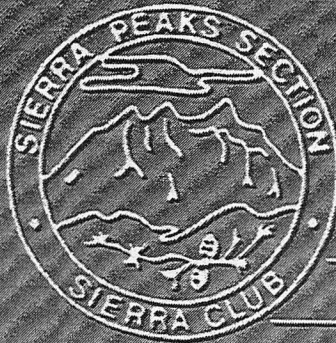
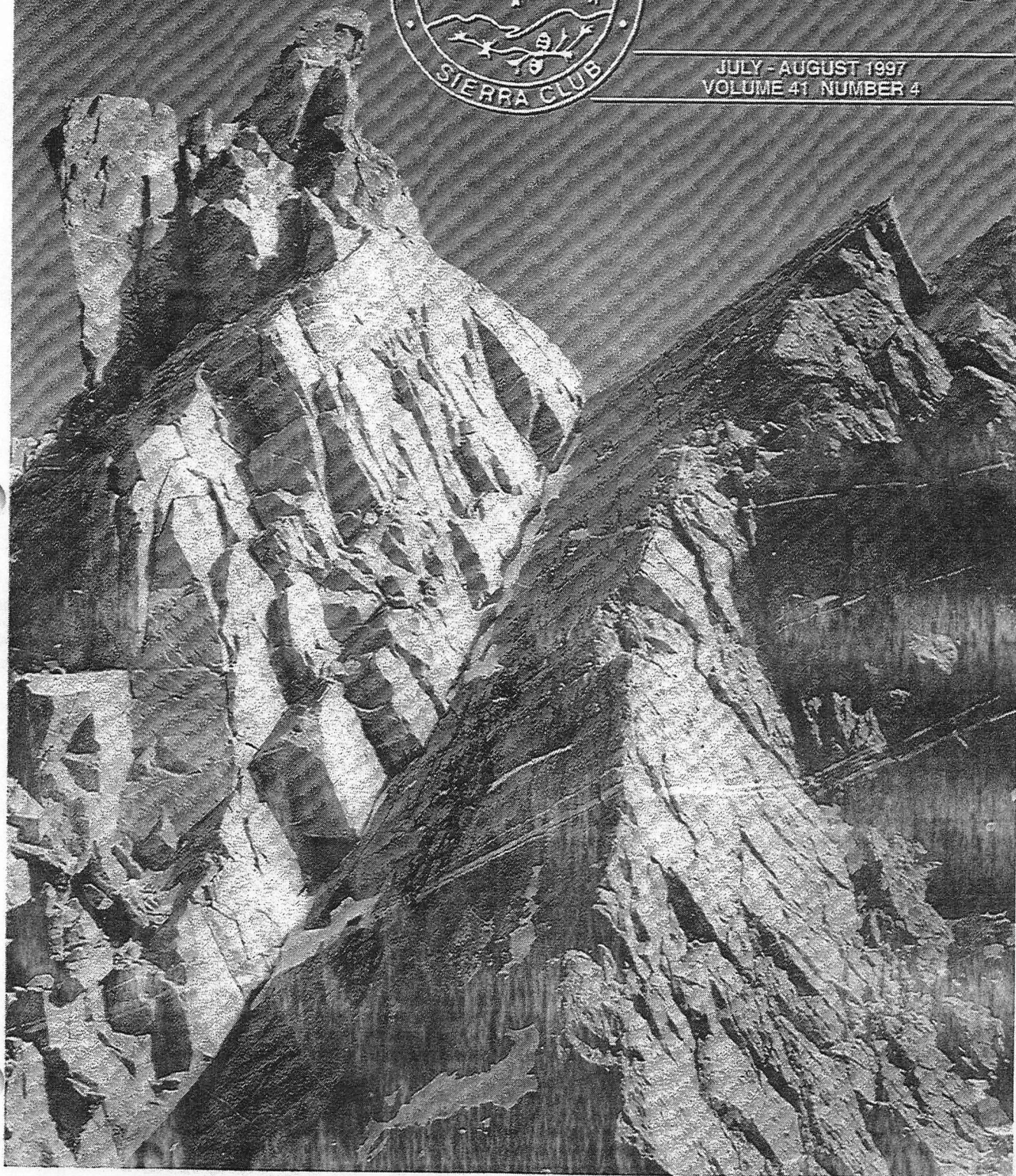


The  
Sierra



ECHO

JULY - AUGUST 1997  
VOLUME 41 NUMBER 4



## 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.

**AUGUST 13**

### **Brad Jensen/Climbing Denali - Spring 1997 Adventure**

*This program replaces our originally scheduled presentation on Mt. Logan. We hope to re-schedule the Mt. Logan program.*

**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.

**OCTOBER 8**

### **Alois Smrz/Winter Ascents in the Sierra**

World-class climber and adventurer Alois will present slides of winter climbing.

**NOVEMBER 12**

### **Eric Buschow/Mt. Kilimanjaro**

**DECEMBER 10**

### **SPS ANNUAL BANQUET**

#### **Jeff Lowe - speaker**

Jeff will present highlights of his experiences waterfall ice climbing, big wall climbing, adventure trips, Alaska, Himilayas, etc. This should be an exciting and diverse talk from the reknown author, ice climber and mountaineer. Location - the Cultural Center of the Greek Orthodox Church, Long Beach, catered by Buon Gusto. Tickets \$25.00. Send check made out to SPS and SASE to Barbee Tidball, 3826 N. Weston Pl., Long Beach 90807

## FRONT COVER

PALISADE CREST  
SUMMIT PHOTO BY

**Photo by Dave Sholle**

## PEAK INDEX

**Kern Peak  
North Peak  
Spanish Needle  
Temple Crag  
Mt Gayley  
Sirretta  
Silver  
Mt Izzak Walton**

### Great Britian

**Ben Nevis  
Scafell Pike  
Snowdon**

## SPS T-SHIRTS

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



## SPS SUMMER &amp; FALL TRIPS 1997



AUGUST	OCTOBER
I Aug 16-17 Sat-Sun The Hunchback, Cloudripper McKusky/Sulkin	E-R Oct 4 Sat Humphreys Stough/Danta
M Aug 16-17 Sat-Sun Royce, Merriam Epstein/Keenan	M Oct 4-5 Sat-Sun Red Slate, Red and White Keenan/Epstein
I Aug 23-24 Sat-Sun Silliman Schumacher/Macleod	I Oct 11-12 Sat-Sun Iron B.Tidball/ Cohen REVISED DATE
I Aug 23-26 Sat-Tues. Pyramid, Mokelumne, Highland, Disaster Kline/Michael	E Oct. 11-12 Sat-Sun Leadership Safety Skills and Rescue Course: Advanced course is designed to impart to leaders safety skills and rescue techniques for leading groups in mountain terrain. The instructor is AMGA certified alpine guide, John Fischer. The course will be given in the Buttermilk country near Bishop, weather permitting. There will be a fee of \$40.00 to \$80.00 depending on the number of participants. This course is limited to M and E leaders, or equivalent, and participants must be members of the Sierra Club. Send SASE, climbing resume and ride share info. to organizer Dan Richter, asst. Bill Oliver.
M Aug 23-31 Sat-Sun Mt Kaweah, Red Kaweah, Black Kaweah, Triple Divide Martin/Graff	
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER	
M Aug 29-Sep 1 Fri-Mon Recess, Gabb Cohen/Knapke	
M-R Aug 30-Sep 1 Sat-Mon Lyell, Maclure McKusky/ Epstein	
M-R Aug 30-Sep 1 Sat-Mon Ruskin L.Tidball/Jamison	
E-R Sep 5-7 Fri-Sun Riegelhuth Minaret, Clyde Minaret Richter/Mantle	O/I/M Oct 18 Sat LTC Seminar Griffith Park Registration is underway for the Angeles Chapter's Leadership Training Course, a program to prepare members to become outings leaders. Applicants must be Sierra Club members and have been on at least 5 climb trips to enroll in the all-day leadership seminar at Griffith Park. To enroll, send SASE to Alice Danta, LTC Registrar, 17561 Medford Ave., Tustin, CA 92680-1950. Completed application forms must be returned to registrar not later than Oct 4, 1997. Send in for your LTC app. NOW.
I Sep 6-7 Sat-Sun Smith, Siretta Keating/Keating	
E-R Sep 12-14 Fri-Sun Norman Clyde Pk Stough/Mantle	
I Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Florence, Vogelsang Sholle/Knapke	
I Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Dana, Gibbs, Koip Yamagata/Underwood	
I Sep 13-14 Sat-Sun Gibbs, Warren Roach/Roach	
M-R Sep 19-21 Fri-Sun Lyell, Maclure Aminian/Arnebold	
C Sep 19-21 Fri-Sun Yosemite National Park Volunteer Project. Projects include fence building, wood chip/mulch work and paint/clean comfort stations. Martin/Underwood/Talbott	
I Sep 19-23 Fri-Tue Dicks, Tallac, Pyramid, Mokelumne, Highland, Blackhawk Conrad/Wyka	
I Sep 20-21 Sat-Sun Vandever, Florence Kline/Epstein	
M Sep 20-21 Sat-Sun Heckel, Wallace O'Rourke/ Rivera	
I Sep 20-21 Sat-Sun Excelsior, Dunderberg Popescu/Roach/Roach	
M Sep 27-28 Sat-Sun Thompson Conrad/Cohen	
	DECEMBER - FEBRUARY
	E Dec 20 Sat. Rubidoux Rock Practice. For aspiring M and E candidates, rusty old hands, among others. Location, leaders TBA. Send 2 SASE with qualifications and interests to reservationist Doug Mantle
	E Jan 17 Sat. Snow practice - local. For aspiring M and E candidates, rusty old hands, among others. Location, leaders TBA. Send 2 SASE with qualifications and interests to reservationist Doug Mantle
	M Feb 7, Sat. Annual Baldy Snow Refresher. All aspects of snow (not ice) climbing will be covered. Trip for WTC leaders, SPS and other SC members. Send 2 SASE Bradley/Reber
	E Feb 21 Sat. Snow practice - local. For aspiring M and E candidates. See Jan 17 <sup>th</sup> for details.

### Echoes from the Chair

Daryn Dodge, one of our northern members, recently completed a real labor of love by spending many lunch hours in the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, examining the registers from the peaks on our list and making notes about dates of the registers, notable signatures, first ascent listings, and more. He also copied the library's table of contents for the register collection, sending both his extensive listings and the contents to me. I have one copy in the Mountain Records materials and have made another for then SPS archives. If you would like a personal copy, just let me know.

Not long ago I hiked over Bishop Pass (June 16-20). Once over the pass, I saw only Pacific Crest Trail "through hikers," people who had started at the Mexican border in April or the beginning of May on their trek to Canada by October. My timing coincided with theirs for this portion of the trail. Seeming all to know one another and have trail names (like Pansy, Toolbox, Sage, Fudd [as in Elmer Fudd]), their sense of a special community was intriguing. They were in a bit of chaos not knowing where some were because of recent storms which had sent some out or on different trails, i.e. out over Kearsarge and back over Bishop Pass or down Bubbs Creek to Cedar Grove, then over Granite Pass to the Middle Fork of the Kings River, thus avoiding Glen, Pinchot, and the terror of Mather Pass. Some did not have ice axes, and others had them but didn't necessarily know how to use them. One fellow from Maui, a professional wind surfer to whom I gave extra food and fuel, I talked with for an hour or so, giving him (per his request) a mini-lesson on the parts of the ice axe and how to use it. I wasn't surprised that I didn't see non-PCT

hikers on the John Muir Trail since most people wait till the access passes are free of snow, but I was surprised to meet as many as I did (I was often off the trail). I met fifteen through-hikers and read of others in the register at the hut at Muir Pass—one fellow, who I was told was "yo-yoing" (Mexico Canada-Mexico in one season!), had been there on May 20 and was reputed to go about thirty-five miles a day—maybe not, however, through all that Sierra snow. Many I met were from the south or east coast; no one I asked was from California, though I heard of a couple from Sierra City.

Everyone marveled at the splendor of the Sierra, the beauty of the mountains dressed in snow, the glory of the range of light. And I admired their great endeavor and thought it might be a wonderful goal to consider (if I could refrain from climbing all the listed peaks along the way and stay on schedule!), many of them envied my being able to escape to the Sierra so easily and often. Aren't we lucky to have such a grand mountain range and fantastic peaks not so very far away?

Happy trails,

*Tina*

June 23, 1997

### Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 5/15/97

Tina Stough began the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Present were Dan Richter, Patty Kline, Keith Martin, Ann Kramer, Doug Mantle, Matthias Selke and Duane McRuer.

Dan read the minutes of the last meeting which were amended and approved. Matthias reported our balance as of 5/14/97 to be \$5,568.24 in checking and about \$300.00 in savings.

Doug and Duane reported on the success of the rock and snow checkoffs and that Greg Roach had been made a Safety Instructor and that Bob Bruley and Matthew Richardson had been placed on the Mountaineers List.

Patty will approach Steve Thaw to be the SPS Northern Representative with an emphasis on recruiting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and was followed at 7:39 p.m. by the general meeting. Tina opened the meeting by welcoming newcomers. Following the minutes, treasurer's report, and schedule discussion, David Underwood updated the group on conservation issues.

After a short break Scott Cosgrove gave a very interesting slide show of his rock climbs of hard routes up to 5.14a.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Richter

insurance. The rules of conduct will be on a separate page.

Keith Martin, Programs Chair, announced the following speakers:

\* November 12, 1997: Mt Kilimanjaro, Eric Buschow.

\* January 8, 1998: Joint HPS, DPS & SPS meeting, hosted by the HPS on their regular meeting day and place.

\* February 11, 1998: "Water Famine or Water Needs". Abraham Hoffman, 1895-1905 (A historic program on search of water for LA).

\* March 11, 1998: "Let's Go Climbing", John Fischer.

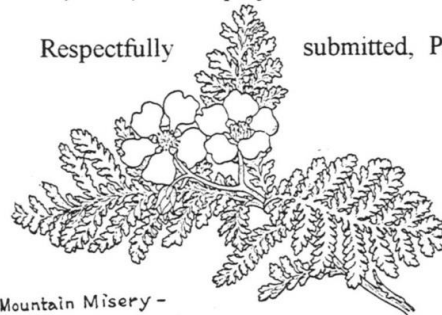
It was voted on to have Jeff Lowe, famous ice climber, at our Banquet December 10 for \$750 speaker's fee and approximately \$250 for round trip air fare from Denver. We also discussed the possibility of Mark Twight, well-known rock climber, also \$1000; and Alan Kearney, climber in Patagonia and Alaska for \$1000.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm, followed by the general meeting. Following the minutes, past and future outings discussion and conservation update by David Underwood.

Doug Jones was congratulated on his SPS list finish on Kern Peak, June 1st. Dan Richter received Sr. Emblem #120, June 7th on Mt. Pinchot.

After a short break the 50+ people in attendance were spell bound by Glen Dawson's presentation of climbs with Jules Eichorn, Norman Clyde and Ansel Adams and many others. His brother, Muir, ran the projector.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Kline



Mountain Misery -  
*Chamaebatia foliolosa*

### Minutes from the SPS meeting at DWP on June 11, 1997

Tina Stough, Chair, began the meeting at 6:45 pm. Also present were Patty Kline, Barbara Cohen, Keith Martin, Barbee Tidball and Doug Mantle.

As of this management committee meeting Patty Kline, Outings Chair, reported only one training snow trip had been submitted for the Angeles Chapter Winter Schedule. More outings are expected before the June 25 outings deadline.

There was discussion about hiring a professional guide to teach all day advanced snow and a one day advanced rock to SPS leaders.

The National Sierra Club has sent us new sign in sheets for "R" trips without the rules of conduct on them. We are to use these as a condition of our

### **SAFETY CHAIRS MEMORANDUM TO SPS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - 6/10/97**

The Safety Committee recommends that the following be added to the Mountaineer's List:

Douglas Jones  
Timothy Keenan  
Barry Holchin

Douglas L. Mantle, Co-Safety Chair

The management committee approved the recommendations at their June meeting

**SPS Membership Report** by Dan Richter 7/7/97**Reinstatements...Welcome back!**

Julie Rush  
2432 Hildago Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90039  
(213) 669-8382

**New Subscribers Thank you!**

James H. Crouch  
2654 Worden Street #96  
San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 223-9084

Marcy Barnett  
P.O. Box 624024  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96154  
W: (916) 544-2600

Suzanne Tanaka  
153 Spanish Moss Place  
Camarillo, CA 90503

Leslye Prum  
2124 Terraza Place  
Fullerton, CA 92835

Jane McMahon  
10095 Sparrow Avenue  
Fountain Valley, CA 91040

Terry Baird  
43825 10th Street West  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
(805) 948-1618

**New Members Welcome!**

Matthew Richardson  
333 Sycamore Avenue  
Clairmont, CA 91711  
D: (909) 626-5046  
N: (909) 621-2812

Patrick McKusky  
332 Pasadena Avenue, Apt. B  
South Pasadena, CA 91030  
pmckusky@lausd.k12.ca.us  
D: (213) 625-5310  
N: (626) 441-6448

Nancy Pallister  
2355 Pinturo  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
(916) 635-2829

**Sustaining Members for 1997 Thanks a lot!**

Joe Stephens, David Underwood, Matthew Richardson, and Dave Petzold

**Accomplishments Congratulations!**

Doug Jones List Finish #50 on Kern Peak 6/1/97  
Dan Richter Senior Emblem #120 on Mt. Pinchot 6/7/97



Drawing courtesy of Chris Wood

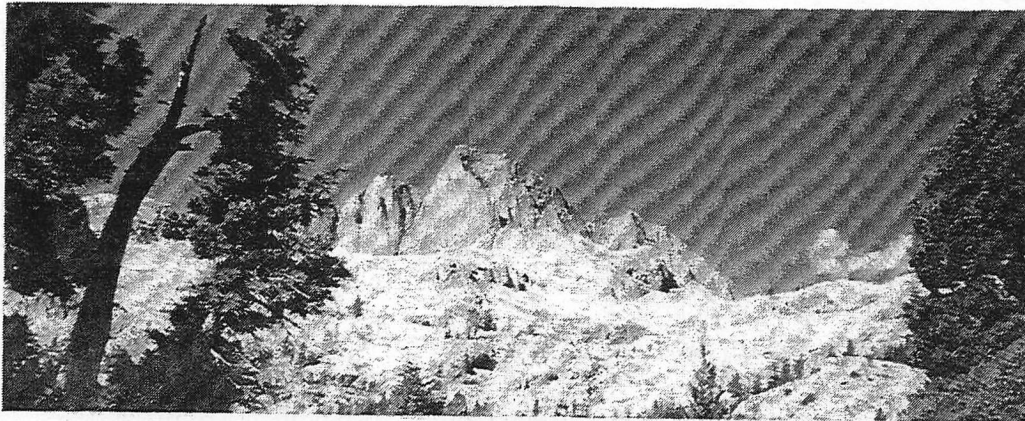
**CONSERVATION ISSUES**

□ **California State Legislature bills under consideration:**

- **SB 78 (Thompson) Income Taxes:** Contributions for Endangered Species. This bill extends the voluntary income tax checkoff for endangered species until 2002.
- **SB 2 (Thompson, Kopp, Rosenthal, Sher, and Solis w/ Co-authors in the Assembly - Cunneen, Mazzoni and Perata.)** This is a new Parks bill. The plan is to authorize a \$495,000,000 bond measure for parks acquisition and improvement.
- **AB 21 (Olberg) Endangered Threatened, or Candidate Species:** Eliminates State Incidental Take Permit. A Federal permit allowing "incidental take" of a member of an endangered species would in most circumstances supercede the need for a permit from the CA Dept. of Fish & Game. This would

tend to cut Californians out of the process of protecting our own rare species. The bill would only allow 30 days for Fish & Game to determine whether a Federal permit is compatible with the CA Endangered Species Act. 30 days is not enough time for a government agency to act.

- **SB 231 (Costa) Endangered Species: Routine and Ongoing Activities.** SB 231 provides that "accidental take" of an endangered species during otherwise lawful agricultural activities shall not be penalized. The environmental community is split on this issue, some fear it will legalize abuses and others believe it will eliminate the fear farmers have of the endangered species laws and give them incentives for allowing more wildlife habitat on their farm lands.
- **Angeles Chapter Resolution: No Commercial Logging Campaign** *The Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club urges the Sierra Club to elevate the No Commercial Logging Campaign to a top Sierra Club priority and, in recognition of this priority, to allocate funding for a prominent national media campaign on this issue. 6/19/97*
- **Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund** after 26 years serving the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations has decided to change its name to better reflect the fact that they do represent groups other than the Club on environmental legal matters. Their new name is **Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund.**



**Bolting/  
Fixed  
Anchors**

**Climber's  
Safety**

**Wilderness  
Protection**

- **BOLTING - Update on the Sierra Club policy issue.** As this issue of The Echo goes to press the bolting policy issues within the Sierra Club (SC) remain unresolved. January 1997 through March 1997 SC climbers (Barbee and Larry Tidball from the SPS and others) worked with the California/Nevada Conservation Committee (see article *March Echo*) to draft an interim Sierra Club position on bolting at Joshua Tree National Park. At the same time the SPS and others encouraged the Sierra Club to study and consider a possible national policy on bolting for the Sierra Club. The Wild Planet Strategy Committee (WPSC) of the Conservation Governance Committee (CGC) in conjunction with the Outing Governance Committee (OGC) was assigned the task of putting together a draft policy.

In mid-July the WPSC issued through the Email a preliminary draft policy. Many climbers are extremely disappointed in the WPSC's beginning work. The WPSC has completely failed to study the issue, work with climbers and conservationists or even work with the Governance Committees. Joan Taylor of the Desert Committee formatted the draft policy that is being circulated. Joan is the non-climber whom climber's worked with in March when developing the interim position. Joan apparently did not accept the compromise worked out in March, as the WPSC preliminary draft position completely ignores even the basic tenants of the March position. Cal French, who has the official position of liaison to the WPSC, Susan Heitman, of the Outings Governance Committee and many others have expressed their absolute disappointment with the preliminary draft policy. Cal French and others are promoting instead a document developed over two years ago by the Sierra Club, Access Fund and other environmental organization representatives. The WPSC has not worked, yet, with Cal French or any other climbers.

If you follow Email discussions there have been numerous comments on the preliminary WPSC policy. Many of the comments do little to help develop a policy, and much to discredit the writer. When and if a final policy is developed by the WPSC, it must next be submitted to the CGC and OGC. The Governance Committees must then jointly pass the proposed policy and send it to the Sierra Club Board of Directors. *The Sierra Echo* will continue to keep SPS member's posted on bolting policy developments and provide alert notices should a letter writing campaign become necessary to the Board, or watch your Email - some of the information written there is worth reading. *Bolting comments written by Barbee Tidball, for more information call (562) 424-1556. Or Email LBTidball@earthlink.net.*

## KERN PEAK LIST FINISH

May 29-31, 1997

by Doug Mantle

We should chronicle our List Finishes so I can M.C. the 75th anniversary banquet better. We'll start with #50,

I joined Doug Jones and Shang Lee for Doug's List Finish, May 29 - 31 (the earliest ever). I was wary. Doug has soloed nearly 200 of his peaks, a record. Could he slow down for us? Too, people who climb Kern Peak with me tend to blunder off in the wrong direction and start a forest fire.

Nonetheless, we set off Friday A.M. on the Casa Vieja Trail, up from Blackrock Station. No peaks visible, except two towering masses crammed with pizzas, salads, toys, cakes, Frisbees, and jet black puppy dogs.

Nine roller-coaster miles (and 1,400' gain) later, we pitched an early camp at Red Rock Meadow. Greetings to the season's first mosquitoes! "Crack", "Bang", "Screech" went our Killer Bees and Magic Fountains.

The Big Day dawned cool and breezy, easing our trek up the Cold Meadow Trail to the saddle south of Kern Peak (1 mi., 1,000' gain). Doug then turned right and threaded a gallant path for 2 more miles and 2,000' gain to the top.



Spectacular! We spied the whole Kern River horseshoe of peaks, including Langley, Doug's first one, which he climbed in 1992. Yep, finished about as fast as anyone.

Rarely do we relish our summits. We relished this one, though, with howlers (shades of Tom Ross), bubbly, and two hours of awed viewing. Prompted into submission, Doug recounted some of his seminal climbs.

Hobbling up all the 14ers in his first season with back pain so bad at times he cried. Clawing up a class 4-5 face on Clyde Minaret, the normal route buried in fluff. Frozen lakes creaking like whale calls on Cotter late one November. Getting Patty up Emerald. With every story, Doug's love of the Sierra was palpable.

"Time to go ba - ack." Alas!

We rather floated on down to more festivities. Much less encumbered, we raced out on Sunday.

I warned him about post-finish depression. He laughed at me, He's already gleefully planning a week in some remote Sierra basin. Maybe I am the only weirdo.

### Kerngratulations, Doug!

#### North but not Conness

June 14, 1997

Tina Stangh and Randall Banta, Leaders

It had snowed in the Sierra seemingly everywhere but the Tioga Pass area, that is, until I arrived. I got to the Junction Campground (free!) at the junction of Highway 120 and the Saddlebag Lake Road at about 7:00 p.m. Friday the thirteenth. A few minutes later it began to snow lightly, which continued much of the night. Yet in the morning all ten of us were there ready to go despite several changes in plans. First of all, the road to Saddlebag Lake was still closed (it was open earlier in June five years ago), so that added two miles and more to our hike to camp. Second, camp needed to be changed from the proposed Conness Lakes area to Greenstone Lake because of a day-use only area surrounding North and Conness. No problem.

On the way in, I led us around the west shore of Saddlebag Lake, which, though shorter, was probably more of a nuisance because of some

postholing and working through lumps of snow left by avalanches as well as some sun streaks and cups. At 11:00 we set off for North, generally following the drainage of Conness Lakes. Rather than go all the way to the highest of the lakes and then up to North, we went up the southeast slope from the lowest lake, angling to the gap between the rock towers along the skyline. The new snow added a bit more work, but kicking steps went generally quite well, especially when Tim Keenan, Matthew Richardson, and Randall helped break trail. At about 11,200' where the slope steepened, we put on crampons for more purchase on the underlying consolidated snow, adding a lot of security to our climb. The route went nicely as we skirted the cornice on the right and reached the summit slope only about 250' from the summit. Because it had begun to snow, we didn't spend a long time on top.



On the way down, the snow was a nuisance, balling up under our crampons, but we made it back to camp in good form at about 3:30. Unfortunately, happy hour never materialized because of rain. After several hours of rain, we decided that hiking out sounded good since some of our tents were growing puddles and I was wrestling with a cold (it won). Tim and Matthew signed out to stay there and possibly climb the next day. The only snag was that when we started out we expected Gene Mauk to be with us, thinking he had heard the call to leave and agreed with it. So he seemed to be missing though he was actually just snug in his tent, out of earshot. Once found, he signed out rather than hold up the group, but he came along on his own, arriving only ten minutes after I straggled in to the cars.

On the way back we took the trail/former road around the east side of Saddlebag. Though some

snow on the road was a nuisance and it was longer, most thought it was better than snow on the west side. Darkness set in just before we reached the paved/dirt road back to the highway, but with good moonlight, we didn't need flashlights for the rest of the walk. We were at the cars a little after 10:00. Several--Randall, Gene, Bob and Steve Bruley--agreed that sleeping at my house in Independence sounded good. Bob Wyka, Ali Aminian, and Paul Graff, carpooling together, staggered on down the highway home. Thanks to all for taking the changes and weather in perfect stride! *Tina*



### Spanish Needle (7841'), almost twice

March 8 and May 11, 1997

By Matthias Selke

The summit area of this peak provides one of the more enjoyable scrambles in the Southern Sierra, but the peak is rarely climbed, and there is no write-up in the SPS climbing archive.

The best way of climbing to the summit area is undoubtedly the approach from Lamont Meadow up to the saddle north of the summit, then a cross-country traverse on the east side of the peak to the summit area. This was the route taken by Al Conrad, Shawn Bauer, and the author on the way up during the author's first attempt on March 8, 1997. There was patchy snow above 6500 ft. on north-facing slopes, but it did not provide any real obstacle until the summit area. However, an exposed slab was covered with ice, and we turned back about 100 ft. below the summit. That's when the real adventure began, since we chose to descend the first gully to the north of the summit area on the west face of the peak. The 7.5 min. topo showed the Pacific Crest Trail less than 1000 ft. straight below the summit area. The trail is not anywhere near where the map indicates it is; it is much lower and further to the west. Just before darkness, we found a trail that was going in an east-west direction. We first headed westward, and realized that this was a mistake when the trail turned southward after several miles. After following the PCT in the other direction, we finally reached the car after 11pm.

The second attempt on May 11 with Miklos and Krisztina Peterfy turned out to be less eventful. We followed the same route up as on the previous

trip, found no snow or ice anywhere on the peak, and reached the summit within about 4.5 hours. To our surprise, we found no entry from the SPS group that was attempting the peak during the previous weekend. (I was later told that they tried the west side of the peak and chose the wrong gully.) Thunderclouds seemed to be moving in, and we rushed off the peak, which resulted in a minor fall by the author (just scratches). Other than that, the hike back was uneventful; it cleared up, and we were back at the car within 3.5 hours.

A detailed description of the easiest route is as follows: The trailhead is at Lamont Meadows, which can be reached via the dirt road leading to the Chimney Creek Recreation Area. This dirt road connects Highway 58 (Walker Pass) with the Kennedy Meadows road west of the Sierra Crest. The correct trailhead is about 300 ft. south of where a road to Long Valley and the Rockhouse Basin branches off the Chimney Creek Road. It is not marked, and one must park on the side of the dirt road. The "trail" is actually a 4-WD road for about 2 miles. (On the first attempt, we drove down this road with Al's Explorer - no problem, but a 2WD would not make it.) It descends to cross a creek on Lamont Meadow, then follows the south side of the meadow with good views of the pinnacles on Lamont Pk. After 2 miles, the road enters a pine forest, and it is blocked off for vehicular traffic. The road goes up the forested valley west-northwest of the broad saddle north of the Spanish Needle group,

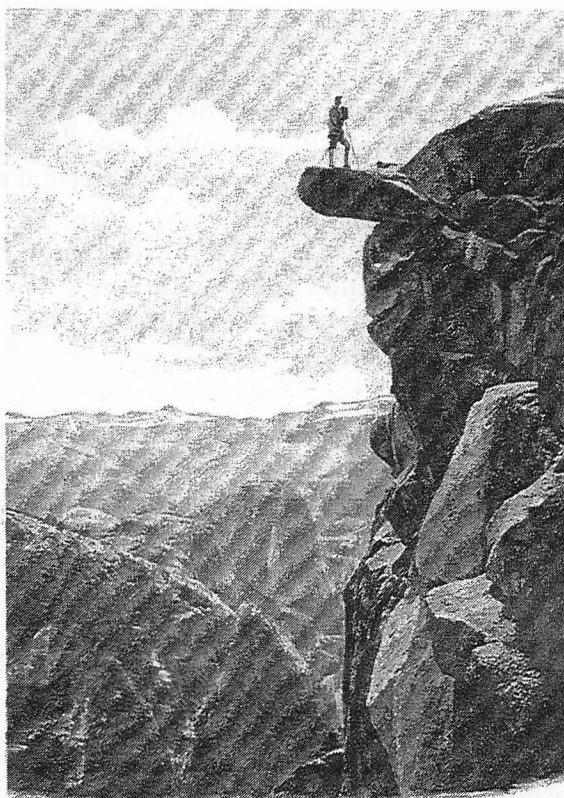
and then disappears. Just where it ends, there is use-trail on the right that leads up and right to the Pacific Crest Trail. This use-trail is steep, but it is in excellent shape and easy to follow. It meets the PCT about 0.5 miles southwest of the aforementioned broad saddle. A quick stroll on the PCT through a pleasant mixed forest of pine and fir brings one to the saddle. From the saddle, one leaves the PCT and drops down about 100 ft. on the east side of the saddle. To the south, Spanish Needle is visible, but the summit area cannot yet be seen. Traverse southward across five chutes filled with loose rock and dirt. This is the most unpleasant section of the climb. There's a fair amount of brush too, long pants are strongly recommended. It is best not to go up or down by very much on this section and staying too high during the climb is even more tedious.

Eventually, climbers will arrive at a very large chute (much larger than all previous chutes), filled with huge talus blocks. This chute leads to near the low point on the crest between the lower northern pinnacles of the Spanish Needle group and the true summit area. It is best to climb the rib on the south side of this chute. (very little loose rock.) About 200 ft. below the crest, the rib becomes more shallow, traverse diagonally up and south (left) through a mixed forest, eventually reaching the rocks just below the Sierra Crest. At this point stay below the rocks and move southward until progress is block by steep rock. From here it is an easy climb to the very crest, cross over to the west side and move up on the west side for a few hundred feet. Then the very crest itself is followed for about 200 ft. (some easy cl. 3). From the crest, the summit rocks are finally visible. Drops down into the notch just north of the summit block, where the climbing begins. Just a few yards to the east, a series of steep blocky ledges are followed up to a low-angled but exposed slab. There is a small pine tree half way up the ledges. The slab is climbed and followed toward the east for about 8 yards. At the east end of the slab, a block could provide a reasonable anchor for belays or rappels. (The exposure on the slab is such that some people might want to be belayed.) Then climb up a low-angled crack with a tree in it to the west into another small notch and then follows easy cl. 3 rock on the right side of the crest to the very top. The total length of the cl. 3 section is about 150 ft. The register goes back about 30 years; the peak sees very few ascents each year. The class 3 section is a fun scramble on good rock.

It is best to retrace your steps for the descent. A gully descending the west face from the notch north of the peak looks inviting, but it leads into nasty brush and it is necessary to descend almost 2000 ft.

and hike across miles of tedious terrain to reach the PCT. Here the route climbs back up 1000 ft. and it is necessary to hike several more miles to meet the use-trail going back to Lamont Meadow. Supposedly, the old PCT was only 1000 ft. below the summit, but no trace of this trail could be found. The west face of this peak should definitely be avoided!

Final note: Jenkin's Book "Exploring the Southern Sierra: East Side" has a good description of the class 3 portion below the summit. However, no details at all regarding the traverse from the saddle on the PCT north of the peak to the summit are given.



Overhanging Rock. Glacier Point. Yosemite Valley, California.  
Height 9250 Feet.

"Voices in the Wilderness. We seem to imagine that since Herod beheaded John the Baptist, there is no longer any voice crying in the wilderness. But no one in the wilderness can possibly make such a mistake, for every one of these flowers is such a voice. No wilderness in the world is so desolate as to be without divine ministers. God's love covers all the earth as the sky covers it, and fills it in every pore. And this love has voices heard by all who have ears to hear." *John Muir*

## SPS Ascents of Temple Crag & Mt. Gayley

October 12-13, 1996

by Timothy Keenan

Timothy Keenan and Doug Mantle led the attempts on Temple Crag (12,900') and Mount Gayley (13,510') Oct. 12-13, 1996. They were joined by Matthew Richardson of Claremont, Brad Jensen of Altadena, Diana Tung of Altadena, Lynn Robinson of Pasadena, and Sue Holloway of San Diego.

The group left the hikers' parking lot, just east of Glacier Lodge on Glacier Lodge Road out of Big Pine, CA, about 6:45 Saturday morning. We headed up the South Fork of Big Pine Creek, passing north of Willow Lake along an indistinct path, making base camp late morning on a bench at 10,100.' The changing season was awesome to the senses, wildflowers making a last attempt at seed, trees in glorious bursts of autumn color, and birds and rodents scampering and tittering in fall frenzy. By 12:30, we headed towards Temple Crag, then picked our way through a series of ledges on the southern flank, summiting just before 4:00 in the afternoon.

The return to base camp down scree and across talus was tiring, but the accomplishment of crossing 30 feet of scary, airy "third class" to Temple Crag's true summit gave us all an extra shot of adrenaline we could use! We returned by a guiding light from Lynn, arriving just before headlamps were necessary. After hiking 5,900' and 9 miles we were beat!!!



**Dan Richter .....front pointing on the West side of Coppermine Pass. May 1997 on the "Sierra High Route"**

Sunday we arose early, departing for Gayley shortly after 6:00 am. Making our way across talus by lamplight was interesting, but the route up to Glacier Notch was excellent. We continued up the Yellow Brick Road to the summit, all enjoying the crisp clear sky and the entire Palisades Crest stretched north of us. We returned along the creek, breaking out a belay along a short stretch of cliff. By 2:30 pm, we were breaking camp, and headed out along the mountaineers path towards Big Pine Creek's south fork, arriving back at the cars just after 6:00 pm, with 3,640' of gain that day; what a trip!!!

## ICE AXE AND CRAMPON PRACTICE WITH "SP" PARKER

May 5, 1997

by Patty Kline

Monday, May 5, 1997 I celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a guided climb by "SP" Parker, a very accomplished climbing and mountaineering guide. "SP" trained guides for 12 years for the American Alpine Institute and currently is an instructor/examiner for the American Mountain Guides Association. I was so impressed with his qualifications I figured he would be bored with me. Not so. He gave me his undivided attention all day. In his pleasant, relaxed and logical manner the almost 10 hour day went by very fast. He trains everyone from rank beginners to guides who want to lead expeditions in South America.

I picked up "SP" at his home at the top of the Sherwin Grade above Bishop at 5:00 am. We then took my Pathfinder to the top of the Tioga Pass Road. The snow level was between 8000' and 9000', and would be gone in a few weeks. "SP" selected a spot at the dammed outlet of Ellery Lake in Ellery Bowl.

We started at 7:00 am with crampons on hard snow in the shade. He had me leave my ice axe back with our equipment for educational purposes. He taught me the French technique. First, we walked on the level with *pied marche*, and *pied en canard* followed on a gentle slope. *Pied à plat* was used as the slope got steeper with turns in direction as we zigzagged higher. When the snow became too soft for crampons we took them off and got out ice

axes. We then repeated the above sequence. About 2 pm the snow became soft enough to use the ice axe in *piolet canne* while ascending the slope with feet heading directly into the snow slope,

As planned, when the snow was really soft we did ice axe arrests, safety was emphasized. "SP" told me that the most dangerous part of the ice axe is the spike, which can accidentally stab the body easily. The femoral artery is very close to the surface and a puncture of that could easily be fatal. It was great to do well-executed arrests with either hand in the sitting position. When it came time for the headfirst and on ones stomach, I called it a day despite Parker's encouragement to give it one more try.

We left Tioga Pass about 5:00 pm. I dropped him off at his house and thanked him for the great day. He invited me to climb with him again,

although I think it will be a while, probably next year.

If any of you would like to hire Robert "SP" Parker on a guided trip in the Sierra for basic instruction, waterfall ice climbing, sport climbing, rock climbing, Bear Creek Spire, the U or V Notches of North Palisade, the Mendel Couloir, the East Face of Whitney, the South Face of Clyde Minaret, etc., give him a call or Fax (760) 387-2858. Email: [robtsp@telis.org](mailto:robtsp@telis.org)

<http://www.climbnet.com/msg>

*Editor's note: For those of us whose French is rusty see Mountaineering, The Freedom Of The Hills, 5<sup>th</sup> edition page 347.*

*Pied marche = marching on a gentle 0-15° slope*

*Pied en canard = duck walking on 15-30° slopes*

*Pied à plat = flat-footing on 30° slopes and higher*

*Piolet canne = use of ice axe on 0-40° slopes*

## Domeland Wilderness – Sirretta Peak

SPS - WTC: May 17-18, 1997

Darrell Lee, Leader

Hitting the trail with co-leader Paul Graff leading the first section of the trip, our group of 12 participants and 2 leaders sauntered into the North Domelands to explore the quiet, serene and peaceful beauty of the area. Our group consisted of WTC instructors & grads, SC leaders, Dirty Rock Suckers, CMC and SCMA climbers anxious to explore this lightly traveled area. For the entire 24-mile trail, we saw a baby rattler, rabbits, and lizards, bear paw prints but no people. The mosquitoes were absent, as several slept under the stars.

Traveling at a moderate pace, we were constantly stopping to marvel and photograph the wildflowers, climbable rock formations, Swallowtail butterflies, crystal clear streams and green meadows. SCMA member Alois Smrz, accompanied by wife Evelyn, pointed out the numerous rock formations and first ascent climbs he had made many, many years ago. Continuing North, we traveled into parts unknown to all of us and were entranced by incredible rock formations awaiting first ascents. Exciting moments of Saturday included an above the knee Trout Creek crossing which we all successfully negotiated.

We arrived at Woodpecker Meadow, around 4:00 p.m. about 13 miles from the Manter Meadow trailhead and found a packers camp with a view of the meadow, spring water, fire/bbq pit complete with grill, cookware and shovel. While most were

setting up camp, a discreet few found a stream pool to bathe au natural.

Happy hour was happy, happy, happy! Therese Herzog, volunteered to supervise the gourmet garbage bag salad while I prepared the Indonesian warm & spicy peanut dressing. The group was in high spirits (or was that high on spirits) with the help of Sake or Jack Daniels and after a short ritual dance, the salad was blessed and enjoyed by all. My potluck contribution was smoked salmon & cucumber sushi hand rolls complete with pickled ginger, sesame seeds, wasabi and soy sauce. Tracy "Sluggo" Sulkin brought Oreo cookies, which evaporated the moment she turned her back. Chocolates and desserts were the majority of the dinner contributions.

A new pagan ritual was born on this trip as Paul Graff fueled the fire with dung pies. While I was boiling water over the dung fire, Paul's stirring of the fire caused dung ashes to contaminate the open kettle water, but undeterred, I made the now infamous dung tea. All participants were coerced into having a sip of the toxic concoction as a rite of passage. Dung jokes ensued. Dungland Wilderness, play a game of dungbee... you had to be there.

Sunday morning was warm and clear. One more above the knee stream crossing and 2-3 other creative crossings using logs, leaps and loops got most of us across the streams with dry boots.

Tim Kaliomaa, a '97 WTC grad and Ray Jardine disciple, showed his seamster prowess during our lunch stop with his homemade pack, Gore Windstopper mitts and other items he made.

The crux of this trip was the long continuous uphill section all the way to Sirretta Pass where we stashed our packs to climb Sirretta Peak. The hard to find use trail is a few hundred feet below the pass and not finding it on the ascent of the peak, we bushwhacked it to the summit. While signing the register, we found that one of the trailhead no-shows had signed into the register, apparently not finding the correct meeting point. The summit was windy and cool but a fine view and after numerous photos, we returned to our packs at Sirretta Pass. We reached our cars before 4:30 p.m.

Our diverse group also included Vid Walker, Claire Crow, Eileen Ricks, Don Nelson, Jerry McDonald, and Alice Tseung.

Snapshots in my memory include watching Eileen, Claire and Nitsy, arms locked together

foraging Trout Creek with a look of terror that I found entertaining and teetering near the brink of getting soaked; dreams of climbing some of the 500 foot rock domes; Tim's handiwork; the awesome potluck salad; the many dung (one) liners; the dung tea ritual, and the ice cold Grolsh beer after the hike to name just a few.

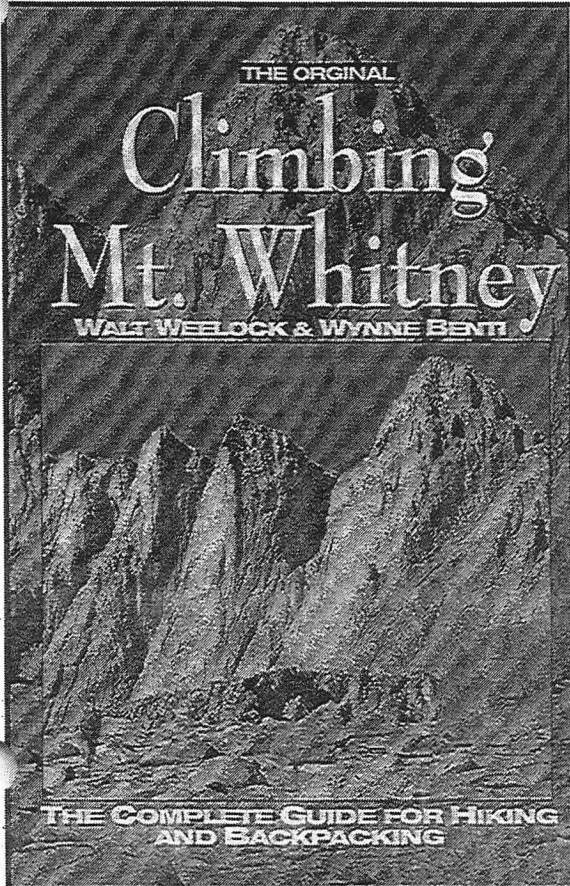
The trip ended with us gorging ourselves on a great Chinese meal at the Peacock Inn in Kernville.

I was requested by many of the participants to write a report because they had such a good time on this 25 mile, 5,500' gain trip' and felt it should be shared with others. Here it is, though it's doubtful I could convey what a great time we all had.

The objective of this trip was not the summit, although we all summited, but it was the journey we shared together and in the process we made new friends, became a little closer with existing friends, had a lot of laughs and we enjoyed sharing our wilderness experience together.

*This was like a trip among old friends.*

The following announcement includes a 40% donation to the SPS of the net sales on any purchases made by SPS members prior to September 30, 1997. Help the SPS and improve your library by purchasing Walt and Wynne's new book. And thank you to Spotted Dog Press for the generous donation offer.



**SPS & HPS members ONLY**

A limited number of signed copies available ONLY from publisher until SEPTEMBER 30, 1997

**SIGNED copies \$9.95/by Walt Weelock & Wynne Benti**

Includes photographs and text by Norman Clyde, illustration by Dee Molenaar. Color cover photography by Ed Zdon, Pete Yamagata and Gary Vallé, East Face photography. Completely updated. Contains most recent permit information.

*40% of net sales will be donated to section*

	Quantity	Price	Total
Signed <i>Climbing Mt. Whitney</i>		\$9.95	
Unsigned <i>Climbing Mt. Whitney</i>		\$6.95	
Also available... out of print, rare first edition, 1966 SIGNED by MARY DeDECKER Mines of the Eastern Sierra Hard cover, new condition		\$25.00	
CA residents add 7.25% sales tax			
Postage/Handling \$1.00 plus \$0.25 for each additional book			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship to (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail your book order along with check to:**

Spotted Dog Press  
RR4, Box 12-M  
Bishop CA 93514

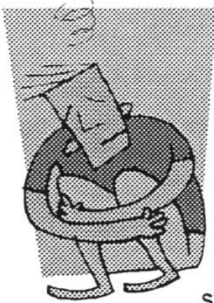
**"DIRTY ASS"**

Bill Oliver

There's probably a technical name for this affliction, no doubt employing obscure ancient Greek or Latin words. But if you looked up the word origin, it would undoubtedly come across as "dirty ass".

I never learned about dirty ass in BMTC or AMTC, nor in training for the M or E leader ratings. I never heard of it from anybody. But when I started mountaineering, I discovered I had it - and suffered silently.

It didn't seem to matter whether or not I had a "dump". Apparently, just getting sweat down my crack for a couple days could lead to a



painful rectal inflammation. It was especially painful when I took my first post-trip shower. And then it would go away - till my next trip.

On the verge of cutting short my mountaineering career, I somehow stumbled upon the solution

that revived my spirits and relieved my ass - Rantex. I found it in the pharmaceutical section at Fedco - a "medicated, moistened personal cloth wipe". It comes in a convenient foil-type packet (very similar to other small protective devices).

A box of 36 packets currently goes for only \$2.14. It does not require a prescription, and it is not hidden behind the counter. (If you have to ask for it, you can say it's for a friend!(I use one after every mountain dump or, if none, at

the end of the day for sure. (I recommend only one application per packet.)

On a recent six-day trip through The Maze in Canyonlands N.P., I was joined by my gnarly Purdue Co-op friends (now grad students) Beau Lintereur and Joel Grasmeyer. Trust me, with these guys, nothing is sacred. Long before the trip began, dirty ass became a focus of our frequent group email discussions. (Oh, the joy of just knowing that you are not alone - that others likewise share in your suffering!) The subsequent daily happy hour discourses among our group of six confirmed that everyone was successfully dealing with dirty ass - thus virtually assuring the success of our adventure.

You may notice in the supermarket, next to the toilet tissue, products similar to Rantex, by both Kleenex and Scott - "flushable moist wipes". Some of us in Utah thrived on these. However, they are not "medicated," and you'll have to carefully repackage the tissues to keep them moist. Rantex is much more travel-friendly.

So, I'm out. Life is worth living. If you never had this problem, you're still OK. If you've had it, you weren't alone. Relief is truly at hand. Go for it.

*Editor's note: Butt seriously folks, not to give Rantex a bum rap - any brand of "baby wipes" found in your local market's baby aisle will do the trick. Also panty liners can prolong the crotch integrity of your underwear. (Guys, say you're buying them for a friend.) Of course, this editor's note is tongue in-cheek.....Barbara Cohen*

## THE NATIONAL 3 PEAKS WALK

August 1996  
by Paul A. Bloland

The fog on the summit of Ben Nevis was so thick, that we could scarcely see from the summit cairn, with its triangulation pillar, to the emergency hut, barely 25 yards away. Around us ghostly figures loomed up in the mist and conversations sounded muffled. Ruth Bloland and I were there partly because some years ago I had read Burton Falk's Sierra Echo account (1991, Vol. 35, No. 6) of the three attempts he had made on Ben Nevis, at 4406' Scotland's and Great Britain's highest mountain. Bad weather had driven him off the mountain during his first two attempts. His third try was the charm.

Ruth and I were going to spend some time at Oxford University in the summer of 1996 and wanted to see something of Britain while we were there. In fact, we had decided to do what we later learned was the National 3 Peaks Walk, beginning with Ben Nevis. The other two peaks are Scafell Pike, England's highest at 3,206', and Snowdon, the highest peak of Wales, 3,560'. For the truly masochistic, there is also the 3-peak challenge, all three peaks in 24 hours.

**Ben Nevis.** Although racing around Great Britain was not our idea of an inspiring holiday abroad, we did begin with the highest and most challenging - Ben Nevis. We had traveled up to Fort William from Edinburgh and Glasgow via the West Highland Line, a railway through the spectacular highland scenery of mountains and moors, lakes, and forest.

To climb the peak, we left our Fort William hotel, the Imperial, to catch the 8:00am bus to the Youth Hostel in Glen Nevis. At 8:15 we were headed directly up the path in front of us to intersect the route coming in from the left from Achintee Farm, where many climbers begin their ascents. We were now on the Tourist Route, a very rocky and uneven path and one that climbed rather steeply. At about 1500 feet we entered a thick cloudbank that restricted our views of the scenery and our route most of the day.

The track wound up around a minor peak, Meall an Suidhe, at 2,322'. It then continued past a small tarn to where it crossed the Red Burn, a small stream. We then entered a series of switchbacks

that brought us out on the broad summit plateau. Here we followed a line of large cairns to the Triangulation Column, rescue hut, and the old observatory ruins that told us that we had finally arrived, at 12:30pm.

It was damp and cold on the summit, which made lunch a hurried affair. It would have been easy to become disoriented on the flat and featureless summit in the gray blanket of fog that enveloped it. However, there were a great many people climbing that day, so we simply followed several seemingly knowledgeable groups through the fog. As we came down, very carefully now because of the wet rocks, the clouds parted momentarily. In the opening we could see not only the small tarn and the Lochson Meall and Suidhe below us, but far in the distance and across a range of low mountains, Loch Linnhe, on which Fort William is located. We were back at the Youth Hostel and out of the clouds in 3 hours and 50 minutes, not bad for us.

**Notes.** They say that Ben Nevis is obscured by clouds for over 300 days a year, so one's chances of making the climb in clear weather are few. The route is wide, well marked, and difficult to miss in rare clear weather, although in heavy fog the many cairns and alternative routes

could cause problems, particularly as Ben Nevis, except for our route, is surrounded by some of the most spectacular rock climbing cliffs in Great Britain. Our climb took place on August 2, 1996, the gain was about 4,100', and the round trip mileage is about 8 miles.

**Scafell Pike.** Headquartering in the interesting but heavily touristed village of Keswick in England's beautiful Lake Country, we took a taxi to Seathwaite in the lovely Borrowdale Valley. Notorious because it has the highest rainfall of any inhabited place in England, we lucked out with a fine day. Our indispensable guide was one of those delightful handwritten and illustrated guidebooks to the Lakeland Fells by that indefatigable fellwalker and author, A.W. Wainwright.

The well-marked track took us up through sheep pastures and stone fences along Grains Gill, below the beetling crag of Great End, and up to Esk. At this broad and windswept pass where we turned west and up to the wide ridge connecting Great End,



Broad Crag, and our objective, Scafell Pike (3,206'). We reached the huge summit cairn at 11:00 am and had lunch while admiring the expansive view of the Lakeland peaks. The view included: Great Gable across the way; the remote lake of Wastwater right below us; Scafell, a slightly lower but much more difficult peak which is close to Scafell Pike; Conniston Old Man; Helvellyn; and even Skiddaw above distant Keswick and its lake of Derwentwater.

We took the same route down off the summit but detoured over to Sty Head, a low pass, and Sty Tarn, descending Sty Gill to Stockley Bridge and the River Derwent, arriving back at Seathwaite about 3:30pm. Seeing no taxis about, we were forced to hike back to the main road to the little village of Seatoller where a Canadian couple we had met on the mountain gave us a ride back to Keswick. It is worth noting that one can reach Seatoller by public bus.

**Notes.** We walked about 10 miles, round-trip (including the Seathwaite to Seatoller extension) and gained about 3,200'. The trail is easy to follow although rocky but there are so many trails leading up every valley and mountain that a good map and compass are absolutely necessary, should the weather turn bad as it very frequently does. We left Seathwaite at 7:15am and returned at 3:30pm, including a long luncheon on the summit. It being a weekend, there were many people on the trails and summits. Our ascent was made on August 5, 1996.

**Snowdon.** Two down and one to go. The highest and most famous peak in Wales, Snowdon, was next. We stayed at an attractive little hotel, the Gwynedd, in Llanberis, which has excellent pub meals. Wandering around the town the night before, we noted that Snowdon's summit was clouded over and continued to be obscured as we started out the next morning at 8:40am.

The tourist route begins in town, just past the terminal for the Snowdon Mountain Railway. The Llanberis path is wide enough for a jeep, smooth, and well graded. It roughly follows the railway tracks up a gigantic ridge but not so closely that the frequent trains become a nuisance.

Looking forward to a hot drink at Halfway House, we found it had been burned down. It was here that we noticed that the heavy fog was changing to rain, so we donned our Gore-Tex and trudged on. The wind and rain became more and more severe until our vision was severely limited and intermittent gusts of wind buffeted us about.

We welcomed the sight of the summit restaurant (yes, there is one up there) and train station and after a short climb of the final pyramid we were on top of our third peak, Snowdon, at 3,560'. Descending immediately, we were met by hordes of tourists (which we were not, of course), who had just piled off the train and were clambering up the final 100' in the rain. Ruth and I retreated to the crowded restaurant for hot coffee and scones.

On the off chance that one-way railway tickets might be available, I inquired of the stationmaster. Yes, he had two. Now came the ethical question: should we be pure and walk back down as hard-core mountaineers ought to do or take the train? As the rain increased, the decision became easy.

Halfway down, the clouds parted, and we were treated to marvelous views of the surrounding green mountains and the famous rock climbing crags of Clogwyn du'r Arddu. We were back at the Llanberis train station in an hour and spent the rest of the day dodging rain showers as we explored the old mountain town and climbing center.

**Notes.** The gain for the day, August 8, was about 3,140' from the Llanberis railway terminal to the summit of Snowdon, and the mileage was about 4.5 miles, one-way. The trail as noted above is excellent, by far the best of the three summits, and, of course, one always has the option of riding the train - even both ways!

While these British mountains are not high by California standards, the 3,000 plus feet of gain is respectable, and the weather can be formidable. Although we took seven days to accomplish the feat (instead of 24 hours), Ruth and I are now both eligible for the National 3 Peaks cloth badge to wear with our HPS, DPS, and SPS regalia! 10/10/96

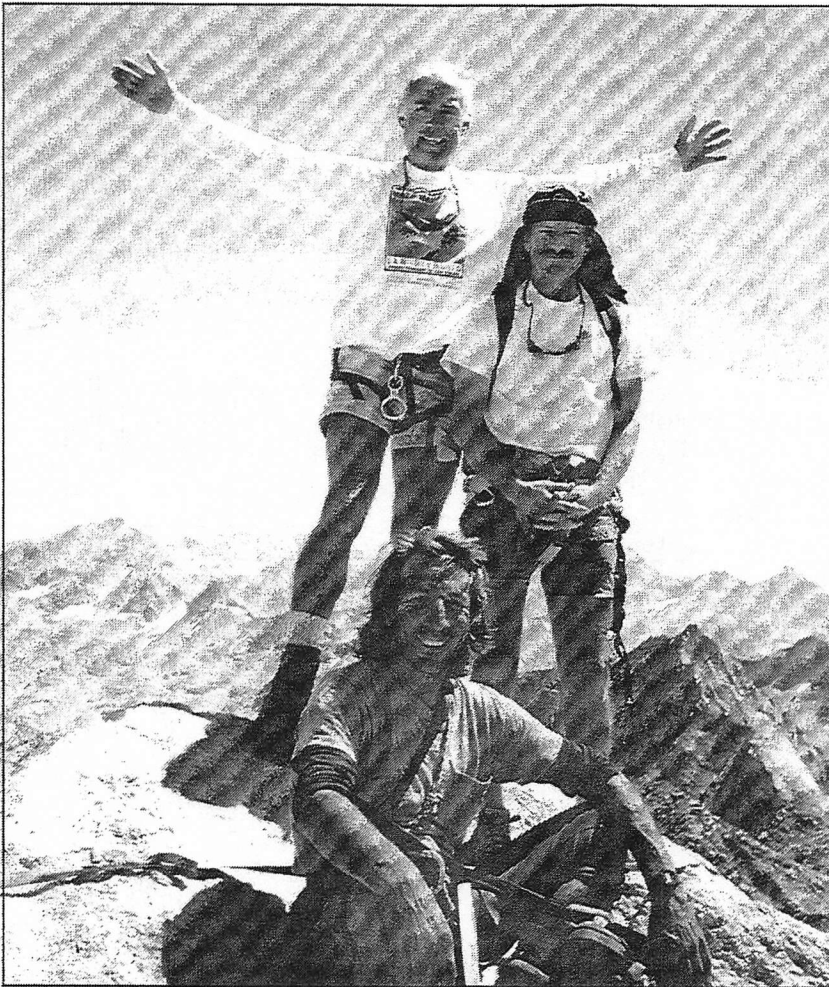
**News report: July 16, 1997**

**Doug Mantle summited Gasherbrum II, 26,360 feet!**

The climbing team left base camp on Sunday July 13th and reached Camp III, the Souler Camp, at 7000m. on July 15, Tuesday. The climbers, Guy Cotter, Doug Mantle and Ang Dorje Sherpa set off for their summit bid at 11:30 pm the same day. The team elected to not use the higher Camp IV site as the summit climb is achievable from Shoulder Camp, where they could sleep without oxygen. The summit was achieved at 6:40 am in very windy and cold conditions. Doug used oxygen for the summit climb. Report from various Internet sources

**!!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!**





Summit - Clarence King  
August 31, 1996

Gerhard Japp, Terry Flood and  
Eddie Sudal (seated)

Photo by John Dodds

---

### MARIO GONZALEZ

Would be grateful for leadership to ascend the following peaks: Darwin, Thunderbolt, Gardiner, Norman Clyde, Palisade Crest, Thunder, Glacier Ridge and Hermit. Please call (213) 614-2344.

AND

If there were any leaders aiming for the Mexican Volcanoes in November of '97, Mario would be very happy to "tag along."

---

### Silver Peak & Mt Izaak Walton

June 21, 1997

By Steve Eckert

Ron Hudson is a guy who can hurt you, at least if you're not in good shape. He and I got together a while back and decided we'd do a tough trip and see who came out of the woodwork to join us. At one time, we had a full trip. At the trailhead, 21 June 1997, every single participant had cancelled. Some inconsiderately waited to cancel until after I left town for the weekend while others gave me a week's notice. (Ron showed up an hour late with his own permit, wondering if I'd still do the trip.) I declared the SPS trip cancelled, since we had no participants, and we decided to do it as a private trip.

The two of us weighed our packs, with Ron adding some stuff and me tossing some stuff out, and headed toward the Devil's Bathtub from Lake Edison. The 15' topo is highly inaccurate with

respect to roads and trails around the lake, but better once you get away from all the development. The trail is pretty good if you can find it, but the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail is not marked and we did some cross-country up the Cold Creek drainage to find it. Don't cross Cold Creek, even further up where Ron said his 7.5' topo shows it crossing. It's a gentle stroll in the tall trees up to the lake, where we dropped our packs on the ridge east of the Bathtub and struck out for Silver Peak.

The valley north of the Bathtub is great walking, and if you go ALL THE WAY to the head of the valley you'll see a great second class ramp leading back up through the cliffs that appear to block your route. The ramp lead us to easy snow-covered slopes and the pass at 11,200' (as described

by Secor). From there, however, I had to face the slope and kick steps in a fairly hard and VERY steep snow slope with zero run out into a rock band... the first 100' are tough, but then the angle eases off for a total drop of 600'. Ron chose to down climb some rock instead of staying on the snow, because he was wearing running shoes and could not kick in. Returning up the slope, however, he took advantage of the steps I kicked. Ice axes and running shoes are not 100% compatible. This dip in the route makes your day 1200' taller than you might expect!

On the way up, we did not circle far enough to the left - future climbers should avoid climbing the ridge too soon, because there is a false summit. Running the ridge all the way from Graveyard is out of the question due to many spires and notches. Arriving at the top about 20 minutes ahead of me, Ron listened to chatter on his 2-meter radio, and managed to contact someone through a repeater near Coalinga. We were the first to sign the register this year. By the time we made camp in the drainage east of the Bathub, we had logged roughly 15 miles and 5,300' of gain in just over 10 hours.

The next morning we headed due east over a 10,200' pass to Graveyard Meadow, crossing the trail there and continuing east over another pass near Feather Lake, then down a steep slope to cross the PCT at Pocket Meadow. This was the best part of the trip in many ways - good cross-country terrain, with no brush and few boulders, snow at the passes, and great views. We saw no one even though we were near one of the most heavily traveled trails in the Sierra.

Dropping our packs at the base of some slabs, we day-hiked Izaak Walton each at our own pace. This time I summited first, at about 1pm, killing half an hour and heading down just as Ron came up. Again, we were the first to sign the register this year. The snow is melting fast, but I got some good

glissading in on the way down. We did not take crampons, and did not need them because we were not on steep slopes early in the morning. The meadow southwest of the peak would be a beautiful place for an isolated camp if you were trying to get away from the PCT crowds.

Heading down the PCT toward Edison Lake, we met a couple who warned us about some streams that we would have to ford. Sure, I thought, no problem for such tough-guy cross-country people as us! Well, it turns out we were crotch-deep in frothy waters three times. The water was running fast enough that I had trouble getting a ski pole down to the bottom without having it brushed aside by the current. At one crossing we turned back several times before finding the right route through the boulders on the streambed. These streams were the most dangerous part of the trip.

My seventh Avocet altimeter watch bit the dust on one of the stream crossings, apparently not able to survive being splashed with overspray from the waterfall above the crossing. This one lasted only four months. One day I suppose they'll stop giving me replacements or perhaps Casio will come out with one which measures climb rate and accumulates gain.

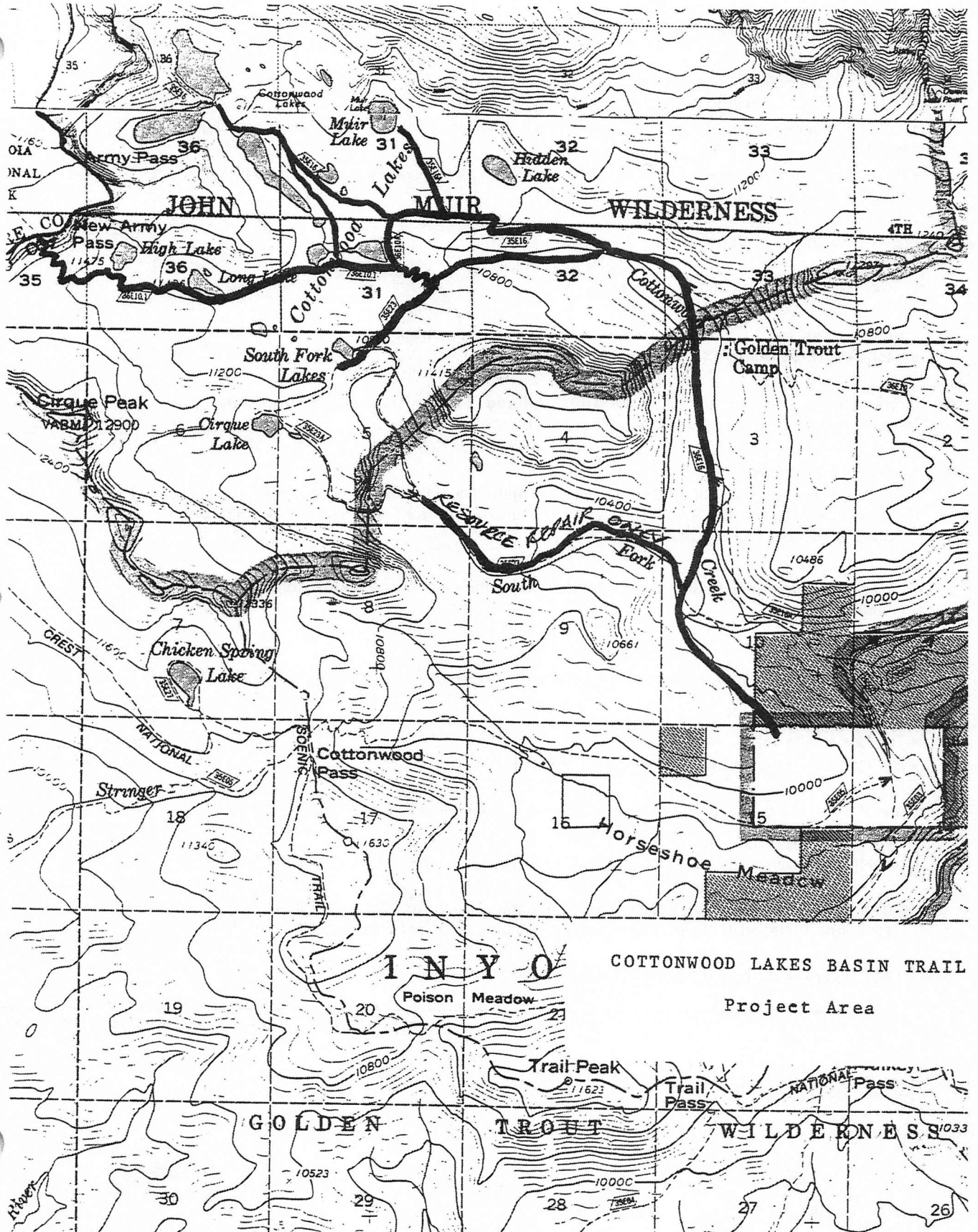
The ferryboat was running already, but we missed it by 45 minutes. It's worth catching if you can (4:30pm at the lake inlet) because the trail around the lake is anything but flat and about four miles long. Twice it climbs over 500' (an estimate given that my altimeter had croaked) to get around some unseen cliffs. This day totalled roughly 25 miles and 6,000' of gain in 14 hours of climbing (mostly with full packs). We got to the Vermilion Lake Resort 10 minutes before they stop serving dinner (8pm) and tanked up while it got dark. Ron stayed in the area for another day of hiking, while I made a dash back to the Bay Area.

---

## INYO FOREST TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION PROPOSALS

July 31, 1997 The Inyo National Forest sent out letters to concerned citizens on 4 trail reconstruction projects to be performed between 2000 and 2001. The Southern Minarets Trails project and the Lake Ediza/Shadow Creek Trail projects are predominately trail repair proposals. The Little Lakes Valley Trails proposal involves repair and reconstruction to about 7 miles of trail above Mosquito Flats. The Cottonwood Lakes Basin Trails proposal involves the most extensive work. (See map on the following page).

The Cottonwoods trails project will "reconstruct, realign, and stabilize about 12 miles of trail". This project is entirely in wilderness and the work would be completed using wilderness-conforming tools. Comments on these projects must be received by Sept. 1, 1997 to be considered. Mail Comments to: Inyo Nat. Forest, 873 N. Main Street, Bishop, CA, 93514, Attention Trail Projects - CIP 2000. If you would like copies of the full review package for all four trails please call Barbee at (562) 424-1556 and leave your name and address.



COTTONWOOD LAKES BASIN TRAIL  
Project Area

Published six times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter.

**EDITORS:** Barbee Tidball & Barbara Cohen. Mailing Address 3826 N. Weston Place, Long Beach CA, 90807, Phone (562) 424-1556. E-Mail: cohenb@laccd.cc.ca.us or use cohenb@smtplink.laccd.edu. ECHO copy deadlines are the third Saturday of odd numbered months. Please send trip reports, photos, slides, articles, jokes or any other item of interest for publication. Computer Disks IBM format/MSWORD-WIN or Word Perfect are appreciated. If you would like your submission returned to you, please enclose a SASE.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$12.00 per year, due by March 31st. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Sustaining membership is \$25.00 per year, and includes first class postage. Submit new subscription applications and renewals to the section Treasurer: Matthias Selke, 1440 Butler #17, Los Angeles, CA 90025, and include your Sierra Club membership number. New applications received after October 1 are credited for the subsequent year. Only one ECHO subscription is necessary for multiple members of a family residing at one address. Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club or the SPS are not tax-deductible.

**ADVERTISEMENT:** Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the following rates. Private trip announcements: \$1.00 for the first 4 lines and \$1.00 for each additional line. Other announcements and product/service advertisements: \$1.00 per line or \$25.00 for a half page space. Reach out to our climbing constituency and place an ad today! Send copy and check made out to the SPS, to the Editor.

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Send address changes to Dan Richter, 808 4th Street #107, Santa Monica, CA 90403. The ECHO is mailed via 3rd class mail and will not be forwarded by the post office.

**PEAKS LIST:** Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending \$1.00 and a SASE to the section Secretary: Dan Richter, 808 4th Street #107, Santa Monica, CA 90403.

**MISSING ISSUES:** Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Barbee Tidball, 3826 Weston Place, Long Beach CA 90807. Extra copies of the 30th Anniversary ECHO are available by sending \$4.50 per copy to the section Mailer. Copies of the Tribute issue (Nov/Dec 89) are also available from the Mailer for \$2.00.

**AWARDS:** All prices include sales tax. Emblem pins (\$26.00), senior emblem pins (\$12.00), master emblem pins (\$26.00), list finisher pins (\$15.00), and section patches (\$2.00) are available from Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr, Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290. Make all Checks Payable to the SPS

---

---

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER  
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION  
3345 Wilshire, Suite 508,  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
"To explore, enjoy, and preserve"

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 36438  
Los Angeles, CA