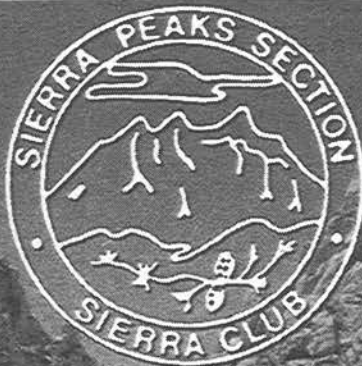


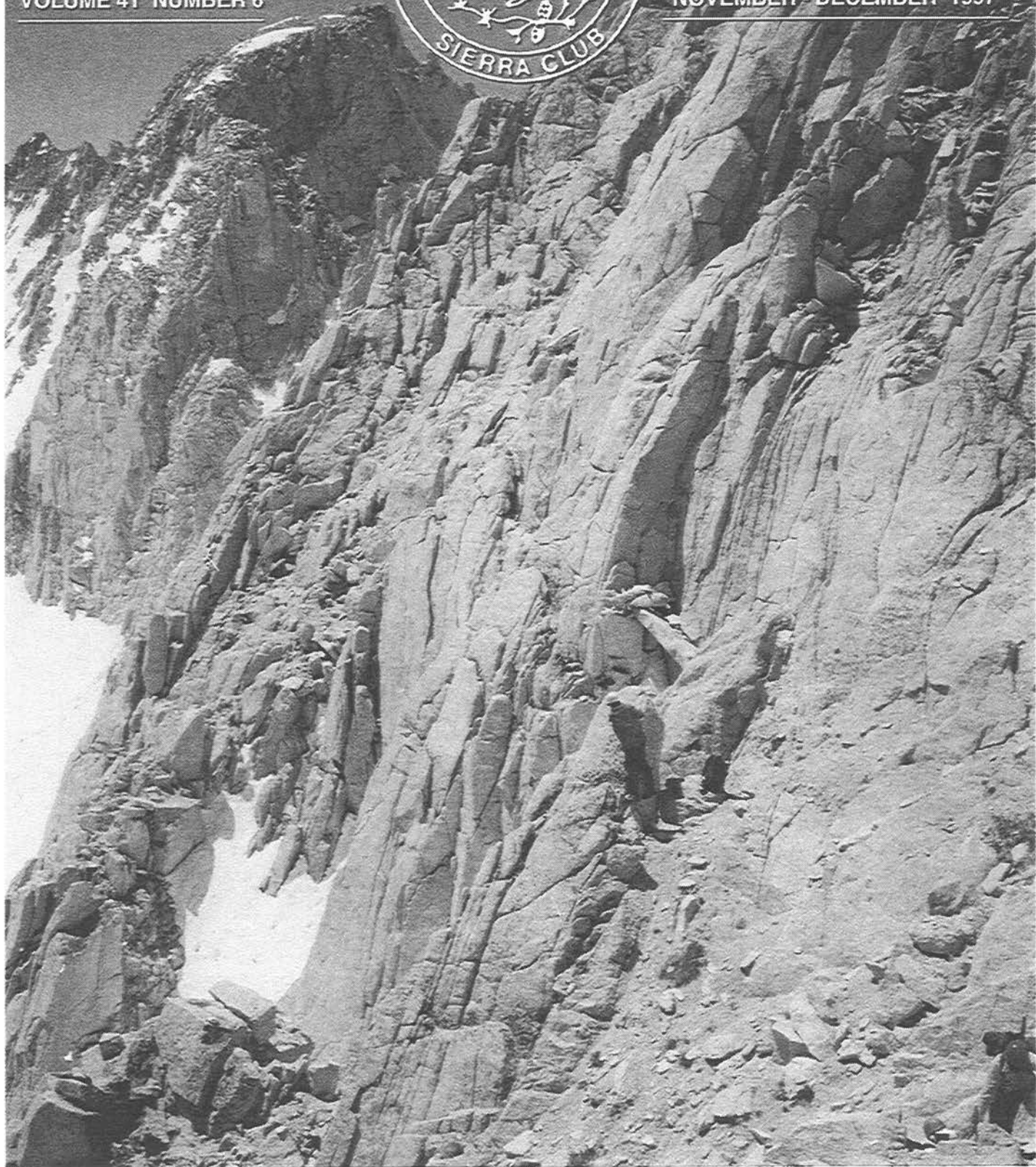
# The Sierra

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 6



# ECHO

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1997



## SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Sierra Peaks 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.

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,

JANUARY 8 - THURSDAY

### JOINT MEETING HPS/DPS/SPS

#### Rich Henke - speaker

Join Rich on a trek to northern India through kingdoms of Sanskar & Ladhk. Visit Nubra & Spiti and see an area which is more Tibetan than Tibet. Refreshments, discussion, socializing. **Location: Griffith Park Ranger Station, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Los Angles. Time 7:00pm**

February 11

**Abraham Hoffman**, author and historian will present a program titled "Water Famine or Water Needs 1896 -1905"

March 11

**John Fischer**, Veteran Sierra Mtn. Guide, will present "Lets Go Climbing" a program on climbing in the Sierra.

April 8

**Doug Mantle**, World class climber and SPS safety co-chair, will use recent slides of his ascent of Mt. Logan to illustrate safety priciples applicable to Sierra Club climbs.

## FRONT COVER

### Mt Mills

SUMMIT PHOTO BY  
David Sholle

## PEAK INDEX

Mt. Humphreys  
Merriam  
Royce  
Norman Clyde  
Three Sisters  
Mt. Dana  
Mt. Gibbs  
Tioga Peak  
Mt. Lyell  
Mt. Maclure  
Mt. Olympus, Greece



WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL  
WINTER HOLIDAY SEASON!

## 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,

## SPS WINTER & SPRING TRIPS 1997 - 1998



### RESTRICTED.

Restricted Trips = Trips restricted to Sierra Club members. Participants will be required to have experience with the mountaineering skills required for the trip. Skills include rock climbing on class 3 or 4 rock, the use of an ice axe, and proper fitting and usage of crampons.

will take place on Saturday.

Restricted w/ rock climbing experience. A group campground will be available Fri. and Sat nights.

There will be a small campground fee. Send SASE, climbing resume and rideshare info to leader: Dan Richter; Asst. Tina Stough.

### DECEMBER

M/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

### APRIL

M April 10-12 Fri. – Sun. Olancha (12,123') If it is April it must be time for our now annual assault of Olancha Creek. Restricted. Moderate pace, 7400+ft. elev. gain, climbing with ice axe and crampons, also 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> class rock scrambles. Send SASE and climbing experience, H&W phones, ride share info. To Leader Barbee Tidball. Co-leader Beth Epstein.

### JANUARY

M/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/E April 11-12 Sat. – Sun. Sierra Snow Refresher Location TBA. All aspects of snow (not ice) climbing to be covered. Restricted. Prospective WTC leaders welcome. Send recent experience and training to Bill Bradley. Leader Doug Mantle.

M/E Jan 24 Sat. Rock Workshop – Stoney Point: Refresh your skills, stretch a bit, learn new techniques. For WTC,SPS among others. Sen SASE w/ resume and objectives to Leader: Dan Richter, Co-leader Doug Mantle

M/E April 18-19 Sat. – Sun. Rock Practice for aspiring M & E leader candidates, WTC tigers, rusty old hands, among others. Restricted. Leaders and location TBA. Send 2 SASEs w/ qualifcations/interests to reservationist: Doug Mantle.

### FEBRUARY

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

### MAY

✓ M/E May 9-10 Sat.-Sun. Sierra Snow Checkoff. Location TBD. Those going for "E" checkoff should notify LTC chair. All items listed in the LRB will be covered. Restricted. Send 2 SASEs to leader: Bill Bradley; co-leader Dan Richter.

E Feb 21 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/E May 16 Sat. Rock Checkout, Rubidoux. For aspiring M & E leader/candidates. Restricted. Leaders to be announced. Send 2 SASEs w/ qualifications/interests to reservationists: Doug Mantle.

### MARCH

M March 15 Sun. Mt. Baldy Restricted, ice axe and crampon experience. 7 miles, 3800' gain snow climb via Baldy Bowl. Group size limited. Call leaders for resevation and to verify training and experience. Leaders: Don Croley, Ray Riley

E May 16-18 Sat.- Mon. Mt. Whitney (14,495) Mountaineer's route, Restricted. Climbers with ice axe and crampon experience only. Strenuous Cl.3-4 snow climb, 6000' gain. Camp at Iceberg lake, climb peak Sun and pack out or wait till Mon., if heavy snow. Send 2 SASE, SC#, exper/cond., H&W phones, rideshare info to Leader: Nile Sorenson, Asst.: Randall Danta.

✓ E/M March 28-29 Sat-Sun. Joshua Tree Rock Workshop/Ckeckoff: This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements for E & M leadership and the SPS Mountaineers list. Checkoffs for M and E rock

JUNE	
M	<b>June 5-7 Fri.-Sun. Striped (13,179), Goodale (12,772), Cardinal (13,396)</b> Restricted. Ice axe and crampons experience required. Friday – very strenuous backpack (6000' gain, 5.5 miles) up Taboose Pass. Sat. climb Striped and Goodale (2500' gain). Sun climb Cardinal (2000' gain) and pack out. Send 2 SASEs w/ exper/cond., H&W phones, questions to Leader Asher Waxman; Assist. Beth Epstein.
M/E	<b>June 6-7 Sat.-Sun. Leadership Snow Safety Skills &amp; Rescue Course.</b> This advanced course is designed to impart to leaders safety skills and rescue techniques for leading groups in mountain terrain in snow conditions. The instructor is AMGA certified alpine guide John Fischer. The course will be given in the Tioga Pass area, weather permitting. There will be a fee of \$75-\$100 depending on the number of participants. This course is limited to M & E leaders or equivalent and participants must be members of the Sierra Club. Send 2 SASEs, climbing resume and rideshare info. to Leader: Bill Bradley, assist. Bill Oliver.
M/E	<b>June 13-14 Sat.-Sun., Leadership Snow Safety Skills &amp; Rescue Course</b> See June 6-7 write-up above. To leader: Dan Richter, assist. Tina Stough.
M	<b>June 13-14 Sat. – Sun. Haeckel (13,418) &amp; Wallace (13,377)</b> Restricted. Backpack Lake Sabrina to Hungry Packer Lake, 3000' gain. Sun climb both peaks w/ ice axe and crampons and some 3 <sup>rd</sup> class rock. Send SASE and climbing exper., H&W phones, ride share info. Leader: Larry Tidball, co-leader: Scot Jamison.
JULY	
	<b>M June 27-28 Sat. - Sun. Mt. Abbot (13,704') &amp; Mt. Mills (13,451')</b> Restricted. 3 <sup>rd</sup> class rock, ice axe and crampons experience. Sat. easy backpack (2 miles, 1100' gain) then climb Mills (5 miles round trip, 2400' gain). Sun climb Abbot (5 miles round trip, 2600' gain) & pack out. Send 2 SASE w/experience, H&W phones to Leader: Asher Waxman, Asst. Beth Epstein.
I	<b>June 5-7 Fri. – Sun. Caltech Peak (13, 883')</b> Strenuous backpack over Shepherd Pass to explore the peak that is being considered for addition to SPS list. Strong WTC'ers welcome. Exploratory, sort of. Send SASE to leader: Doug Mantle, co-leader Steve Thaw. See articles in this newsletter on addition of Caltech Peak to the list.
I	<b>June 27-29 Sat. – Mon. Silver Peak (11,878')</b> Moderate climb of Western Sierra peak. SPS intro trip geared to new & prospective SPSers & WTC students. Sat. backpack 6 miles, 1500' gain from Lake Thomas Edison to Devils Bathtub Lake. Sun. 8 miles round trip cross country travel, 3000' elev. gain for Class 2 peak. Community Happy Hour Fri. & Sat. Mon. return 6 miles to road head. Heavy winter snow postpones. Send SASE, w/ recent conditioning and experience to Leader: Patty Kline, Co-leaders Hal Browder, Janet Graff.
I	<b>July 4 – 6 Sat. – Mon. Mt. Muah (11,016') Cartago (10,480+)</b> Intro trip. Moderate trip above Lone Pine for 2 class 2 peaks. Sat. backpack to Ash Meadow 7 miles. Climb Muah, for 4 ½ additional miles enroute. 2,000' gain for day. Sun 16 miles round trip for Cartago with approx. 2,000' gain. Community Happy Hour Sat & Sun evenings. Mon. pack out. Send SASE w/ experience, recent conditioning, H&W phones to Leader: Patty Kline, Co-leader Jim Fleming.

## Mountain Records by Tina Stough

We have had another successful year of placing and replacing containers and books on summits. Bob Sumner placed ammo boxes on Freel, Granite Chief, and Tinker Knob better to accommodate the signature of the many people who climb those peaks; R.J. Secor took a cannister to Seven Gables; and I placed cannisters on Goddard, McGee, and Junction, and an ammo box on Conness. In addition, Beth Epstein, Doug Jones, and Bob Sumner placed books on various other peaks.

Again, I wish to thank Daryn Dodge for gathering information about the registers from SPS-listed peaks in the Bancroft library archives in Berkeley. If you would like a copy of his detailed notes, please let me know. Thanks also to the many of you who have sent me register reports, which help me track the activity on each peak.

*Tina*

### Echoes from the Chair

Yet again the Sierra Peaks Section leads the way--this time in the renaissance of mountaineering in the Sierra Club. By providing rock and snow practice sessions and checkouts in conjunction with the Leadership Training Committee, the SPS has enabled new M- and E-level leaders to join the ranks of those certified before the loss and subsequent renewal of mountaineering insurance. In addition, the advanced leadership courses inaugurated October 11-12 (organized by Dan Richter and taught by AMGA certified alpine guide John Fischer) provide a new opportunity for the M and E leaders to refine their skills further and become aware of other dimensions of efficiency and safety. The SPS outings and stellar Angeles Chapter leadership training, furthermore, are setting the model for a resurgence of mountaineering in other



chapters and, thanks in great part to the work of Duane McRuer, in the national Sierra Club. Hooray! In the future we may look forward to trips led by the SPS outside of the Sierra Nevada and trips jointly sponsored between the SPS and other chapters such as the Mother Lode in order to foster mountaineering participation and leadership outside our own section.

Thank you to the other members of the management committee and appointed volunteers who make the section run from month to month, year to year. Thank you for the honor of being chair of the dear SPS.

Farewell and happy trails.

*Tina*

November 6, 1997

### Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 9/10/97

Barbee Tidball began the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Present were Keith Martin, Dan Richter, Matthias Selke and Patty Kline.

Dan read the minutes of the last meeting which were amended and approved. Matthias reported our balance as of the meeting to be \$921.26 in checking and \$4,300.00 plus in savings.

On the recommendation of the Safety Chairs, the Management Committee added Patrick McKusky to the Mountaineers List and approved Ron Hudson as a Safety Instructor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. and was followed at 7:49 p.m. by the general meeting.

Barbee opened the meeting by welcoming newcomers. She also announced to the gathering that Duane McRuer had been awarded the Oliver Kehrlein Award. Following the minutes and schedule discussion, David Underwood updated the group on conservation issues.

After a short break Murray Zichlinsky gave a breathtaking slide show of technical climbs in the Sierra.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Richter

### Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 10/8/97

Tina Stough began the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Present were Barbee Tidball, Keith Martin, Dan Richter, and Patty Kline.

Dan read the minutes of the last meeting which were amended and approved. Tina reported, for Matthias, our balance as of the meeting to be \$2,872.74 in checking and \$2,347.74 in savings.

The Committee approved outings.

The Committee approved a motion to send John Watters of the Mother Lode Chapter an emblem pin to replace one lost in the Berkeley fire.

Tina will write the Superintendent of Yosemite to offer a bear box for the head of Lyell Canyon.

The Committee moved to reimburse John Fischer and Jim Long for their expenses incurred in providing programs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. and was followed at 7:35 p.m. by the general meeting. Tina opened the meeting, and following the minutes and schedule discussion, David Underwood updated the group on conservation issues.

After a short break Alois Smrz gave a fascinating slide show of technical climbs on Lone Pine Peak.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Richter

### Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 11/11/97

Tina Stough began the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Present were Barbee Tidball, Keith Martin, Dan Richter, Matthias Selke, Barbara Cohen, R.J. Secor and Patty Kline.

Dan read the minutes of the last meeting which were amended and approved. Matthias reported our balance as of November 1st to be \$2352.15 in checking and \$2944.08 in savings. Proceeds from Spotted Dog Press of \$21.26 for sales of the Mount Whitney Book were reported. A letter of thanks was sent.

The Committee approved outings.

The Committee approved a motion for Tina to write David Eisenberg expressing the Committee's concern over the confusing new format for the Schedule of Activities, particularly regarding dates and the need to return to marking restricted outings with an R.

A proposal from Pete Yamagata asking the SPS to sell the Northern Peaks Guide was tabled for the next Management Committee to deal with.

\* A motion was made and approved to give the Leadership Award to Dave Dykeman and Bill T. Russell posthumously.

A motion was made to have a special ballot to put Caltech peak on the list. The motion was passed by a vote of 3 to 2 and Barbee Tidball asked that it be recorded that she voted against a special ballot.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. and was followed at 7:35 p.m. by the general meeting. Tina opened the meeting greeting newcomers. This was followed by the treasurer's report, minutes, and trip reports. David Underwood updated the group on conservation issues. Dan & Barbara Cohen retired to count the ballots for next year's Management Committee as the group took a short break.

After the break Tina announced that the new Management Committee would be made up of Tina, R. J. Secor, Scott Sullivan, Patty Klein, and Keith Martin. Tina then congratulated R. J. on his second list finish on Smith Mountain on October 16th. Eric Buschow gave a slide show of his recent climb of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Richter

### SPS OUTINGS 1997 by Outings Chair, Patty Kline

I thoroughly enjoyed being outings chair this year. We had a prolific year with 51 outings to date that went, and one to go at Rubidoux on December 20, making a total of 52. 6 more were scheduled that were cancelled due to weather. This is the first year since 1988 that we have been able to train in rope, ice axe, and crampons since our insurance now covers this training.

A big thank you goes out to all the leaders who participated in these outings. You help make the SPS great! The following people have led/assisted on a trip this year. Thanks!

Doug Mantle 2/5	Charlie Knapke 0/4	Bob Beach 0/1
Barbara Cohen 4/2	Beth Epstein 1/3	Jim Fleming 0/1
Patty Kline 4/0	Virgil Talbott 0/3	Janet Graff 0/1
Dan Richter 4/2	Bill Oliver 0/2	Paul Graff 0/1
Tina Stough 4/0	Mirna Roach 0/2	Barry Holchin 0/1
Larry Tidball 3/0	David Underwood 0/2	Nancy Keating 0/1
Bill Bradley 2/1	Kim Giminez 1/0	Gordon Macleod 0/1
Steve Eckert 2/0	Jerry Keating 1/0	Igor Mamedalin 0/1
Tim Keenan 2/1	Darrell Lee 1/0	Duane McRuer 0/1
Keith Martin 2/0	Mary McMannes 1/0	Bob Michael 0/1
Patrick McKusky 2/1	Sheryl O'Rourke 1/0	Eddie Rivera 0/1
Greg Roach 2/3	David Sholle 1/0	RJ Secor 0/1
Pete Yamagata 2/0	Erick Schumacher 1/0	Tom Sexton 0/1
Henry Arnebold 1/0	Barbee Tidball 1/1	Tracy Sulkin 0/1
Greg Colley 1/0	Maris Valkass 1/0	Joe Wankum 0/1
Al Conrad 1/0	Asher Waxman 1/0	Bob Wyka 0/1
Randall Danta 1/2	Jim Adler 0/1	Ron Young 0/1

SPS Membership Report by Dan Richter 11/11/97

Change of Address

Peter Rosmarin

[Redacted]

New Members Welcome!

Larry Conn

[Redacted]

Mars Bonfire

[Redacted]

Tim Kalliomaa

[Redacted]

Accomplishments Congratulations!

Second List Finish #2: R. J. Secor 10/18/97 on Smith Mountain

SPS Membership Report 1997

SPS Accomplishments recorded during 1997

Second List Finish #2: R. J. Secor 10/18/97 on Smith Mountain

List Finish #50: Doug Jones on Kern Peak 6/1/97

Master Emblem #58: Scott Sullivan on Mt. Hooper 8/16/97

Master Emblem #59: Mirna Roach on Mt. Gibbs 9/13/97

Senior Emblem #120: Dan Richter on Mt. Pinchot 6/7/97

Senior Emblem #121: Steve Eckert on Clarence King 8/29/97

Emblem #548: Dave Jenkins on Mt. Lyell 8/18/97

LEADERSHIP AWARD ESTABLISHED AND AWARDED

Dave Dykeman & Bill T. Russell 1997

In Memoriam

Bill T. Russell 1/8/97

Paul Kluth 10/29/96

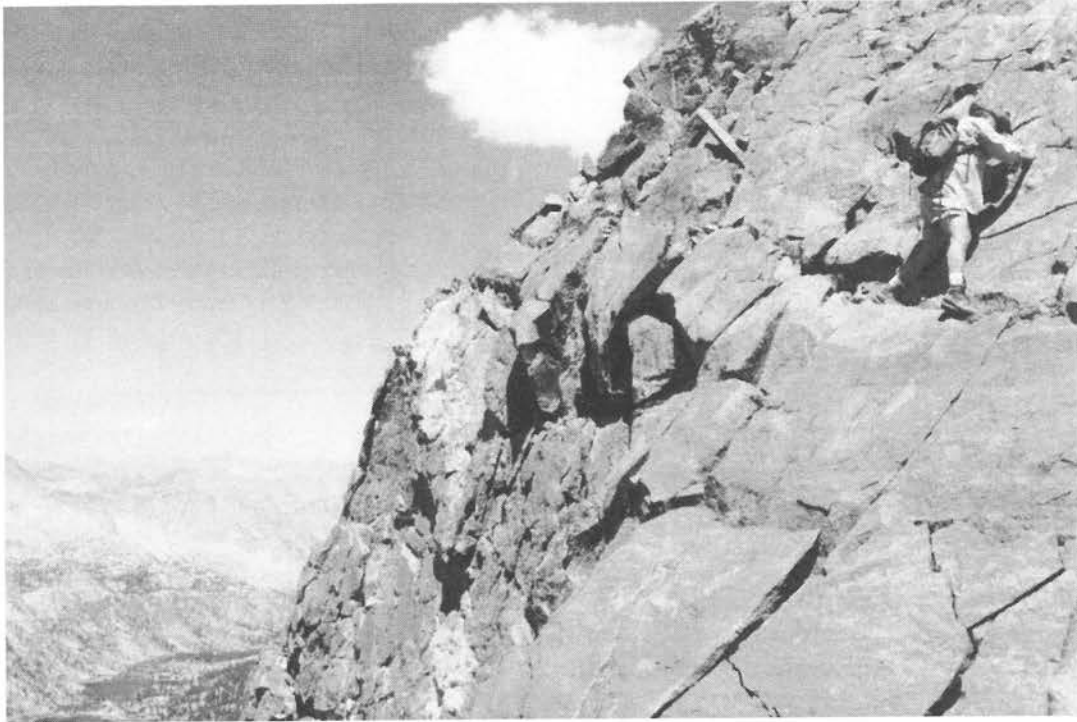
Walt Wheelock 11/12/97



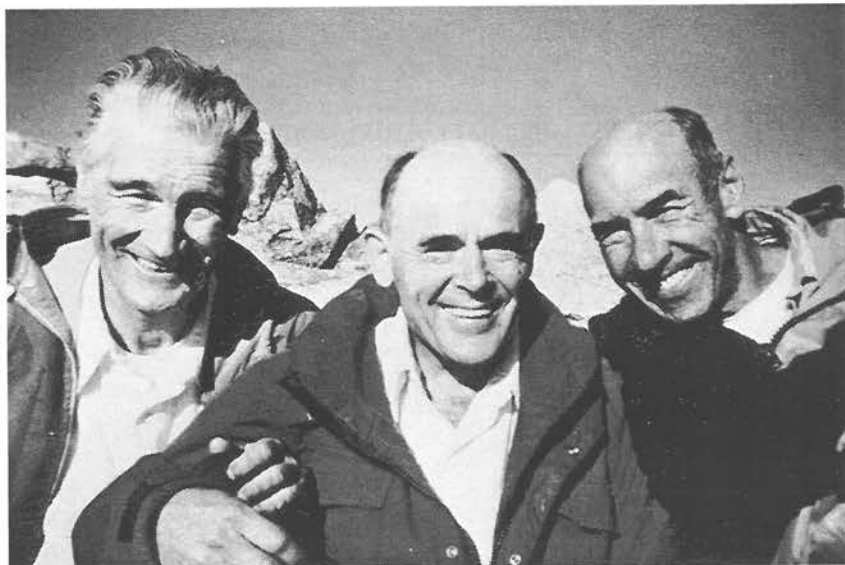
## SPS LEADERSHIP AWARD 1997

SPS Leadership Award by Barbara Cohen

Shortly after Dave Dykeman's death in September 1996, the membership overwhelming directed the Management Committee to create a SPS leadership award in order to give recognition to those individuals who have shown outstanding leadership and service to the SPS over the years and have fostered new leaders. This year we lost a friend with the passing of Bill T. Russell. Your Management Committee has unanimously decided to honor these two prolific leaders by jointly awarding them the first SPS Leadership Award. In the years ahead, this honor will be given to other deserving individuals, preferably not posthumously.



Dave Dykeman leading a pitch at the crack below the summit of Dragon Peak, July 1994  
Photograph by Matthias Selke

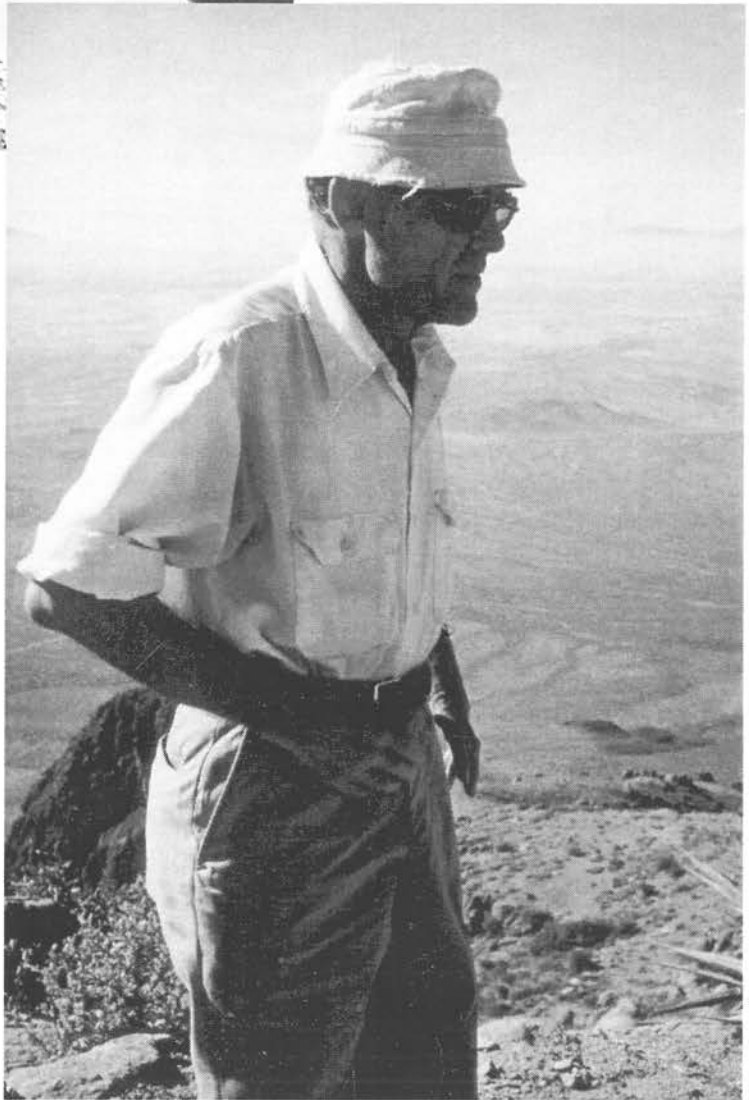


As Chair of the SPS Bill T. Russell inspired the SPS membership to new heights.  
Photo: Past Chairs and a powerful climbing trio - Duane McRuer, Bill T. Russell & Bob Hicks





**Dave Dykeman**  
**Summit Mt. Powell 1995**  
Photograph by Matthias Selke



**Bill T. Russell**  
**SPS List Finisher #27**  
Photographer unknown

## CALTECH – 248TH PEAK ON THE SPS LIST?



Caltech, photo by Owen Maloy

### Sierra Peaks Section – Bylaws 7: Peaks List and Emblems

#### **7.1 Peaks**

The Section shall maintain and publish a Peaks list which lists the Section qualifying peaks and which designates the emblem peaks and mountaineers peaks, as well as the geographical areas in which they are located.

The Mountain Records Committee of the Section or any active member of the Section may propose a change in the Peaks List. Changes to the Peaks List must be approved by the Management Committee. Approved changes to the Peaks List shall be submitted to the membership for vote in the annual election mail ballot provided for in Section 2 of these Bylaws, a majority of votes cast being required for passage. Additions to the Peaks List must have previously been scheduled and climbed by the Section.

### Sierra Peaks Section – Policies and Procedures

#### **7.0 PEAK LIST CHANGES**

- 7.1 Peak Addition Criteria - peaks considered for addition to the list will be evaluated with respect to elevation, dominance of an area, view, climbing interest, proximity to other listed peaks, and other factors as deemed appropriate.
- 7.2 Exploratory Climbs - as required by the SPS Bylaws, a peak must be scheduled and climbed by the SPS before it can be considered for Peak List addition. Such a climb is termed an "exploratory climb", with the understanding that the peak may be recommended for addition to the list. The SPS Management Committee must grant approval for the scheduling of an exploratory climb.

- 7.3 Peak Additions - After an exploratory climb, a member may recommend addition of a peak, in writing, to the SPS Management Committee and furnish an evaluation of the peak in terms of the peak-addition criteria. A letter or an abstract will be published in the Echo. The SPS Management Committee will consider the recommendation and decide whether to place the question on the September/October ballot. Pro and Con statements will be printed in the Echo, if any are submitted.
- 7.4 Timing - Sufficient time must be provided for members to climb a peak considered for addition before a vote is taken. Therefore, the Echo write-up describing the exploratory climb must be received by members before September 15th, or the vote will be carried over to the next year.
- 7.5 Deletion - A member wishing to delete a peak, or to change the designation of emblem peaks or mountaineer peaks, will furnish the SPS Management Committee with a recommendation and reasons. A letter or an abstract will be printed in the Echo. The SPS Management Committee will consider the recommendation and will decide on bringing it to the members for decision on the September/October ballot. To be on the ballot then, the Echo must have been received by the members before September 15th or the vote is carried over to the next year.
- 7.6 SPS Management Committee - In other paragraphs of this section, submission of a recommendation to the SPS Management Committee included a review and recommendation by the SPS Mountain records Chair and by the SPS Outings Chair. The letters of recommendation should be addressed to the SPS Management Committee.

The following letters have been received by *The Sierra Echo* on the topic of the addition of Caltech Peak to the SPS Peaks List. Please submit additional comments to the Echo editor for publication in the January/February Echo by January 17, 1997.

APPEALS IN FAVOR OF ADDITION OF CALTECH PEAK	ARGUMENTS NOT IN FAVOR OF ADDITION OF CALTECH PEAK
<p>My friends would say I never met a list addition I liked. Indeed, when, years ago, Caltech was first proposed, I wrote, "Boys, you can't be serious?" Tim Treacy, perhaps in jest, once summed up my view, "Don't mess around with our sacred List".</p> <p>Be that as it may, I suggest we unanimously (yes) shun the pedantic debate we normally would engage in, and elevate Caltech to List status.</p> <p>Yes, it's a good enough peak. I leave it to others to debate the climb, the view, how unjust it would be to need to cross Shepard Pass again, etc.</p> <p>I ask that we vote "yea" as a unique act of homage, a striking gesture to demonstrate that in SPS we recognize our illuminati, their efforts and desires, showing we're not just peak freaks.</p> <p>Bill Russell's passing was the causative event here. He is among the most important of us to have departed, and he much wanted to do this. In fulfilling his wish, we pay tribute to Bill, and to Mac, and to all our "Patriarchs".</p> <p>Some suggest we have already honored Bill by the addition of Palisade Crest. Please, don't make me gag. Did any of you vote for P.C. on that basis? I voted against it. The rascal Bill had to rig up a suspect second vote before it passed!</p> <p>No excuses. Not a single "No" vote, folks, not even you, Barbara, with 15 to go. <b>Doug Mantle</b></p>	<p>The criteria for the SPS List is determined by the peak's elevation, dominance of an area, and its inaccessibility. Caltech Peak doesn't meet any of these requirements. The climb itself is mediocre, and the summit has an outstanding view of the higher and better peaks that surround it.</p> <p>I can't see how adding this peak to The List will honor Bill T. Russell. Because he graduated from Caltech? Are University Peak, Mt. Stanford (south), and Trojan Peak on The List in honor of SPSers who graduated from these institutions? Or in honor of these colleges? Or because these peaks meet the criteria for the Sierra Peaks List?</p> <p>Caltech Peak was on the SPS ballot once before, and the membership overwhelmingly voted that it <i>not</i> be added to The List. The proponents claimed at that time that this meant that the SPS membership didn't want to change The List, but I suspect that we know which peaks are worthy. Caltech Peak is not worthy of The List, and I believe that this current proposal should also be turned down by the membership. <b>R.J. Secor</b></p>

## MORE IN FAVOR OF ADDITION OF CALTECH PEAK

Caltech Peak (13,832') has a variety of appealing characteristics -- several nice approaches, significant height for a Sierra peak, unique views, and some unusual connections with the SPS.

A route from the west takes off from the base of Stanford, grading into 3rd class as the ridge is approached via a chute. Another 3rd class exercise uses the east ridge. An easy approach from the southeast starts near the Muir trail. This is 2nd class with excellent footing. It passes two lovely lakes and one sparkling waterfall. After the second lake, about 1 mile south of the summit, this route proceeds up and over a 30 ft "wall" and a bit of low class 3 and then on to the summit. This is a very pleasant climb with attractive waypoints with no technical difficulties. Downward routes include several opportunities for nice scree runs.

The top of Caltech is the real payoff. The peak combines a nearly 14,000 ft height and an exceptional location, with the result that the views are nothing short of spectacular. The mountain is a topographer's ideal. Situated at the extension to the trench of the Kern, the entire basin of the upper Kern is laid out before your eyes to the west. The ever expanding and deepening Kern trench can be followed to the south to the very edge of visibility, giving an unparalleled view of the Kern River valley. From this summit perspective the Kaweahs are seen in echelon to the west, while Whitney and both Russell summits are similarly displayed on the east. These appear as gigantic guardian ridges to the Kern canyon. On a good visibility day the Kaweahs seem to be just next door, while to the far south one can pick out Angora and Coyote. To the nearer east are Tyndall, Williamson, and Barnard in a neat arrangement, and Diamond Mesa and Junction are just across the John Muir trail. The westerly view is a bit closer in, with Milestone, Midway, Table and Thunder showing as a magnificent broadside. There is no other location as well placed for sensational views of immense scope from the east through south to west.

There are a number of interesting connections between the SPS and Caltech Peak. The first ascent was by our first honorary member, Norman Clyde. The east ridge approach was pioneered by Andy Smatko, Arkel Erb, Tom Ross, and Gordon MacLeod, all SPS list finishers. The peak's name was proposed to the Board of Geographic Names in 1961 by Dick Jali, the 1966 SPS Chair. And, for some of us, there are also sentimental reasons favoring Caltech Peak's addition to the list. In spite of its small size Caltech has many graduates who are or have been very much involved with the SPS, including at least four former SPS chairs and three list finishers. **DUANE McRUER**

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To be brief: Caltech is a peak that Bill T. Russell (class of '50) hoped would be added to the list. In honor of him, Doug Mantle has proposed the peak as a list addition. I agree. If you are not swayed by the emotional reason, more objectively the peak does offer truly outstanding views, especially of the panorama of the Great Western Divide and the Kaweahs. Lets vote it onto the list. **Tina Stough**

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Dear Editors: (February 8, 1997)

Just got the latest Echo! Sorry to read about Bill T. Russell – up here in the snows, I'm a bit out of touch, would have liked one more trip with him.

Strongly second Doug Mantle's suggestion that Caltech Peak be added to the SPS List, in memorial to Bill. **Rick Jali**

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**Caltech Peak: Notes From the Echo archives - The Sierra Echo Volume 24, March – April 1980**  
August 17-21, 1979 Bill T. Russell, Duane McRuer

“...Duane McRuer, Bob Hicks, Gerry Holleman, Pat Holleman, Lance Dixon, Ron Miller and myself (Bill T.) to do Caltech Pk. We climbed past the lake which is a mile south of Caltech at UTM 759595 and thence over a 30 ft. wall and up diagonally to the summit. The view to the east, south and west was magnificent, encompassing Forester Pass, Junction Pk. Williamson, Tyndall, Barnard, Russell, Whitney, the whole huge Kern River basin and canyon, a broadside look at all the Kaweahs, Milestone, Midway, Table, Thunder, Mt. Brewer and close by but lower, Mt. Ericsson and Harrison Pass.

All of those present felt Caltech Pk (13832') would be worthy addition to the list.”

*The trip described above was from the southeast, starting near the Muir trail. The peak has also been climbed from the west, from the base of Stanford. The western approach includes some 3<sup>rd</sup> class climbing. See The Sierra Echo, Volume 23 Sept. – Oct. 1979 for a description of the west approach.*

## CONSERVATION ISSUES

One of the big issues to face the Sierra in the next year will be the implementation of the Yosemite reconstruction plans after last year's floods and the 1980 General Management Plan for the Park. The Yosemite Restoration Trust is one group that is very active in monitoring and working with the Park Service in matters concerning the Park. The following information has been put together from a few recent news releases put out by the Trust. Please contact the Trust for further information, or contact other organizations who are watching this issue. The Sierra Club; High Sierra Hikers Association at [HSHAhike@aol.com](mailto:HSHAhike@aol.com), P.O. Box 8920, South Lake Tahoe 96158-1920; and the National Parks and Conservation Association at 1776 Massachusetts Ave, N.W., Washington D.C. 20036, phone (510) 839-9922 are all organizations devoting time and efforts in review of the VIP. **The comment period for the Draft Valley Implementation Plan currently being circulated is until January 23, 1998. This is your park...please study the issues and make your voice be heard.**

A full copy of the Draft Valley Implementation Plan can be obtained by viewing the plan in the Internet at [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose) or obtain a paper copy by calling the Park Service at (209) 372-0261. Or by writing, Valley Implementation Plan, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

YOSEMITE RESTORATION TRUST, 1212 Broadway, Suite 814, Oakland, CA 94612  
tel 510 763 1403 fax 510 208 4435, Internet: [info@yosemitetrust.org](mailto:info@yosemitetrust.org), or [www.yosemitetrust.org](http://www.yosemitetrust.org)

Yosemite Restoration Trust (YRT) applauds the National Park Service (NPS) for releasing the long awaited Draft Valley Implementation Plan (VIP) which provides a framework for implementing the historic 1980 General Management Plan for Yosemite National Park. The VIP provides many positive and well-conceived recommendations, most significantly its effort to reduce the impact of automobiles and bus traffic in the congested eastern end of the Valley. The VIP includes provisions to remove unnecessary development and housing. The plan removes commercial and NPS horse stables from the Valley. The following outline gives a full review of the VIP. In particular YRT is extremely concerned about the recommendation to include a 2,000 car parking lot in the Taft Toe meadow area.

Issue as outlined in the VIP	Response prepared by YRT
Clarification of Public Comment Process for VIP Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (the "Draft Supplemental EIS").	From now until <b>January 23, 1998 written*</b> public comments must be sent to the NPS through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Internet: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/planning">http://www.nps.gov/planning</a></li> <li>· Superintendent - VIP Planning Yosemite National Park P. O. Box 577 Yosemite National Park, CA 95389</li> </ul> <p>*Please send a copy of your comments to YRT</p>
VIP Alternative 2, the Proposed Action in the Draft Supplemental EIS, is the MS-preferred alternative and draft plan. Implementation of the Proposed Action would develop 20-75 acres of pristine meadowlands on the valley floor, Taft Toe, to provide parking for 2,000 vehicles (day-use auto and buses).	YRT has opposed parking at Taft Toe for five years. YRT opposes Alternative 2 because it includes parking at Taft Toe.
A Regional Transportation System that is consistent with the 1980 NPS General Management Plan (GMP) for Yosemite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· "The essence of wilderness, which so strongly complements the valley, will be preserved"</li> <li>· "To remove all automobiles from Yosemite Valley"</li> </ul>	For almost five years, YRT has been advocating for a public transit system to serve the greater Yosemite region. In March 1997, YRT submitted a regional transportation proposal to Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Strategy (YARTS), a five-year old, five-county organization (Madera, Mariposa, Merced,

<p>· "Redirect development to the periphery of the park and beyond." (Quoted from GMP)</p>	<p>Tuolumne, and Mono) to plan and implement a regional transit solution for over 4 million park visitors a year. YRT's proposal would greatly reduce auto parking in the valley during peak periods and establish transfer parking at Crane Flat, El Portal and Badger Pass on the periphery of the valley. Under this proposal, natural resources would be protected and the visitor experience would be improved. Also, under YRT's proposal, campers and lodge guests with advance reservations may travel by auto to assigned parking spaces.</p>
<p>The Draft Supplemental EIS states that "It is anticipated that a regional transportation system would eliminate the need for day use visitor parking at Taft Toe." <b>What is required to make a viable regional transportation system, therefore, eliminating auto intrusion into the heart of the valley?</b></p>	<p>Potential Sources of Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· \$10 million approved by Congress in 1997 for Yosemite Valley Transportation Plan.</li> <li>· Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) reauthorization (potential \$20 to \$40 million) for YARTS</li> <li>· President's Supplemental Appropriation</li> <li>· Transportation Fee (\$20.5 million annually) as part of park entrance fee</li> <li>· Concession purchase transit fee (\$4 million annually)</li> <li>· Transient-occupancy (hotel) tax increase \$1 to \$2 million annually)</li> <li>· Development fees in gateway communities</li> </ul>
<p>Create incentives for people to want and use a Regional Transportation System</p>	<p>Potential incentives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Implement a voluntary pilot program for people to enjoy the valley car - free through grants from federal Department of Transportation and Caltrans.</li> <li>· No reservation necessary for bus travel into the valley during peak months (May - September). Car entry requires advance reservation.</li> <li>· Bus tickets must cost less than car entry fees.</li> <li>· Buses equipped to carry sports and personal equipment.</li> <li>· Provide lockers (as in ski resorts and European train stations) for storage in valley</li> <li>· Discount on concession purchases for bus users</li> <li>· Buses will be attractive, comfortable, clean, frequent, prompt and provide an informative park orientation.</li> <li>· Valley floor shuttles will offer frequent and convenient stops.</li> <li>· Annual passholders will receive free bus entrance.</li> <li>· Establish a Good Neighbor Policy: Once the regional transportation system is established, gateway residents would receive free day use entrance on designated days.</li> </ul>

Yosemite National Park needs your help now to create a regional transportation pilot project for the five surrounding gateway counties in order to prevent a 2,000 space automobile parking lot at Taft Toe, a pristine meadow in the heart of Yosemite Valley! If you're thinking to yourself, "What? Another parking lot in the Valley! I thought we were trying to reduce cars in the Valley," then you are like thousands of other people throughout the nation, and the world, who know there are more effective ways to solve Yosemite's parking and pollution problems than to further destroy the beauty of the nation's most treasured mountain valley. YRT believes that you, along with other dedicated Park enthusiasts, would be willing to get out of your car in order to save Yosemite Valley for future generations.

## Walter Whitman Wheelock

1909 - 1997

Walt Wheelock, long time Sierra Club member and founder of La Siesta Press, passed away at Glendale Memorial Hospital on the morning of November 12 at 88 years of age. Walt served as the first chair of the Hundred Peaks Section, chair of the Desert Peaks Section and editor of their newsletter. He was either a board member or honorary member of many historical societies and organizations. He served on the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee, and chaired the Angeles Chapter's Mountain Rescue Squad, the predecessor to the current safety committee.

Walter Whitman Wheelock was born in Monmouth, Oregon on June 8, 1909. His family moved to Los Angeles in 1923 and finally settled in Glendale. He attended college at UCLA and graduated in 1935 with a degree in astronomy, the first degree in that subject ever granted by the university. Walt once said, "when I got out of school during the depression, I couldn't even get a job sweeping out an observatory." However, he did write a number of articles on astronomy which were published by the Astronomical Society of America and the Mt. Wilson Observatory Group. He married twice and had two daughters, Mary and Nan, with his first wife Barbara. He is survived by his daughter Nan.

Walt was hired by the Glendale Police Department in 1937 as foot patrolman on the night beat in downtown Glendale, which meant checking the doors of businesses to make sure they were locked. He stayed with the police department, serving as Lieutenant, both in uniform and as detective, until he retired in 1964. By then, Walt's La Siesta Press was four years old and had already published Norman Clyde's "Close Ups of the High Sierra," "Climbing Mt. Whitney" and "Desert Peaks Guide I." Until his untimely death, Walt continued to operate La Siesta Press, filling orders for clients all over the world. His catalog of books numbered over fifty and covered a wide variety of subjects from the California missions to the backroads of Baja. Walt also published "Basic Rockcraft" by Royal Robbins, La Siesta's best-seller. Hundreds of

thousands of copies of "Basic Rockcraft" sold over the years and it was printed in several different languages. Walt admitted that getting Robbins to write the book was not the easiest task. In 1996, Robbins wrote the following inscription to Walt in the book "Spirit of the Age" written about Robbins by Pat Ament:

"What a debt of gratitude I owe you for getting me to write those books by telling me, "You can write your 'magnum opus' later."

He was the only 88 year-old I know who logged onto the web daily, and his great sense of humor, shined brightly through the onerous affects of age. Only a week before his passing we were discussing attending a meeting of the Zamorano, which would have taken place on the day he was taken to the hospital. He wanted to introduce me to the Zamorano. Walt had a heart of gold.

Walt's love of the mountains began on a climb of Mt. Wilson with his high school class in 1927. That same year, he and his class drove to Death Valley in Model T Ford's. At that time, it took nearly two days to drive from Glendale to Death Valley via Mojave and Johannesburg. The paved highway ended in Mojave and an old wagon route was then followed to Death Valley and the east side of the



Sierra Nevada.

During the La Siesta Press years, Walt worked with many different authors who played a role in recording the contemporary history of the eastern Sierra Nevada and Great Basin region. This list included Norman Clyde, Mary DeDecker, L. Burr Belden and Ardis M. Walker. Walt spent weekends with Francis Farquhar and Ansel Adams, and entertained the Director of the National Park Service Horace Albright at one of the many famous La Siesta Press parties. At this time, he met Ella Power, who worked with the court in the city of Glendale and with whom he would spend the rest of his life.

Over the years, Walt touched the lives of many. He certainly touched ours, and we'll miss him greatly.

—Wynne Benti Zdon

## Mt. Humphreys

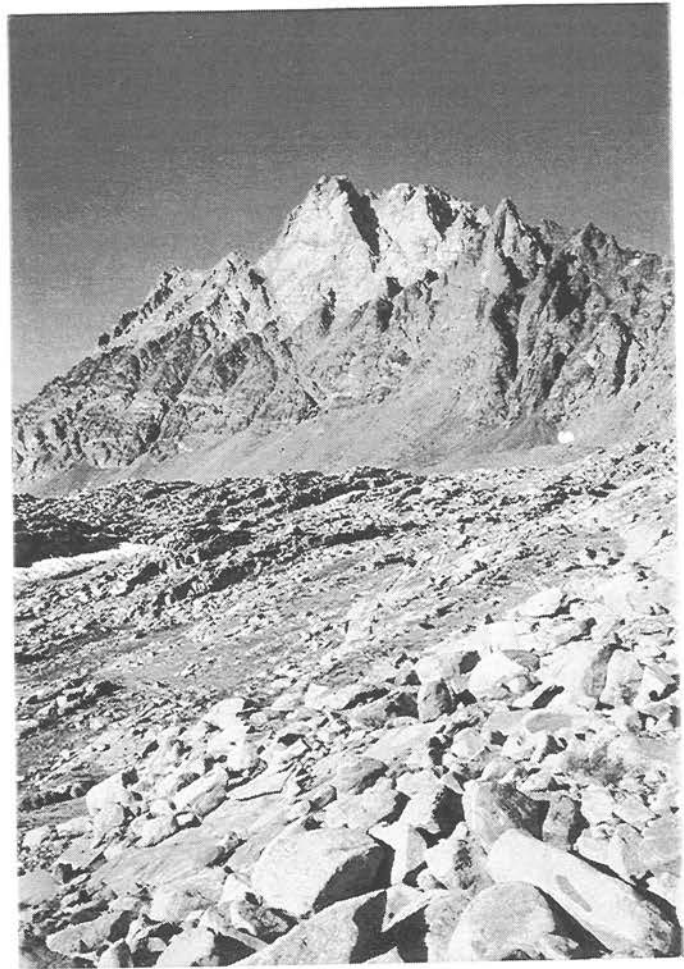
October 4, 1997

Tina Stough and Randall Danta,

Leaders Photos Tina Stough

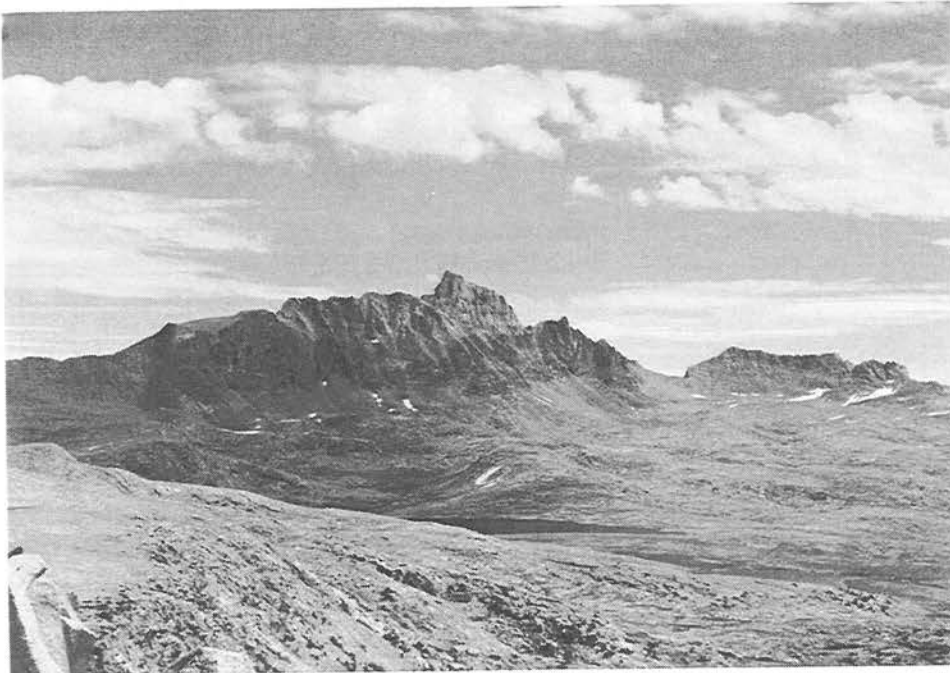
Eight intrepid souls--Jim Hinkley, Matthew Richardson, Eileen Ricks, Elena Sherman, Nile Sorenson, Scott Sullivan, and the leaders--met at the North Lake parking lot, setting off slightly late at 6:38 a.m. What a gorgeous day we had--sunny clear skies with a bit of breeze (more at North Lake in the morning than on the peak), and glorious color in the aspens. True to my warnings, we took only one brief clothing break and one short break on the way to Piute Pass, then another break there before heading to the base of the peak where we took another break and met Rich Gnagy, who had backpacked in the day before. In telling, it seems like a lot of breaks, but we had now covered about eight miles. To keep up spirits and to bribe the participants into going along with this madness, I passed out Mr. Goodbars. Randall put his down, pretending to be searching, and asked what movie he was representing--oh my, what a day we had with puns and jokes!

Up we went, then, to the class 1-2 ramp angling up to the notch, where we donned harnesses and had some bits of lunch. Leaving the notch a little after noon, we found some snow and ice lingering in the



cracks in the chute from storms the week before and the week before that, but none caused us any difficulty. We exited at the head of the chute and came around to the west ridge on its south side. I climbed up the exposed bit and set up a belay for the

others, who climbed it quickly, especially since those below held onto one end of the 165 foot rope so I didn't have to throw it each time. From there we were almost on the summit, which we reached about 1:30--belaying eight people, though they all climbed well and quickly, still takes time! On the way down, we rappelled from the same spot directly to the ledge below the start of the climb up the ridge. We made another rappel into the chute to avoid hard snow at the head of it.





As we were tiring out, Humphreys Basin seemed to have an awful lot of uphill in it as we made our way back to the pass. At first we offered to carry some of Rich's gear from his full pack since we only had daypacks, but he refused and kept up with us with our little daypacks just fine. In fact, after a while we were thinking of loading him down with the rope or some of our gear! We took more breaks on the way out--we needed water, I claimed to have a rock in my boot, etc. We reached the pass at 5:20 and stoically marched on, down to the glowing aspens and then the darkening gloom of dusk. But did we break out the headlamps? No way! Thank goodness the road showed up when it did or we probably all would have broken our necks on dirtcamouflaged rocks and roots.

#### Summit of Mt. Humphrey's

Scott Sullivan  
Eileen Ricks, Nile Sorenson, Jim Hinkley  
Randall Danta  
Rich Gnagy                    Matthew Richardson

### Peaks & Gorge Section

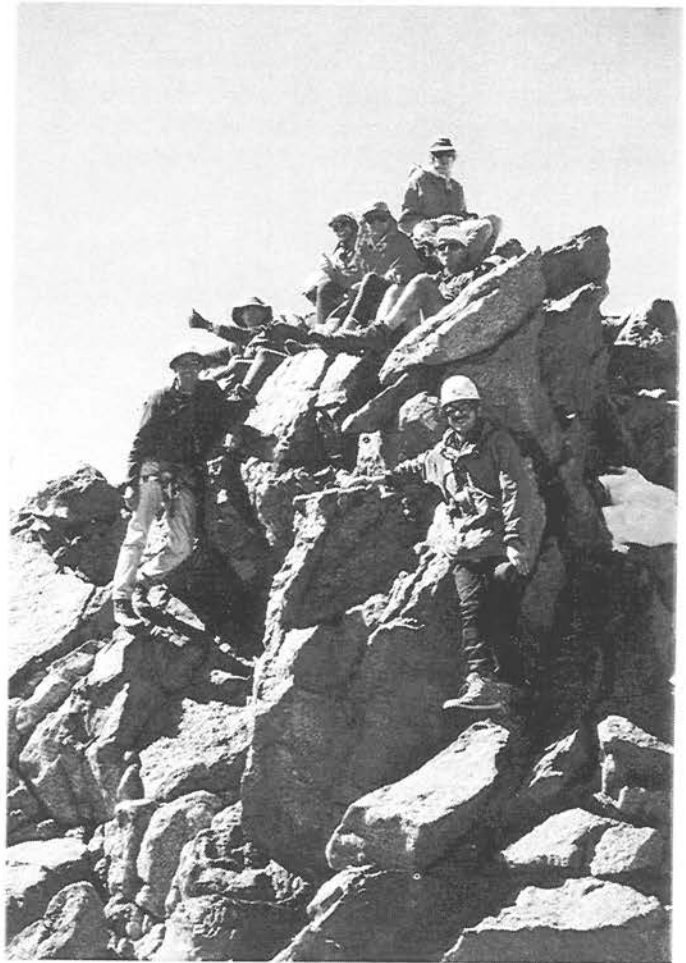
Peak and Gorge Section of the Sierra Club in Sacramento has disbanded due to loss of our critical mass. Some members may chose to join the SPS and I am sure they will receive a warm welcome as well as adding energy to the SPS. It is our hope that this will add to your Northern California numbers and prompt a few more scheduled trips up our way.

In addition we have some very qualified leaders, but it is not easy for them to meet your leadership training requirements. I'm not sure what the answer is, but what about having a centrally located training – say in Yosemite?

Nancy Pallister

Alice met Randall at the road closure (the road to the campground had closed the previous week sometime), and they headed back to Glacier Lodge. Nile had to get back to Orange county, and the rest of us had to go to the Pizza Factory in Bishop to make up for all the food we didn't eat during the day. Rich headed to parts north and the remaining four joined me for a night's rest at my house in Independence.

It was an ambitious trip, perhaps, with about seventeen miles and 5,000 feet of gain for the day with some fourth-class climbing. But with a good group, though large, we still did it in fine style under thirteen hours. I heard absolutely no whining. And so, dear reader, this concludes my account of what I hope is my last provisional lead, ever!



## Merriam & Royce

August 16 – 17, 1997

Beth Epstein and Kim Gimenez, Leaders

On Saturday morning August 15, I was joined at Pine Creek trailhead by Therese Herzog, Brad Jensen, Nitsy McCarthy, Eileen Ricks, Eric Siering, and Kim Gimenez, who graciously agreed to co-lead when the scheduled co-loeader, Tim Keenan, bashed his ankle at Stoney Point. We waited for two no shows among the parked cars, packer shanties and sulphurous emissions from the nearby mill operation, and finally departed at 8:30 am, hoping that whatever had happened to the missing, they were safe. Despite the lack of resemblance to a trailhead, you just walk right through the pack station, perk up your ears at the mules, and you are on your way. The trail merges with the old Brownstone mine road, but once it turns back to trail, the sprawling tungsten plant disappears from view and all seems right again with the mountains. Still, I have to admit to being slightly haunted all weekend by inklings of how closely industrial development lurks at the edge of the sierra.

We moved into an unoccupied packer's camp on ledges overlooking the southeast end of Honeymoon Lake at about 12:30, and the site served us well, providing sun and shade and open granite slabs for a congenial happy hour (to which Therese and Brad contributed carried shrimp, and Nitsy unveiled extraordinary homemade brownies) but our tents were barely down on Sunday afternoon before a group of 15 materialized to claim the large pile of equipment deposited by packers in our absence. I know there are campsites further along the trail above the inlet to the lake, and also in the pretty cirque meadows beneath Treasure Peak just below the pass, though I hesitate to encourage their trampling.

Sunday morning we started walking a little after 6:00 am, leaving the Italy Pass trail before it crosses the inlet stream in the meadow above Honeymoon Lake. We clambered directly over the easy ledges on the rock face at the meadow's western end, and headed to the pass between Treasure Peak and peak 12,470'. It was pleasant walking. After circling Royce Lakes on their east side above some snow banks, we climbed up onto the east shoulder of Royce to get a view of the saddle between Royce and Merriam, which was still full of snow and a little hard in the morning, but looked like it would make an easy and well-runout afternoon descent even without axes. I had planned to go up a third class route on Merriam first, but there we were, so

instead, for efficiency's sake, we went up the class 2/3 east face on Royce (actually a gully which empties dead center on the land passage between the two lakes east of Royce and appears to emerge from the "e" on the word "Royce" on the 7.5 minute map; it isn't particularly distinctive, save some outcroppings of red rock up higher). In retrospect there were good and bad things about the decision to climb Royce first. The gully went fine, offering nice clean slabs and ledges in the first half, but it was loose and somewhat sandy in the second. I think if we had headed to the ribs either left or right when it deteriorated, it would have saved me some rockfall stress (there is probably some good psychological term waiting in the wings for this -- lithograviphobia?). Furthermore, the left rib would have deposited us directly on the summit plateau. As it was, we topped out one easy pinnacle over. Fortunately, the climbing got more enjoyable near the ridgeline.

The view from Royce is panoramic, and especially outstanding toward Seven Gables. On the summit by 11:00, we lingered with the register and enjoyed the clear morning, and congratulated Nitsy, who recently completed WTC, on her second summit with the SPS. Heading down the sand and scree to the saddle, I was very glad we had decided to go up the east face and had avoided the cruddy sand crawl, and my gratitude grew on the way up the class 2 ridge of Merriam -- muy buono! -- lichen-covered, polemonium- filled, mostly solid, stairstep blocks. Eric led up at his "social pace" and we were on the summit in 30 minutes. We climbed the south summit first, marked higher on the map but sans register, and then went on to the nearby north summit. Though theoretically lower, the north summit is blessed with a stunning view down the third class route on Merriam's eastside, a heartachingly beautiful, clean and open chute, reminiscent of Middle Pal, but in some respects more classic in proportion. (On the 7.5 map, it is the first chute to the east of the prominent northeast ridge; it merits mention in Moynier as a descent route for the spectacular 5.10 north buttress). Eric and Brad exclaimed about it's skiability and I was full of regret for having forsaken it, but still happy to have avoided that sandy old south ridge on Royce. Returning to the saddle, we descended about 50 feet over rock to the snow and with a little creative glissading arrived at the lakes again at 2:30.

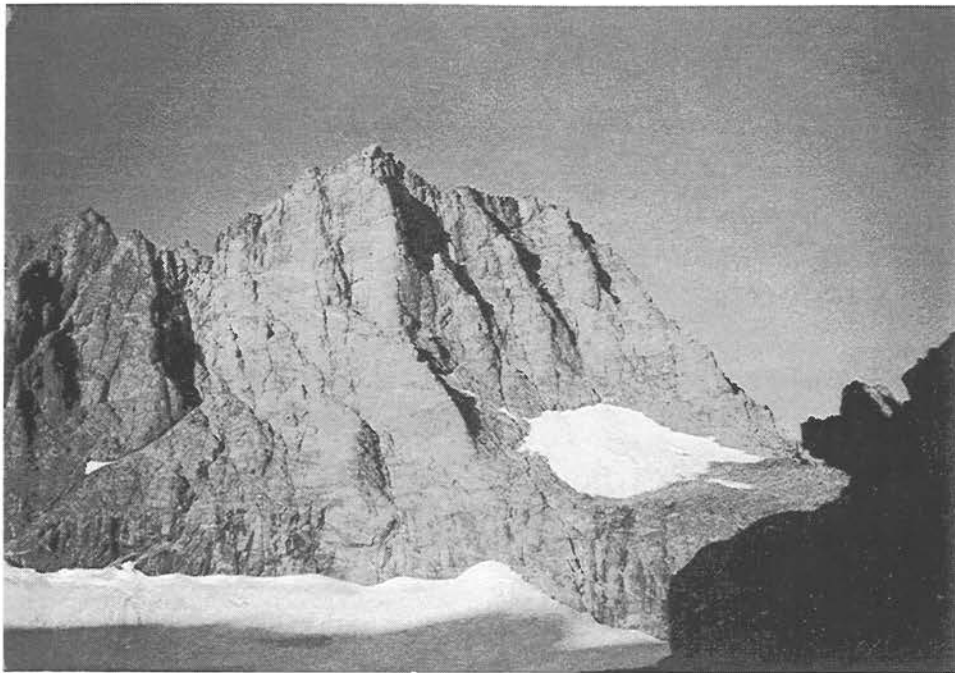
For kicks, per Eric's suggestion, we really made a loop of it and headed cross country east to return to camp over Pine Creek Pass.

We were back at camp at 4 pm, and back to the cars by 7:00, and waiting for a table at Amigo's in Bishop by 8:30.

Many thanks again to all the participants, and my admonishment to the no-shows of the world,

especially on co-sponsored WTC- SPS trips. When qualified students manage to get onto the participant list, it is a great chance to introduce them to the SPS, and they get an opportunity to enjoy a rewarding climb and fulfill their graduation requirements.

-Beth Epstein



Norman Clyde Peak

photo by Tina Stough

### Norman Clyde

September 12 – 14, 1997

Tina Stough & Doug Mantle Leaders

Five of us--Steve Bruley, Steve Eckert, Brad Jensen, and the leaders--left the end of the road near Glacier Lodge at the respectable hour of 8:20 for a leisurely stroll up the South Fork of Big Pine Creek, stopping for an early lunch at Brainard Lake before the final half hour's stint to our camp at Finger Lake. We found a surprisingly large number of people already camped there but were able to get one of the best areas for our camp. San Diego Search and Rescue was having a training session in the area and was camped there. After one woman cheerfully told me that they had twenty there, I pointed out that maximum group size was fifteen. Later Doug chastised them for having a trash fire in a no-fire zone. When someone explained that the fire ring was already there, he pointed out that that was no excuse. Unless they had special permission from the Forest Service to exceed the group size, rules were

being broken. Clearly size limitation is important--the numbers were having a big impact on the area, and this lovely lake was far less pleasant than usual as a campsite. The quota for this trail--this was the last weekend for it--is twelve, and some of them had come in the day before (up to ten legally because Steve Eckert in our group had a permit for two). We had a permit for six, so somehow I suspect that rules were broken regarding permits as well. The sixth member of our group, Daryn Dodge, met us at dinner time.

Up at 5:00, off at 6:00 was the call for Saturday. We made good time up to the connecting ridge to Norman Clyde Peak, taking a break and leaving a few things there. Feeling the altitude, Steve Bruley signed out, fearing he might slow us down. Ahead of us on the connecting ridge, we saw another climber, but the mystery person

disappeared. We climbed down to the east just back from the gap in the ridge and came back up, then crossed out onto the northwest face of Norman Clyde by dropping a bit from the bottom of Firebird Ridge. The ledges, slabs, cracks and all went well; and we were moving at a good pace and with great climbing. The bottom of the "lichen chimney" to the summit ridge has a large and suspiciously loose rock, just the kind of thing that looks perfect for a wonderful hold, but we all climbed around it as though it weren't there. We got out the rope only once for a belay up the chimney. A few pockets of snow on the ledges (from the storm a week and a half before that had flooded Red Rock Canyon and Little Lake) we were able to avoid or step around.

We were on the summit at 10:19, enjoying a view from Ritter to Whitney and over to Black Kaweah to the south. On the way down we

rappelled (with one fifty meter/165 foot rope) four times, starting at the top of the lichen chimney. By the last rappel two women caught us, following our route down--they had climbed the Twilight Pillar (5.8), and one of them was the mystery climber we had seen before and the niece of Lenora Wills! Amazed by Doug's rappelling, they had never seen a dulfersitz before. Back in camp just after 4:00, we enjoyed more wonderful hors d'oeuvres (mostly supplied by Doug) and lots of dinner. We watched clouds blowing over Middle Palisade and bundled up against the wind, which, fortunately, hadn't hindered us on our climb.

Sunday morning we left about 6:15, Steve Eckert staying in to try Disappointment if the wind and snow weren't too bad. We reached the cars by 8:45 even with stopping to try some elderberries and gooseberries. Thanks, everyone, for a great trip!

## 1 - Sister/Sister/Sister

Three Sisters – June 20, 1997 by Steve Eckert

As a warmup for an SPS trip I was supposed to lead (see Silver and Izaak Walton report), I solo dayhiked Three Sisters in about half a day (20 June 1997). Since the standard guidebooks seem to consider this area NOT part of the Sierra, I turned to the SPS and PCS website archives. (One day we may not need the guidebooks, eh?) Ibbetson's Epic from Dinkey Creek convinced me to start from Courtright Reservoir. The Roach Approach had too much cross country in an area where a good trail exists, so I decided to follow the Kline Line for a while.

No big tricks to this trip. It's a gentle trail from the west side of Courtright Reservoir (which DeLorme's CDRM calls "Coortwright") toward Cliff Lake, which I reached in under two hours. The Kline Line says "10 miles cross country to the peak" from the lake (obviously a typo - more like one mile), claims the peak is 101619' high (another typo - 10,619'), and I found no reason to steer for gullies or saddles (I just crossed the stream at the outlet of the lake, and hiked up the class 1 ridge to the east

face of the peak arriving directly at the summit block instead of turning north along the ridge). The last 600' of the east face is steeper but has class 2 routes on it, making this a trip suitable for beginning hikers with a reasonably experienced leader. Grandparents and gradeschoolers could easily accompany you to stunning boulder-and-sand campsites near Cliff Lake, and all would have a wonderful time.

At 8:30am I was the first to sign the summit register this year, which really surprised me. This peak would be a good ski tour or early season trip. By late June, the mosquitoes were out in force, and I wound up wearing a head net on the 10619' summit! I had started around 5:30am in anticipation of a hot day, beating the heat nicely on the climb but fighting bugs on the return. I returned to the car before 11am, making this a half-day hike up one of the Three Sisters (finally explaining the report title).

-- Steve Eckert

## Mt. Dana, Mt. Gibbs & Tioga Peak

September 13 -14, 1997

Pete Yamagata

Mt. Dana (13,053'), Mt. Gibbs (12,764'),  
Tioga Peak (11,513')

Six of us met at 7 a.m. Saturday at the wide graveled shoulder just to the east of the Entrance Station at Tioga Pass. After trying to arrange to consolidate the participants to save some \$20/vehicle fees, I got us started by 7:30 a.m. from the Pass up the use trail headed for the summit of Mt. Dana.

I led the way, holding back Jason Pair, Kevin Doyle, and Tom Eng while David Underwood kept pace with Lynn Robinson. We took a standard clothing break after 16 minutes, then took a break about every hour of hiking. We reached the summit of Dana by about 10:35 a.m. I left a new notebook in the plastic jar, which contained three spiral notebooks signed-in all within the last year, as well as sheaves of paper and business cards.

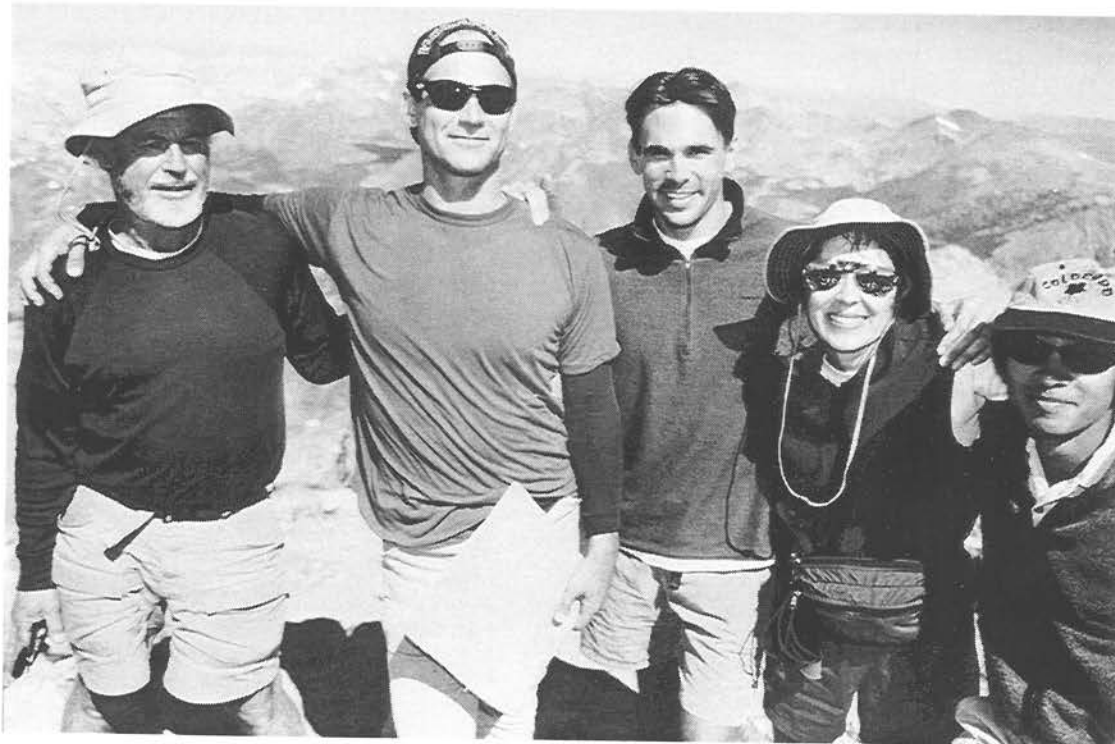
On the traverse to Gibbs, we scrambled down deeply sun-cupped snowfields and class 2 rubble on the south side of Dana, and rested at two points for regrouping.

We passed around the Roach's group descending our up route just below the summit of

Gibbs, and we topped out at about 2 p.m. After more pictures and rest, we descended the west ridge, which was easy class 1, all the way to the Mono Pass Trail. I walked along 120 east to the Pass on the dry, grassy meadow while the others straddled the asphalt. The day's climb covered about ten miles with 4,200' gain.

Finished by 5:30p.m., three of the group decided to leave, so I went into Lee Vining for 2 chicken tacos and rice at the new "Walking Taco", a mainly take-out Mexican restaurant. I met David and Kevin at the Roach's group's camp in Lee Vining Canyon.

Sunday, I took mercy on David's blistered feet and grinded knees as well as Kevin's "chronic laziness" so instead of doing the 18 mile, 3,500' gain round trip for Koip Peak, we climbed Tioga Peak after coffee. We encountered 60+mph winds on the WNW ascent ridge. I was surprised to see my register from four years ago and not yet full. This was a 1,900' gain hike over about 2 miles round trip. Back to the car by 1:15p.m., we left our own ways to drive home. Thanks to everyone for this opportunity to get some great exercise!



Group photo on the summit of Mt. Dana, September 13, 1997  
Dave Underwood, Kevin Doyle, Jason Pair, Lynn Robinson, Tom Eng  
Photo by Pete Yamagata

## Mt. Lyell & Mt. Maclure

September 19 – 21, 1997

Henry Arnebold and Steve Thaw

A great climb on a beautiful weekend, with views from the Dardanelles to the Kaweahs. A Sierra Classic to climb both peaks on the same day. I don't remember much about my first climb of Mt. Lyell: it was quite a while ago. That was a Park Service Ranger led trip and we crossed the 'shrund, with neither ice axe nor crampon--my Dad pointed me in the right direction and said: 'Go, Boy.' and I went. My mother recalls a rope. As I reached the summit for the second time, I wondered out loud why, with her vertigo she ever allowed me to climb such a peak. Actually, the whole thing was an enthusiastic triumvirate idea.

The 1997 climb was an SPS trip led by Henry Arnebold and Steve Thaw, accompanied by Scott Jamison and me.

Steve and I met Henry and Scott at the Tuolumne Meadows Store at 0730 Friday morning as directed and found we had six cancellations and two no-shows. We then proceeded to the Ranger's Permit Kiosk. The Ranger asked (ominously as we later discovered): 'how will you store your food?' We chanted in unison: 'we'll hang it at night and carry it with us on the climb.' The Ranger replied in monotone voice: 'Bear'll get your food.'

One climber proved that education is expensive. He had hung his food away from our tents, too low, and on a too weak branch. We arose Saturday morning to find a bear had broken off the branch, shredded his stuff sack and made off with all his food. None of us had heard a sound. Three of us had hung our food about 15 feet up and almost directly over one climber's tent. I don't think a bear ever approached our food. I had packed my food really light so that I could carry it on the climb, but we had enough so that with donations from three of us, the fourth was able to complete the climb with adequate although not sumptuous repast.

The permit process absorbed a little time and we were moving south on the John Muir Trail Friday at about 0840. We camped at the first bridge across the Lyell Fork having completed the ten miles plus by around 400. It was cold and overcast and snowing by 600. It cleared off almost as soon as the snow started and stayed clear for the rest of the trip.

Saturday morning we were moving for the peaks at 0745. It was an uneventful, but an exhilarating climb: JMT, alpine meadows, slabs and boulders. I instantly recognized the Upper Lyell

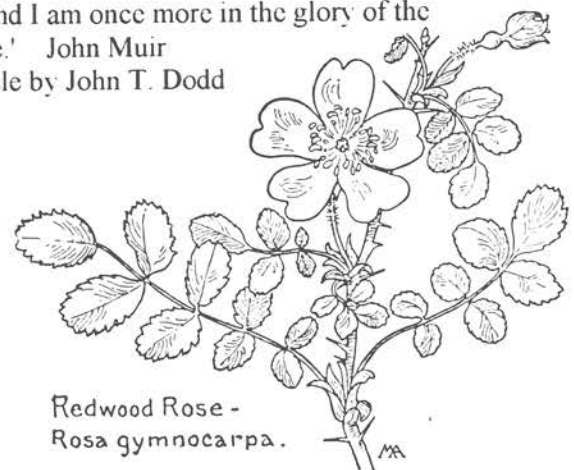
Base Camp and blurted out: 'we camped here in 1958.' We unlimbered our ice axes and donned our crampons about 1,000 feet below the peaks. We went well to the left of Lyell's bergshrund and the hardened snow gave way to a final pitch up about 100 feet of excellent class three plus rock. We stopped at an ice wall which created a little alcove between the rock and the wall that was just big enough for two of us at a time to stow crampons and ice axes for the final climb. Ours was a shallow chute to the left of an obvious central chute and almost on the east arete. Henry, Scott and I alternated leading the pitch. The view from the summit was fantastic: we could see peaks near Sonora Pass, Boundary and Montgomery Peaks and the Kaweahs. Banner and Ritter seemed close enough to reach out and touch. Smoke from a forest fire obscured the view beyond the Clark Range and Glacier Point to the west.

Our downclimb was a little hairy. We stayed between the glacier and the arete as we downclimbed to the Lyell/Maclure saddle. Henry led this section; it was certainly class four and we went slower than molasses. We did it without rope and without mishap as the hand holds and foot holds were numerous and absolutely bomber. Great Job, Henry

Mt. Maclure was a little anticlimactic after climbing Mt. Lyell. The view was tremendous: no fewer than seven emblem peaks--Kaweah, Goddard, Darwin, Humphreys, Ritter, Matterhorn, and of course Lyell. We could see El Capitan but Yosemite Valley was obscured by Half Dome's massiveness.

I slept like a cat Saturday night after another encounter with our friend the Bear, and then out to the cars by noon on Sunday, exhausted but thrilled by yet another great climb.

'...and I am once more in the glory of the Yosemite.' John Muir  
article by John T. Dodd



Redwood Rose -  
*Rosa gymnocarpa*.

## IN HIGH PLACES: GREECE

Burton A. Falk

Okay, given that Mt. Olympus is the high point of Greece, the question arises, "Which one?"

It seems that the Ancient Greeks-- who believed Mt. Olympus to be the residence of the Gods, were quite fond of the name. So fond, in fact, that they dubbed peaks in Elis, Arcadia, Laconia and on the Island of Euboea all with the same appellation. Greek colonies in Cypress and Asia Minor also jumped on the Olympus bandwagon. A couple of thousand years later, to add to the confusion, a band of philhellenes in the State of Washington added yet another Mt. Olympus to the list.

As I discovered recently, however, the actual Greek high-point is located along the boundary of the regions of Macedonia and Thessaly, just a few miles from the Aegean seacoast. To be more precise, the 9,538' peak stands about 80 air miles SSW of Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city, just to the west of the village of Litochoro.

My Mt. Olympus adventure began at the end of a three-week tour of neighboring Turkey. A month or two prior to leaving on the trip, I decided that, since I would be in the eastern Mediterranean area, I should try to find a nearby high point to climb. And, after considering costs, time involved, ease of access and comfort for my wife, Jo, who would be accompanying me, Mt. Olympus became the logical choice.

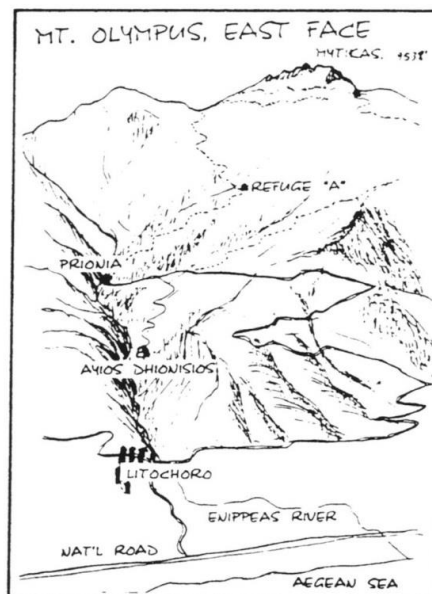
So on May 29th, flying to Athens, and renting a car, Jo and I set out at

mid-day, heading straight through the center of Greece's capital city. The day was hot, the air smoggy; the roads traffic-choked. We had no air-conditioning in our little green Opel, even though it was costing us a whopping \$57/day in rental.

Directional road signs were dismayingly few and far between. By the time we reached the northern boundary of the sprawling metropolis (a Greek word, by the way), I had developed a well-deserved headache.

Leaving the city confines didn't leave us carefree, however. Our route, the National Road, E-75, which stretches between Athens and

Thessaloniki, is, for the most part, two lanes wide, with something akin to a bicycle path extending along each shoulder. The locals were driving with the right half of their cars in this marginal lane (Thank God, there were no bikers), while all manner of passing traffic roared up and down the middle of the highway, double lines and left-hand turnouts notwithstanding. I first became aware of this deadly peculiarity when I glanced up (I was smack in the middle of



what I considered to be my lane, to have and to hold) to find a huge truck hurtling straight toward me. By the time we reached Litochoro, about 6 p.m., I was ready for a glass of anything containing alcohol.

I had to wait, however. After walk-through inspections of three hotels in that resort town of 6,000-- and deciding that none were suitable, we then visited the Litochoro Police Station, where we inquired about a "nice" lodging. The officer on duty told us there was no such thing in Litochoro, and suggested that we return south on the National Road

about 10 kilometers to the Poseidon Palace Hotel, along the shores of the Aegean. We did so, and found his suggestion to be accurate. After registering and freshening up at the luxurious but reasonably-priced (\$59/night) resort, we drove off for dinner at a front desk-recommended restaurant, The Corfu, in nearby Platamon, where we enjoyed delicious meal of crusty bread, a plate of tasty appetizers--I especially liked the Tzatziki, a combination of yogurt, cucumbers and garlic, and a bottle of good local wine. From the restaurant window, we could see the Mt. Olympus massif, and we noted that it was cloud-covered. On the way back to our hotel it began to rain. I decided to not attempt the peak the next day. I'd wait for better weather, and for a more complete restoration of my equanimity.

So we spent the next morning reconnoitering the Litochoro area, and that afternoon we explored Thessaloniki, a sea front city possessing many handsome tree-lined streets and parks.

On Saturday, May 31st, I jumped out of bed, ready to begin my solo climb of Mt. Olympus. My first stop, at 6:15 a.m., was for rolls and coffee (which I spilled all over the counter) at a nearby 24 hour gas station. I then drove through Litochoro, and up a winding road to the trailhead for the climb, 3,600' Prionia, site of a rustic cafe, a public restroom and a large parking lot. Looking up I could see that the summit ridge remained hidden in a seemingly stationary cloud bank. Like many Hawaiian peaks, Mt. Olympus makes its own weather.

I then threw on my pack, and at 6:55 a.m. began chugging up a well-graded trail, though a lush forest of oak, chestnut, beech and plane trees. Arriving at the 6,870', 90 bed Refuge A precisely at 9 a.m., I asked the hut-keeper there what my chances were of reaching the summit without crampons and an ice axe. He assured me I didn't need them, even though there had been an overnight snowfall on the

mountain top, and in spite of the fact that about a half mile up the mountain we could see a line of 30 or so climbers gingerly working their way across a steep snowbank. "Just be careful," he said.

Starting off again at 9:15, I climbed first through a pine forest, then past dwarfed conifers typical of the timberline zone. By the time I reached the 9,000' level, the mountainside had become completely barren. A few minutes later the trail disappeared under the snow, and I was enveloped in a swirling mist.

Possessed with an enormous amount of energy that morning, I had already passed several hikers and was in the process of overtaking the group of thirty that I had observed from the hut. As far as I could see--literally--only one climber remained ahead of me, and he or she, with ski poles flying, was skittering up the rock and snow at a rapid pace. Although our race to the monument on the summit was close, I have to admit I lost by 20' or so. The time of my arrival was 11:15 a.m. Six thousand feet of gain in four and a quarter hours--not bad for an old guy.

The speedy climber and I introduced ourselves to one another. He was Gephart Holtzman from Munich, Germany, almost 70 years old. We shook hands and took celebratory photos of one another. He told me that in his prime he had climbed every peak in the Alps over 4,000 meters in elevation. I told him that during my middle age crisis I had climbed every 5,000'+ peak in the San Gabriels. He then yodeled, which I momentarily mistook for the first sign of cardiac arrest.

Checking my altimeter, which I had calibrated at Refuge A, I found I was about 20' higher than I should have been. The large party of climbers was approaching. Everything was going swimmingly. I started down.

When I was about 300' below the summit, the mist cleared momentarily, and to my chagrin I spotted another spire--it too possessing a monument--



along on the summit ridge, a peak which looked at least as high as the one I had climbed. I attempted to reconcile the situation. My altimeter indicated I had climbed the proper peak; the line of oncoming climbers was heading for the summit I had ascended; Gephart remained back there on top enjoying his victory lunch. I decided that I must have been right, and I continued down. Other than for that, my descent was uneventful, and I got back to the cafe in Prionia at 2:45 p.m., where I inhaled a bowl of excellent bean soup and quaffed a large beer.

That evening, in the little resort town of Leptokaria, beside a halcyon Aegean Sea, Jo and I ordered tzatziki, gyro and a bottle of retsina (which must require Greek ancestry to truly enjoy) at the Verginia #1 restaurant. Although we didn't sit down until well after 8 p.m., we were still among the first to dine. It wasn't until after nine that the place filled and a guitarist/singer began playing.

Still later that night, back at the Poseidon Palace, studying a map, I came to the conclusion that I had, in all probably, ascended Skolio at 9,518' rather than nearby Mytikas at 9,538'. Bummer.

I decided "close enough," however. I wasn't going back. Should anyone ask, I'll say, "Mt. Olympus? Oh, yeah. Been there; done that."

#### ODDS & ENDS

The Mount Olympus massif bears a remarkable resemblance to the Mt. Whitney area in that both peak's east faces are sheer and that both of their summit ridges are multi-spired (e.g. Mt. Muir, Keeler & Day Needles, vs Mytikas, Skolio, Stefani). Additionally, their approaches are similar in that on both you start in a valley, work your way west up and across the south shoulder of the summit ridge, and then approach the spires from the relatively level west side.

If you have the time, it is

possible to make a loop trip out of the climb, continuing N along the summit ridge, descending via a trail which passes the 80 bed Refuge S.E.O., and then dropping down to join the road below Prionia. For those desiring an even longer climb, consider beginning in Litochoro and hiking up the beautiful Mavrolongus Valley, alongside the Enippas River, to Prionia.

Prionia, by the way, means "saws" in Greek, and it is the site of a former sawmill. The cafe there has been built from pieces of timber leftover from the mill. Just below Prionia is the site of a 15th century Greek Orthodox Monastery, Ayios Dhionisios, which was blown up in 1943 by Germans who rightly believed it was being used by Greek guerrillas. A monk who lives there by all by himself is in the process of restoring the building. The Fodor's Guide reports it is possible to spend a night in one of the monastery's undamaged rooms at no charge. Contributions are appreciated, however.

Still another way to ascend Mt. Olympus (although not nearly as popular) is from the west side via a military road and Refuge B.

Regarding the climbing history of the peak, Sultan Mehmet IV, the ruler of the Ottoman Empire, is reported to have made an unsuccessful attempt on the high point in 1669. In 1910 Edward Richter, on his third attempt to climb the peak, was captured and held for ransom by bandits in the area. Three years later, in 1913, two Swiss artists, Daniel Baud-Bovy and Frederic Boissonas, along with a local guide, Christos Kakalos, made the first ascent of Mytikas.

The Mt. Olympus climbing season extends from May to October. While the peak lies closer to Thessaloniki than Athens, airline schedules are much better into Athens. Buses run between Athens and Thessaloniki on a frequent basis. From a stop along this popular route, one can catch a local bus into Litochoro several times a day.

## When a Trip Member Is Injured: Bedside Manner and the Outing Leader

By John Edginton

As Chairman of the Sierra Club's Insurance Committee I am often called upon to explain why the Sierra Club has enjoyed an excellent loss history with regard to accidents on both national and chapter outings. A number of factors contribute to our successful record: good safety practices on outings, the reluctance of loyal and/or sympathetic members to sue the Club, a realization that the participant is often at fault for the injury, and, fate.

But there is another factor at work here which prevents claims, one that I think is as important as any of the others: the good "bedside manner" of our outings leaders toward a trip member who is injured.

It goes without saying that we should operate our outings and activities as safely and cautiously as possible, consistent with the goals and nature of the activity. We need to reinforce good leader traits and skills with training, and create opportunities for leaders to network and discuss their experiences, problems and solutions. We should also encourage fellowship among our participants so that their loyalty and restrained litigiousness continues. But as we do all of that, we should also be sure that this other important skill is in our repertoire.

The expression "bedside manner" is commonly used in reference to a medical practitioner. A physician with excellent bedside manner conveys confidence and concern in caring for his/her patient, regardless of the stress involved. Likewise, an outing leader should exhibit confidence and concern toward an injured participant, not only as a common courtesy but for the purpose of preventing claims.

Techniques like bedside manner are part of the "soft" side of leadership - namely people-to-people skills. All leaders have different personalities and will approach each situation differently. The following tips, however, should prove useful to everyone.

### **DO:**

- Stay calm. When an accident occurs, a good leader will approach the situation as calmly and efficiently as possible. The expertise and training in first aid/mountain medicine skills will be apparent, which will be comforting to the injured participant. If the leader is calm and logical, the victim will have a feeling that the situation is in hand, and in good hands. The moral here is to have the appropriate amount of first aid/mountaineering medicine skills necessary for the trip you are leading. This will allow a confident and quiet approach.
- Pay attention to the injured person. In addition to being calm, the leader must present an empathetic/sympathetic personality. The use of calming words and a concern for the injured person's comfort and mental well-being are mandatory. Generally speaking, you should not leave the victim alone. Explain the details of what is being done and describe any evacuation procedures or other measures you are taking to summon help. Assure the patient that his/her gear will be well taken care of if he/she is to be evacuated.
- Remember the relatives. It is also important to be considerate of any relatives or friends of the patient who may be present, and to and keep them informed about what is going on.
- Keep written records. Keep a written log regarding the injury and treatment so that this can accompany the patient if an evacuation is necessary. The doctors at the medical facility will be grateful for this information and it also will be helpful when preparing the accident report. Also be sure to send along any information you have regarding allergies or other medical needs that you received from the trip participant prior to the outing. If you didn't get this information ahead of time, get as many details as you can from the injured person after the accident.
- Send someone out with the injured person. Unless the victim is evacuated by professionals, be sure he or she is accompanied to the final destination for treatment by a member of the trip staff or responsible volunteer. As leader you have a responsibility toward the other participants

to continue the trip, assuming the welfare of the injured person can be taken care of in some reasonable other way.

- Maintain communication after the trip. If the participant has been evacuated and is in a hospital, visit them at the end of the trip and offer assistance if possible. Be sure that diligent attempts have been made to contact the participant's relatives or friends who will assume responsibility after your departure. Upon returning home, remain in contact with the injured participant, so that he or she understands that you care about their welfare and their recovery. These final steps are very important.

***DON'T:***

- Don't volunteer opinions regarding the cause of the accident to the patient or anyone else. Complete the accident report and transmit it in accordance with its instructions. During World War II it was said that "loose lips sink ships;" and the same is true with claims prevention. Do not make statements which later could be deemed admissions against the Sierra Club's interest.
- Don't cancel the outing if it reasonably can be continued in light of the accident. You do have a responsibility to the other trip members to fulfill their expectations.
- Don't attempt medical procedures or treatment that is beyond your expertise. Some procedures should only be performed by a nurse or doctor. Do utilize any medical expertise or training which may be present among the trip members.
- Don't expose yourself to the risk of a claim of sexual harassment.

When working on a member of the opposite sex, try to have a witness of the patient's sex to avoid claims of improper touching, etc. Respect the victim's privacy, but recognize that sometimes performing appropriate medical treatment will require removal of clothing, elimination of fluids and waste and other intimate actions. Try to obtain the victim's consent before dealing with such sensitive problems.

- Don't tell the victim that the accident was their fault. Don't make any deprecating remarks or imply that they were clumsy or otherwise inadequate. Do sympathize with their plight. Perhaps the best way to approach the bedside manner question in your own mind is to put yourself in the place of an injured person and recall the kind of conduct that made you feel good as opposed to apprehensive, frightened or possibly angry. It is very helpful to discuss this subject in a meeting with other leaders, preferably of both sexes. The more you are aware of the importance of your bedside manner, the easier it will be for you to put it to use in the stressful situation of dealing with an injury on one of your trips.

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