not depict mountaineering. But no other party submitted a drawing and Frank Sanborn accepted mine in March of 1956 as the emblem. As far as I am concerned this was a mistake. The emblem should have had an ice axe and a rope in it." (Bud went on to draw many original humorous cartoons for the Echo and also for the Sage. He was quite a good cartoonist--RonJ)

The 18 original "charter members" of the Sierra Peak Section were: Bud Bingham, Owen Blackburn, Frank Bressel, Miles Brubacher, Don Clarke (applied on 8/17/55), Roger Gaefcke, Izzy

Lieberman, Barbara Lilley (who applied on 2/4/56), Ted Maier, Pat Meixner, Chuck Miller, Lee Owings, John Robinson, Frank Sanborn, Leo Scotti, Bob Sheller, George Wallerstein & John Wedberg (applied on 11/27/55) -- 2 females & 16 males. Garver Light also submitted a letter of application and qualified in September 1955, along with Chuck Gerckens, Dick Kenyon and George Wallerstein in October. (I don't know why they are not included as Charter Members --RonJ) Three members applied to Pat Meixner, Secretary of the SPS in August, 1955 and maybe 6 more in September and October before the Excom approval, so I guess that the future acceptance of the Section by the Excom was sort of assumed (RonJ). In October, Frank Sanborn, tongue-in-cheek, described the SPS as, "a rugged outfit, full of crazy bearded men and passionate wild women."

The SPS business meetings were first held at the Angeles Chapter offices in the Philharmonic Building at 7:30 pm on the last Tuesday of each month. An interim committee of officers was selected at the first SPS meeting in November to govern the fledgling Section until its first annual election 13 months later in December, 1956. This Management Committee consisted of Frank Sanborn, Chair (and the 1st person to serve twice as Chair); Bob Sheller, ViceChair; Pat Meixner, Secretary; Leo Scotti, Treasurer; Frank Bressel, Alternate; Miles Brubacher, Owen Blackburn, Roger Gaefcke, the Mountaineering Committee; Bud Bingham, John Robinson, Frank Sanborn, the Schedule Committee.

Anyone with corrections, more history, or information please contact the author--Ron Jones, 119 No Helen drive, Fullerton CA 92635. Tel: 714-773-5570

END of SPS Pre-history

Thirty Years Ago in the SPS

In August, 1965, Jerry Keating led a 3-day, 60 mile "death march" with three people climbing Pettit, Piute and Volunteer during the weekend. The Labor Day weekend of 1965 saw the dedication climb of Mt Chester Versteeg. Prior to its naming by the U.S. Board on geographic Names it was known as Pk 13,470 & located near Mt Tyndall & Trojan Pk. Nine climbers, led by John Robinson, trudged up Shepherd Pass, climbed the peak and placed a register honoring Mr Versteeg who had

contributed some 250 names for Sierra landmarks, and was instrumental in the founding of the DPS and SPS. Other scheduled trips this period included the first SPS scheduled climb of Silver Peak, led by Gordon MacLeod & Jerry Keating and a cold, icy climb of Mt Conness, led by Bill Hunt and John Thornton. Four climbers were not allowed to continue to the summit because of a fast moving electrical storm accompanied by 4 inches of snow and 20 degree temperatures. New members this period included Elton Fletcher & family of 3, Wally Henry, Fred Hoeptner and Dick Sykes. Tom Ross announced his engagement to Miss Nancy Candace "Candy" Slater, following Tom's many carefree bachelor years.

Twenty Years Ago

In these halcyon days of the glory period of the SPS there were 11 trips scheduled in August, and 18 more during September & October. By my count, at least 12 of these trips would be restricted climbs by 1995 standards. New members reported this period included Bill Birnbaum, Andy Fried, Gene Olsen Randy Sheaff & Al Toering. There were a lot of new emblem holders reported for the August-October period. They include: Phil Bruce, Jim Murphy, Bob Hicks, Fred Camphausen, Jim & Pat Butler, Henry Heusinkveld, Eivor Nilsson, Beth Henry, Mary Bihl, Jim Cervenka, Ann & Lou Cavaleri, Ed Lubin, Fred Bode, John Inskip & Bill Stauffer. Roy Ward and Cuno Ranschau led a party of 10 on a Labor Day weekend climb of Bloody Mtn, Mts Morrison, Baldwin, & Red Slate. Doug Mantle led a group of 10 over Labor Day to Whaleback & Glacier Ridge. Dick Akawie and Walt Kabler led a group of 24 to Iron Mtn. Ron Jones suffered a serious cut to his right calf from a rock fall on this climb. Jim Murphy led a group, including a 12-year old girl and members of the "Jugglers on Peaks Club" to Mt Abbott and Mt Dade on September 20-21. Jerry Keating and Walt Whisman led 14 on a climb of the Dennison Ridge on September 27-28. Also on September 27-28 George Barnes and Dennis Lantz led the 3rd annual Gourmet Backpack. Mike and Suzie Wilkinson led 13 on an October 4-5 climb of Siretta, Cannell Pt and Taylor Dome. Ron Jones and Roy Ward led a group of 21 on a climb of Kennedy Mtn and a miss on Mt. Harrington. Paul Lipsohn and Barbara Lilley led a Ball Dome exploratory with 4 participants on October 18-19.

Ten Years Ago

Rich Gnagy became the oldest list finisher #23 (taking over from Elton Fletcher) on a private climb of Lamont Pk. earlier in the year. Norm Rohn on August 31 took over the title of oldest list finisher on a solo climb of Marion Pk. Jerry Keating & Elton Fletcher led 13 climbers on a 3-day climb of Mt Izaak Walton. Pat & Gerry Holleman led 7 on climbs of Forester, Electra & Florence on the Labor Day weekend, 8/30-9/2. Barbara Lilley & Gordon MacLeod led 7 on another Labor Day climb, this one to Mts Ansel Adams, Merced, Forester & Ottoway. Another Labor Day trip was led by Dave Dykeman & George Toby to lead a party of 6 to Devils Crag & Wheel Mtn. Walt Kabler, Mary McMannes & Lou Brecheen led San Joaquin Mtn on September 6 with a party of 8. On September 20, Doug Mantle and Bob Hicks led a party of 12 on Duane McRuer's list finisher on Mt Gilbert. The next day, Bill T & Pat Russell led 32 to Mt Goode for Bill's list finisher. Bill was surprised to have 9 of the McRuer party join him on the summit. After returning to the cars the group reassembled at the Bishop Park Group Camp where they were joined by Norm Rohn to help host the triple-triple list finishers celebration. Joe & Betty McCosker joined the group to celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary. On September 28, Jim Murphy and Nancy Gordon led 13 to Dunderberg & Excelsior. Ted Pinson earned his Senior Emblem. Sue Wyman and Bob Meador became Emblem holders #463-64 on a climb of Mt Brewer. New members included Wynne Benti, Harry Freimannis, Bill Oliver, Dave Petzold and Joe Stephens.

Five Years Ago

Doug Mantle was memorialized with his photo on the front cover of the ECHO for having finished the SPS list for the third time! In an accompanying article, Duane McRuer acknowledges Doug's dedication to climbing and his civilized culinary and oenological sophistication. Gordon MacLeod & Neko Colevins led Vogelsang, Fletcher Pk, Rafferty Peak and Mt Johnson in the Cathedral Range. On Sep 14-17 Bill T Russell and Bill Gray led a party of 7 to Red Slate and Red and White. Dale Van Dalsem & Dave Petzold 4-WDed from Wishon Dam to 8300 ft near Spanish Lake, enroute, with a party of 6, to a 3-day climb of Finger & Tunemah on Oct 6-8. Jim Murphy led a group to Piute Pk, October 20-22. I prepared a ten year Sierra climbing route index for the ECHO.

From the Editor:

Background Noise

I received two letters concerning Ann Kramer's letter in last month's ECHO. Due to space considerations only one letter is printed here. The letter by Wynne Benti-Zdon can be found in the latest issue of the Desert Sage. The other letter, from Bill Oliver, is printed below.

Paying for the Schedule. My opinion about the paying for the schedule is No Way! The reasons are:

1) The ExComm acted in an insecure and self-righteous manner by refusing to let the 'Save Our Schedule' ad be published in the Southern Sierra or allowing any dissenting opinions to appear in the aforementioned publication. The 'Save Our Schedule' ad was a paid advertisement. It would not have cost the Angeles Chapter any money except in the opinion of some members of the ExComm possible lost income from lower schedule purchases once people realized they were being taken. (I have to admit to being one of the suckers, I mean members, who was taken. Unfortunately, I had already paid my \$9.00 before I found out all the facts.) In a further display of arrogance I received a request from a member of the ExComm who had the audacity to ask me to publish in the ECHO what was little more than an ad for the Schedule. They would not accept a paid advertisement in the Southern Sierra, but they wanted free space in the ECHO. Can anyone guess where that request was filed.

2) I would be happy to pay to cover the cost of the schedule. What I refuse to do is pay three times the schedule cost to cover other projects. This has fact has been, I believe, misrepresented by the ExComm. It is holding the outings program hostage to pay for the conservation agenda. While I believe in supporting conservation issues this is not the way to fund them. I can't help but wonder if the Chapter could be guilty of the same lack of focus as the National Organization; trying to do too much with the resources available.

Next month is the 40th anniversary ECHO a lot of work is going into it. Please send your inputs as early as possible to give me more time put the issue together.

Finally a note from Ron Jones: "There is a growing awareness in the Angeles Chapter that we must "use it or lose it" regarding the Club's insurance for restricted trips. I hope that we might have some additional Restricted trips in both the Desert and Sierra during the winter period and I have hopes of a big program in both for the spring/early summer months schedule."

ECHOES From Our Members:

A Response to Ann Kramer's Letter (printed in the previous ECHO)

With a certain reluctance, let me respond to Ann Kramer's Letter to the Editor, which appeared in the HPS (Sep/Oct) and SPS (Jul/Aug) newsletters.

I know Ann very slightly, as we both serve in appointed positions on the SPS Management Committee. That I know her only slightly is a failure on my part. It is clear to me, however, that she is a reasonable, caring and sincere person. I can readily hear the anguish voiced by her and many others over the unprecedented charge for the Schedule of Activities.

It's hard for me personally, however, to identify with where she's coming from in some of her statements:

"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 Sport 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 ExComm will be surprised to hear this. 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 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 feel differently about being asked to pay for them via my Schedule subscription."

Even as someone deeply involved in outings, I didn't join the Sierra Club because I expected it do something directly for me. [If all I wanted was the Schedule, it'd be much cheaper to buy it at Sport Chalet.] I joined this and a few other environmental organizations because I was, and am, sympathetic to their aims and I wanted to lend my support.

I'm willing to awkwardly confess, however, that I'm somewhat of a "closet" environmentalist. I don't spend much time reading Sierra magazine or the Southern Sierran. But I certainly know that they're where to look if I do want to know what the Club is doing to protect our wild places. And I know that if I really want to know more, I can attend various Conservation Committee meetings. But I think I'm a little afraid, frankly, that if I know too much, I'd get sucked into becoming more involved. I sometimes feel guilty that I'm not more pro-active in protecting the mountains and canyons in which I love to adventure.

Ann noted her initial "outrage" that we could possibly need three paid staff - even after a ten percent reduction in their hours and the lay-off of the assistant office manager. She subsequently concluded that we do need a Director of Development (fundraiser) and a Conservation Coordinator - but that we should "fire the Office Manager."

If I were in her shoes, I guess I'd agree with Ann. My shoes, however, lead me in a different direction. First, the ExCom clearly needs to do a better job of publicizing the necessity and value of these three positions. It may be widely misperceived that we have too much staff. [Warning: it may actually be necessary to read the Southern Sierran in order to learn what they do. :)] Second, I'm willing to accept the harsh reality that we may simply not be able to afford the present staff. Balancing the budget is not optional. [Let me comment personally that I believe the Office Manager position is least dispensable.]

In concluding her letter, Ann made a comment about the "carefully-designed" telephone poll conducted last Dec. to access the feasibility of charging for the Schedule: "I am sure this poll was very carefully designed." Some readers will probably draw the implication that the poll was less than honest. I don't believe Ann meant any personal offense here. I see it rather as an attempt at dry humor (of which I am often accused). I know for certain that the people who conducted this poll did so as objectively and honestly as possible.

Let's keep in mind that a large majority of the 45-50,000 dues-paying Angeles Chapter members rarely, if ever, go on our outings. [Perhaps this makes them "closet" outings people. :)] In retrospect, it might have been more useful to have focused the poll more narrowly on those who are outings-involved.

In any event, although I initially strongly supported the unfortunate, but seemingly necessary, imposition of the \$9/yr charge for the Schedule, I now have strong reservations that this effort could ultimately be counter-productive. I support a recommendation that the Schedule be sent free to all who request it - and that such persons be asked to donate \$9/yr to help support both the world-class outings and critical environmental efforts of the Chapter. In the meantime, I earnestly urge all of us to subscribe. For all that they have done, for all that is yet undone, the Club and Chapter deserve our support.

One last point:

Although it doesn't really come out in Ann's letter, I consistently hear an undercurrent in complaints about the Schedule charge. Namely, that the Chapter's environmentalists don't care about the Schedule and are willing to screw the outings program in an ill-fated attempt to raise funds. I guess it is easy to get this impression. The impression is wrong. Eight of the nine ExComm members are rated outings leaders. In addition to outings listings, the Schedule is also a valuable info resource for our conservation programs and meetings.

The Sierra Club, at least in California, is almost unique in recognizing and valuing both aspects of its historic dual nature - *outings and conservation*. The purpose of the Club, although now greatly expanded from the mountains of California, is still vibrant - to explore, enjoy and protect the Earth. Surely these dual aspects are not somehow at odds with each other. Although many of us at different times are more involved with one aspect than the other, we all benefit from this inherently natural and reinforcing association. Each ultimately is a major source of recruits for the other. Let us not, then, adopt an "us" vs. "them" stance, which can only diminish all our efforts. Them and us are we, and we are all enlightened and enlarged by the synergism of our outings and conservation programs.

Thanks for hearing me.

Bill Oliver, ExCom

ECHOES FROM OUR CLIMBS

Rocky Mountain High- Mts. Elbert, Evans, & Bierstadt
August 1994, 1995
by Wayne Norman

There are good business trips and there are bad business trips. Visiting Washington D.C. in winter (or summer for that matter) is a bad business trip. An example of a good business trip is a Monday morning meeting in Denver. To help save the company (and taxpayers) money, employees at our company are encouraged to stay over a Saturday night to reduce the cost of the airfare. The company will then pick up the extra day charge for the rental car and hotel; in my case the company saves even more because my hotel is a sleeping bag and a bivy sack. (Unless of course I'm visiting Colorado or Utah in the winter, but that's another story.)

One of the nice things about climbing in Colorado is how much closer the mountains are. A quick 3 hr drive from the airport, including a dinner stop, and I was happily asleep at the trailhead to Mt. Elbert. My cozy slumber was interrupted at 4:30 am by a group of loud Outward Bound (or downward bound) students making an early start on the peak. This was not the wake-up call I had hoped for. Of course once you're awake it's hard to go back asleep especially with a long climb ahead of you, so I got up and got ready.

One thing Colorado peak baggers will tell you is "get off the peaks early." Afternoon thunderstorms are everyday occurrences. So the "early" start time by the Outward Bound leaders was a good idea, especially considering the speed of their group, but I'm getting ahead of myself.

I was off by 5:30 hiking up the dirt road towards the trail cutoff. I wish there was a way to make the slog up Mt. Elbert an interesting tale, but it's beyond me. There is a trail the whole way, it's a boring hump up the hill, the route lacks stunning scenery, and it is just happens to be the highest peak in the state. The most redeeming part of the hike, was playing Pac Man with the Outward Bound students. My ego was fed by hiking past gasping youths in their teens and early twenties as they struggled up the peak.

On the summit there were the obligatory photo's and signing of the

register, in this case the summit register was stored in a Pringle's Can! The views were obstructed by a haze that permeated the Leadville area. Thirty minutes after topping out I was heading down, smiling as the Outward Bound group asked how much further to the top. Very soon though, I would be reminded of my true standing in the hierarchy of "in shape" people.

Hiking back to the car my oxygen starved brain finally pieced together the signs I saw the previous night driving through Leadville and the trailmarkers. This was the day of the famous 'Leadville 100.' I saw a number of participants on the way out. These people are really in great shape, along with being a bit touched (kindred spirits to mountain climbers). A friend who has been in this race twice before rates the Leadville 100 as one of the toughest of the hundred mile races. (I would be happy to do an "easy" marathon much less a 100 mile run.) My ego suitably deflated, I made it back to the car.

Colorado has the dubious distinction of having the highest road in the U.S., the Mt. Evans Road, 14,264'. I drove up the Mt. Evans road on my way back to Denver after my hike up Mt. Elbert. To my surprise I found far more solitude at sunset on the top of Mt. Evans then I had had on Elbert. So much more so that I decided to spend the night on top of Mt. Evans, not in the car, but snuggled against the summit rocks out of the wind, a high altitude bivouac. There from my sheltered resting place I would be able to watch sunrise over the Great Plains in the morning.

It was a dark and windy night. Well, at least a windy night. The stars were bright and the moon was out, plus there was the lights from the city of Denver. Breathtaking, simply breathtaking.

A little sleep, then the sunrise! A golden orb rising like a Phoenix from beyond the ends of the earth. Radiant energy, filling me with warmth. A spectacle forever etched in my mind. That sunrise will always be with me; of

the business meeting, I no longer remember what it was about.

Brief Interlude: A year. Even in our short lives a year can go by so quickly; we blink and it is gone. A brief year and another August trip to the Mile High City. Another good business trip. Another chance at a Colorado fourteener.

Unfinished business. There is a ridge which connects Mt. Evans with another Colorado fourteener, Mt. Bierstadt. As I watched sunrise the year before, I couldn't help noticing this other peak just a short distance away. I didn't have the time to climb it on that cold August morning, but this year was different.

Another August night spent in my mountain hotel (bivy sack). Early in the morning I had a quick breakfast and watched a few other early morning hikers traverse Bierstadt's greatest obstacle: the willows. From Guanella Pass you head down to a marshy, and in this late snow year, muddy stream saddle. There is a path through the willows that is fairly easy to follow, but in the days

before the "Fourteener Craze" hit the Rockies it was a real challenge. After climbing out of the willows the route makes its way up to the peak.

While resting on top, I mentioned to another climber, a Colorado native, that I had a job interview in Boulder next week. He said "Don't take this the wrong way but, don't move here. We have enough Californian's here." I guess the part that upset me wasn't the crack about Californicating Colorado, it was being put into the same category as Texan's! Oh well, I could see his point.

After enjoying the summit views and having no more California insults aimed in my direction, (the people really were friendly) I started heading down. Hiking down, the climb was looking more popular than San Jacinto on a busy weekend. There were at least fifty heading for the summit. By the time I made it back to my car I had to revise the previous estimate upward. No solitude on this peak. Still it was a fun hike among mostly friendly people.

An Afternoon at Chessler Books

by Wayne Norman

On my last trip to Colorado I had the opportunity to visit this fantastic book store and to talk with the owner, Michael Chessler. Chessler Books in Colorado is THE Mountaineering and Exploration book store in the US. If you are looking for a new or used Mountaineering, Exploration, Arctic or Antarctic book this is the place to find it. Hundreds of my hard earned dollars have flowed into this establishment and this trip was to be no exception.

The visit turned out to be the highlight of my trip. It had been over five years since my last visit to Chessler books. The book store was housed in a new building and they even had a paved parking lot, a rarity in Kittridge. Only one person works the store on Saturdays and this was Michael's day. After selecting a number of sale books I asked if there were any new one's he recommended. He turned me on to Lou Whittaker's memoirs and I was glad he did. While it is not the best climbing autobiography ever written it is a good one and has the unique feature of having other people who were a part of an event comment on the event also.

After ringing up the damages we chatted about climbing and his views of the current climbing culture. I asked him about the "new" generation of climbers and their lack of knowledge concerning climbing history. He said each generation thinks the younger generation is going to hell in a hand basket. He is right of course. When I was young I didn't care about rules, ethics, of what some old fart thought. As I got older this changed. This phenomena has occurred from generation to generation.

One of Chessler's concerns is that the older generation of climber's have not written about their climbs. There are a wealth of great stories to be told, as shown in Lou Whittaker's autobiography. He hopes more climbers write their tales and Chessler prods publishers like Mountaineer Books to pursue this generation of climbers.

The hours quickly passed and I was sorry to have to leave the store, but there was a lot to do this trip. Still I vowed not to let five more years go by before I visited Chessler Books again.

Mt. Shasta - The Casaval Ridge

A Private Trip - July 22, 1995

By Bob Sumner

*"To seek that challenge is the core and mainspring of all human activity...
If there's a mountain, we climb it." - Jim Whittaker*

Been to the zoo lately? If not, try Mt. Shasta. Picture this, if you will: the masses descend upon the mighty glistening hump, the tourists with cameras clicking, their children tobogganing in the snow, cars cruising the lot searching for that last elusive parking spot, while above the telemarkers descend, their artful S-turns skillfully avoiding the piles of poop upon the snow, bits of trash blowing about for added effect, and hordes of climbers ascending, their garish plastic boots clomping through the snow while rented axes dangle off their packs...

The circus on Shasta over the 4th of July was truly astonishing. Flash to The Fifth Season in Shasta City, where "climbers" were renting plastic boots and "those spiky things that go on your feet". Or how about that "experienced" guy who started up the peak on Saturday evening in a torrential downpour, with no rain gear or backpack, and carrying his sleeping bag under his arm. The same junior Reinhold made it to the first camp, where he ended up sleeping in the ranger's tent until morning, when he was summarily booted off the mountain. Yes, it's true what they say - Shasta is a magnet, but for what...well...maybe Jim Whittaker says it better than I.

On that weekend Erik Siering and I came to pursue Shastina and Shasta. Our plan was to dayhike Shastina via Cascade Gulch, traverse the connecting ridge to Shasta, and descend the Avalanche Gulch. The route went fine to Shastina's 12,330' summit, but here we reconsidered the plan. Clouds were building, the wind was firm and chilling, and even behind the rocks we quickly grew cold and numb. We bailed and enjoyed long glissades back down to Cascade Gulch. Equally superb was the view above of people traversing the Casaval Ridge. The next day Erik dayhiked Shasta via the Avalanche Gulch, while I returned to Incline to complete yet another move. But thoughts of the jagged Casaval haunted me and thus I planned a return.

The return visit turned out to be only two weeks later. I arrived at the Bunny Flat trailhead by 8 and crashed shortly thereafter. Didn't sleep

well though, for there were cars driving in all night, people talking and making noise, arriving and departing at all hours. By 2:30 AM I was off and on my way to Horse Camp. Covered that stretch of trail in 45 minutes; used the headlamp the whole time as the moon had not yet risen. At the camp a few people were just starting to emerge from their tents to begin their trek up the Avalanche Gulch. It was unseasonably warm and humid even at this time of night. I was already dripping with sweat.

I wasted no time in heading for the Casaval. In the darkness I missed the toe of the ridge and had to go up the east side of it. This was a boulder and scree slope, and made for very slow going at night. Had been on snow for only 20 minutes in the Horse Camp vicinity.

Finally got onto the lower Casaval proper. It was just scree and rocks while winding ever upward through pinyon groves. Now at around 4:00 AM, the scene became surreal. Below, the lights of Dunsmuir, Shasta City, and Weed; closer still the lights on in 20 tents at Horse Camp, the voices wafting up though the still night air; eerie fogbanks floating over the valleys; now visible overhead the silver sliver of the crescent moon; a backdrop of 40 million stars and the Milky Way to complete the portrait. Above, the slopes of Shasta glowing dimly in the calm.

By first light I was up at the flat spots at 9800'. Finally got onto the snow and continued upward after a light breakfast. Up here it was now very cold and my hands were freezing; I had to switch to backup gloves as the good ones were soaking wet from the lower warmer climes. Down in the Avalanche Gulch, the first parties were just now starting out at the ripe old hour of 5:30 AM.

The snow at this higher altitude was well compacted and solid - crampons required. I had to drop a bit as I began the gendarme traverse. I was now to experience the real Casaval, up close and personal. The icy slopes below the pinnacles' west side required the utmost care. The previous ascender's steps had mostly melted out, and the crampons just pricked the icy surface.

Normal self belay procedure was worthless, the ax simply bounced off the alpine ice. This forced me to use the highly regarded but seldom-used technique called "high dagger". Below was a big slider fall down into Cascade Gulch. Self-arrest was not an option.

As the traverse slowly continued, the path proceeded along the lips of moats, beneath other moats, and above yet other moats. This added to the underlying tension. Soon the ridge began to steepen up. Three times I encountered very steep alpine ice sections. These called for front pointing and handhold-chopping. The "lightning rod" (my 80 cm ax) proved its worth for chopping handholds above me. The class 4 rating is accurate. Do not underestimate this route.

Finally, after about two hours, the technical section was done. It was now around 8:00 AM and finally the sun found me. Munched and basked while watching the antlike masses in the Gulch. Counted 45 people coming up; this later became about 80. The lead Gulch person was no higher than I. On this day no one else had deemed my route desirable - up here it was just me and The Casaval.

The upper Casaval was easy walking along staircase compacted-limestone ramps, very reminiscent of many desert peaks. There were some occasional snow patches, soft enough so crampons were not needed. Soon the lakes of Shastina came into view, paint blots of aqua blue so crystalline they seemed unreal. I eventually emerged at the highpoint just southwest of Misery Hill. Found my second wind here at over 13,000' and motored on up the last portion of the hill.

There were only three people ahead of me (from the Gulch crowd) laboring across the summit snowfield. With them ahead, my competitive instincts resurfaced. So I put the lungs and legs back in gear and pursued them. They didn't have a prayer. I buzzed past the breathless trio and garnered first summit steps for the day at 10:30 AM, exactly 8 hours after leaving. They showed up a bit later. For a few precious minutes, I had the 14,162' summit of Shasta to myself, a rare privilege indeed.

The register container is a large metal box bolted onto the rocks. It houses a nice bound book, which even in mid-July was already full. The three guys were perplexed about its presence and thought I had carried it up. (They must have been suffering from oxygen deprivation.) I assured them that the metal box had been there for quite some time.

Shasta was now surrounded by thunderclouds which were closing in on the peak. It seemed prudent not to hang around. So I stayed only 10 minutes, signed in, devoured a sandwich, and bailed.

By the time I recrossed the summit snowfield, clouds were plowing over the Sargents Ridge and into the Avalanche Gulch. They still seemed fairly benign though and I knew the route down, so I backed off the pace a bit. Chatted with some of the Gulch crowd, all of whom were surprised to see someone "coming down already - what time did you start?"

Misery Hill was glissadable but I didn't bother; there were too many moving (and barely moving) targets. The snow was rapidly becoming mushy so I plunge-stepped all the way down to the top of the Red Banks. After descending past many exposed rocks, I enjoyed a big (1500') glissade down to the Helen Lake vicinity. Saw a lot of turning heads as I went by. Looking back up, the route above the Banks was now a swirling mass of clouds.

The rest of the descent was fairly standard. The lower glissades had more exposed rocks and had to be performed a bit more carefully. Glissades, walking across level terrain, glissades, walking, all the way down to Horse Camp. From the last glissade to the dry trail was perhaps 20 minutes. A crowd of 40+ tourists had discovered Horse Camp and were goofing around in the snow. The parking lot was back to its usual madhouse state. Arrived there at 1:30 PM, 11 hours after starting.

As I looked up, the peak was totally socked in down to Helen Lake. Yet there at the parking lot there were blue skies above, white fluffballs floating past, cameras clicking, people laughing...

What more can be said of the Shasta experience? Whether you dayhike or backpack, snow or rock or ice climb, come for the scenery or to wear your body out, Shasta provides entertainment.

Hmmm...better start planning for next year...

*Statistics: Mt. Shasta via the Casaval Ridge,
descent of Avalanche Gulch
9 miles r.t., 7400' gain.*

*Shastina via Cascade Gulch
8 miles r.t., 5500' gain.*

Map: Mt. Shasta, CA, 7.5

Olancha Peak

June 24-25, 1995

by: Patty Kline

The trip was a great success. So many trips in the early summer of 1995 aborted because of the heaviest snow year since 1969, but this was a go.

This trip was co-sponsored with the K-9 Committee. Two dogs were in attendance. "D. Lila" belonged to Scot Jamison. She is a lovable German Shepherd mix who was found as a stray a few weeks before. "Ruskie" belongs to Julie Rush, my assistant leader. Ruskie has been known to climb class 4 without a rope. What a dog! Julie, Scot, R.J. Secor and the two dogs rode up in Scot's 4 Runner. Tight squeeze! The directions to the road head are as follows: Drive north on Hwy 395 to Little Lake. From there note your odometer and go 19.5 miles north to Sage Flat Road. Turn left (west) and go on this small road, keeping right at the road forks on the most heavily used road to the end at 5.5 miles. There is a sign "Pavement Ends" at 3.2 miles. The end of the road is a large bulldozed area of reddish dirt. There is no water or trees, but it is very level for camping. The elevation is 5,800 feet.

We met at 6:30 am at the Sage Flat road head. By the time everyone had their packs together it was 7:00 am. All the people who said they would come did make it there. We didn't have a single no show. I like that!

The trip to camp was nice under not very hot skies. It was 7 miles from the cars to our camp. The trail goes from the road head over Olancha Pass and through Summit Meadow. It meets the Pacific Crest Trail just beyond Summit Meadow. On the way to Olancha Pass you can take the shorter, but dustier Cow Trail. I always take the regular trail to avoid the dust.

We saw 5 pack trains in the first 5 miles. Cottonwood Pack Station couldn't operate out of New Army Pass because of the massive snow so they took their clients south to Olancha Pass. This was unexpected and proper etiquette for passing pack trains was rusty. Here are 4 tips when seeing a pack train or horses on the trail: 1. They have the right of way. 2. Everyone pull off to the same side of the trail. 3. Don't make sudden movements or wave at the animals. They are very skittish and if they are frightened could bolt off the trail in a panic. They are usually roped together and would pull off all of the animals they were roped to also. 4. Leave a wide space between them and you after they pass so as

not to startle them. A mule can kick his back feet 6 feet in any direction. Also, hiking too close behind, even 20 feet, can spook horses or mules.

We arrived in camp about 1:30 pm. Our spot was located at 9600 feet just south of the Pacific Crest Trail. A nice stream is just south of the trail and we camped on the south side of the stream. This space is under good trees and level spots enough to accommodate a very large group. In an average to low snow year the stream usually dries up early in the season, although there maybe small pockets of water which are spring fed uphill later on in the season.

At 4:00 pm we had the traditional happy hour and community munchies. Ann Kramer had a great dip from Trader Joe's and Julie Rush had fresh cucumbers and red and yellow bell peppers. With that and all the other food there all I needed to prepare for my own dinner was soup.

Sunday morning at 7:15 am all of us set out for the peak. There was much less snow than anticipated on the trail. About 1 mile below our turn off point for the peak there was a spectacular view of the Sierra. We spent about half hour looking at this. Big Kaweah, Whitney, Brewer, a tip of Williamson, Langley, Cirque, Table and Thunder stood out in relief with the heavy snow. It was easy to kick steps in, and with the use of a ski pole it was very easy.

The saddle below Olancha Peak was our take off point for the peak. It is located at the high point of the PCT Trail. It is a 1500 foot gain to the top. We headed east toward the peak over the class 2 boulders, bearing somewhat to the left. The snow presented very little problem. I left my ski pole at the saddle.

I led the first of the group to the top at 10:45 am. We spent one hour up there for lunch, the view and pictures. The weather was great with full sun and no wind. One person became a member of the SPS on top. His name is John Hlavac. We let him be first on the peak as his initiation. I became a member on Olancha in June of 1986, nine years ago. Three other people said they would join after one more peak with the section. Eileen Ricks, who has about 25 peaks, decided to become a member on this trip too. It is really nice to see so much interest in the SPS from new people. Some of the new-comers wished they had brought their copy of R.J.'s The

High Sierra: Peaks, Passes and Trails. for him to autograph.

From the top of the peak there is a sheer 3000 to 4000 foot drop off from the east facing chute right below the summit. The lower part of the Owens Valley spreads out below the bottom of the peak. We could see as far south as Telescope Peak. It is interesting to note the top of Olancha Peak (12,123') is part of the original erosional plain of the ancient High Sierra range, also known as country rock. It has a flat top like Mt. Whitney, Mt. Darwin, Mt. Abbot and others. The glaciers were never here. Olancha may have been named after the Olanches Indians (from Peter Browning's Place Names of the Sierra Nevada.)

After returning from the peak we finished off our lunches in camp, packed up our backpacks and

headed down the trail. The statistics for the weekend were 21 miles round trip and 6500 feet of gain.

Many thanks to Julie Rush who was the sweep on Saturday. She was eating all the dust, and also for Sunday up to the summit. Ann Kramer sweep from camp down to the roadhead for me. A special thanks is due to her too. Everyone on the trip, including the two dogs, got this Emblem peak. Those in attendance were Ann Kramer, Julie Rush, John Dodds, Hal Browder, Howard Williams, Bruce Rorty, Jay Furber, Chris Newcomer, Bob Suzuki, Ellen Miller, John Hlavac, Heide Zimmer, Barbara Eyerly, Howard Eyerly, Eileen Ricks, Dave Jenkins, Scot Jamison and R.J. Secor. Thank you everyone for making this a great weekend.

Mt. Starr-King Gray Peak

August 4-7, 1995

by Patty Kline

Pat Christie and I met at 9:00 am on Thursday August 3 for this private trip to drive from LA to the Wawona Ranger Station in Yosemite. The goal was to pick up our reserved permit before the Ranger Station closed at 4:45 pm. This would save about 2 hours the next morning.

We left the Mono Meadows trailhead about 7:30am Friday to hike the approximate 5 miles out to a small stream a little over a mile south of Starr-King as the crow flies. This small stream crossing is near a major trail junction. We arrived at the trail junction at 10:30 am where we had lunch and hid our backpacks. The backpacks were very heavy on this 4 day trip with 165 foot ropes, a rack, helmets, rock shoes, seat harnesses, ATC's, assorted slings - and a couple of prusik loops. On the way out we crossed Illilouette Creek on a log a few hundred yards east of the trail. This log was much appreciated in this 140% of normal season of snow. The creek was so wide, it looked like the log would be used almost any summer. Mono Meadows, for which the start of the trail was named, is only about 1/2 mile from the roadhead. The roadhead is 7200 feet and the trail descends to about 6400 and rises back to 7000 where we camped. That meant we had 800 feet of gain at the end of our trip.

It was very hot as we went northwest, then northeast in a little over 2 miles to the peak. We decided to skirt around the north side of Starr-King rather than taking the 2-3 class loose and brushy route to the SE

saddle below our low 5th class route. After passing by the north end of Starr King we traversed across the boulders and ledges on the east side of the peak to the saddle between Starr King and the dome to the southeast.

Pat led the first pitch, which was 5th class. The route led into a small right facing open book where she placed her first protection. Then she traversed back across a small ledge with an undercling for a hand hold and went up to a belay spot. I cleaned the pitch. Pat led the second pitch, which was rated as class 4. Then we walked on up to the top at 9092 feet to sign the register. By then it was about 4:00 pm. It had been a long, hot and dusty hike among killer mosquitoes to the base of the mountain. I'm glad the bugs didn't hang out on the peak. The climb was a lot of fun, most of it consisting of a friction climb.

We made our camp where we hid our packs that day. There was a nice established campsite, which we used. The next day we moved camp to the vicinity of Gray Peak at 8000 feet. There was another nice long crossing about 1 1/2 miles out from our last camp over the Clark Fork of Illilouette Creek. Right after the log crossing we went east cross country, staying between the Clark Fork and Red Creek for about 2 1/2 miles before setting up camp. We camped near Gray Creek, which was a roaring river with water colder than you could believe because of the snow runoff. The route

finding was very difficult for us because we were using the Merced Peak 15 minute map. We observed some the rivers were in the wrong place. Help, we thought our navigational skills had left us until we compared Pat's Recreation Map of Yosemite and my 7 1/2 Merced Peak map. They agreed, but not with the 15 minute one. That night as we were reading Wrinkles mentioned in R J Secor's book, The High Sierra, Peaks, Passes and Trails, where he mentioned the errors on the Merced Peak 15 minute map. It pays to read the

Wrinkles.

The next day we climbed Gray Peak with about 5 miles cross country round trip to the peak and back to our camp. Most of the climb was heavily forested. The top had some class 2 on it with great views of Clark. Red Peak to the south was very nice with a frozen lake on its north side. Since this was a kicked back day, we spent 1 1/2 hours on the 11,573 foot summit enjoying the view and warm weather. Monday we packed back out to my truck and drove home. It was a very enjoyable trip.

Sawtooth Pk., Sirretta Pk.

SPS Scheduled Trip

September 9-10, 1995

Leaders: Jerry Keating, Nancy Keating, Walt Whisman

Fourteen persons, more of them veteran climbers than newcomers, participated in a pre-fall intro trip in the Southern Sierra. Barbara Reber and Henry Heusinkveld were among early arrivals Friday evening, and they discovered the planned meeting location, Chimney Creek Campground, was temporarily closed because of a bear problem. Showing resourcefulness, they found an excellent undeveloped site along the approach road to Chimney Creek and intercepted the leaders, as well as other latter arrivals, thus allowing everyone to get a good night's rest and to be ready to caravan Saturday morning to a parking area in front of the closed campground.

Sawtooth Pk. (7970') was climbed uneventfully Saturday morning via the Pacific Crest Trail and the pinyon-clad and sometimes steep slopes above a broad saddle (6260') on the main crest of the Sierra. This route involves 2,400 feet of gain in 4 1/2 miles. Eleven climbers signed in while peering down Nine Mile Canyon and northward to the Kaweahs and the Whitney group.

Upon returning to the cars, we found that the Chimney Creek CG had reopened, but we opted instead to drive up to the Kern Plateau and spend the night at Troy Meadows CG, which is an hour

closer to Sunday's objective. A large site ideally accommodated the entire group.

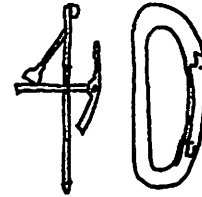
Sirretta (9977') was climbed Sunday morning by 12 persons from the end of the Mosquito Meadow road (8920'). The ascent, which took 2 1/2 hours, followed the heavily forested route described in the November/December 1994 issue of The Sierra Echo. The summit panorama was spectacular. It stretched from Mts. San Gorgonio and San Antonio on the south to Farewell Gap and the Whitney group on the north. On descent, we saved considerable distance and time by contouring to the north of Point 9860, then dropping directly northwestward through the forest to the trail used on the first part of the ascent. Although steeper than the trail, this variation also would work on the ascent. From the end of the road, hikers should proceed up the trail past the first watercourse, then turn upslope. With the variation used both ways, the gross gain for the climb, round trip, is about 1,500 feet and the round-trip distance is about six cross-country miles.

Delores Holladay, Edna Erspamer, Erich and Luella Fickle, and John Dodds were among the other seasoned hikers on the trip.

A Quote: "The peaks provide a chance to return to fundamentals: sunrise, sunset, frost in the morning, a bull elk strolling past your camp, the phases of the moon and your favorite constellation. These are the things that we often do not take time for on our mad dashes into the mountains in pursuit of SUCCESS. How ironic. These are the very experiences that moved most of us to go into the mountains in the first place." - Gerry Roach



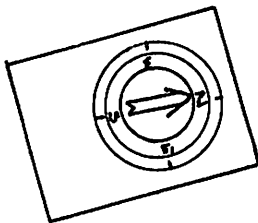
1995 SPS BANQUET



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS of SPS CLIMBING

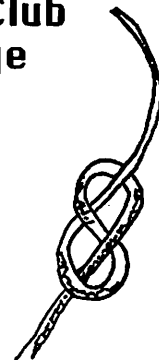
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Location: La Canada Flintridge Country Club
5500 Godbey Drive, La Canada Flintridge
Date: December 13, 1995



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or Baked Snapper Almondine.

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Questions - phone 310/424-1556.

**SPS BANQUET
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CLIMBING**

LOCATION: La Canada Flintridge Country Club
5500 Godbey Drive, La Canada Flintridge, CA
TIME: 6pm Happy Hour, 7:30 Dinner, 8:30 Program
DATE: December 13, 1995
COST: \$25.00

Dinner Selections: 1 _____ 2 _____ Vegetarian Lasagna
1 _____ 2 _____ Chicken Piccata
1 _____ 2 _____ Baked Snapper Almondine

1st. Name:

2nd Name:

Send a SASE with a check made out to the SPS, to Barbee Tidball,
3826 N. Weston Place, Long Beach, CA 90807. Questions - call
310/424-1556. See you at the Banquet.



SPS Olanha Peak Trip June 24-25, 1995 Photo by Parry Kline

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