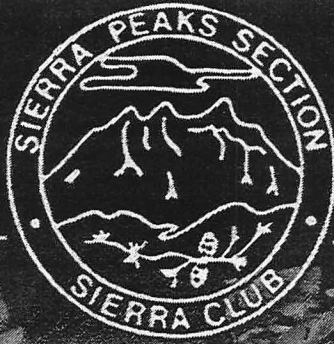


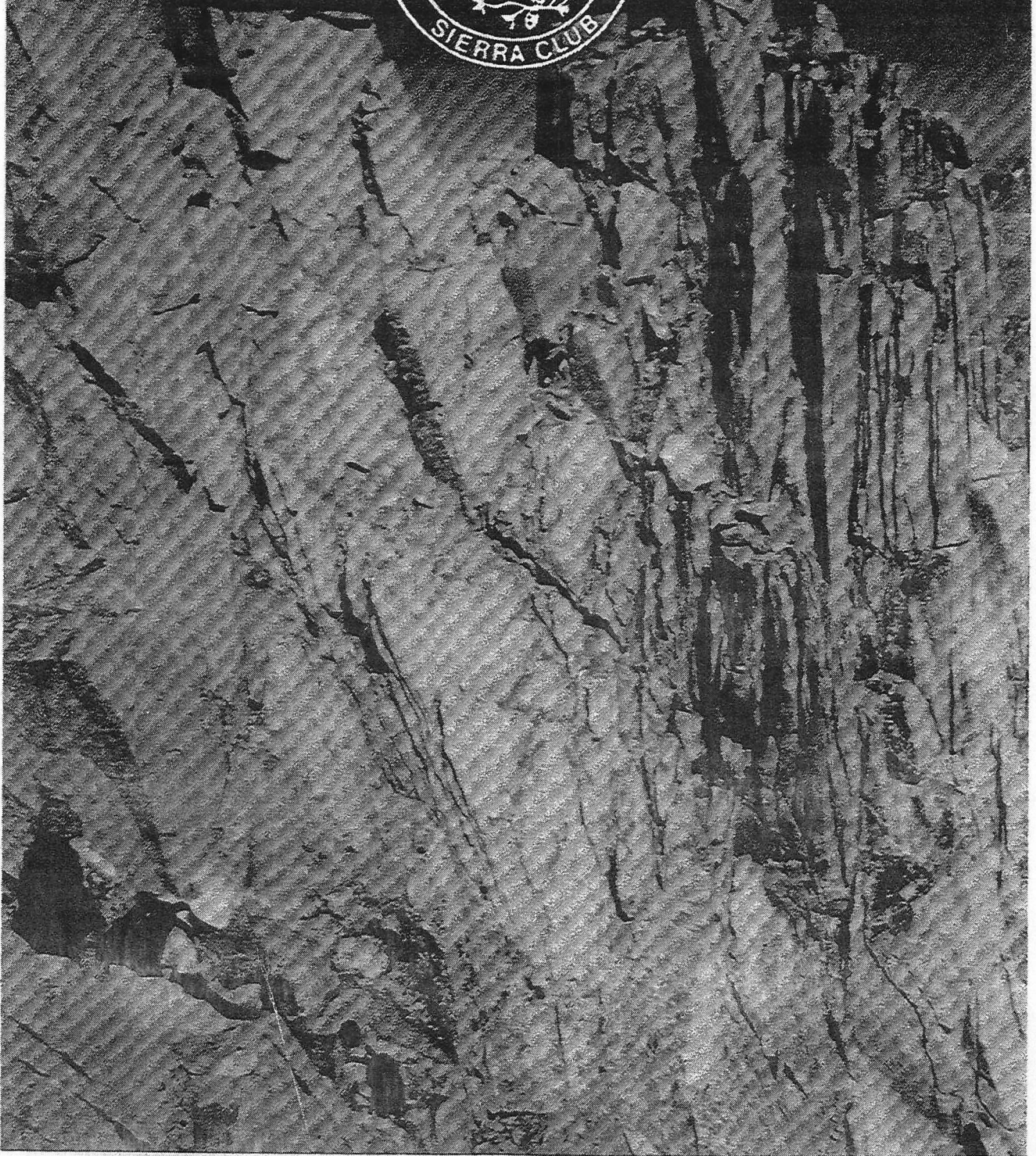
The Sierra

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 1



ECHO

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1998



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.

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 mountaineer and SPS safety co-chair will use recent slides of his ascent of Mt. Logan to illustrate safety principles applicable to Sierra Club climbs.

May 13

Peter Zurla, Trainer, climber, SPS member and trainer of world class climbers, will present a program on conditioning for climbers.

June 10

Jim Long, will present his acclaimed light and sound show "The Range of Light".

FRONT COVER

THUNDER MOUNTIAN

SUMMIT PHOTO BY

DARIN DODGE

SPS T-SHIRTS

Own your own SPS T-shirt. They come in Ash, yellow or light blue in medium, large and x-large. 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.

PEAK INDEX

Vandever
Florence
Sawtooth
Needham
Blackhawk
Iron
Silver Peak
Four Gables

EDITOR/MAILER'S NOTES:

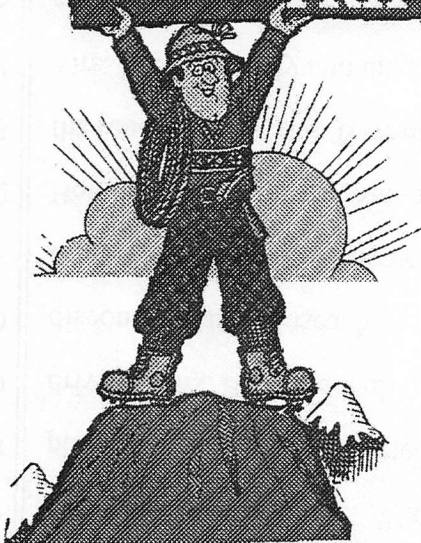
- ✓ The last issue of *The Echo* had printing errors in a few newsletters. The printer had omitted pages 11,12,17 and 18 and doubled up on pages 13,14,15 and 16.
- ✓ A number of members who attended the banquet did not take their label, but we think took their *Echo*. Therefore we did not mail a probable 2nd copy of the *Echo* to those persons.
- ✓ If you are missing these pages or missing the banquet issue please contact the Mailer. We will mail copies of the November/December *Echo* to you at no charge.
- ✓ We now have a new Mailer, Barbee retired and Elena Sherman is taking over the job of getting your *Echos* to you. See the back cover for Elena's address and phone number.

Can you believe it?!

Comments left for the Forest Service on registration sheets and comment cards completed by backpackers after camping trips.

- "Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill."
- "Chair lifts need to be in some places so that we can get to the wonderful views without having to hike to them."
- "Too many bugs.....Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests."
- "Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night with flashlights."
- "A McDonald's would be nice at trailhead."
- "Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers that use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals."

SPS WINTER & SPRING TRIPS 1998



See November/December Echo for detailed write-ups of trips previously listed.

FEBRUARY

E Feb 21 Sat. Snow practice – local
reservationist Doug Mantle.

Paid Advertisement

I Feb 28 Sat. Quadruple List Finish Party
(and short hike) Please join me, Tina Stough, for a short hike (3 mi. r.t., 800' gain) of Glendora Mountain in the San Gabriels. Help me celebrate the completion of the LOWER PEAKS LIST! Meet 9 am at the Azusa carpool point on Azusa Ave. at Ninth St. (take Azusa Ave. [Highway 39] off ramp north from the 210, about 3 mi. east of the 605) on the street next to the Ranch Market. Bring your "Adventure Pass" parking tag if you have one, lunch, and goodies to share. **Please wear a silly hat; it will fit the occasion.**

MARCH

M March 15 Sun. Mt Baldy Restricted trip
Croley/Riley

✓E/M March 28-29 Sat-Sun Joshua Tree
Rock Workshop/Checkoff.
Richter/Stough

APRIL

M April 10-12 Fri.-Sun Olancha (12,123')
B.Tidball/Epstein

M/E April 11-12 Sat.-Sun. Sierra Snow
Refresher Bradley/Mantle

M/E April 18-19 Sat. –Sun Rock Practice
reservationist Mantle

MAY

✓M/E May 9-10 Sat. Sun. Sierra Snow
Checkoff Bradley/Richter

✓M/E May 16 Sat. Rock Checkout,
Rubidoux reservationist Mantle

E May 16-18 Sat.- Mon. Mt. Whitney
(14,495) Sorenson/Danta

M May 30 – 31 Sat. – Sun Bloody
Restricted trip, ice axe and crampons
Leader Epstein co-leader Keenan

JUNE

M Jun 5 –7 Fri. – Sun Caltech (13,883)
Mantle/Thaw

M/E Jun 6-7 Sat. – Sun. Leadership Snow
Safety Skills & Rescue Course. Instructor
Fischer Leaders Bradley/Oliver

M/E Jun 13 - 14 Sat. – Sun. Leadership
Snow Safety Skills & Rescue Course.
Instructor Fischer Leaders Richter/Stough

M/E Jun 13 - 14 Sat. – Sun Haeckel
(13,418) & Wallace (13,377)
L.Tidball/Jamison

M/E Jun 27 - 28 Sat. – Sun Mt. Abbot
(13,704) & Mt. Mills (13,451)
Waxman/Epstein

I Jun 27 - 29 Sat. – Mon Silver (11,878)
Kline/Browder & Graff

JULY

I (?M) July 4 – 4 Sat. – Mon. Mt. Muah
(11,016) & Cartago (10,480+) Kline/Fleming

Echoes from the Chair

CAMPAIGNING BY OSMOSIS

Sierra Club members will be receiving their national election ballots in late February. Lots of attention is being directed to a resolution on immigration. But the main purpose of this annual election is to elect the Sierra Club's national Board of Directors.

The Standing Rules of the Sierra Club on Election Procedures state: "...candidates for Director shall be provided reasonable opportunity to promote their own candidacy and to solicit votes..." But, then the rules go on to state that chapters, groups, sections, and committees cannot endorse candidates, use Club funds to support candidates, and prohibit articles (and even Letters to the Editor) by or about candidates from appearing in Club publications. Implicitly, it seems that the rules do allow candidates to campaign by osmosis, however.

The Angeles Chapter is the largest chapter in the Sierra Club, but we have a dismal record in electing our chapter members to the national governing body of our Club, the Board of Directors. I believe that this is due in large part to the restrictive election rules that exist in our Club. Elden Hughes was one of the best Angeles Chapter Chairs ever, and we eagerly awaited his ascension to the national Board of Directors. He was a candidate in two elections, failing each time.

When I receive my annual ballot, I read each candidate's statement very carefully. I look for five candidates that would make our Club more democratic, would be tolerant of dissent within the Club, would give more support to our chapters,

groups, sections, and committees and less to the national Sierra Club. A background in business and a sense of humor are pluses. But I especially look for candidates who would turn the Sierra Club back to its roots: realistic conservation objectives achieved by means of outings, legislative action, education, and the responsible use of the earth's (and our Club's) resources. Those with national political and/or social agendas are not worthy of my support.

I am really looking forward to reading the statements of the following candidates: David Orr, Jennifer Ferenstein, Veronica Eady, Richard Worthen, and Jeff DeBonis. These candidates may share my vision of what our Club should become. And perhaps someday there will be a majority of like-minded Board members, and they will do away with those restrictive election rules, which have cost the Angeles Chapter adequate representation at the national level of our Club.

Oh, I almost forgot. Those stupid election rules demand equal time. The other candidates are Judy Anderson and Ben Zuckerman of the Angeles Chapter. Candidates from other chapters are: Tony Ruckel, Dell Erickson, Debbie Heaton, Michele Perrault, Jon Robinson, Phyllenore Howard, Lawrence Rupp, Ross McCluney, Sara Patton, Susan Schock, Chuck McGrady, Emily Miggins, David Brower, John Mitchem, and Joyce Tarnow.

Sierraly,



1998 SPS Management Committee

Welcome to all our new elected and appointed positions in the Sierra Peaks Section. We have returning familiar faces helping out as well as a few new faces. New management committee members include our Chair, Secretary and Fifth Officer. New appointed position holders are working as Conservation Co-Chairs and Mailer. Lets all congratulate and help this new team see the SPS through 1998.

Management Committee Elected Positions

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Chair: | R.J. Secor |
| Vice Chair | Patty Kline |
| Secretary | Scott Sullivan |
| Treasurer | Tina Stough |
| Fifth Officer | Keith Martin |

Management Comm. Appointed Positions

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Outings/Merchandiser | Patty Kline |
| Programs | Keith Martin |
| Mtn Record/Keeper of The List | Tina Stough |
| Echo Editor | Barbee Tidball |
| Echo Editor | Barbara Cohen |

Appointed Positions Continued

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Council Rep. | Tina Stough |
| Membership Records | Mirna Roach |
| Conservation | Eric Lesser |
| Conservation | Pat McKusky |
| Banquet | Barbee Tidball |
| Safety | Duane McRuer |
| Safety | Doug Mantle |
| Mailer | Elena Sherman |
| Archivist | Dan Richter |
| Historian | Bill Oliver |

Minutes from the SPS Meeting/Banquet 12/10/97

Location: Cultural Center of Greek Orthodox Church in Long Beach
Minutes taken by Scott Sullivan

Started at 6pm with no-host bar, followed by dinner and a raffle.

Outgoing chair Tina Stough thanked outgoing management and introduced new Chair RJ Secor.

Emblem, senior emblem, master emblem, and list finishers were recognized.

Angeles Chapter Executive Committee member Ann Kramer announced upcoming Chapter awards to be given at the April 1998 Chapter Awards banquet. Bill Crane will receive the Chester Versteg award. Allan Conrad, Tina Stough, will receive the Outings award. Barbee Tidball the Special Service award. Ann thanked Harry Freimanis and Bill Oliver for their service to the chapter and awarded each a walking staff.

Doug Mantle announced and congratulated Duane McRuer on his receipt of the Oliver Kehrlie award earlier this year in a national Sierra Club ceremony in San Francisco.

Barbara Cohen presented the SPS Leadership Award posthumously to Dave Dykeman. Lenora Wills received the award for Dave.

Duane McRuer presented the SPS Leadership Award posthumously to Bill T. Russel. Pat Russel received the award, for Bill.

Tina Stough recognized SPS trip leaders for the year.

Bill Oliver presented Tina Stough an E-leader pin.

RJ Secor presented Tina Stough with past chair's pin.

RJ Secor introduced the new officers:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Chair: | RJ Secor |
| Vice Chair-: | Patty Kline |
| Treasurer: | Tina Stough |
| Secretary: | Scott Sullivan |
| Fifth Officer: | Keith Martin |

Jeff Lowe presented a slide show and talk about his climbing experiences.

Minutes from the Joint SPS/DPS/HPS Meeting January 8, 1998

Location: Griffith Park Ranger Station

Minutes taken by Scott Sullivan

Meeting started at 7:30pm with the HPS introducing their management committee and making HPS announcements.

RJ Secor introduced the SPS board and made SPS announcements.

The January 4 Rock Workshop was a success. The January 24 Rock Workshop will occur as scheduled.

The January 17 Snow practice is canceled.

Bear canisters are apparently required now in Inyo and Yosemite National Parks. Bolting was briefly discussed.

Bill Bradley introduced the DPS board and made DPS announcements.

There was a break for refreshments.

Rich Henke presented a slideshow on Ladakh.

SPS Membership Report

Welcome !!! New Member

Scott Carlisle
40352 Palmas Ct.
Palmdale, CA 93551
Day (213)937-0305
Evening (805) 722-9066

Good Reading New Subscribers

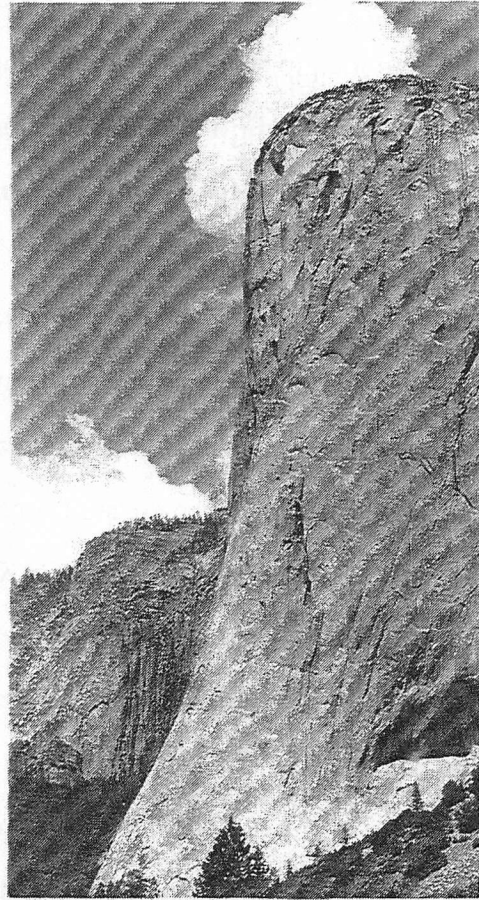
| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Terry Keating | Lynn Robinson |
| 577 West 1 st St. | 2445 East Del Mar Blvd., |
| San Pedro, CA 90731 | #331 |
| Day (310) 732-3974 | Pasadena, CA 91107 |
| Evening (310) 832-6427 | |

Address Changes

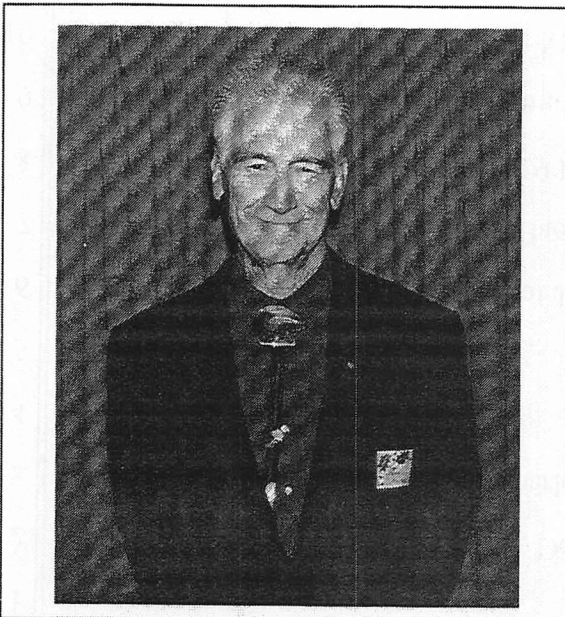
Mary McMannes
19545 Sherman Way #98
Reseda, CA 91335
(818) 780-3259

Secretary's Note

Minor address changes such as email address and phone numbers will appear only when the complete membership roster is published.



El Capitan (black & white postcard 1940s?)



Duane McRuer Receives

1997 Oliver Kehrlie Award

The highest Sierra Club outings leadership award was presented to the SPS's own Duane McRuer in recognition of his thirty years as a Sierra Club leader. Over the years Duane has led many trips for the Sierra Peaks Section. He was SPS Chair in 1976 and he completed the SPS List in September of 1985 on Mt. Gilbert. Duane is currently Safety-Co Chair for the SPS.

Duane received the Oliver Kehrlie Award for his work in training other Sierra Club leaders. He was one of the principal organizers of the Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Program. Today you will often find Duane at rock and snow practice and checkout sessions. He has extensive knowledge on the history and methods required for safe outings. Duane continues to be one of the SPS's strongest and most admired leaders.

CALTECH – 248TH PEAK ON THE SPS LIST?

In the November/December issue of *The Sierra Echo* we ran the first comments for and against the addition of Caltech Peak. The September/October issue had introduced the topic with a trip write up and formal proposal for consideration to add Caltech to the list. In the November/December issue we also printed a copy of the SPS Bylaws pertaining to peak list additions. Please refer to the last issues of *The Sierra Echo* for this information. If you need a copy of past issues please send the mailer \$0.78 for postage per issue requested.

Appeal In Favor Of Addition of Caltech Peak

Dear Editor:

December 17, 1997

To the current Caltech Peak debate, I would like to add a historical perspective.

The story of how Caltech Peak got its name was one I started in June 1961; along with Ted Matthes, who was a classmate of mine from Caltech, Jim Eder, who was starting at Caltech that autumn, and Mike Raudenbush, who came along just for the fun. I had just bought all the then "new" 15-minute quads of the Sierra. While looking at them I noticed Point 13832 which was the highest, separate unnamed peak around. Then came the idea of climbing it and naming it Caltech Peak; since it was near University Peak named for Cal Berkeley, Mt. Stanford named for the university (the other Stanford is named for the man), and also Trojan, named for USC. We all agreed it would be a great adventure.

We set out on Saturday, 24 June 1961. From the Symmes Creek roadhead, we got a very early start up the Shepherd Pass in early afternoon, dropped packs and climbed Mt. Tyndall (we were giants in those days!) We got our first view of Point 13832 – and also lightning over Milestone Mtn. So we hurried down and closer to "our" peak.

The next day's weather was good, so we set out around Diamond Mesa to the lakes just south of Forester Pass. We then scrambled up "our" peak from the east. Ours was the third recorded ascent, the other two having been in June 1926 and August 1951. We enlarged the cairn, provided a simple summit register, and briefly enjoyed the views. It was very satisfying not only to climb it, but also to find a place so big and close where so few people had ever been.

After the long trip down that same day, the paperwork began. Our letter to the Board of Geographic Names was the first of 17 letters to and from various interested parties that led to the name being approved on 14 December 1961, and published in Decision List 6103. We were quite pleased, and so was Caltech. The peak has been mentioned in several Caltech publications.

This probably could not be done today. With the greatly increased visitation and use of all areas of the Sierra Nevada, the Board of Geographic Names has adopted the policy that no more names will be applied to topographic features in Wilderness Areas unless "necessary for navigational or administrative reasons". So it may have been a last, great adventure, one that is typical of what makes the Sierra and the SPS so much fun.

I hope Caltech Peak finally makes the list, but I admit I am very partial.

Sierrally, Rick Jali

Arguments Not In Favor Of Addition Of Caltech Peak

Dear Editor:

January 1, 1998

Caltech is a lump surrounded by giants. If this one is added, I'll probably consider petitioning to remove some other lumps, since the list is supposed to represent significant peaks. Anyone who's climbed Angora will probably agree with me that we don't need more non-descript peaks on our list. (Bago is a small peak with outstanding views, but Caltech's views are blocked by the other listed peaks around it! Quite a difference.)

Also, I'd like to "second" Secor's comments about the objective criteria spelled out in the bylaws. Caltech is not the tallest in the area, it does not dominate the area, it is too close to other GOOD peaks, and you have to look hard to find an interesting route on it. I don't believe it meets the written criteria.

Steve Eckert

Tidball & Cohen, B&B
Editors, Sierra Echo

Peak List Comments by Frank Meyers

As a member of the SPS since its formation, I see some list deficiencies. The mountaineer's peaks were determined by asking all who had climbed 160 peaks or more (before anyone had finished the list) to list the best peaks. Some good peaks were not included because few had climbed them. Some good peaks were also added after that time. There are even some good peaks not on the list yet! (E. g., Sentinel Rock, Matthes Crest, The Cockscomb, Echo Peaks high point, Michael Minaret, Polemonium Peak, Angel Wings) The original request was for the best 50 peaks, but then the emblem peaks were put in by fiat so the real mountaineer's list is now 35 peaks.

We now have a large pool of real experts in those who have finished the list. Why not have them give us their best 35? This might result in several changes. When Scylla was replaced as a mountaineer's peak by Charybdis we made no allowance, but we have been generous in emblem peak "grandfathering". I hope those who would see the peaks they have climbed removed from the mountaineer's list could still count them. I have 16 emblem peaks because I climbed Mt. Sill when it was an emblem peak. Does

anyone have 17? (Needham Mtn). Multiple finishers should get extra "votes".

The original list (I have a copy of the list of 215, 212 of which are still listed) was made up by studying topographic maps, taking only named peaks. In the case of Koip Peak, this led to listing of the wrong peak. The Mono Craters 15' quadrangle 1953 edition shows Kuna Peak as the 12,880+ ft hump northwest of Koip Peak. The peak which is labeled Kuna Peak on the new 7½' Koip Peak quadrangle was just an unnamed 12,960+ ft peak on the 15' quad, although the old climber's guide used it for the peak. I believe the new map designation of the highest peak as Kuna Peak, at 13,002 ft, is correct; I have not climbed the other, but the register on 13,002 says it is the peak.

This is a much nicer peak than Koip Peak; the class 2 route from the latter might even be blocked by a cornice early in the season, making it class 3. Previous peak deletions were not grandfathered into counts on the list but they were minor climbs (Donohue Peak, Mammoth Mtn, and Sherman Peak) and had no peak substituted for them. I recommend allowing prior ascents of Koip Peak to count as climbs of Kuna Peak if this change is made.

December 11, 1997

Franklin J. Meyers

COMMENTS NEEDED FOR JOHN MUIR/ANSEL ADAMS WILDERNESS PLAN

By: Gary Guenther

Draft Wilderness Management Plan Released

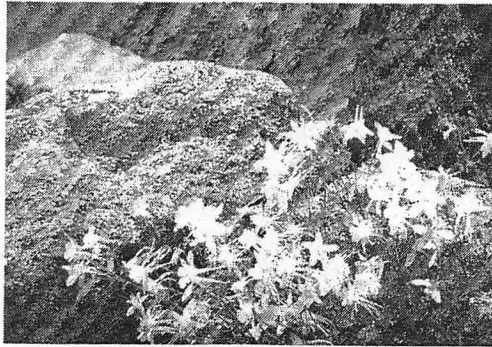
The Forest Service has released the Draft Wilderness Management Plan for the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Monarch, and Dinkey Lakes wildernesses. When finalized, this plan will guide the management direction of these wildernesses for decades to come. Unfortunately, this draft plan is difficult to follow, fragmented, lacks continuity, is inaccurate, and lacks details on resource problems. I have reviewed, in detail, several other draft wilderness plans, all of them adequate, with the exception of this one. This DEIS has become so political that the wilderness managers had little or no input concerning its content, unlike other similar plans, and in fact it was released for their review at the same time it was released to the public.

Campfire Impacts In 1970 the Sierra Club Outings Committee initiated and funded a study on campfire impacts in the John Muir/ Ansel Adams Wilderness. The conclusion of this, and several other studies, was that campfires should not be allowed in areas where the dominant tree is whitebark pines. In this planning area, the elevation where this tree becomes the dominant tree, is generally about 9600' in the north and 10,000' in the south, which coincides with the current regulations in bordering Sequoia Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks. Contrary to all studies, the proposed Draft plan would continue to allow campfires at any elevation. A

common-sense approach would be to establish elevational limits on campfires in concert with site specific criteria for lower areas, as is the current management practice in most of the High Sierra.

Capacity – Campsites – Campfires The process used to develop wilderness plans is the "Limits of Acceptable Change" LAC, which includes indicators with standards. This draft has three standards with quantifiable indicators; they are

carrying capacity, campsites, and campfires. The carrying capacity standard adopted 50 hiker encounters a day, based on social perceptions, which would result in a substantial reduction in use for the non-outfitted public, including instituting day use permits/quotas on most major trails. The standard for stock (10 stock party encounters a day) would allow a substantial increase in stock use. The party size limit on stock is 15 people and 25 head, so limits would not be directed at them until conceivably you saw 150 people on ponies supported by 250 head of stock. Since this plan failed to include clearly defined upper limits on commercial uses, and outfitters are exempt from quotas, the trend of increasing outfitted use, at the expense of the non-outfitted public would continue. On the White Mountain District there has been a 38% reduction in hiker quotas and an increase of 23% or 75 head of stock since 1982. Currently there are approximately 1500 head operating from commercial pack stations in this planning area, more than at any time in the past. **You should express your opinions about the equity of placing strict quotas on the non-outfitted public while outfitters' use continues to increase.**



A possible solution would be that outfitted groups would have to compete with the public to obtain a permit as is done elsewhere. Another problem associated with outfitters being exempt from quotas is overcrowding. One of many examples that illustrates this occurred on July 21, 1995 when Rock Creek Pack Station issued permits for 57 visitors for Hilton Lake supported by 72 head of stock. On that same weekend there were already 21 stock supported visitors camping at Hilton Lake who had been brought in by McGee Pack Station and Rock Creek. The trail head quota for the non-commercial users of this area is 5 permits a day or a total of 20 visitors, whichever is reached first.

Sierra Columbines Photo by Jack Wickel

Social Perceptions VS Resource Science The current draft focuses on social perceptions and fails to include standards/indicators that focus on the resource, such as grazing impacts and soil erosion. You should request that Indicators with standards related to resource impacts, and in particular, stock related impacts, should be included in the final EIS.

Group Size Limits An issue likely to be unpopular with some SPS members is a proposed reduction in group size for XC travel from the current 15 people and 25 head of stock to 8 people and 8 head of stock. Smaller group sizes have been adopted by most of the Sierra's wilderness areas and are supported by scientific studies. It is well known that large hiker groups, and in particular large stock parties, can create "user trails" resulting in severe erosion problems. While I support the smaller group size for hikers, I question if stock should even be allowed to go XC in areas sensitive to that use, considering both Sequoia/Kings Canyon and Yosemite N.P.s currently don't allow it.

Dogs Most visitors have been led to believe that dogs must be under control while in wilderness, the current and proposed plan contains no Forest Service regulations or direction pertaining to this. From a legal standpoint dogs can run at large causing resource problems as well as harassing others with no available recourse for the agency. Most wilderness areas have adopted regulations that require, at a minimum, dogs to be under voice control and within 50' of the owner. I believe this plan should contain similar language.

User Fees and Stock User fees are not addressed in this plan, but there is a strong possibility that the next congress will greatly expand recreational user

fees. Considering that in this planning area about 2/3 of the on ground dollars go towards trails that facilitate stock use, then if fees are imposed, stock users should pay fees commensurate with the cost to mitigate their trail impact and associated cost to monitor grazing.

Lamas While I am generally not an advocate of commercial use in wilderness there is a legitimate commercial packing industry that I feel has been discriminated against by the Forest Service, and essentially been locked out of this planning area. This is commercial llama packing. There is a demonstrated demand for this type of service, and considering the minimal impact llamas have on the resource compared to traditional stock, there is no justification for the agency to deny such use.

In conclusion, I support regulations/education directed at actions that significantly impact the resource. If field monitoring indicates that regulations/education are not sufficient to maintain the wilderness qualities, then reductions in use should be considered. This DEIS always focuses its first direct action at a reduction of use, not at the activity that is causing the problem. Considering the US has only 2% of its land in designated wilderness, about the same area we have paved, I believe actions directed at maintaining the wilderness character should be paramount over our recreational desires. Your letters will be critical to affect a management plan that both protects the wilderness and allows recreation in the Range Of Light. The commercial interests have allied with the wise use movement (People For The West) on this draft so it's critical to have your input.

Note: statistical data was obtained, from raw data provided, via Freedom of Information Request

Additional Comments by Gary Guenther

There was a major error in that the Forest Service lost the mailing list, of approximately 1000 citizens, that had requested to be included in this planning process. This has resulted in many interested individuals not being informed that this process is taking place. This is especially disturbing to me from the standpoint of having been a wilderness ranger, for several seasons, on the White Mountain District, and having visitors bring up issues that could only be addressed in this planning process. These visitors were directed to the agency. Many requested to be notified of the planning process so that their concerns could be effectively raised.

The (new) current deadline for comments is November 1, 1998.

To obtain a copy of the complete DEIS summary/Draft Management Plan and to send comments address your letters to: Forest Supervisor Office, 1600 Tollhouse Rd, Clovis, Ca 93611-5032, Attn: Wilderness Direction Comments Or call Bob Hawkins of the INF at (760) 873-2400. You can also view the DEIS summary at <http://r05s001.pswfs.gov/invo/management/wildplan.htm>.

FUTURE OF SIERRA WILDERNESS AT STAKE

By Vicky Hoover

Comments needed

The future of the heart of the high Sierra Nevada wilderness is now being decided. The Inyo and Sierra National Forests have issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to decide management direction for the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes, and Monarch Wilderness Areas in the high Sierra.

Many of us have enjoyed hiking and backpacking in these magnificent wild areas—filled with alpine tundra, jewel-like lakes, up thrust granite peaks, idyllic meadows. What is your vision for this world class wilderness? You have until November 1, 1998 [*An extension from March 6 to Nov. 1 was given the end of January*] to provide your comments to the Forest Service on their preferred alternative.

The DEIS presents 5 alternatives, most of which do not offer much substantive change from present activities. One is called “emphasize pristine condition, one “emphasizes recreational opportunities”. In between, is the “Forest Service Preferred”, Alternative 5.

There are several welcome changes proposed: No new trails will be constructed. [*Editor's note: New trails have not actually been constructed in a number of years. Most recent trail work involves reconstruction and some re-routing of existing trails. For example see the July/August issue of The Sierra Echo.*] Firewood may no longer be packed up to above-timberline areas where campfires are prohibited. Also, campsites may no longer be closer than 100 feet to a lake or stream. In tight spots, where there is no flat area 100 feet from lake, this could effectively close some lakes to camping. (Such places had previously been exempted from the general “100-foot” rule.) In addition, some structures may be removed, including stock fences. Some lakes in remote areas will no longer be stocked with fish.

One real change proposed by the Preferred Alternative is reduction of cross-country travel group size from 15 to 8 people—or 8 people PLUS 8 stock. The fact that stock are not counted in determining group size is an indication that this proposed change is addressing only “social” issues of people on other people, not physical impacts on the land.

While this might appear to be a fairly superficial change, the reduction in group size would seriously affect the Sierra Club's national outing program, which conducts many cross-country backpack trips based of 13 to 15 people. A group of 8 would be much more expensive per person. By traveling cross-country in remote trail-free areas, such groups now avoid heavily used trail areas. It is these popular trail areas, and campsites nearby, usually near lakes, where the most visible physical impacts of trampling and vegetation loss are concentrated. If Sierra Club groups had to stay on trail, it is likely that their physical and social impacts would be greater, not less. At the same time, a real opportunity for organized groups to explore remote areas away from most visitors would be lost.

All Sierra lovers now can tell the Forest Service how they would like to see the Sierra managed in the future. Should social impacts come before physical impacts? Should dispersed use to remote areas be encouraged or discouraged? Is the permit system working? Should some popular lakes with degraded shorelines be closed to camping? Should campfires be further restricted? Should commercial packers still be able to bring in groups of 15 *plus* 25 head of stock, or 8 people cross-country *plus* 8 head of stock? Should there be some trails just for hikers, some just for stock users? Is the Service's decision to consider impacts of commercial cattle grazing as “beyond the scope of this document” reasonable?

It is up to you to decide these and many other questions, and then to tell the agency by November 1, 1998 what you think. Write your opinion.

⇒ For questions, contact Vicky Hoover (415)977-5527, vicky.,hoover@sierraclub.org. Or contact The Sierra Peaks Section conservation co-chairs, Eric Lesser and Pat McKusky.

Continue to watch *The Echo* for updates on the Sierra Club and other group's reactions and opinions on the DEIS. Echo editor, Barbee Tidball will organize and run one last feature update on this topic in the upcoming September/October issue to help you write your letters. The DEIS as written does not affect climbing directly, but it affects our access to climbing areas.

Vandever/Florence/Sawtooth & Needham

August 9-10, 1997

By Mark Adrian

After threats of inclement weather in the Palisades, I quickly scrambled for a contingency and headed towards Mineral King on the weekend of August 8-9, 1997. Joining me were Paul Graff and Asher Waxman from Los Angeles. It was good to get away from the heat here in San Diego. The road to Mineral King is in good condition from highway 198 and takes about 90 minutes to drive its 25-mile entirety. There is an NPS kiosk about eight miles in, which is more than happy to take your entrance fee. There are leased cabins at the very end of the road and I was told that Disney still owns property back up there at the parking lot just west of the pack station. There is a small hut near the NPS Ranger station to store food and I only saw two cars that were "wrapped" in chicken wire. Also there, are working public phones, several picnic sites and a campground (which was filled at 2pm Friday when I arrived).

We met Friday evening at the Farewell Gap trailhead parking lot and decided to get an early start Saturday morning. Our plan was to dayhike Vandever and Florence on Saturday and Sawtooth and Needham on Sunday, two aggressive days. Saturday morning 5:30am, with hardly any twilight, we began hiking up the Farewell Gap trail, which begins just beyond (south of) the pack station's cabins at around 7830'. The trail is in excellent condition and we arrived at Farewell Gap (10,586') at 8am. Greeted by a chilling wind, we took a short break then headed west up the class 1-2 loose-talus slope towards Vandever's (11,947') summit. We arrived at the summit at 9:10am where it was surprisingly calm despite the forming cloud cover. We spent nearly 30 minutes on top enjoying the views and reviewing the register.

From there, we descended back to Farewell Gap trail and proceeded southward over the Gap to the second major hairpin switchback (10,500' +/-) where we left the trail and

contoured/diagonally over loose scree up to the lowest of the two Bullfrog Lakes. Here we stopped to rest. Continuing up the drainage, we found bits and pieces of what appeared to be a military plane wreckage just above the highest of the Bullfrog Lakes. Paul carried out much of the metal shrapnel for his collection. From here, slabs then loose sand slopes and finally, boulders led to Florence's western ridgeline. Paul skillfully picked the way through this maze of large third class boulders to Florence's summit (12,432'). On the summit there are oddly enough, two primary benchmarks and several competing highpoints. We climbed them all, of course. We arrived on top at 1pm under dark and cloudy skies, yet, we didn't feel threatened by the changing weather and spent half an hour reviewing the register and picking our distant peaks.

Our descent route headed north, through a large class two boulder field to the sandy flat area just south of Franklin Pass where we picked up the good trail heading back to Farewell Canyon and Mineral King. We arrived back at the trailhead near 5:30pm. Round trip stats: 6,000' gain/loss, 15 miles, your time may vary.

Sunday morning, at 5:20am, Paul and I (Asher opted to sleep in and breakfast at Silver City) departed the Sawtooth Pass trailhead, headed for Sawtooth Peak. About 7:30am, we were surprised to meet Barbara Cohen and David Sholle who were just leaving Monarch Lakes after a multi-day trip into Big Arroyo. Fortunately for us, they had done Sawtooth and Needham the day before and gave us some excellent advice: DONT attempt to stay on or too near the ridgeline connecting the two peaks, rather, drop down to 11,500' and contour. It turned out to be good advice, saving us time and energy.

Once beyond Monarch Lakes (point 10,399T on the 7.5-min. map) we discovered

the trail frayed and braids into many sand-strewn options. We concluded we were never on the "true" trail much above Monarch Lakes, but instead, had slogged up one of the many options to the 11,700' elevation on Sawtooth's northwest ridgeline. We arrived at the ridgeline at 8:45am. This was an expletive-inducing plow through thick sand, the first of several this day. From the northwest ridgeline, we picked our way southeast, diagonally to just below the final summit boulders. We reached Sawtooth's summit (12,343') at 10am. The final move, the summit's highpoint is class three. We found the ammo-can register just below this. We now had a great view over to Needham and concurred with David and Barbara's advice. Picking our way southeast, descending from Sawtooth's summit, we encountered loose sand and talus (which would have to be regained later) down to 11,500'.

Looking up to the ridge was daunting. Secor recommends staying "just below" to avoid obstacles, but "just" in this case was more like a couple hundred feet. Continuing east we regained the ridgeline at the shallow saddle just west of Needham. Occasionally picking up David and Barbara's footprints. From here up to the summit block is nothing less than a trudge up loose sand with occasional boulders for

handholds. Again, more expletives made this an "easier" climb and we arrived at Needham's summit (12,520') register at 12:30pm. The only redeeming thing about Needham's summit, other than the view, are the two or three third class moves up to the highest point, which is the western most of several "available" blocks/crags. Again, thanks to David and Barbara for their timesaving information.

We departed the summit area about 1:00pm retracing our steps westward. However, we were able to stay about 200 to 300' below Sawtooth's summit on the south side. From here, we retraced a variety of use trails (lots of traffic on this summit) northwest. Be sure not to attempt to descend towards Monarch Lakes too soon, as you'll get cliffed out as happened to us. Rather, continue northwest until you can clearly see a complete path down to the campsite area (bearbox and pit toilet). Soft sand makes this a quick descent and we returned to the trailhead at 5:15pm. Round trip stats: 6,200', 13 miles, your time may vary.

Thanks to Paul and Asher for their company, conversation and route finding assistance. They returned to LA Sunday evening, while I opted to camp just outside the Park and then headed for Bakersfield and Onion Valley the following day.

**THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS FUND
INVITES YOU TO
HANDS ACROSS THE PARKLANDS**

What: A human chain (88,000) length of the Santa Monica Mtns. Nat. Rec. Area
Where: Mulholland Dr./Hwy from the 101 Hwy. To the PCH at Leo Carrillo State Beach
Special events will be held throughout the National Recreation Area.
When: April 19, 1998
Information: Call 818/597-1036 ext. 230

Urgent Call For Angeles Chapter Volunteers –

Volunteers with free time on a weekday would be helpful. Also special helpers during January and February to help with the office move. Another need is for a regular office assistant, four hours per week for four months.

Please call Linda Hoyer (213) 387-4287, ext 205 to volunteer. Thanks. Ann Kramer.

Neither Roper nor Secor have a description of this northerly peak, and neither the PCS nor the SPS web archives have any information on it either. It's on "the list", however. In response to my query on the lomap-peak-climbing list, Underwood told me that Black Hawk was not too challenging and probably no one had thought it worth writing a report on. In the interest of adding to the climbing archives, here it is:

Day Hike Black Hawk & Hike Back

(say that 5 times fast)

by Steve Eckert

The Kennedy Meadows parking area is annoyingly far from the trailhead. (This is the KM off 108 by Sonora Pass, not the KM off 395 by Little Lake.) For the first 1.5 miles, there are private users driving all around you, even beyond the sign marked "no cars". Apparently if you stay at the lodge you can drive to the wilderness boundary??? The horse manure is endless, but fortunately the tourists were mostly asleep when I started at 7am. Walk past the cabins, the store, the restaurant, the horse stables, and just keep going down the road marked "guests only". Eventually it starts to look like a trail, but there are NO signs confirming you are in the right place. I really hate it when places like this pretend to own a wilderness trailhead.

The next few hours are not very interesting, as you climb slowly around Relief Reservoir. Take a topo map, and use it, because some of the trail junctions are not marked. There is a sign for Saucer Meadow, however, and from there up you can pretend you're in the Sierra Nevada instead of on a Dude Ranch. I don't know what they're feeding the horses, but they all have loose stools. Splat! OK, here's the good part: A mile or two after Saucer Meadow, the trail turns sharply east in a sandy meadow at 8,800'. Cross the creek on huge slabs, and pick one of the class 2 defects in the imposing cliff band to attain the ridge. You could probably walk on up toward Brown Bear Pass and go around the end of the cliffs, but there's no need to do the extra mileage. Once on the ridge, bear left into the beautiful slab-and-lake bowl (a wonderful and isolated place to camp) and follow the drainage up. No tricks here, just acres of low angle glacier-buffed slabs to walk on. Ferns and wildflowers provide a stunning contrast to the sagebrush over by the trail.

Stay well left to avoid going over the false summit at 10,115', because there is a saddle between there and the REAL peak. At that saddle

you say goodbye to the nice slabs and kick up some gravel to the uninspiring summit area. The peak is seldom climbed, but the last few pages of the register were devoted to a family who came up to scatter a relative's ashes.

I spent two full hours on the summit, napping and contemplating the bugs. A grasshopper landed on my leg and enjoyed a salt feast. Butterflies zoomed up to the summit in the wind and then (oddly enough) went straight up out of sight instead of being carried down the other side. No mosquitoes. Flies hovered near me but did not land. What was all THAT about? When I decided it had cooled off below, I started down. (The trailhead is at 6,400', and hot in August.)

Just to make it more interesting, I took a different route down... one that future climbers may choose on the way up to save some miles. I dropped straight down to Black Hawk Lake, then more or less followed the drainage all the way down to hit the trail at 8,600'. This route alternates class 2 slabs and meadows with a few bits of sand. One meadow was carpeted wall-to-wall in Lupine, with blooms from top to bottom of every stalk. The fragrance was overpowering, and I staggered away with visions of Toto dancing in poppy fields. NOTE: Going UP there may be a tendency to drift out of the bowl, since you can't see the peak from the bottom. There are serious cliffs in places, so if it does not stay class 2, you're off route.

Including my 2 hour lunch, it was an 11 hour 20 mile day with maybe 4500' of gain. A full day, but not out of reason. Dinner at Kennedy Meadow was convenient but mediocre - they asked me if I wanted to sit outside! The nearest phone is in Strawberry (west) or Bridgeport (east), if you were wondering. Steve Eckert



Iron Mtn (11,149') September 7-8, 1996

Beth Epstein - Leader; Patty Kline - Assistant Leader

By Beth Epstein

This was a rain check on a trip aborted the previous year, two weeks earlier in the season. However much of a grudge, I was still looking forward to returning to the area. The area is quite beautiful once you are past the burn at Snow Creek. There are lovely small meadows set against granite walls; unusual views of the south end of the Minarets and the Ritter Range to the north, and the smooth, steep granite domes along the middle fork of the San Joaquin to the south. What a difference between this year and last. The outlet stream from Fern Lake, barely crossable in '95, was completely dry; the mid-calf wade at King Creek was a series of low stepping stones; the flowers had come and gone in the meadows and a little lower the grasses were yellow and it was already fall.

We met at Devil's Postpile 8 am Saturday praying for the sun to come over the ridge -- the valley was cold and it felt good to get going. After Labor Day, visitation there drops dramatically and the road is open to cars during the day, so it really hadn't been necessary to camp down there the night before. It would have been a whole lot warmer to crash by the roadside 2000' higher at Minaret Vista.

This was a jointly sponsored SPS-WTC I-rated trip. Four of the eight participants were WTC students completing their experience trips and 2 were aspiring SPS members hoping to qualify for membership on their second summit with the section. Last year there had been too much snow on the benches above Anona Lake to attempt the third class route, and this year I wanted to see if the previous year's first/second class route would go. We reached camp at Fern Lake by noon. Fern Lake has abundant, if overused, campsites, and other than a packer waiting for some fly fisherman on a day trip, we were the only ones there, although the camp was somewhat redolent with the memory of the mules well into the next day. Because of the long drives and late nights on Friday, Mike McDermitt was the only one with enough energy to come with me that afternoon to scope out the granite benches along the third class route from Anona Lake described by Barbara Reber. We got to just about the halfway point around the cirque before we had to hustle back for happy hour. The route seems as if

it would go nicely for another group with a little more experience and another trip rating.

Happy hour was first class in another sense. Susan Essex won first prize with pesto, home grown tomatoes, cheese bread, red wine and handwipes. Sue Zavala was a close runner-up with oysters, white wine, several cheeses and a tablecloth. Patty Kline mixed trail margaritas and I popped open a canned brie. It was a beautiful night and we had a great view of Jupiter on the southern horizon.

We left at 7 am Sunday morning for Iron, ascending the hillside southwest across the lake outlet through openings in the forest and then over solid talus to the ridge. We contoured from there, walking east on the south side of the ridge (this is the ridge south of Anona, really the east spur of Iron's southeast ridge) just at treeline, along sloping granite slabs and through pleasant grassy benches. It is an area not much traveled by hikers, but with many signs of other mammals -- mountain lion and deer tracks mostly.. It looks as if it would be easily accessed from the pass between Summit Meadow and Stairway Meadow if one was dayhiking from the trail. We gained the southeast ridge of Iron up a grassy gully leading to peak 10821' (15 min). There was a welcome snowbank melting and water in the drainage. Also in that gully was the wreckage of a small plane, always an unnerving sight for me, with personal objects and pieces of fuselage strewn so far about -- the heel of a shoe, the springs of a seat, a wheel.

Once around the corner on 10,821', the view of Iron to the north is clear -- a traverse over red talus for what looks like it might be forever, or maybe just right there, but is in fact one mile and with two avoidable bumps between. The slowness of a couple of members of the party put us on top about noon. A moderately strong party would probably have summited around 10:30. We left an ammo box in a cairn, lunched and enjoyed the dramatic views down to Ashley Lake, admiring its steep couloir filled with snow to the ridge, the blue shadows and red rock dramatic in the bright sun and snow, then began the walk back.

Thanks to the participants -- they made the trip fun: Susan Essex and Sue Zavala qualified for WTC graduation, and Don Martin and Mike McDermott got their 2nd peaks with the SPS.

Silver Peak

June 27-29, 1997

Patty Kline and Janet Graff, Leaders

This was a great outing for all 15 of us co-led with WTC as an SPS Intro trip. We met at 8:00 am on Friday at the Devil's Bathtub Trail about 0.7 of a mile past the Vermillion Valley Campground. To get to Vermillion Valley Campground take Hwy 168 and go over Kaiser Pass to the Mono Hot Springs/Lake Edison Road. The campground is at the West end of the lake. The campground host graciously let our group camp over night, and said not to worry about the fee since we had gotten in so late and were leaving early. He said next time just camp at the trailhead complete with a large parking area, running water and an outhouse to accommodate backpackers.

There was a lot of confusion as to the correct trail. A sign "Devil's Bathtub Trail" pointed to the left, with no evidence of a trail and a heavily used trail went to the right towards Goodale Pass. After a mile, we realized our mistake and went back to the roadhead, and found a faint use trail directly behind the parking lot heading towards downed logs with yellow metal markers. This was a blocked off 4X4 road that was in use in the past. We continued on this road, becoming narrow at times, for 2.4 miles where it ended at a broad stream. It was easily forded or crossed on logs. A misleading trail went up the left bank of this stream leading nowhere. Once the stream was crossed we were on a trail for 2.0 more miles to the South end of the Devil's Bathtub Lake, our campsite. The gain was 1,200'. After looking over the possibilities for camping here, we crossed the outlet on 2 large logs and found a level campsite large enough to accommodate 50 people plus a nice fire ring. We were the first group of the season. I'm sure it is heavily used later in the season.

Happy hour started at 4pm with a contest for the best appetizers. First prize, a pair of sunglass savers was awarded Tim Kalliomaa for his guacamole dip made from fresh avocados. Second prize, a bandana, went to Hal Browder for homemade cheese loaf spread. Third prize, a Nalgene stash bottle, went to Spencer Berman for fresh salsa and black bean dip. With all the appetizers, margaritas, etc. dinner became a late evening snack.

Departure at 8am the next morning took us $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile around the West side of the lake over boulders and use trail. It was a little faster than the East side. Beyond the meadow at the North end of the lake we ascended granite slabs to the Northwest to a hanging valley. To the North was the correct saddle, hard to spot from the hanging valley. We were coaxed to the visible saddle to the Northwest. After getting into the correct saddle in slushy snow at 11,520' and UTM 225475 on the $7\frac{1}{2}$ minute Sharktooth Peak Quadrangle, most of us gave up. The peak was still a distance away. Eric Lesser, Tim Killiomaa, Steve Erskin and David Leth got the peak. They dropped below the ridge to a small lake to the West and contoured up to Silver Peak.

The next day we backpacked out and had a late breakfast at the nice restaurant at the West end of Edison Lake. Everyone had a lot of fun and all those who didn't get the peak want to return with Janet Graff and me next summer to bag Silver. The participants were Eric Lesser, Tim Kalliomaa, Ilya Friedman, Steve Mutjaba, Hal Browder, Suzanne Tanaka, Maria Roa, Spence Berman, Karl Schoettler, Carole Firstman, Kerry Allen and David Leth. **Submitted by Patty Kline**

Four Gables

August 2 - 4, 1997

Patty Kline and Jim Fleming, Leaders

This was a fine trip led as an SPS Intro Trip into some spectacular scenery. Our group of four met at 8:00 am on Saturday morning. Due to last minute cancellations, five other people couldn't join us. We took a leisurely pace over Piute Pass to camp at Lower Desolation Lake about 8 miles from dirt parking lot #1 at North Lake. It was about 2,000' of gain. Camping was on the East side of the lake, a little away from water because it was hard to locate a level spot without boulders for four tents. What an awesome location with the stark beauty of the Sierra above timberline. No bears too! An elaborate happy hour with a prize for the best appetizer dish was the main event of the afternoon.

On Sunday morning there was a concern for thundershowers from threatening clouds when we left for the peak. We took the trail from Lower Desolation Lake to Desolation Lake where it ended. Then we went North in open country to the South

headwall of Four Gables. This peak has several headwalls. The gentler West slopes of the South headwall were taken. The summit at UTM 499299 is deceptive. It is natural to want to climb the class 2 false summit just to the South of the true summit. The true summit is class 1 all the way. We got up there about 11 am. The view to the east was great, and it looked like you could spit half way down to Bishop from 12,720'. We didn't stay long because of the threatening rain. Back in camp that afternoon was about the only rain we got, fortunately. It failed to dampen our extended happy hour. It was a pleasant hike out on Monday. Our two participants were George Thomas and Spencer Berman. Many thanks to Jim Fleming for helping me lead this trip. Jim is again an active member of the SPS, having last climbed with the section in the early 80's.

submitted by Patty Kline

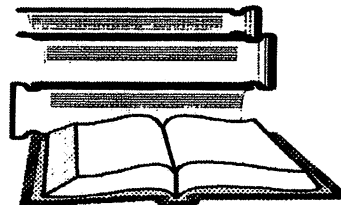
Upcoming Books

NEW RELEASES for Spring 1998 from Spotted Dog Press:

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Norman Clyde climbed hundreds of mountains across North America, but he dedicated his life to climbing in the Sierra Nevada. Published here for the first time, in addition to the original text, is a selection of Clyde's best mountaineering writings, which for more than half a century, have been filed away in the forgotten solitude and darkness of private collections. Also seen for the first time are photographs taken on Clyde's famed Sierra Club High Trips which were attended by such notable Sierrans as Ansel Adams, Francis Farquhar, Cedric Wright, Ernest and son Glen Dawson, and Jules Eichorn.

Exquisite four-color cover photography by eastern Sierra photographer Vern Clevenger. With recollections by Glen Dawson. Introduction by Walt Wheelock. Original illustrations by Ruth Daly. Original photos by Norman Clyde.
ISBN 0-9647530-3-0. \$14.95 176 pages



Harvey Butchart's GRAND CANYON TREKS

In the beginning, no one would ever have guessed that the quiet, bespeckled math professor who came from America's heartland would one day be called the "undisputed king of extreme and obsessive Grand Canyon hiking" by Backpacker Magazine (June 1997), and "the one expert on foot travel in the Canyon" by author and Grand Canyon traveler Colin Fletcher. Harvey Butchart hiked over 12,000 miles in the Grand Canyon in a combined total of 1,000 days, over a period of forty years. He is credited with finding more than 116 approaches to the Colorado River, and with summiting 83 of the 138 named Grand Canyon peaks, 35 being first ascents.

"Grand Canyon Treks" is Butchart's original series of three books, now updated and published in one complete volume. Includes vivid descriptions of remote wilderness adventure through winding canyons and rambling plateaus from Lee's Ferry to Lake Mead, that few have been to since Harvey first explored them. Beautiful four-color cover photography of 209 Mile Canyon. Photography by Butchart and his longtime hiking companions Jorgen Visbak, Joseph G. Hall and Scott Baxter.

ISBN 0-9647530-2-2

\$16.95 288 pages

1998

WILDERNESS PERMIT INFORMATION

Yosemite: Yosemite requires permits for overnight use year round. Day use permits are not required. Permit reservations may be applied for any time. Permits applications are processed in random order. Your permit application will be processed for any trip 24 weeks to the day before departure up to 2 days before departure. 50% of permits are issued to reservations and 50% the day of entry on a first come 1st serve basis. For mail in reservations write Wilderness Permit Reservations, Yosemite, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389. To phone in a reservation call 209/372-0740. When requesting a reservation include dates of entry and exit, trailhead for start and finish, the number of people & stock animals, destination and base camp locations. Give alternate dates, trailheads or base camps if possible. Advance reservations are \$3.00 per person, make checks out to Yosemite Association, or use a major credit card number with the expiration date. For general permit and day use information call 209/372-0310. For trail information call 209/372-0200.

The following areas all have advance permit reservations available. Requests should be post marked no earlier than March 1, 1998.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon Park: Wilderness Permit Reservations, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271. Phone 209/565-3134. No permit fee at this time, however check before mailing as there is some current discussion about charging a \$10.00 reservation fee. For general information call Kernville 760/376-3781 or Porterville 209/539-2607. For back country info. Call 209/565-3708.

Sierra National Forest: Wilderness Reservations, Pineridge Ranger District, P.O. Box 300, Shaver Lake, CA 93664. Phone 209/855-5355. \$3.00 per person permit fee.

Toiyabe National Forest: Bridgeport Ranger District, P.O. Box 595, Bridgeport, CA 93517. Phone 619/932-7070. \$3.00 per person permit fee. The Toiyabe Nat. Forest BBS has a free online service with area information. From your modem (settings-8,n,1 supports up to 28,800bps), dial 619/932-1234 to get the information you want.

Minarets: Wilderness Reservations, Minarets Ranger District, North Fork, CA 93643. Phone 209/877-2218. \$3.00 per person permit fee.

Mariposa: Wilderness Reservations, Mariposa Ranger District, 41969 State Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA 93664. Phone 209/683-4665. \$3.00 per person permit fee.

Stanislaus National Forest - Mokelumne, Carson-Iceberg, Emigrant Wilderness Areas: Stanislaus National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 05370. Phone 209/532-3671. No permit or permit reservation fee.

The Inyo National Forest permits are reserved through a reservation system. Permits may be obtained six months in advance of a trip or up to two days before the start of the trip.

Inyo Nation Forest Inyo National Forest Wilderness Reservation Service for east side reservations 888/374-3773 or 619/938-1136. Fee \$3.00 per person per reservation. INFWRS, P.O. Box 430, Big Pine, CA 93513. Fax 619/938-1137. Operator hours 8:am - 4:30pm. Mon- Friday 10/15-11/22 and seven days a week at other times. Trail quotas have remained the same, but the new DEIS discussed earlier in this issue may have changes in quotas for 1999.

Include or have ready to provide for all your applications the following information:

Type of permit: _____ standard wilderness overnight permit
 _____ Mt. Whitney day use permit

Entry Date _____ Exit Date _____

Trail Entry _____

Trail Exit _____

Method Of Travel _____

Number of People (maximum group size is 15 or less)

Number of Stock _____

| <u>Overnight Camp Areas</u> | <u># Nights in Camp</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ |
| 6. _____ | _____ |
| 7. _____ | _____ |

Entering Whitney Zone – a special endorsement is required to enter the area surrounding and including Mt. Whitney regardless of you entry point. _____

Organization/Group Name _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Most areas recommend sending in alternate dates, trailheads etc. Send in a check for each permit requested separately.

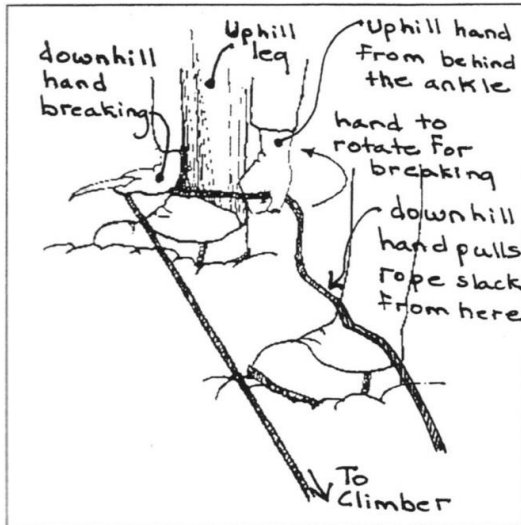
Get your permits early and remember to cancel if you can't use a permit you receive. Let's schedule lots of SPS climbs this summer.

Inyo National Forest Trails With Daily Quotas : Last Friday in June – September 15.

- Mono Lake Station: McCabe Lake – 15, Rush Creek –34
- White Mountain Station: Big Pine Creek N. Fork – 24, Big Pine Creek S. Fork – 12, Bishop Pass – 36, Hilton Lakes – 20, Lamark Lakes – 16, Little Lakes Valley –24, Mono Pass – 24, McGee Creek- 24, Pine Creek –20. Piute Pass –32, Sabrina Lake –28, Treasure Lakes –12
- Mammoth Lakes Station: Beck Lake – 25, Deer Lake – 10, Duck Lake – 40, Fern Lake – 20, Fish Creek – 25, High (PCT) – 25, John Muir Trail N. – 10, Minaret Lake – 10, Red Cones (JMT South) – 25, River Trail –35, Shadow Lake – 30
- Mt Whitney Station: Baxter Pass –15, Cottonwood Lakes – 60, Cottonwood Pass – 40, Golden Trout Lakes –25, Kearsage Pass – 60, Meysan Lake – 15, N. Fork Lone Pine Creek – 15 (quota dates here are May 22- Oct.15.), Sawmill Pass – 15, Shepherd Pass – 15, Taboose Pass – 15, Mt. Whitney Trail – 50(quota dates here are May 22- Oct.15.)

A Better Boot Axe Belay

By Larry Tidball



The Boot axe belay as it has been traditionally taught in the *LRB* or *Freedom of the Hills* is described as "somewhat complicated with awkward rope handling." Somewhere along the way of learning climbing, an "old hand" taught me a better way to do this belay. I have tried to pass this technique along at snow seminars. Now I have been asked to write an article to describe this. This belay when properly done is quick and easy to set up. It is much faster to do it than to read about it.

With ^{this} technique the belay becomes easy to set up, easy to use and ideal for quick belays for a fast moving climber. I use this for belaying someone across the schrund; up a steep pitch, or other traditional snow climbing situations where I am belaying someone from above.

To set this belay up, stamp a firm platform for the uphill boot and ice axe. Place the downhill foot slightly behind and downhill from this (also with a firm stance.) Plant the axe firmly and brace it with the uphill boot. You should be facing across the slope with the rope running down to the climber. The rope goes from the climber across the boot, around the axe and back to the belay hand. So far this is the same as traditional teaching.

Now for the difference. Use the UPHILL hand as the breaking hand with your arm coming around from behind the ankle of the uphill foot. The downhill hand comes in front of your leg and grabs the free end of the rope behind the braking hand. This way you can pull the rope in with the downhill hand as fast as someone can climb while letting the rope slide through the braking hand. There is very little friction until you lock off the belay.

If a fall occurs, reach in front of your body with the downhill hand, placing your hand on top of the axe and weight it before locking off the breaking hand. This method gives you a much more natural hand and body position, allows for quick rope movements and you are not tempted to let go with the braking hand. You should practice setting this up facing both directions, for in real life you need to set up any boot axe belay facing the climber's fall line.

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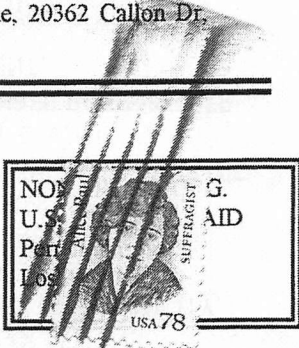
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