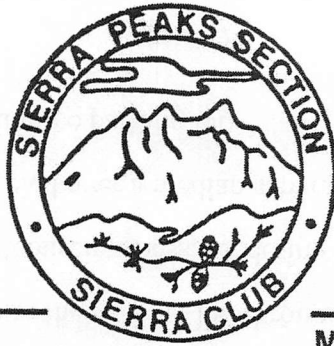


The Sierra



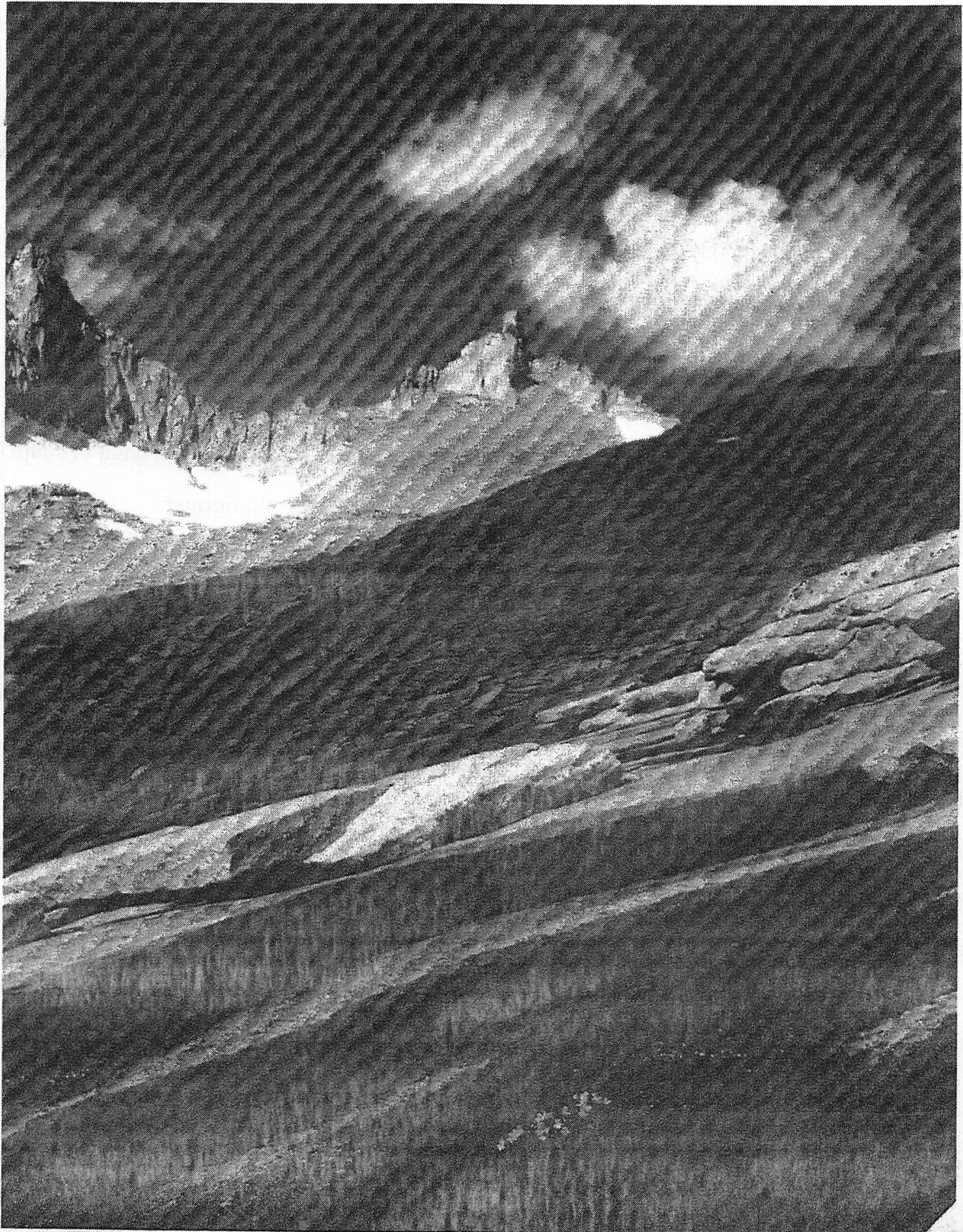
ECHO

VOLUME 41

1997

MAR-APR

NUMBER 2



SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Sierra Peak Section meetings will be held in the Los Angeles room behind the cafeteria at the DWP, 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month.

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

APRIL 9

Ruby and Bill Jenkins/Sierra Slides The authors of many books on the Sierra and parents of the late Jim Jenkins, will show slides of the Southern Sierra and the front country of Kings Canyon National Park.

MAY 14

Scott Cosgrove/Climber A world class rock climber and mountaineer, Scott, will show slides of some climbs. Scott did the first and second 5.14a climbs at Joshua Tree..

JUNE 11

Glen Dawson/Tuolumne Glen, a pioneer climber and SPS member, will show slides of technical rock climbing in 1931 in Tuolumne Meadows including pictures of climbs with Norman Clyde and Jules Eichorn.

JULY 9

Wayne Norman/New England Travels Wayne will present slides of the Presidential Range of New Hampshire and the Fall colors of New England.

AUGUST 9

Doug Mantle/Mt. Logan Doug Mantle SPS Co-safety and training chair and a world class climber will use recent slides of his ascent of Mt. Logan to illustrate safety principles applicable to Sierra climbs.

SEPTEMBER 10

Murray Zichlinsky/Technical Climbs in the Sierra - Bear Creek Spire & Clyde Minaret Murray, President of the SCMA, will present slides of recent technical climbs in the Sierra including climbs of Bear Creek Spire and Clyde Minaret.

FRONT COVER MILESTONE Photo by John Dodds

PEAK INDEX

Mt. Tom
Gannett Peak, Wyoming
Fremot Peak, Wyoming
Ellingwood Peak, Wyoming
Milestone (x2)
Table (x2)
Midway (x2)
Gregory's Monument
Junction Peak
Tydall Peak
Thunder
Ericsson
Jordon
Genevra
Mt Starr King
Mt. Clark

ECHO RENEWAL

REMEMBER
TO MAIL IN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION
FEE , \$12.00 REGULAR
\$25.00 SUSTAINING
This is your LAST ECHO
unless you have renewed for
1997.

SPS T-SHIRTS

Own your own SPS T-Shirt. They come in Ash in medium, large and X-large. We also have a lot of yellow mediums left. Specify size and color. Cost is \$12 plus \$3 or shipping per order. Buy them from Patty at the SPS meetings and save the \$3 shipping charge. Make a check payable to the Sierra Peaks Section. Send your order to: Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga Canyon, California, 90290

SPS Spring/Summer & Fall Trips 1997

R-M Apr 18-20 Gilbert/Johnson: Eckert/Cohen	E-R Aug 9-11 Sat-Mon Disappointment, Middle Palisade: L. Tidball/Roach
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R-M Apr 19-20 Snow Practice Bradley/Danta	M Aug 16-17 Sat-Sun Royce, Merriam Epstein/Keenan
R-M May 3-4 Spanish Needle/Owens Valkass/Jones/Mamedalin	I Aug 16-17 Sat-Sun The Hunchback, Cloudripper McKusky/Sulkin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R-M May 3-4 Snow Checkout Danta/Bradley	I Aug 23-24 Sat-Sun Silliman: Schumacher/Macleod
R-E May 3-4 Mt. Dana Snow Climb: Keenan/ Mantle	I Aug 23-26 Sat-Tues Pyramid, Mokelumne, Highland, Disaster: Kline/Michael
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R-M/E May 10 Rock Checkout Mantle/McRuer	M Aug 23-31 Sat-Sun Mt Kaweah, Red Kaweah, Black Kaweah, Triple Divide: Martin/Graff
I May 17-18 Sirretta: Lee/Holchin	M Aug 29-Sep 1 Fri-Mon Recess, Gabb Cohen/Knapke
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I/M/E May 19 Navigation Practice/Checkoff Grinnell Ridge Freimanis	M-R Aug 30-Sep 1 Sat-Mon Ruskin: L. Tidball/Jamison
R-M May 24-26 Birch/Tinemaha: Cohen/Knapke	M-R Aug 30-Sep 1 Sat-Mon Lyell, Maclure: McKusky/ Epstein
R-M Jun 7-8 Wynne, Pinchot, Perkins Richter/Waxman	E-R Sep 5-7 Fri-Sun Riegelhuth Minaret, Clyde Minaret: Richter/Mantle
R-M Jun 14-15 Bolton Brown/Thumb: Hudson/Oliver	I Sep 6-7 Sat-Sun Smith, Siretta: Keating/Keating
E-R Jun 14-15 North Pk/Mt Conness: Saturday hike in from Saddlebag Lake to camp near Conness Lakes and climb cl 2 North Pk (2,300' gain, 5 1/2 mi). Sun 3rd cl climb of Conness Glacier to summit and out (2,000' gain, 6 mi). Restricted to SC members on SPS Mntees List. Send experience and carpool info, SC#, and sase to Ldr: Stough, Asst: Danta.	E-R Sep 12-14 Fri-Sun Norman Clyde Pk Stough/Mantle
R-M Jun 21-23 Izaak Walton /Silver: Eckert/Hudson	I Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Florence, Vogelsang Sholle/Knapke
R-M Jun 21-23 Black/Diamond: Mamedalin/Valkass	I Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Dana, Gibbs, Koip Yamagata/Underwood
R-M Jun 21-22 Corcoran/Leconte: Waxman/Richter	I Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Gibbs, Warren: Roach/Roach
I Jun 27-29 Silver: Kline/Graff	M-R Sep 19-21 Fri-Sun Lyell, Maclure Aminian/Arnebold
R-M Jun 28 Mills: Cohen/Knapke	C Sep 19-21 Fri-Sun Yosemite National Park Volunteer Project: Martin/Underwood/Talbott
I Jul 11-16 Fri-Wed Trail Maintenance Camphausen/Benti-Zdon/Reber	I Sep 19-23 Fri-Tue Dicks, Tallac, Pyramid, Mokelumne, Highland, Blackhawk: Conrad/Wyka
M-R Jul 16-20 Weds-Sun Caltech, Tyndall, Junction Keith, Center: Stough/Richter	I Sep 20-21 Sat-Sun Excelsior, Dunderberg Popescu/Roach/Roach
M-R Jul 19-20 Sat-Sun Thompson, Powell Giminez/Roach	I Sep 20-21 Sat-Sun Vandever, Florence Kline/Epstein
M Jul 19-20 Sat-Sun Izaak Walton: Cohen/Knapke	M Sep 20-21 Sat-Sun Haeckel, Wallace: O'Rourke/ Rivera
I Jul 26-27 Sat-Sun Goat: Roach/Roach	M Sep 27-28 Sat-Sun Thompson: Conrad/Cohen
M Aug 1-3 Fri-Sun (M) East Vidette: Martin/Murphy	I Sep 27-28 Sat-Sun Clouds Rest, North Young/McMannes
I Aug 2-4 Sat-Mon Four Gables: Kline/Fleming	E-R Oct 4 Sat Humphreys: Stough/Danta
I Aug 8-10 Fri-Sun Goethe, Pilot Knob #2 Yamagata/Adler	M Oct 4-5 Sat-Sun Red Slate, Red and White Keenan/Epstein
I Aug 9-10 Sat-Sun Matterhorn: Zdon/Zdon	I Oct 4-5 Sat-Sun Iron: B. Tidball/ Cohen
	O/I/M Oct 18 LTC Seminar Griffith Park A. Danta
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mid Nov. Rock Checkout Leader/Date TBD

Echoes from the Chair

Hooray for spring! The days grow longer-my garden is blooming with so many freesias, daffodils, irises and more, taking my thoughts to the mountains and the climbs of summer. When I was walking in the Santa Monica mountains recently, I was delighted to see shooting stars. Was I suddenly in a high Sierra meadow? Those flowers remind me of so many grand trips and climbs. When life is a snarl of stress, I can retreat to my memories of rambles and scrambles in the Sierra and look forward to the new season of climbs. I imagine we all find such renewal and consolation in the mountains, whether from our past, present or future experiences.

Doug Mantle has proposed the list addition of Caltech Peak in honor of Bill T. Russell, who, Techie that he was, had strongly promoted Caltech's being on the list. So that adding Caltech may be a ballot item this fall, an exploratory climb of the peak will be led, along with other listed peaks in the Shepherd Pass area, July 16-20.

Let's all do our best as members and leaders to welcome new and prospective members into our midst. Do you know someone who might enjoy the SPS? Why not encourage him or her to join us for a meeting or a suitable trip? Some newcomers might welcome a mountain mentor, someone they can turn to for advice about the difficulty of climbs and the reputation of trails. As SPS members, we are ambassadors for our group, responsible climbing, and the enjoyment and protection of the Sierra Nevada. We love visiting with our friends to hear about climbs, but let's make an extra effort to include our new friends in our discussions.

Happy Trails,

Tina

Tina Stough



Minutes from the SPS/DPS/HPS Joint meeting at DWP on 1/8/97

The SPS Management Committee met at 6:30 p.m. Tina Stough, Dan Richter, Barbara Tidball and Patty Kline were present. The minutes of the December banquet were approved. The committee approved a motion to allow the Mountain Records Chair Tina Stough to remove, copy and then return the register from the summit of Black Kaweah. Barbara Tidball presented a letter protesting a proposed ban on bolting within Wilderness Areas. The meeting

adjourned to the main room where the second annual joint meeting of the climbing sections was held at which each Section chair spoke about her section and outing chairs discussed their Section's trips.

Steve Smith gave a slide show of his 1993 ascent of Aconcagua.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Richter

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

FOR SALE

GREAT RANDONNEE PACKAGE

FOR SALE

Used Rossignol Red Quantum 185 downhill skis with New Siveretta 404 bindings (used twice) list \$ 315.

New Ascension Euro skins list \$99

Complete Package \$350 (or best offer)

Dan Richter nights: 310/393-3607 days: 818/955-6015

Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 2/12/97

Tina Stough began the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also present were Dan Richter, Patty Kline, Barbara Tidball, Duane McRuer, Larry Hoak, and Matthias Selke. Wayne Norman and Keith Martin arrived after the meeting had begun.

Dan read the minutes of the last meeting which were amended and accepted. Barbee read a letter from Carl Pope reporting that the bolting issue was being looked into. Tina reported that the CAC had approved of the decision to copy the Black Kaweah register. Keith Martin reported that avalanche conditions would be quite dangerous this spring. The Committee approved the following resolutions:

1. To make the awarding of the leadership award to the memory of Dave Dykeman a policy change rather than a by-law change.
2. To pay for the cost of a SPS table at the Chapter Banquet as four past chairs were receiving awards.

3. To pay \$100 as the SPS contribution to the parking costs at the memorial for Bill T.

Duane volunteered to write a proposal for the *ECHO* to add Cal Tech peak to the list in honor of Bill T.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and was followed at 7:40 p.m. by the general meeting. Tina opened the meeting by welcoming new faces. Following the minutes, treasurer's report, and schedule discussion Bob Bruley made a presentation of a form letter to the group on the ongoing bolting issue and David Underwood asked for letters to Yosemite to protest the logging of the trees that had died in the recent fires.

After a short break Greg Colley gave a detailed and interesting presentation on snow climbing, ice climbing, and ski mountaineering.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Richter

SPS Membership Report by Dan Richter 3/14/97New Members.....Welcome!

Brad Jensen
2864 N. Sterling Place
Altadena, CA 91001
d:(213) 257-0832 n:(8180) 791-7013

David Jenkins
2701 Lester Road
Denair, CA 95316
h(209) 634-2328 w 667-3414
djenkins@toto.csustan.edu

Sue Holloway
8232 Beaver Lake Drive
San Diego, CA 92119
w(619) 594-2491
shollowa@mail.sdsu.edu

Reinstatements....Welcome back!

Phil and Evelyn Reher
19312 Poseidon Ave
Cerritos, CA 90703

Carol Snyder & Mark Bender
3465 Catalina Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

New Subscribers Thank you!

Patrick McGowan
15662 Pacific Street
Tustin, CA 92680-5022
(714) 838-0270

Jill Peterson
519 Hill Street #2
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Maria Montag
PO Box 1643
El Segundo, CA 90245
h(310) 364-0014 w 922-2145

Kathy Tardy
2435 W. Silver Lake Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90039-3148
h(213) 665-2412 w(818) 841-9233

Matt Maxon
10920 Eldora Avenue
Sunland, CA 91040-2003
(818) 353-0283
matt.max@jx.netcom.com

Scott Nelson
311 Westboro Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803
h(818) 308-3775 w(818) 558-3500

Address Changes

Greg Gerlach
1624 La Ramada Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006

On March 22nd the (619) area code will divide into (619) for the city of San Diego and (760) for everyone else. These changes will be reflected in the roster.

SPS CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

1997 SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL ELECTION

As SPS members we often do not get involved with National Sierra Club issues, trusting the elected members conservation instincts, and preferring to concentrate our energies on climbing in and preservation of the Sierra. With our interests in mind The Echo contacted by phone and Barbee Tidball had the opportunity to speak with most of the candidates. (In the case of Werbach, McGardy and Berry we communicated via fax a questionnaire, or tried to.) The phone interviews were fun and interesting, with a number of the candidates who seemed to enjoy talking about their outdoor activities. We did not interview them on their Environmental stands....leaving those issues to the existing candidate statements and information in our voter packages.

We hope this survey helps you fill out your ballot -- REMEMBER TO MAIL YOUR BALLOTS EARLY -- ballots must be actually received by noon April 19th in New Jersey.

- 1 How many times do you hike, climb, ski, or travel by other means in Wilderness in an average year? What is your favorite way to experience Wilderness areas? If there are limited Wilderness areas near your home...what do you do out of doors?
- 2 Do you currently lead Sierra Club Outings? Have you led Sierra Club Outings in the past? How many trips a year do you currently lead? What years have you lead for the Sierra Club and what types of trips?
- 3 Due to national pressures from proposed policies by the BLM, US Forest Service, and some National Parks, the SPS is concerned about the issue of fixed anchors in Wilderness. The SPS is active leading trips in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. We lead all levels of climbing trips. On many of our more technical or difficult climbs in Wilderness we use various types of fixed anchors. Do you support the use of fixed anchors in Wilderness areas? Have you ever used a fixed anchor while climbing?

CANDI DATE	QUESTION 1 Wilderness Activities	QUESTION 2 Sierra Club Outings	QUESTION 3 Fixed Anchors
Phillip Berry	Backpacking, climbing and fishing, 15-20 trips per year (3 average in designated wilderness)	Yes 1 -2 trips per year/conservation outings In the past also went on High Sierra family trips as a leader.	★ Supports use of fixed anchors... "Yes, where necessary for climber's safety." Berry has climbed using fixed anchors. Past SPS member (1970s).
Shira Flax	Hiker Limited designated wilderness experience. Loves the Olympics in WA. Parks and land preservationist.	No Occasionally goes on club sponsored conservation and other outings as a participant.	★ "I feel I can trust Sierra Club members to use their judgement for personal safety." Demonstrated in conversation an open attitude towards learning and working on compromise solutions for conservation and climbing.
Chuck McGrady	Hiker 8-10 trips per year.	No Summer camp director In past went on some trips.	"I don't know enough about the issue to express and opinion as to what out policy should be."
Alan Kuper	Hiker, backpacker and Bicyclist Occasional trips in designated Wilderness, more car and bike trips.	No	"You don't leave anything on a wall after climbing." Alan went on to note that it was "probably important to leave something but,...of course those are places you don't go." when asked about climbers in the mountains and safety issues.

CANDI DATE	QUESTION 1 Wilderness Activities	QUESTION 2 Sierra Club Outings	QUESTION 3 Fixed Anchors
Ed Paynter	Hiker, canoeist 2 trips per year in designated Wilderness.	Yes Neighborhood hikes, 1987 local area Outings Chair	Doesn't really have a strong feeling about fixed anchors, has used them in or near Wilderness. Understands safety issues. If anchors aren't significantly visible "OK". "We get to the point where being purist doesn't help..."
Chad Hanson	Hiker 24 times per year in designated Wilderness.	No Hikes most with friends not on Club outings. Has hiked the complete PCT trail.	Has never used a fixed anchor. Not supportive or opposed to the use of fixed anchors, doesn't feel this is a very significant issue to spend time on.
Jerry Tinianow	Road Bicyclist, Nordic skier, hiker Every couple years get to West and in Wilderness areas.	Yes Has led a bike trip a couple years ago. Local area has limited outings activities.	Is not a climber. "My gut reaction is I have problems w/ leaving things behind in Wilderness areas." Indicated that he felt we shouldn't go where fixed anchors would be needed....S.C. need to set a higher Wilderness standard in usage.
Rand Sparling	Hiker, backpacker, kayaker 2 times per year (Rockies, CA, NM)	No Private trips, although Chicago does have a large outings program.	Trained in Tetons where he thought the guides did not promote use fixed anchors. Would support S.C. policy against fixed anchors. Compared fixed anchors to a forest fires.
Betsy Gaines	Hiker, back-country skier 50+ times per year in Wilderness.	No Occasionally goes on local outings, but local area is very "low key". Believes S.C. Outings program is important.	★Feel the "benefits out way the liabilities..." when discussing fixed anchors. Would not support blanket fixed anchor policies. Has talked w/ Access Fund.
Michael K. Dorsey	Hiker In the last 5 years. 30-45 days per yr. in Ecuador Wilderness and 10-14 U.S. Wilderness.	No Kings Canyon trip and few local. Beginning climber.	Expressed more concern over bolts than other types of fixed anchors. Agreed with idea of area by area review of fixed anchor policies, but "Would want to encourage against the use..."
Adam Werbach	No response to Echo's inquiries.	No response to Echo's inquiries.	No response to Echo's inquiries.
Kalee Kreider	Hiker 3-4 weeks per year in Wilderness	No Tends to like to backpack solo. Does not climb herself, but has friends that do.	★"I haven't taken a position before...would support w/ caveats." Feels there are definitely areas where the use would be appropriate. Feels the total purist attitude on Wilderness is not realistic.
René Voss	Hiker, Cross Country skier North Georgia Wilderness regular visitor, other areas in U.S. occasional visits.	No Went through local leadership training, and occasional goes on local trips.	"I do not support fixed anchors in Wilderness" Stated that he feels the Wilderness Act was ment to leave Wilderness untrampled by man.
Ruth Caplan	Backpacker Occasional visits to designated Wilderness, summer backpacks in Green Mtn. VT.	No Involved with S.C. through Energy Committee Work, not outings.	★When asked about fixed anchors expressed surprise that this even an issue for the BLM, Forest Service and Parks. Felt the issue was a distraction covering up more significant land use issues. Stated that she would "be reasonable" if reviewing S.C. policy on this issue.




Howdy, Fellow Climbers!































March 10, 1997

Below is the current register and container needs list. If you are planning a trip to a peak on this list and could help out by carrying a book and/or container, please let me know. Please continue to send in your register reports, even for those peaks not in need of a book or container. Thanks again for the help in keeping my records up to date and in filling needs.

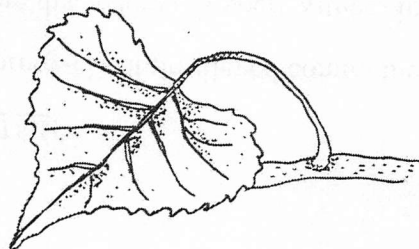
Tina Stough *Tina*
Mountain Records

MOUNTAIN RECORDS/PEAK NEEDS!

LEGEND:  CANNISTER  AMMO BOX  REGISTER BOOK

PEAK	CANNISTER	AMMO BOX	BOOK	NOTES
Conness				
Corcoran				No lid on canister.
Dragon				
Electra				
Foerster				Nothing on the summit.
Free			-	Cement block - needs proper container!
Goddard				
Granite Chief				Exchange with SPS cylinder
Hilgard				
Julius Caesar				
Junction				Nothing on the summit.
Lone Pine			-	Exchange w/ SPS cylinder for more room
Lyell				
Matterhorn			-	Exchange w/ SPS cylinder for more room
McGee				Brass pipe too small
Merriam				
Morrison				
Sawtooth North				Nothing on the summit.
Seven Gables				Nothing on the summit.
Sill				
Tinker Knob				Exchange w/ SPS cylinder for more room
Young				

IF THERE ARE ANY LEADERS
AIMING FOR THE MEXICAN
VOLCANOES
IN NOVEMBER OF '97,
I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO TAG
ALONG
MARIO GONZALEZ (213) 614-2344



Restricted Trips

Mountaineering with Ropes and Ice Axes

Bill Oliver, Chair/Outings Management Committee

On Saturday 25 January 1997, the Mountaineering Oversight Committee met in San Francisco to discuss and, hopefully, to simplify the Club's approval process for restricted trips. Attending were Chair Cal French, John Edginton (Chair of the Insurance Committee), Cathy Benton (Chapter & Group Outings Coord.), Hamilton Leong (Office of Risk Assessment) and myself. [MOC member Duane McRuer was unable to attend.] There are several significant changes to report.

1. The Club's insurer no longer requires that participants and leaders be provided with an accidental death & dismemberment policy (AD&D), which included medical coverage. Recall, this was why we originally had to pay \$10 per person per day. Last year the Club bore this expense itself and participants no longer had to pay for it. Now, it is not being provided. Everyone needs to understand this - there is no longer medical coverage for participants on restricted trips. Everyone is well-advised to procure their own private medical insurance.

2. Similarly, restricted trip leaders are no longer provided with Workers' Comp. coverage. They are covered, however, without charge by a \$10,000 supplemental medical policy (\$250. deductible), which is secondary to one's own coverage (primary if one has no coverage), Note - this is a small policy.

3. In an effort to lessen the paperwork burden, the Trip Application Form is being simplified some, and the new version should be available shortly. [We hope to have these forms on our Homepage.] It does not require a "detailed" route description. It would suffice to cite, for example, which route is being used from the DPS Peak Guide or from R. J. Secor's The High Sierra. Also the Post-Trip Report is being eliminated. (All Right!) Leaders, of course, are expected to pass along to their Safety or Outings Chairs or Newsletter Editor relevant newsworthy items.

4. Starting this year we can conduct mountaineering training, though not at the beginner level. [Larry Tidball recently led a M-level snow practice - the Club's first training event!] These trips will have a slightly different Application Form. Such outings must not only be approved at both the Chapter level (by myself) and the National level (by Cal French) but also by the insurer. A training event would be an outing which focuses on training. A short skills refresher as part of a weekend climb would not be considered a training outing.

All restricted Trip Applications are submitted to me by the Outings Chair. After review, I forward copies to Cal French and Cathy Benton. Please allow six weeks for approval. [A little shorter notice may possibly work.]

5. Previously, on non-restricted trips only the leaders could carry a rope or an ice axe for emergency use. Now, our insurance policy does not restrict "equipment"; it restricts climbing "activities" that "require" certain equipment for safety. Ice axes or other personal safety equipment may be brought by participants on non-restricted trips. Of course the leader can question their ability to safely use this equipment. Let me directly quote Cal French: "This must not be interpreted to mean that trips should be scheduled on which it is "understood," but not "required," that everyone will bring an ice axe - in order to avoid the approval process. We need to live by both the spirit and the letter of our regulations." The trip leader needs to judge well in advance whether ice axes or ropes are prudently required for the trip being considered. If you're not really sure, especially about future snow conditions, better to make it a restricted trip.

Some things have not changed relating to Restricted (or Training) Trips:

1. All participants and leaders must be Sierra Club members and should provide their membership numbers. All leaders are screened, normally by a review of their Climbing Resumes submitted along with the Trip Application. [I maintain a roster of those who have been accepted.] All participants must be screened for their appropriate rock and snow skills.

2. Everyone on the trip must sign a Liability Release Form (waiver), as well as signing the Trip Roster. This is absolutely critical to maintain our insurance coverage for the trip. All Liability Release Forms and the Roster must be mailed to National within thirty days of the trip.

When the leader returns the SASE to participants, he/she should warn them that there is no longer medical coverage and that a Liability Release Form must be signed. Please enclose this Form with the SASE, and have extras at the trailhead.

Hey, it really matters that the Sierra Club can still conduct technical mountaineering outings - in spite of the fact that only a small number of people are doing it and that the extra insurance coverage is costing about \$25,000 a year. When the Club's Finance Committee recently considered a motion to pass along this expense directly to the Chapters involved, it was soundly defeated.

The Angeles Chapter, specifically the SPS, DPS and LTC, are leading more than 80% of the Club's restricted outings. We've handled this so well. All of us working together can keep mountaineering alive in the Club. Climbing in our Range of Light mattered to John Muir. It still matters to the Sierra Club. It really matters to us. Thanks for all you do to make this happen.

OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Submitted By Owen Maloy Feb. 5, 1997

Meeting of Sierra Club Outings Committees, El Paso, Texas, Jan 31-Feb. 1, 1997

Since the reorganization of the Sierra Club in 1994, outings policy is set by national committees which report directly to the Board of Directors. Previously, this function was performed by the Sierra Club Council. The umbrella committee is the Outdoor Activities Governance Committee (OAGC), chaired by Susan Heitman, Angeles Chapter. Subordinate committees are responsible for national outings, inner city outings, and local outings. Local outings are under the Group and Chapter Outing Committee (GCOC), chaired by Rich Schiebel, Lone Star Chapter.

These committees met in El Paso on January 31 (OAGC) and February 1 (GCOC). The members are sensitive to the grass-roots nature of the Club and are interested in the opinions and input of outings leaders. The GCOC members are all outings leaders themselves, either national or local, and have all served as outings chairs. The GCOC meets in a different part of the country each time. So far it has met in San Francisco, Boulder, St. Louis, and El Paso. I have suggested Harwood Lodge for a future meeting.

The Club's outings program is extraordinarily diverse. The GCOC estimated that 200,000 people participate in group and chapter outings each year. One often hears that only the Angeles Chapter has outings sections, but this is quite wrong. Most California chapters have several sections. In other chapters, the sections may be attached to large regional groups (it wouldn't make much sense to have a chapter section for all of Texas!). I have been impressed by the awareness of leadership training and safety issues and by the friendliness of the members I've met. It is wrong to think that the national club is insensitive to outings issues. Two members of the Board of Directors attend these committee meetings.

It's fun to visit the Club's Web page at www.sierraclub.org. From there one can travel to all chapters and many groups and sections, with more pages being added all the time.

One source of problems in the past was the hierarchical nature of the Club. A bulletin sent to a chapter was unlikely to get to all the leaders. Angeles is better off than most, since the Safety Committee maintains a list of all the chapter's leaders. In most other chapters the regional groups are widely separated geographically and run their own independent outings programs.

To help improve communications, the GCOC has a newsletter and an email discussion list. Any leader can get the newsletter. Call Cathy Benton at the Club's San Francisco office, 415-977-5652 or email her at cathy.benton@sfsierra.sierraclub.org. Cathy is the staff member in the Outings Department whose job it is to support these committees and also answer questions about insurance and so on. She is also the Regional Lodge Manager. A lot of work.

Those who have email can subscribe to the outings leader's list on the Club's email server. Each group and section should have at least one person who monitors this list, OA-GC-OUTINGS-LEADERS@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG. To do this, send an email message (no subject required)

SUBSCRIBE OA-GC-OUTINGS-LEADERS to
LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG.

By monitoring the questions on this list, we can figure out what policies are unclear. An example is the first-aid requirement, which is being clarified because there have been many questions. The Club requires that leaders have current first aid knowledge, but not any particular current card. A mountaineering medicine seminar is preferable to a low-level Red Cross card. Many chapters and groups, including Angeles, have more specific first-aid requirements tailored to the activities they sponsor.

The GCOC has been simplifying or eliminating some of the clubwide policies which affect chapter outings. For example, the Board is being asked to rescind the ban on chapter outings over 10 days. Once the rules are cleaned up, the committee plans to help develop more outings where there aren't many.

Restricted mountaineering trips are reviewed by the Mountaineering Oversight Committee, chaired by Cal French of the San Gorgonio Chapter. Cal is a member of GCOC. This committee was part of the Insurance Committee, but has now been moved to OAGC. The Club definitely wants to see more mountaineering trips, including rock climbing. So far, the SPS has run most of the restricted trips in the Club. Cal is currently working on simplifying the review and approval process.

Owen Maloy
Member, Group and Chapter Outing Committee
jom@qnet.com

Owen Maloy (jom@qnet.com)

LTC/SPS Local Snow Refresher**February 16, 1997**

Nineteen participants and instructors were at the foot of the San Antonio Falls Road at 7:00am Sunday morning for the second Local Snow Refresher of the year. It was fairly warm but overcast, which helped keep the snow in the Bowl somewhat firm for the duration of the practice session.

After hiking to the Bowl area, we found the rockfall danger to be high and so posted lookouts for the remainder of the day.

Most of the participants, which included several WTC assistants, were relatively inexperienced, and so we concentrated on the basics such as ice axe handling, arrests, belays, and ascending and descending on snow.

The students were really enthusiastic and after finishing, heartily thanked their instructors who included Virgil Talbott, Dan Richter, Tom Sexton, Barbara Reber and myself.

Hopefully, in the future, we will be able to provide more basic training to those such as prospective WTC leaders who do not presently have too many options for snow instruction. Bill Bradley

Adopt-a-Trail Program
Leaders Needed

Fred Camphausen, Diana Worman Pietrasanta (US Forest Service Ranger) and R.J. Secor have for at least 10 years volunteered and coordinated on the SPS Adopt-a-Trail program for Shepherd Pass

Trail.....and now they have all decided to retire. One of the biggest stumbling blocks to this program over the last few years has been the lack of Forest Service support. This lack of support combined with snow, packer access issues and other related problems has made it difficult to operate the trail maintenance program in recent years.

Camp and R.J. have looked over the past couple years for a SPS member whom would take over and perhaps instill some fresh energy into this program, but as of this writing no one has stepped forward with their trail shovel and lots of energy. If you are interested in coordinating an Adopt-a-Trail program please contact Tina Stough, Chair SPS.



MT. TOM 3/7 - 3/9/97 WINTER ASCENT

I fear the Young Turks have arrived. Turk #1, Greg Colley, wanted to lead his first provisional. "How about August?", I inquired. "No, it should be a Winter trip. "Well, Cirque? Gould?" "Too easy, I was thinking of a major ridge, from Owens Valley direct, ice tools; crampons; y'know? Say, MT, Tom's North Ridge."

So we were launched. Not wishing to appear laggardly, I planned, I felt, enough training so as to keep up. I went to 22,000' on a month long trek in Chile. It wasn't enough.

The North Ridge of, MT, Tom soars north to south 8,000 feet from Pine Creek. Dick Beach pioneered the route in the sixties. No one had done a winter ascent. Until now.

We met about six miles up the Rovanna road on Friday, March 6; joining up with Turk #2, Brad Jensen, formerly "Mr. Nice Guy" to Greg's "Mr. Wise Guy".

Two minutes into the affair, we thrashed through some HPS - quality nettles, splashed across a mildly horrifying creek, donned heavy plastic boots, and aimed straight up the steep, 1,200' escarpment for the ridge, amid old snow right down to the 6,000' level.

From there the ridge dips and climbs repeatedly. Our leader stayed mainly on the east side, punching steps in the unnerving, spreckles - sugar snow. After a mere four hours, we were allowed a break. Yes. To eat, and thereby lighten packs, Greg said. Yet, as I lumbered along like a man birthing a caboose, I envied the lunch-sack-like bundles they carried, But they did have our tents. And stove. And shovels. And repair kits. And

avalanche transceivers. And probes. And crampons. I did carry the pot, at least.

We pushed up about 3-1/2 miles and 5,000' of gain on Friday, finishing at the high end of a thick pine forest. From camp at 11,000' we figured we could summit the next day (2-1/2 miles, probably 3,500' allowing for dips).

An advantage to hiking with Turks is you can stop early (4:00), dig a great platform, and relax in their big Megamid. You can get up late too (left at 8:00 a. m. the next morning). You could also observe the Comet as compensation for a very late venture outside the tent.

Saturday was breathtaking, Greg and, at times, Brad, kicked up that darned spreckles stuff, then class two through cliffs of rock, now mainly on the spectacular ridge itself, with occasional stretches of ice hard wind pack.

One break at 10:00-o'clock, then the final hidden bumps fell away for a 12:00 summit. It felt like cheating to bestride so high a summit in such a marshmallow world. Elderberry Canyon swooped below us; the views swirled from Dana to telescope to Whitney - a spectacle perfectly suited for a long lunch hour.

Three and a half hours back to camp, a leisurely happy hour outside, then back into the Megamid. The Turks were acclimatizing for MT, McKinley in May. I was recouping, and glad not to have to trudge out.

Sunday (late, of course) we did trudge out, well before noon. Early enough for the Turks to head on up to Mammoth. I lacked even the oomph by then for Wilson. The new order has arrived.

THE NEW
ORDER HAS
ARRIVED.

Doug Mantle

IN HIGH PLACES: WYOMING

Burton A. Falk

The Grand Teton, for all its fame and splendor, is not the loftiest peak in Wyoming. Nosiree, the high point of the Cowboy State is the visually obscure 13,804' Gannett Peak, lying in the Wind River Range, approximately 70 miles to the S.E. of the Tetons (French for "Sweater Girl Mountains.")

The Wind River Range (a.k.a. the Wind Rivers, the Winds) was named, less imaginatively, for the nearby Wind River, which flows in a south-easterly direction along its eastern slopes.

Suffering picturesque comparison with the soaring Tetons, the Wind Rivers rise up from a broad 10,000' shelf, thereby concealing much of their innate ruggedness from low-land view. The difference is much akin to observing the Sierra Nevada from its gently inclined

western slopes versus eying the range's steep east-side escarpment from the Owens Valley.

My Wind River trip started one fine morning in July last summer. Meeting two Colorado climbing friends, Charlie Winger and Randy Murphy, in Denver, we began our drive to Pinedale, WY, the gateway to the west side of the range. Arriving in that small town about 4:30 p.m., I at once became enamored of the place. The natives were friendly, it possessed a well-

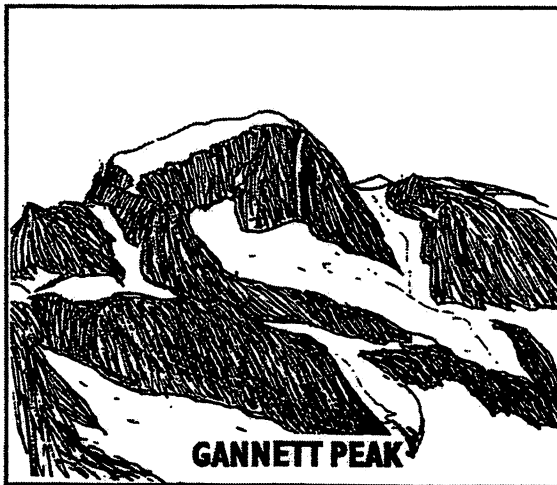
stocked grocery-hardware store, a sparkling green park and it had a river that ran through it.

After checking into the Sundance Motel (where the proprietress sells home-made fudge), we drove nine miles out of town, up the plateau, to the Bald Mountain Pack Station, where we left the bulk of our gear and food to be packed in by mule the next day. We then headed back to Pinedale, where we had been advised to have dinner at MacGregor's Pub, located on Franklin St., just north of the main drag. And was it good. Our three dinners were equally delicious, and we especially enjoyed a skillet full of broiled mushrooms which we ordered as an appetizer. Dur-

ing our eight days in the Winds we dwelled at length on the celebratory dinner we would have at MacGregor's on our return.

On Monday morning, July 22, leaving our van at the 9,550' pack station, we started off on foot, heading first north-east up the Pole

Creek Trail, then north on the Seneca Lake Trail, on what turned out to be a 15 mile day. The entire hike was through a forested plateau, and, except for the first couple of miles of easy gain, we followed an undulating trail which never dipped below 10,000' and never rose above 11,000'. That afternoon we met our packer near the junction of the Titcomb Basin Trail and the Indian Pass Trail, and nearby we set up our first camp. Unfortunately, it became immediately and annoyingly clear that the local mosquitoes



were all alive and well. Should you think about visiting the Winds in July, take along plenty of repellent.

Next morning, July 23, we began double packing our gear some three miles into the north-south running Titcomb Basin, setting up our base camp on an above-timerline knoll between the Lower and Upper Titcomb Lakes. The following morning, July 24, arising at 4 a.m., we set off at 5 a.m. for our assault on Gannett Peak, the primary objective of our venture.

Gannett Peak, due to its remote location, difficulty of approach and general obscurity, was not climbed until 1922. However, as Joe Kelsey, in his "Climbing and Hiking in the Wind River Mountains" states, it is "a noble peak--a snow peak in a range of rock peaks--(perhaps) the most alpine mountain in the American Rockies." As for me, stopping for a brief rest at 6 a.m., the nobility of the peak seemed of dubious concern. Looking up the frozen 40 degree slopes toward Dinwoody Pass, fifteen hundred feet above, I figured we were in for a long day.

And I was right. Employing crampons and ice axes, it took us nearly an hour and a half to crunch up the south side of the pass, which was still deep in early morning shadows. From the wind blown crest of the 13,000' pass (on which there are a few miserable campsites), we could look beyond and see what the rest of the climb held in store. Fourteen hundred feet below stretched the Dinwoody Glacier, to which we had to descend. Beyond that the climb began once again, rising along the curving crest of a windblown ice ridge, zig-zagging up the steep slopes and across the bergschrund of the Goose-neck Glacier, clambering through rocks below the Gooseneck Pinnacle, and

finally ascending the long, but fairly level snow-covered summit ridge to the peak's 13,804' apex.

It took us until noon--four and a half hours--to cover the distance between Dinwoody Pass and the top of Gannett Peak. Once comfortably ensconced on the peak's commodious summit, we snacked, chatted with a threesome of climbers from Spearfish, SD, and scanned the spectacular mountain scenery. We noted that Gannett Peak is protected, like sand traps protecting a green, by five glaciers--the Dinwoody, Gooseneck, Gannett, Mammoth and Minor--which almost completely surround it's base. We also observed that the skies were beginning to cloud over, a normal afternoon occurrence in the Rockies, so we began our descent.

It took us five and a half hours to make our return--versus the seven it took to climb the peak--mainly because we had 2,400' less gain, and also because we were able to glissade down portions of the Gooseneck Glacier and the south side of Dinwoody Pass which had been warmed in the mid-day sun. Still, it was my first big climb of the season and because of the 6,500' of total gain during the day, I was dragging by the time I got back to camp at 6 p.m.. Although we had brought along a bottle of wine to enjoy with our victory dinner, we had neither the energy nor the desire to drink more than a couple of gulps each.

The next day, July 25, we slept in until 7 a.m., then made a leisurely, snow-free class 3 climb of the southwest slopes of 13,745' Fremont Peak, the third highest peak in Wyoming. The ascent of this peak, towering just to the east of our campsite, was enlivened by a thunder, hail and lightning storm which drove us

under cover just short of the summit. Waiting under a rock for a half an hour, the storm finally passed, and we were at last able to gain the top and sign the register.

On Friday, July 26, we had planned to climb the south summit of Sacagawea (Hey, that's the way it's spelled on the topo), however due to wet rock, the result of an overnight rain, we decided to forgo the multi-pitch 5.5 ascent. Instead, we scrambled up an unnamed 12,000+ peak on the west side of the Titcomb Basin, from which we had a view of the dramatic line of peaks along the opposite side of the glacially-hewn valley. Farthest north stood 13,620' Mt. Helen, which, according to Kelsey is "one the range's most interesting peaks," with "routes for all tastes: old classic, big wall, easy snow and difficult ice." Next, to the south, lay 13,569' Sacagawea, the sheer western face of which affords many fine rock climbs. Last in the line up came Fremont Peak, which was first climbed in 1842 by John C. Fremont, who at the time believed he was climbing not only the highest peak in the Wind Rivers, but the highest peak in the Rockies as well.

The following day we double packed down to the Titcomb Basin Trail/ Indian Pass Trail Junction, then up the latter about a mile to a spot where we set up our final camp. On Sunday, July 28, Charlie and Randy arose at 5 a.m., and set off at 6 to climb 13,502' Ellingwood Peak (a.k.a. Harrower Peak) via a fifteen pitch, 5.6 climb of its north face. Although I was invited to join them, I declined due to my lack of recent rock climbing experience (Charlie and Randy, on the other hand, do a lot of rock, including a yearly week-long trip to Joshua Tree). Instead, I slept in for another hour, then started off

at 7 to climb Ellingwood by its class 4 Southwest Ridge--a route by which most rock climbers descend. This was an exhilarating experience during which I managed to incur major adrenalin rushes on at least two occasions. Reaching the summit two or three hours before my companions, I left them a bottle of water and bag of Trader Joe's Double Chocolate Chip Cookies for their summit celebration. I then returned the same way I had ascended, crossed a saddle and climbed 12,160' Elephant Head (a.k.a. Cairn Peak) by its class 4 East Ridge. Interestingly, I found the top of this peak to be absolutely flat, like a mesa, perhaps an eighth of a mile in diameter. It also possessed a huge summit cairn, which no doubt accounts for its alias.

Maybe it's just me, but climbing an exposed route alone seems to be a lot more exciting than when doing the same climb with a fellow climber or two. After rinsing out my shorts at the bottom of the peak, I started back for camp, which I reached at 4 p.m. Charlie and Randy pulled in about an hour later, and within a few minutes of their arrival it began to pour. That evening we prepared dinner by extending one arm only (mine) out to the stove, which somehow kept lit throughout the torrential downpour.

Monday, July 30, we double packed down to the Titcomb Basin/Indian Pass trail junction, where we left all our gear for an early afternoon pick up by our packer. Beginning our hike out at 11:30 a.m., we arrived at the Pole Creek Trailhead about 4:30 p.m.

Yes, we did return to MacGregor's that evening, and, yes, our meals were once again superb. The beer was pretty darn good, too.

Milestone Basin Peakout

August 30 - September 8, 1996
Igor Mamedalin (a private enterprise)

At last! After 3 scheduled attempts and their subsequent cancellations, I've finally succeeded in entering this remote area to claim 9 summits. This was a fortuitous year for climbing in this area: both Doug Mantle and Greg Roach led successful expeditions in weeks prior to our foray. Our party of six consisted of Igor, Suzanne and Tanya Mamedalin, Bruce and Terry Turner and David Leth.

Since this week-long trip was to be our only vacation for 1996, we decided to take it easy and hire mules to lug our packs and provisions over Shepherd Pass. After encountering some initial difficulty in finding an outfitter willing to haul our gear over the pass, we contracted the Berner's Pack Outfitters out of Bishop (they operate the Pine Creek and Sequoia/Kings pack stations) for the job. Four mules were required to do the job: two 50 lb. backpacks per mule to be hauled to the top of the pass and an additional mule to haul two 50 lb. duffel bags containing additional provisions to the Tyndall Creek Ranger Station. This was our first time dealing with mule packers and we did not know what to expect.

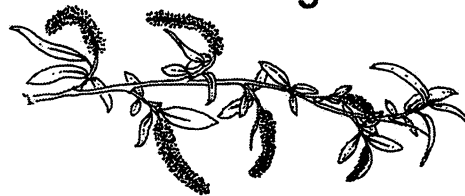
Well, we were not disappointed. The show began at 4:30 AM as promised when a multi axle semi-truck hauling at least a dozen mules and horses lumbered noisily into the coral near the Symmes Creek trailhead. Of course, we could not sleep any longer and started the final packing and repacking of our gear in preparation for the mules. By 7 AM we parted with our gear and drove the additional mile to the hiker parking lot. The mule train (which included two other small parties headed for Anvil Camp) passed us at the saddle on the ridge between Symmes Creek and Shepherd Creek. With only daypacks on our backs, the Shepherd Pass trail proved to be a breeze! As a result of the work done by SPS volunteers in cooperation with the Forest Service, it is one of the better maintained trails in the Sierra (thanks to R.J. Secor, Fred Camphausen and many others who have toiled to make this into a first class trail).

Upon reaching the pass around 4 PM we found four of the six packs intact by the little lake. Alarm set in. What happened to the other two packs? Who will be the lucky ones to spend the night without a sleeping bag at 12,000'? Did the missing packs get mistakenly dumped at Anvil Camp? Should we go back to get them? While we anxiously debated the alternatives, the pack train with a red faced packer returned with the two missing packs. He did not realize the mistake until he reached Tyndall Creek; however, he felt obliged to retrace the additional distance to re-unite us with the missing packs. We thanked him profusely and let him return to Tyndall

Creek before sunset. After this experience we came to appreciate the integrity of mule packers and recommend the Berner's Pack Outfitters (619-387-2797) highly.

The rest of the trip went fairly routinely. On Saturday all of us climbed Junction Peak. Early Sunday morning three of us climbed Tyndall Peak before moving camp from Shepherd Pass to the little lake near the confluence of Milestone Creek and Kern River. That same day we also retrieved the two duffel bags of additional food that were stashed at the ranger station. Monday we climbed Milestone and Midway following the footsteps of Eve and Eva whom we met the previous day. Tuesday two of us climbed Table by following the descriptions from numerous trip write ups. Wednesday we climbed Thunder as a storm front whipped through with cold winds and a bit of snow. Thursday we moved camp to an unnamed lake about a mile west of Lake South America. That same day two of us climbed Ericsson. Friday we climbed Jordan (the step across on Jordan proved to be the most exciting move made the whole week) and Geneva. Saturday morning homesickness set in and instead of climbing Stanford as planned we pounded 23 miles back down to the trailhead. After reaching the cars by 10 PM utterly exhausted and dreaming of a night in a comfortable motel with showers, we discovered that there was not a room left that night in Lone Pine. So, we consoled ourselves with a dinner at PJ's (an all-night reliable

....satiated with a splendid
week of the Sierra's best
climbing.



stand by) and spent the night on the desert floor off the Lone Pine Station road. Sunday after breakfast in Olancha we all drove home satiated with a splendid week of the Sierra's best climbing.



Milestone Basin Peakbag Odyssey

'...land then the Old guys buried us in their dust.'

August 10 -- August 18, 1996

John T. Dodds

Climbed Milestone, Table and Midway mountains and Gregory's Monument on Milestone Basin Peakbag Odyssey, a Sierra Club National Backpack Trip led by Terry Flood.

Thursday, August 8 - Picked up Karen and Jeff at the Oakland Airport--their plane was 5 hours late... we got to Onion Valley at oh dark thirty and crashed.

Friday, August 9: Up at 9 AM. Our agenda for the day consisted of getting from Onion Valley to the Symmes Creek roadhead, perhaps a 10 mile drive. For diversion, we walked up and down Lone Pine's main drag a couple of times and saw everything there is to see in Lone Pine. That absorbed a couple of hours. We stopped at the Whistle Stop in Independence for a late lunch and took sandwiches for dinner. We started hiking from the roadhead at about 4:45 PM and got to the top of the 53 switch backs at about 7:30, for a cold dry camp.

Saturday, August 10: We were moving about 7:30 AM for The Pothole where we met the rest of the group and the packer who brought up the commissary on mules. The weather looked terrible so we hung out at Anvil Camp for a few hours until the packer and some ancient vagabond passed through. The plan was to pick up the commissary, then continue over Shepherd Pass and on to the John Muir Trail at Tyndall Creek. This meant a 6,500 foot day. Some folks just weren't up to it so we camped at The Pothole.

Sunday, August 11: Traveled from The Pothole to upper Milestone Basin.

Monday, August 12: Climbed Milestone Mountain (13,641 feet). Milestone is a spectacular spike visible from all over the Sierra and was a great climb done under the pressure of threatening weather. Its class two until the last 200 feet or so then its mostly class three. The top of the spike is really quite roomy and the view is wonderful. I would love to have spent more time on the peak but we wanted to get below the class three and below as much talus as possible before the deluge. The rain started around 2:30 and cleared off by happy hour.

Tuesday, August 13-. Climbed Table Mountain (13,630 feet). We were threatened by rain all morning and four people turned back. But six of us pushed on for the south face hoping for a window in the weather. While

looking for the fabled class three route to the Brown Stripe, we got a little off route... It took at least an hour to recover and it was 2:30 in the afternoon by the time I crested the lip of the table. I was really motivated to sign the register and very much intimidated by the still threatening weather. So I stashed my lightning rod (read on), put it in high gear and *motored* across the table. It took me 17 minutes to cross the almost mile length of it from south to north--fully 5 minutes ahead of Carlton and Bond, the second and third persons to arrive (both significantly older than I.). I didn't think I could move that fast at that altitude (or any other altitude for that matter!). Later on, young Dr. Howard Cohn, in describing our climb, first uttered his now famous equip-

... and then the Old guys buried us in their dust.'

The weather detoured around us and we drank in the view for 3/4 of an hour. The view was magnificent: from Goddard to Olancha, from Giant Forest to the Sierra crest, and Brewer and Thunder in direct line with each other.

Wednesday, August 14: Climbed Midway Mountain (13,666 feet). A totally uneventful climb: a glorious day, few clouds in sight, gorgeous view. This was the one climb where we never had any threat of rain and the one peak Hillery climbed. Maybe she really is clairvoyant. Having previously climbed Midway, Bond stayed in camp. We bribed Nancy Sue to keep a weather eye on him as we did not care to have our tents go strangely bump in the night. She performed her task well. no problems reported...

Thursday, August 15-. Traveled from upper Milestone Basin to Lake South America. The weather was clear and beautiful as we hiked and after we pitched our tents, it rained cats and dogs. Fortunado, I pitched my tent in the lee of about an 8 foot rock outcrop, thus it did not blow away. Still, the rain blew in horizontally under the tent fly and got between the tent floor and the footprint



ground sheet. Calendar for this winter: patch my tent floor.

Friday, August 16-. Successfully climbed Gregory's Monument (approximately 13,950 feet). This being Chef Daren's Pancake Breakfast Day, we got off to a rather late start to climb Mt. Stanford (13,966 feet). We kept a close watch on the weather, as it was quite fierce looking immediately to the south of us. At about 50 feet below Stanford's south summit, Gregory's Monument, my aluminum walking stick started to sing to me.

Quicker than William Tell, I pulled the thing out of my pack and threw it on the ground all in one motion, and continued up the peak. After a few minutes of fooling around on the class three move on Gregory's north side we decided to postpone our climb for a while, and headed down. As we recrossed Gregory's high point, I noticed Jerry's hair was beginning to stand on end; Terry reported he got a shock he won't soon forget, and I heard crackling and zinging around me. Later on, Karen said she heard a humming sound on the peak. And it started to snow big wet snowflakes--something to do with the static electricity extracting the moisture from the air (help, you physicists!!!). I retrieved my walking stick and carried it by its strap on my finger tips, about two

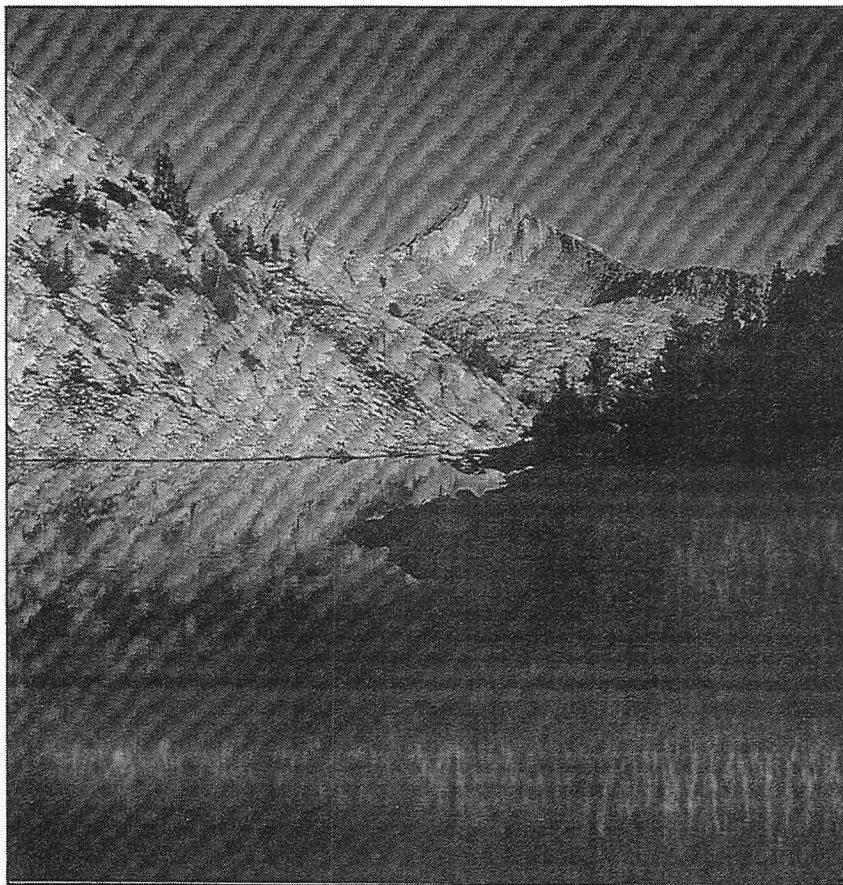
feet from my body, with the tip close to the ground. It never happened, but I fully expected it to be shot out of my hand just like Jim Arness on *Gunsmoke*.

We went down a couple of hundred feet and ate some lunch while waiting for the weather to clear. It never did that day, so we decided to save Stanford for another day. The weather got only worse- 2:30 started a three hour medley of rain, hail, thunder, and lightning. Terry and Jeff then ran up Cal Tech Peak just for fun.

Saturday, August 17-Traveled from Lake South America to The Pothole.

Sunday, August 18-Left reality behind and traveled to the roadhead. We stopped at The Pines, a traditional cowboy restaurant in Independence and feasted on sliders and fries (a nautical term- as the ship rolls, the 'well lubricated' patties *slide* off the griddle...

Peakbaggers: Terry Flood, Daren Reid, Jerry Axelrod, Howard Cohn, Karen and Jeff George, Carlton McKinney, Nancy Sue Pearlman, Hillery Royer, Bond Shands, and me, John T. Dodds.



MT. CLARENCE KING
FROM 60 LAKE BASIN

8/30/96
BY John T. Dobbs

MT. STARR KING
AND
MT. CLARK

August 25-28, 1995

by David Underwood

I scheduled this with Randall Danta as a four day trip but did not get any signups. I do not know if it was the \$40 insurance fee, the wrong week end, or that several trips to Starr King had already been scheduled this year. Whatever the case, this turned out to be a solo of both peaks. Both peaks are fun climbs, but I found Mt. Clark to be the greater challenge, not for the technical difficulty but because of the approach and route finding.

I left for Yosemite on Thursday morning in order to be able to pick up my permit a day early. I got the permit at Wawona about noon and then spent the rest of the day in the valley watching the climbers on the walls and having lunch at the village. Late in the afternoon I headed for Glacier point where I cooked a meal on the tailgate of my truck in the parking area, and looked at stars through the telescopes of some amateur astronomers. When it looked like the crowd had cleared out for the night I crawled into my camper shell and went to sleep for the night. I had the windows covered and no one bothered me. Camping is not allowed, but I hoped that anyone seeing my truck would think that I was already on the trail.

I started off down the Panorama Trail about 7:30 a.m.; it is a mile longer than from Mono Meadow, but the view is great. You can see the waterfalls and the face of Half Dome as you descend to Illilouette creek. I took about two hours to the crossing on the big logs. From there I took the trail toward Clark Fork of Illilouette creek. As I walked below Starr King, I kept looking for an opening to get closer to the peak. About 400 yards past the junction of the trail going back toward the falls that is just south of the peak labeled 7669, I found a break in the trees and headed for the south east side of the peak. I found a granite slab that is free of the manzanita that is so prevalent and climbed that to the small creek that shows on the map as starting just behind the east dome.

There I found a nice campsite with good water and a terrific view of the Clark Range. It only took an hour to get to the face of Starr King from here in the morning by continuing up the slope and walking over the south dome to the notch at the face of the peak. I was to meet another climber there, but when he did not show up by 9:00, I decided to solo the route. I had been studying the route for an hour and had a pretty good feeling as to how I would attack it.

I had a 50 meter 9mm rope and several pieces of iron for pro. From the top of the big crack, I headed directly up to the first crack where I placed a camelot. I roped in, and

by using a figure eight belay ring, I self-belayed to the left to the prominent dihedral. There I placed a large hex and then swung back to retrieve my cam. Then I climbed to the top of the dihedral where I could place a sling around a large horn. That was the steepest part of the climb and probably could rate a 5.3. From this point the climbing is much easier as there are cups in the rock and it is almost a walk to the big ledge that is off to the right of the dihedral. From this ledge there is a small boulder move onto the upper face and a walkup from there. Getting down is quite easy. There is a large chock stone on the ledge and someone had left a big hex there. They also left a couple of rap rings so I used one of the rings and a piece of sling to get to the top of the dihedral where I used the other ring with the sling that I had placed there to get off the face.

I went back to camp, picked up my gear, and headed back down to the trail. About a quarter mile up the trail, I spotted a group of large rocks that looked like a good place to hide my climbing gear. This relieved me of at least 15 pounds of gear as the rope is about seven pounds by itself. I kept a long sling for emergencies and continued to the crossing at Clark Fork of Illilouette Creek. I left the trail here and started through the trees keeping the creek on my left.

The forest here is primeval and presents some real challenges. The trees are thick and there are section where fallen trees block the way at every turn. I elected to try to pack as high as I could get in order to try to get the peak early the next morning. It was hard to judge distance, and I could not see any peaks for orientation. I had to rely on my altimeter to judge my location. About 6:00 p.m. I reached the marsh that show on the map at 8200 feet. It is larger than it looks on the map and swarms with mosquitoes. I crossed the creek here and finally found a campsite at 8400 feet with just enough room for one tent but good water and of course lots of mosquitoes.

The next morning I looked around and decided that I might have a hard time finding this site again. I packed up and carried my pack, following the ridge until the timber thinned out and I started to get glimpses of the Clark Range. I left the pack at about 9800 feet and continued up the ridge and made some prominent duck's along the way. This turned out to be a wise move as I would find out later. I finally reached the tree line where there is a large sandy plateau. The walk to the southeast ridge of Mt. Clark is straight forward but the route up the peak is not. The Guide books say that one of the approaches is from the south east ridge, but what they do not say is that you go through the notch that is closest to the gendarmes and traverse to the east side of the peak, then climb almost directly to a ledge system on the peak. If you go right to the northwest side, you can squeeze through a small chimney. If you go left, you get to do the famous open traverse. Just reach around, and you will find a good hand hold. Swing across, and a short third class route takes you to the top. MT. Clark certainly has one of the best views in the Sierra from here. Also one of the more challenging but rewarding routes that I have done.

(continued on page 22)

NATIONAL FOREST - USER FEES

The Forest Service plans to charge on a trial basis a user fee of \$5.00 per vehicle per day or \$30.00 per vehicle per year, starting tentatively the week of May 23, 1997 with sales and June 16, 1997 for enforcement. Users will be able to purchase tags at the Forest Service and area sporting goods stores. Vehicles that park on Forest Service land without the appropriate user tag will be subject to up to a \$100.00 fine.

The charging of user fees was directed to the Forest Service by the 104th Congress. The fees will be charged on a trial basis for 30 months. Fees will apply to users of the four Southern California National Forests as a combined group..the Enterprise Forest Project. The Enterprise Forest areas will include Cleveland, Los Padres, San Bernardino and Angeles National Forests.

The following Sierra Club policy has been made by the California/Nevada Conservation Committee in regards to the user fees the Forest Service will begin charging in the local National Forest lands.

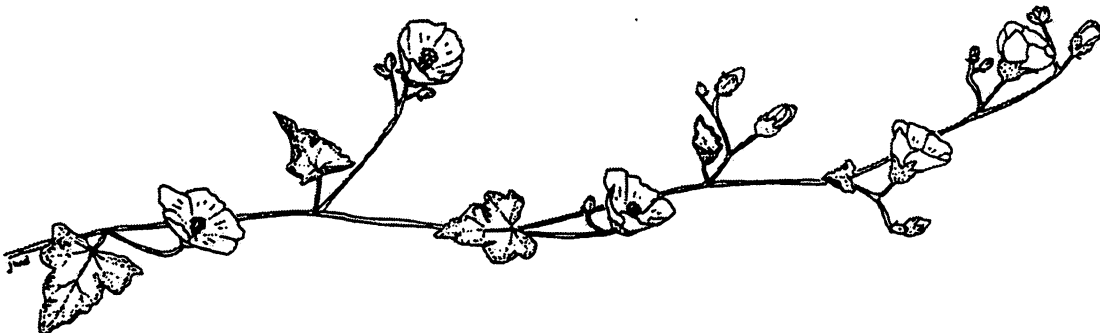
Sierra Club Position on the User Fee:

The California/Nevada Conservation Committee (CNCC) reiterates its opposition to entrance fees for recreational uses of National Forest and BLM lands. The CNCC is aware the National Lands Committee has been requested to review existing Sierra Club policy. In the interim, the CNCC requests that Sierra Club entities closely monitor and provide constructive input regarding the Southern California Enterprise Forest Fee Demonstration Project and other recreational fee projects authorized by legislation enacted by Congress in 1995 and 1996. Monitoring will include:

- a.) Administrative and equity aspects of fee collection systems,
- b.) the pattern of recreational and resource conservation improvements funded by the pilot projects,
- c.) the impacts of the projects on budgets and recreational programs of the sponsoring agencies.

CNCC urges the Club's Board of Directors and all Club entities to give high priority to seeking legislative and administrative actions to eliminate economic subsidies to commercial activities on Public Lands.

CNCC opposes the permanent enactment of recreational fees such as those to be administered under the demonstration fee program until and unless economic subsidies to commercial uses of public lands are eliminated (or substantially reduced) and Sierra Club policy is revised.



BOOK REVIEW By Ron Jones

DEFYING-GRAVITY, HIGH ADVENTURE, ON YOSEMITE'S WALLS

written by Gary Arce, forward by Royal Robbins, illustrated with many historical and contemporary B & W and color photos, 194 pp. WILDERNESS PRESS, Berkeley, 1996.

Gary Arce was born in 1959 and is now a high school and college teacher living in Victorville, California. I don't personally know of his climbing achievements but he has climbed in Yosemite, the High Sierra, Cascades, Tetons, Alps and the Andes. He is a contributor to *Climbing* magazine.

The first several chapters of Defying Gravity cover the early history of Yosemite Valley and the pioneer climbers. There is an interesting short section on the first ascent of Half Dome (450 feet of bolt placements) in 1875 and John Muir's pride in fellow Scotsman, George Anderson's accomplishment. The bolting genie (whether or not) was out of the bottle. Arce ends the chapter on pioneer climbs with the achievements of Norman Clyde, Charles Michael and Walter Starr Jr. all in Yosemite.

The chapter entitled "The Vertical Frontier" chronicles early day roped climbs in Yosemite of Cathedral Spire and Royal Arches. The story is told of an important early day Yosemite Climber I didn't know about, Roy Harris. Arce tells an amusing anecdote about Roy having taken an extended climbing trip in Yosemite. After his climbs he tried to bicycle from the Valley to his home in Berkeley. When he reached the foothills of the Sierra it became too hot so he stopped to rest. A CHP motorcycle officer was sitting beside him and asked Roy if he would like a tow and if he had a rope. Roy got out his climbing rope, tied his bicycle into the officer's motorcycle and was towed quite a ways back at 45 mph.

Further in the book, during the 1950s and 60s, the "Golden Age" of Yosemite climbing is well described with accounts of most of the important valley ascents by the likes of Robbins, Roper, Chouinard, Bridwell, Pratt, Frost and many others.

The longest chapter, of Defying Gravity covers the 1970s and is titled "Pushing the Limits". It covers Yosemite climbing from VI 5.9 A4 climbs to 5.12d or V 5.10b solo. Lots and

lots of climbing and Camp 4 stories and good photos.

Current Yosemite climbing in the 1980s to mid-1990 are well covered in the chapter "A New Generation". A large part of this chapter covers the development of "rap-bolting" and sport climbing. Too many good stories to pick out in this well written section but I was impressed with the story of the first one-day climb of both El Capitan via The Nose and the Northwest face of Half Dome by John Bachar and Peter Croft -- 58 pitches of climbing -in just over 18 hours! The story of the controversial 2-day free ascent of El-Cap's Salathe Wall (VI 5.13c) by Todd Skinner and Paul Piana is pretty good also.

The book closes with a discussion of the contentious topics of rap-bolting and sport climbing. A number of past and current giants give opinions of the adventure, the ethics and the traditions of current, and past Yosemite big wall climbing. Gary Arce closes this most interesting history of Yosemite climbing by quoting John Muir, who noted, "The mountains are fountains not only of rivers and fertile soil, but, also of men. Therefore we are all, in some sense, mountaineers--and going to the mountains is --going home." - - RON JONES

(continued from page 19)

Heading back down, I thought that I was going down the same ridge that I had climbed on the way up, but the ridges converge just below the tree line. When I did not see one of my markers after a few minutes I Stopped and took a bearing. It turned out I was on ridge to the north of where I needed to be. I was able to crossover here because the gully between them is broad and shallow at this point. I found my markers and retrieved my pack. As I headed down the ridge toward the trail I looked for my previous night's camp. I passed a couple of better camp sites but never saw the camp that I had used. I camped just above the creek junction with the hope that any bears in the area would patrol the obvious camps and not bother me. No bears bothered me at any of the camps. I credit this to staying away from the normal sites. I picked up my climbing gear on the way out the next morning and was at Glacier Point before eleven the next morning

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Matthias Selke
 1440 Butler #17
 Los Angeles, CA, 90025

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