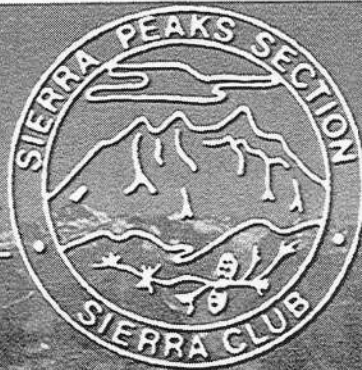


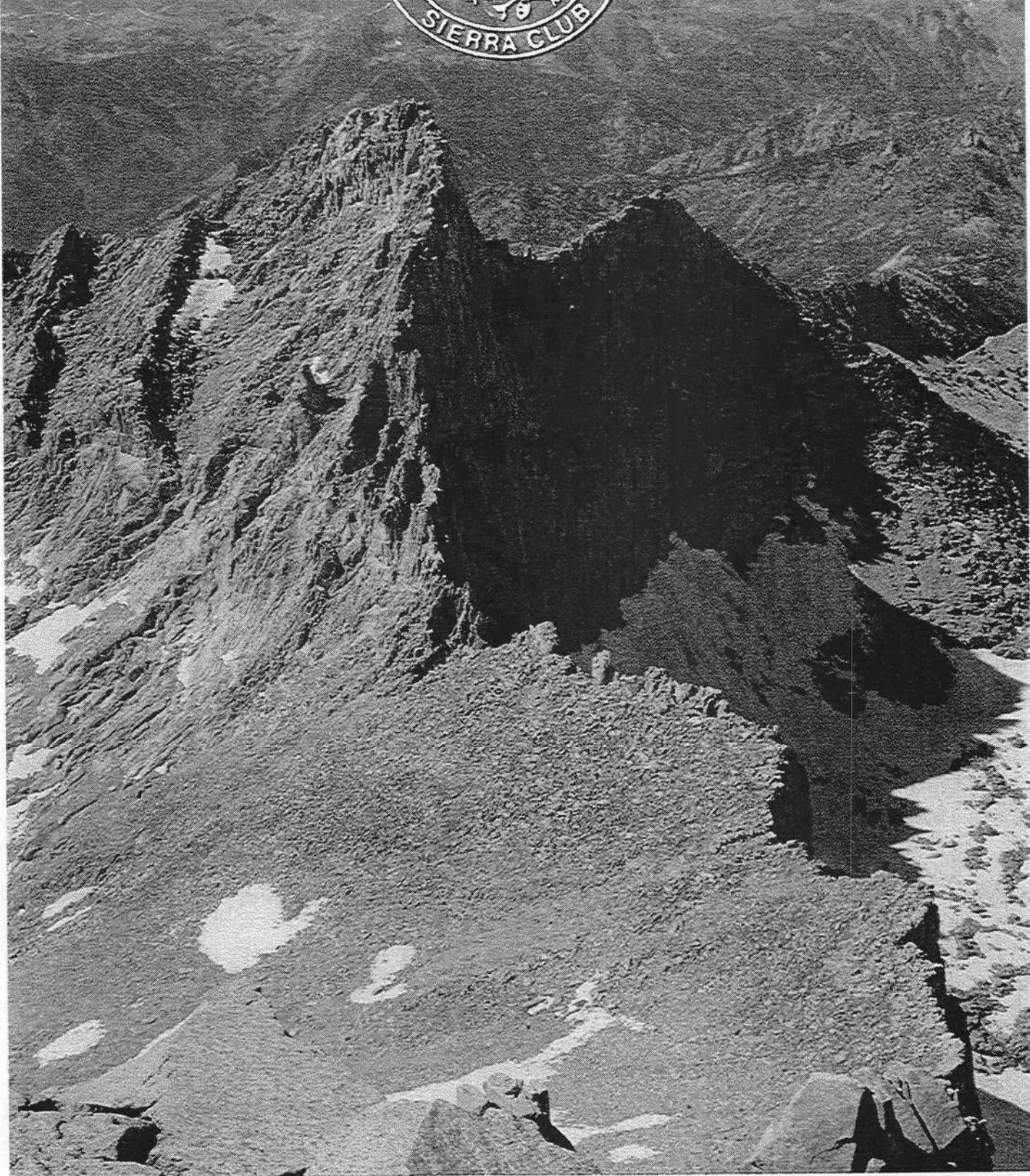
The Sierra

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 2



ECHO

MARCH - APRIL 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.

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 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

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

July 8

Duane McRuer, long time SPS member, will present a program on high points of each of the individual states on the US.

August 12

Linda McDermott will present a program on backpacking in the Gates of the Arctic National Park, a paddle trip of the Kongakut River and kayak of the Kobuk River.

September 9

Gary Guenther and Joe Fontaine will make a presentation on the proposed John Muir/Ansel Adams Wilderness Area Plans and the effect of these plans on access to these areas for SPS trips.

FRONT COVER Name That Peak

And for extra points tell us who shot this photograph.

(Hint photo is by a famous SPS member)

PEAK INDEX

Vandever
Florence
Granite Peak, Montana

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.

SPS ECHO

March 31, 1997 was the deadline to renew your Echo subscription. Check your mailing label...if it is highlighted you will not receive the next Echo until you have renewed your subscription.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

SIERRA CLUB BOARD ELECTIONS

REMEMBER TO VOTE

**BALLOTS ARE DUE
APRIL 18, 1998**

SPS WINTER - SUMMER TRIPS 1998



See November/December and January/February Echo for detailed write-ups of trips previously listed. Note all trips listed as MR or ER are restricted trips open to Sierra Club members only with the appropriate rock or snow skills.

APRIL

M April 10-12 Fri.- Sun Olancha Rescheduled for May 2-4.

M/E April 11 Sat.. Mt Baldy Snow Refresher Bradley/Mantle

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

MR April 25-26 Sat-Sun San Gorgonio Provisional Lead, Trip co-led w/ WTC, Ice axe/crampon exper. Snow hike from So. Fork to base camp at Dry Lk., 6mi, 2600' gain. Sun 24500' gain to San Gorgonio & out. Send SASE, H&W phones. Climb experience, rideshare info. Paterson/Rivera

MAY

MR May 2- 4 Sat - Mon Olancha Snow conditions permitting. via Olancha Creak. B. Tidball/Epstein

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

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

MAY continued

MR May 16-17 Sat - Sun University (13,632') & Independence (11,744') trip led w/ WTC Sat bkpk 1 mi, 1300' gain from Onion Vly to Robinson Lk; climb Independence, 1300' gain; happy hr at camp - bring food to share. Sun climb 2 mi, 3200' gain to University, pack out. WTC leaders only & SPS members. Moderate Trip, ice axe skills, comfort on 3rd cl rock reqd. SASE & resume w/ recent conditioning, SC#, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr. Barry Holchin Asst. Henry Arnebold

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

MR May 21-22, Thurs - Fri Shasta (14,142') Thur climb 4 mi, 3400' to Helen Lk. Fri climb 2 mi, 3700' to Pk. Snow skills. Send 2 SASE, H&W phones, rideshare infor climbing resume w/ relevant ice axe & crampon exper. Ldr. Marc "Roadkill" Hertz, Co-ldr. Virgil Shields

May 23 - 25 Sat - Mon Mt Langley (14,026') Ice axe & crampon exper. Strenuous snow climb: 10 mi rt., 7000' gain maybe more if road closed. Sat pack in by Tuttle Crk. Sun climb peak via NE Chute, then pack out, or wait till Mon. if necessary. \$3.00 permit fee at trailhead, Send 2 SASE, SC#, exper/Cond.. H&W phones, ride share info to Ldr. Matthew Richardson, Asst. Doug Mantle

MR May 30 - 31 Sat. - Sun Bloody Restricted trip, ice axe and crampons Leader Epstein/Keenan

JUNE

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

MR Jun 6-7 Black Mtn (13,289') & Diamond Pk (13,126') Join us for a Spring snow climb-in the Sierra. Exper. climbers. Ice axe & crampons req. About 8400' gain and 14 mi for weekend. Send SASE w/ exper, cond., SC# , phones & rideshare info to Ldr. Greg Roach Co-ldr. Dan Richter

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

I Jun 13-14 Sat - Sun Olancha (12,123') Trip co-led w/ WTC Sat backpack from Sage Flat to camp at Bear Trap Meadow, 7 mi, 4,200' gain, enjoy happy hr. Sun climb 4 mi., 2100' gain to peak, some talus. Intro trip designed for conditioned SPS newcomers & WTC. Send 2 SASE, resume w/ recent exper./cond to Lr. Paul Graff, Asst. Janet Graff.

June 6-7 snow safety?

M/E Jun 13 - 14 Sat. – Sun Haeckel (13,418) & Wallace (13,377) L.Tidball/Jamison	JULY continued
MR Jun 27 – 28 Sat – Sun Mt Thompson (13,494') & Mt. Powell (13,360') Ice axe & crampons and w/ 3 rd cl rock exper. About 6000' gain and 20 mi for the week end. Send SASE w/ exper, cond., SC#, phones & rideshare info. To Ldr. Greg Roach, co-ldr. Barbara Cohen.	MR Jul 18-19 Sat. – Sun University Pk (13,632') Trip co-led w/ WTC. Sat bkp 2 mi, 1300' gain from Onion Valley to Robinson Lk. Sun Climb pk via Univ. Pass and southeast ridge, 3000' gain w/ ice axe and crampons Send SASE, exper/cond. SC#, Rideshare info to Ldr Sheryl O'Rourke Asst. Mike Adams
M/ER Jun 27 - 28 Sat. – Sun Mt. Abbot (13,704) & Mt. Mills (13,451) Waxman/Epstein	MR Jul 18 – 19 Sat. – Sun Middle Palisade (14,040') Mountaineers List or equiv. Exper. Ice Axe & Crampons, cl 3 rock. 14 mi RT, 6250' gain. Sat. pack in to Finger Lake, Sun climb peak via NE Face then pack out. \$ 3.00 permit fee at trailhead. Send SASE, exper/cond. SC#, phones, rideshare info to Ldr Matthew Richardson Asst. Dan Richter
JULY	
I July 4 – 6 Sat. – Mon. Mt. Muah (11,016) & Cartago (10,480+) Kline/Fleming	C Jul 18 – 19 Sat – Sun Yosemite Volunteer Project Co-led w/ OCSS. Work under direction of Park Rangers on conservation and restoration projects. Limited camping space available. Send 2 SASE, interests, conservation or restoration exper. H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Keith Martin, asst. Cyndee Pappas.
I Jul 11 – 12 Sat – Sun Round Top (10,381') & Freel Pk (10,881') Intro trip w/ carcamp and moderately paced ascents of 2 SPS qualifying peaks in Northern Sierra. One off Carson Pass and the other overlooking Lake Tahoe. Round Top 6 mi rt, 1700' gain; Freel 6 mi rt, 2600' gain via Armstrong Pass. Send SASE Ldrs Jerry & Nancy Keeting	M Jul 19-21 Sun – Tue Gray Pk (11,573') & Mt Clark (11,522) After Yosemite service trip stay in the park and climb. Mt Clark offers some challenging 3 rd cl rock and gray is a 2 nd cl pk. Backpack 5+ mi Sun after trail work project. Mon climb peaks. Tue hike out. Send SASE, exper/cond. info to Ldr Larry Tidball co-ldr. Barbee Tidball
MR Jul 11 – 12 Sat – Sun Mt Emerson (13,204') & Mt. Goethe (13,264') Backpack via Piute Pass Trail from North Lake. About 6000' gain, 20 mi for week end. Class 3, probable snow routes likely req. ice axe & crampon. Send 2 SASE, rec cond, related exper. SC#, phones, e-mail Ldr. Ron Hudson co-ldr. Greg Roach	I Jul 23 –26 Thur – Sun Triple Divide (11,607') & Merced (11,726') Join us for a mod trek through Yosemite's splendid south. One list peak, one not. Send SASE to ldr. Steve Thaw co-ldr. Doug Mantle
MR Jul 11 – 12 Sat – Sun Independence Pk (11,744') & University (13,632') 3 rd cl rock, ice axe & crampons exper. Req. Sat. backpack to Robinson Lk (2 mi, 2100' gain) climb Independence (1,244' gain). Sun climb University and hike out (7 ½ mi RT, 3,132 gain) Send SASE w/ recent exper. To Ldr. Bob Bruley Asst. Dan Richter.	MR Jul 24 – 27 Fri – Mon Mt Lyell (13,114') & Mt Maclure (12,960') Ice axe & crampon exper reg. Fri hike up Lyell Cyn (7mi, 800' gain) Sat hike up Lyell Glacier drainage (6.5mi, 2,000' gain) Sun cross Lyell Glacier to ascend Mt Lyell & Maclure; return to camp, pack & hike down. Lyell Cyn. (7.5 mi 3,200' gain) Mon out. Send SASE, exper/cond. SC#, Rideshare info to Ldr Tim Keenan, co-ldr John Brinkman
O July 14 Wed Climbers' Social Hour Join us for L.A.'s best happy hr. before the regular monthly SPS meeting. Meet 5pm (or whenever 1 st person ther finds a table) at McCormick & Schmicks in Downtown LA. Send SASE to ldr. For map, parking info., menu. Ldr. Ann Kramer, asst. Erik Siering	I Jul 25 – 26 Sat – Sun Lone Pine Peak (12,943') Trip co-led w/ WTC. Sat join us for grunt bkp 4 mi from Whitney portal area, 4.7 mi, 3,600' gain to Meysan Lk.; relax before happy hr. Sun climb peak by cl 2 route, 2 mi, 2,300' gain, up steep loose chute for exhilarating views of Lone Pine area, then 6 mi out. Send SASE, bkp resume w/ exper., H&W phones, \$3 permit fee to Ldr. Paul Graff co-ldr J. Graff, D. Lee
ER Jul 17 – 19 Fri – Sun Mt. Sill (14,153') Fri – Sun Ice axe/crampon exper. Strenuous cl 4 snow & rock, over 6000' gain. Camp Palisade glacier. Climb peak Sat. by North couloir route. If group is good, possible traverse to Polemonium before return to camp. Sun pack out. Send 2 SASE, SC#, exper, resume & cond, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr. Nile Sorenson Asst Doug Mantle	MR Jul 25-26 Sat – Sun Mt Powell (13,360') Ice axe & crampon exper. Sat pack to Sunset Lakes (5 ½ mi, 3,550' gain trail & xc) Sun climb peak (3.mi RT and 2,850' gain), pack out. Send SASE, exper/cond. SC#, H&W phones rideshare info to Ldr Kim Gimenez co-leader Beth Epstein.
MR Jul 17 – 20 Fri – Mon Mt Keith (13,977'), Center Pk. (12,760') & Mt. Bradley (13,289') Four days in Center basin via Kearsarge Pass. Fri bkp 12 mi, 3600' to Center Basin; Sat Bradley & Center 3800', 3 mi; Sun Keith 3800' w/ possible car shuttle to Shepherd Pass. Ice axe & crampons req. Send SASE w/ exper, H&W phones, SC# to Ldr. Charlie Knapke co-ldr. Barbara Cohen	

AUGUST

I Aug 1 – 2 Sat – Sun Iron (11,149') Backpack or Dayhike to be decided based on participants and leaders' wishes just before trip. 13 mi RT 3,600' gain. Send SASE, exper/cond. H&W phones rideshare info to Ldr Barbee Tidball co-ldr Barbara Cohen.

M Aug 1 – 2 Sat – Sun Mt Lyell (13,114') Sat hike 10 mi up Lyell Fork, Sun climb peak via E Arete Snow Climbing exper. Ice axe & crampons. Send SASE, exper/cond., H&W phones rideshare info to Ldr Marc "Roadkill" Hertz asst. Virgil Shields

MR Aug 1 – 2 Sat – Sun Mt. Le Conte (13,960') Ice axe & crampons and 3rd cl rock exper. Sat bkpk to upper Meysan Lk (4mi 3,372' gain) Sun climb peak and hike out (6 mi RT 2,500' gain) Send 2 SASE, exper/cond. SC#, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Bob Bruley asst. Dan Richter

I Aug 8 – 9 Sat – Sun Mt Lamarck (13,420') SPS intro trip co-led w/ WTC. Sat bkpk 3 mi, 1500' gain, from North Lk cpgrd to Upper Lamarck Lk. Afternoon 4'mi RT 770' xc fishing at Wonder Lk. Sun climb pk, 3 mi, 2,500' gain & pack out. WTC or equiv. Req. Send 2 SASE, exper/cond., H&W phones rideshare info to Ldr Therese Herzog asst. Darrell Lee

O Aug 12 Climbers' Social Hour . 5:00 pm
McCormick & Schmicks See July 14th write-up. Ldr. Anne Kramer asst. Erik Siering.

I Aug 14 – 17 Fri – Mon Joe Devel Pk (13,327') & Mt Pickering (13,474') Cl 2 pks out of Cottonwoods. Intro trip geared to new members, WTC students welcome. Fri bkpk 10 mi to Mitter Basin, 1000' gain Fri, Sat, Sun eve community happy hrs. Sat do Joe Devil, 6 mi RT, 2,500' gain mostly xc. Sun do Pickering, 6 mi RT, 2,500' gain xc. Mon bkpk 10 mi out. Send SASE, exper/cond. H&W phones rideshare info to Ldr Patty Kline co-ldr Jim Fleming

MR Aug 15 – 16 Sat – Sun Mt. Winchell (13,775') Join us to enjoy great views from this spectacular summit. Strenuous 20 mile Round Trip, 6000' gain. Saturday backpack in to Sam Mack Meadow. Sunday climb peak via East Arete (Class 3) then pack out. \$3.00 permit fee at trailhead. Send two SASE, information on your experience and recent conditioning, Sierra Club number, H&W phones, rideshare information to Leader Matthew Richardson co-leader Timothy Keenan

MR Aug 15 – 23 Sat – Sun Mt Kaweah (13,802') Black Kaweah (13,720') Red Kaweah (13,720') Other peaks as conditions permit. Climb of Black Kaweah will be restricted. Spend 2 days hiking 22 mi from Crescent Meadow to Big Arroyo Junc. 5 climb. days from base camp. Two days hiking back. Send SASE, exper/cond. SC#, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Keith Martin co-ldr Barbee Tidball

M/ER Aug 21 – 30 Fri – Sun Peaks of Evolution & Ionian Basins Rock climbing exper req. A strenuous bkpk, carrying ice axe & three cl 3 peaks. Fri in over Lamarck Col and climb all or part of Mts Spencer, Huxley, Fiske, Goddard, Scylla, Charybdis, McDuffie, Black Giant & out Sun via Echo Col w/ total 50 mi & 19,000' gain. Send 2 SASE, exper/cond. SC#, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Ron Jones co-ldr Igor Mamedalin

M Aug 22-23 Sat – Sun Wallace (13,377") & Haeckel (13,418') Co-ldr w/ WTC Sat hike 7 mi, 2,000' to Moon Light Lake. Sun climb 3 mi, 2,100' to peaks. Exper. Exposed cl 3 req. Not for WTC students. Send 2 SASE, exper/cond, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Marc "Roadkill" Hertz co-ldr Georgette Rieck

I/M Aug 28 – 30 Fri – Sun Mt. Hale (13,440'), Mt Young (13,177') & Mt. Muir (14,015') Strenuous 1st day over Trail Crest to Guitar Lake area as we use eight coveted Whitney Trail permits. Climb nondescript Hale/Young on day two and an optional climb of Muir on the way out. Send SASE, exper/cond. H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Bob Wyka co-ldr Allan Conrad

ER Aug 28-30 Fri – Sun Norman Clyde (13,855') Mtnears Lst mbrs. Small group. Fri hike 6 mi 3000' gain to camp Finger Lake. Climb peak on Sat by North-Northeast ridge route, 300' gain, class 4 rock, lots of exposure & return to camp. Sun pack out. Send 2 SASE, exper/cond. SC#, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Nile Sorenson asst. Bill Oliver

SEPTEMBER

MR Sept 4 – 7 Fri – Mon Tehipite Dome (7,708') Req rock skills for 3rd Cl summit block. Long hike, 25/30 mi RT, through potentially dry area; conditioning is important. Send SASE, exper/cond. SC#, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Jim Murphy co-ldr Keith Martin

I Sept 5 – 7 Sat – Mon Foerster Pk (12,057') & Electra Pk (12,442') Join us for Labor day climbing 2 peaks. Trip stats: Day 1 bkpk 11 mi, 3,000' over Isberg Pass. Day 2 climb peaks, 16+ mi RT, 4,800' gain. Strenuous trip, long hikes. Send SASE, exper/cond., H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Larry Tidball co-ldr. Greg Roach

O Sept 9 Climbers' Social Hour . 5:00 pm
McCormick & Schmicks See July 14th write-up. Ldr. Anne Kramer asst. Erik Siering.

I Sept 12 – 13 Sat – Sun Needham Mtn (12,520') & Sawtooth Pk (12,343') SPS intro trip geared to new members & WTC students. Moderate bkpk for cl 2 pks in Sierra near Mineral King. Sat bkpk 6 mi, 2,600' gain, and to Needham in 4 mi RT, 2,100' gain, xc. Sat eve community happy hr, Syn 2 mi RT, 1,800' gain, xc for Sawtooth and bkpk out 6 mi. Send SASE, exper/cond. H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Patty Kline, co-ldr. Beth Epstein

MR Sept 12 – 13 Sat – Sun Tehipite Dome (7,708') Sat bkpk to Crown Valley, about 10 mi. 1000' gain. Sun climb cl 3 peak and out, 3000' gain, 18 mi. Send SASE, exper/cond. SC#, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Greg Roach co-ldr Ron Hudson

M Sept 18 – 21 Fri – Mon Recess Pk (12,813') Mt Hooper (12,286'), Mt Senger (12,349'), Gemini (12,880+') Seven Gables (13,080+') Loop via Bear Ck, Muir Trail, Selden Pass and Florence Lk. About 27 mi, 5000' gain bkpk on trail. Another 18 mi, 10,000' dayhiking from camps for all the peaks. Post permit quota period, and after the heavy winter snows have melted. Go from heavy forest to open and meadowy lake-filled terrain. Send SASE, exper/cond., H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Ron Hudson, co-ldr Erik Siering

I Sept 19-20 Sat – Sun Mt. Goode (13,085') Co-led w/WTC Sat. bkpk 4 mi, 1400' gain from South Lake to camp at Bishop Lake. Gourmet potluck dinner Sun climb Goode, 2000' gain and pack out. No tigers. Send 2 SASE, exper/cond. SC#, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Cara Zylla asst. Joanne Andrew

I Sept 19 – 20 Sat – Sun Bloody Mtn (12,552') Co-led w/WTC Intro trip geared to new members and WTC students. Moderate bkpk for cl 2 peak south of Mammoth. Sat bkpk 5 mi, 2,500' gain to Mildred Lake. Sat night community happy hr. Sun climb peak in 6 mi RT, 2,500' gain mostly xc and bkpk out 5 mi. Send SASE, exper/cond. H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Patty Kline co-ldr Joe Wankum

M Sept 25 – 27 Fri – Sun East Vidette (12,350') Fri bkpk 9 mi+, 2,600' gain w/ 2,400' loss over Kearsarge Pass. Sat climb peak via exposed cl 3 East ridge, 4 mi RT, 3,000' gain. Sun pack out. Exper. w/ expos. 3rd cl rock. Not for WTC students. Send SASE, exper/cond. H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Sheryl O'Rourke co-ldr Beth Epstein

MR Sept 26 – 27 Sat – Sun Mt Winchell (13,775') SPS and WTC leaders welcome. Sat backpack 6 mi, 3,200' gain to meadow below Sam Mack Lk. Sun 3 mi, 2,700' (all xc) to peak via east arete, pack out. Moderate trip, participants must be comfortable on 3rd class rock. Send SASE, experience and conditioning information, SC#, H&W phones, rideshare info to Leader Barry Holchin, asst. leader Tina Stough

I Sept 26 – 28 Sat – Mon Silver Peak (11,878') Co-led w/WTC. SPS introduction trip geared to new and prospective members and WTC students. Moderate climb of Western Sierra peak. Sat backpack 6 mile, 1,500' gain from Lake Thomas Edison to Devils Bathtub Lake. Sun 8 mile RT cross-country, 3,000' gain for class 2 peak. Mon return 6 mi to roadhead. Sat/Sun community happy hour. Send SASE, exper/cond. information, H&W phones, rideshare info to Leader Patty Kline, co-leaders Hal Browder, Janet Graff

OCTOBER

I Oct 3- 4 Sat – Sun Mt Henry (12,196') Sat backpack 10 mile from Courtwright Res. to lower Indian Lake (2,500' gain) on Sat, then climb Cl 2 peak (1.5 mi, 2,200') Discussions of Henrys. Out Sun. Send SASE, exper/cond. H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr Tina Stough co-leader Doug Mantle

O Oct 7 Climbers' Social Hour . 5:00 pm
McCormick & Schmicks See July 14th write-up.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

M/ER Jan 16 Sat Snow Practice

M/ER Feb 6 Annual Baldy Snow Refresher

Leaders not listed in the current SPS Roster:

John Paterson	136 4 th St.
Marc Hertz	14416 Hamlin St. #211
Sheryl O'Rourke	2175 Pacific Av. # C4
Therese Herzog	P.O. Box 671
Cara Zylla	136 4 th St.

Seal Beach, CA 90740	h562/430-1179
Van Nuys, CA 91401	h818/347-6896
Costa Mesa, CA 92627	h714/848-3024
S. Pasadena, CA 91031	h/626/441-2635
Seal Beach, CA 90740	h562/430-1179

Minutes from the SPS Meeting February 11, 1998.

Location: Department of Water and Power downtown LA
Minutes taken by Scott Sullivan

Patty Kline chaired the meeting in RJ's absence.

Minutes of December and November 1997 were read and approved with the correction that bear canisters are only required in Inyo National Forest east of Kearsarge Pass in the Onion Valley area.

Awards to be given out at the March 28 Chapter Awards Banquet were announced.

Bill Crane will receive the Chester Versteeg award.

Allan Conrad and Tina Stough will receive the Outings award.

Barbee Tidball will receive the Special Service award.

Tina Stough's quadruple list finish on the Lower Peaks List on February 28 was announced.

We briefly discussed fixed anchors in the wilderness. Letters are needed by Feb 28 to Joshua Tree.

It was announced that there will be a special election regarding addition of Cal Tech Peak to the list.

November 1 is the extended deadline for comments on the DEIS wilderness management plan. SPS is particularly concerned with trailhead issues. More information will be available in future Echoes and we hope to have a speaker on this subject at the August or September meeting.

Mary Ferguson spoke on behalf of Judy Anderson who is running for the Sierra Club Board of Directors.

February 21 is the new date for the snow checkoff, this is postponed from January 17.

Dan Richter's January 24 rock workshop went well.

The February 7 snow refresher was as good as could be expected with the limited snow.

Upcoming outings were announced (see Echo for details).

Abraham Hoffman lectured on Los Angeles water history from 1896-1905, the period immediately preceding the construction of the LA Aqueduct.

SPS Membership Report

April 1998

Welcome !!! New Members

Therese Herzog
P.O. Box 671
S. Pasadena, CA 91031
day (213) 612-2517
eve (626) 441-2635

Samuel Prum
2124 Terraza Pl.
Fullerton, CA 92835
day (310) 662-6968
eve (714) 738-7786

Bob Suzuki
3646 El Grande Ct.
San Jose, CA 95132
day (510) 657-7555
eve (408) 259-0772

Good Reading New Subscriber

Jon Bees
14225 Wind River East
Reno, NV 89511
(702) 851-0949

Marc Elliot
1700 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Helen Huntly
301 E Wilson Street
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Ron Norton
5535 Pine Ave
Palmdale, CA 93551

Claire Sussex
409 Avenida Ave
San Clemente CA 92672

Joseph White
1764 Troy Lane
Oceanside, CA 92054
(619) 439-7751

SPS Membership Report continued.**Address Changes**

Melinda Bird
1126 S. Curson Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90019
(213) 936-4377

Beth Epstein & Kim Gimenez
301 Granada Ave
Long Beach, CA 90814
day (310) 478-0771
eve (562) 439-0646

Bon Tai Goo
1137 Lavendar Lane
La Canada, CA 91011
day (213) 427-6320
eve (818) 790-0739

Sue Holloway
8852 Mulvaney Drive
San Diego, CA 92119

Richard Loomis
28 Candlewood Lane
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
(714) 362-0293

Mitch Miller
1678 Orchard Drive Apt I
Placentia, CA 92870
eve (714) 993-0945
day (714) 762-0881

Eivor Nilsson
2217 Montrose Ave #4
Montrose, CA 91020
day (213)861-5061
eve (818) 541-9663

Seth Nidiver
7204 School House Lane
Bakersfield, CA 93309
(805) 837-8084

Jon Petitjean
PO Box 293682
Phelan, CA 92329
(760) 244-5191

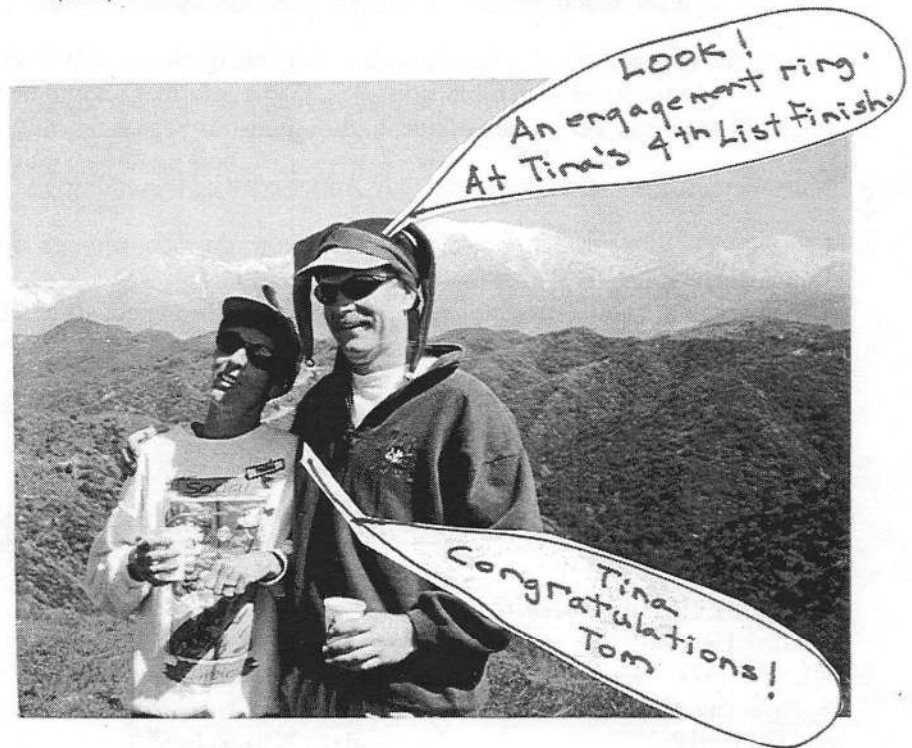
Frank D. Sanborn
2101 S. 324 St.
Federal Way, WA 98003

Sigrid and Tom Sexton
4802 Tiara Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
(714) 840-2709

David Stone
1386 16th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94122

Tracy Sulkin
4114 1/4 Van Buren Place
Culver City, CA 90232

George Wysup
9774 Peach Tree Lane
Alta Loma, CA 91737



Note that minor address changes such as email address and phone numbers will appear only in the updated roster.

ACTION REQUEST

Wilderness area snowmobile sightings! The heavy snow pack this year seems to have been too much temptation for snowmobile users in the Sierra. Tracks have been sighted near Bear Creek Spire, Hilton Lakes, Humphreys, Laurel, Convict and Mt Wood to name a few places. What can you do? WATCH & RECORD. If you do sight a snowmobile in a wilderness area, take down the license plate number and report the location of the sighting to the nearest forest service office. Snowmobiles can damage plants below the surface of the snow. Motorized vehicles scare animals and birds. The wilderness is not for vehicles!

SPS COMMENTS & LETTERS

Caltech – 248th Peak on the SPS List

(to list or not to list? to vote or not to vote?)

In the Sept/Oct issue of *The Sierra Echo* we first ran articles discussing the possible addition of Caltech peak to the List. Then in the Nov/Dec issue of *The Sierra Echo* we ran the first comments for and against the addition of Caltech Peak. In that issue we also printed a copy of the SPS bylaws pertaining to peak list addition. In this issue we are now presenting to you the readers not only arguments on the addition of Caltech Peak, but also articles and letters we have received pertaining to the Special Election that is being held.

Appeal for Management Committee to Act in Accord With Bylaws

It's a sad time in the distinguished history of the SPS when the prevailing majority of the SPS Management Committee has opted to defy the SPS Bylaws and rush a previously defeated peak addition proposal before the voting membership. The Bylaws are the Angeles Chapter-approved charter under which the section operates, and the officers who knowingly disregarded the Bylaws have broken their trust with the membership. Commendably, Chair R.J. Secor has acted properly.

The Bylaw provisions pertaining to peak and emblem list additions/deletions were developed with great care in order to avoid hasty, ill-advised action. Members involved in drafting and revising the Bylaws recognized that in a volunteer organization it is vital to allow sufficient time to build a genuinely strong consensus among the total active membership. By disregarding the need for consensus, the current Management Committee is inviting friction that can be harmful to the section's long-term well-being.

Years ago, peak list decisions were made by a small group at an SPS committee meeting. That procedure yielded unwanted strife in the section, and ultimately it was wisely decided to have the entire active SPS membership vote by mail *and* only after sufficient time was allowed for members to climb a proposed peak and to study written evaluations—pro and con—before voting on a peak's suitability for the list. It was understood that there would be differences on the suitability of various peaks, but those differences would be minimized with proper stewardship on the part of the Management Committee.

In considering list changes, I believe the Management Committee can best serve the SPS by adhering to the election schedule set forth in the Bylaws and by:

1. Looking for new peaks that involve new roadheads and or totally different backpacking approaches. Foerster (from Soldier Meadow) and Whaleback/Glacier Ridge (from Horse Corral Meadow and passing Roaring River) are examples of approved peak additions that invited members into new territory and had solid member support when voted upon.
2. Ensuring, once a peak is to be placed before the membership, that the most likely approach is clearly set forth in the proposal. In the case of Caltech Peak, this approach is the southeast slope, a rather tedious route.

Another SPS list finisher and I climbed Caltech on August 30, 1974, before doing five lower summits to the south that same day. The next day, we headed for other unlisted peaks, including Mt. Chester Versteeg, which sits on the Sierra crest 1 mile southeast of Mt. Tyndall. The approach to Chester Versteeg was via a canyon we'd never hiked in before, and the climb offered the writer an enjoyable mixture of Class 2 and low Class 3 rock. We agreed at the time that Caltech and Chester Versteeg were worth climbing, but we felt they were too close to more impressive and already-listed SPS peaks to be suitable as list additions. The voting membership apparently shared this view when it rejected Caltech.

In today's setting, with wilderness permit and insurance coverage limitations having surfaced as challenges, we should recognize again that the SPS peak list was developed as a means of encouraging members to explore and enjoy *all* parts of the Sierra, including the northern and southern extremes of the range. The list contains the dominant summits representing the various segments of the range. There are hundreds of additional named peaks in the range, of course, and the Management Committee can serve the membership well by scheduling more of these peaks, not necessarily as possible list additions but rather as enjoyable *new* experiences. **Jerry Keating**

Letter to Cancel the Special Election

By Ron Jones to R.J. Secor

Thursday, February 19, 1998

Dear RJ Secor,

I hope you had a successful and interesting climb of Aconcagua. It will be nice to hear (and read) about it.

Yesterday I received a copy of an SPS Special Ballot regarding Caltech Peak. I strongly oppose the way this peak has been presented to the membership to be voted upon.

I learned today from a member of the SPS Management Committee that the minutes of this Committee's meeting in November, 1997 show that the matter of a Special Election came up at this time. This was after the failure of the proponents to meet the deadline of the regular Section election. After discussion - I am told that it is a matter of record in the minutes - that there was some concern about the costs of conducting a special election (to add Caltech Peak) . At that time I was told, Tina Stough, one of the proponents for adding this peak, said that she would personally partially cover the costs of the Special Election.

Our by-laws call for an Elections Committee of three persons to be appointed and I am told that the minutes reflect that only one person was appointed, the same person named above who is a proponent for adding Cal Tech Peak. The ballot is to be returned to that same person, the Committee of One, and at the SPS snow practice on February 21st she told me that 40 some ballots had come in and that they had already opened and counted ! This is not the way to run an election !

Back in October or November I spoke with several management Committee members and at least one person told me (and it might have been in October, but sometime after they knew that Caltech had not been submitted in time to be included in the ballot) that it would come up at the next regular election. I had a strong interest because I wished to submit a letter to the membership through the ECHO and I assumed that I had plenty of time. I did not see any reference to a special election in the ECHO coverage for Caltech Peak and I did not notice the two sentences authorizing a special election sometime within the November minutes (this is my fault). Even the ECHO Editor did not know the Special Election was being called at this time, and had assumed it would voted on again at the general election and was saving letters from members to print at this time.

Now as far as I am concerned, if the SPS wants to set a precedent and hold their first Special Election in 30 or 35 years (neither Jerry Keating or I can remember a previous one) on a non-controversial issue like whether or not to have flowers at the regular meetings, that might be OK with me. But Caltech Peak is controversial, both the failure to meet the qualifications for our list and the reason to even place it on the list - -to memorialize a dear friend. I believe that Caltech Peak has twice before been proposed for addition to our list (both times by Cal Tech alumni). The first time it was opposed for lack of qualifications and REJECTED. The second time it was reconsidered by the Management Committee and it was decided not to place it on the ballot again. My point here is this is a controversial peak and our membership deserves the chance to understand the history of the controversy !

The photograph of Caltech Peak in the December issue doesn't even identify the peak in question. It is not the higher peak in the right foreground, but is in the middle distance on the left, with several higher peaks around it. Is this mis-leading ? (*Editor's note - no "mis-leading" was intended. That was the best and only photo we had submitted of Caltech.*)

Doesn't the SPS doesn't have the consideration, the courtesy to explain both sides of the issue to its members? Where is a statement of pro and con ? Where is an even handed coverage of the issue in our newsletter ? My last ECHO extracts from a long-past ECHO article written by two Cal Tech grads in favor of the addition in the upcoming, at that time, election (when the peak proposal was defeated). Where is an extract from the several notices opposing addition, that it wasn't worthy of our list, that it was surrounded by higher peaks and so on ? ? Where is the note that it had been proposed before and defeated ?

Why extend the deadline for returning the ballots ? All those who have already voted did so without knowing all sides of the issue and can not change their vote.

My point at this time is not to argue the worthiness of the peak. And I certainly do not feel that there is any dishonesty or intent to deceive by any member of the Management Committee. My point is to argue the

moral responsibility, the procedural responsibility, of conducting a Special Election partially subsidized by a member of the Management Committee and have the ballots opened and counted before the vote is completed. Also we shouldn't conduct our first Special Election without listing the reason and the pros and cons with the ballot.

I close with a letter written in 1979 at a time when Caltech Peak was being considered:

"Frankly, the learned alums from Cal Tech have reverted to pranks. I scaled it once -- I think. The only view is of the surrounding superior peaks. The pros don't mention the climb itself and that overstates its appeal. Its height is surpassed by that of the peak next to it. Most mediocre peak candidates offer a new area at least -- not so here. Honestly, I told Mac he must be kidding and I really do hope the membership thins more of the list than to consider this peak for addition." -- DM

I URGE YOU TO NULLIFY THIS ELECTION ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS and resubmit it to the membership. We have plenty of time before the next Regular Election (or is there a reason for haste?)

P.S. What might the Whitewater Special Prosecutor do with this issue ?

Sierrally,

Ron Jones, friend of the SPS, 6 times SPS elected Management Committee Member and Past Chair, SPS Member for more than 30 years, E-Leader and so on....

Argument Not In Favor Of Addition Of Caltech Peak

RE: SPS Peak List Addition

As a graduate of UCLA I have no peak to vote for. USC has Trojan Peak, Cal Tech is trying for Caltech Peak. Stanford has a quality peak. Does Caltech want to represent itself with a mediocre peak? I hope not. Long ago I climbed Caltech Peak which I thought was mediocre. I vote NO for Caltech as another SPS list addition. Barbara Reber

Echoes from the Chair

I WAS ABSENT THAT DAY

I was being unfaithful with another mountain range during most of February, and missed our February Management Committee and Membership meetings. The Management Committee decided to hold a special election (the first in SPS history) to add Caltech Peak to The List. According to the minutes of that Management Committee meeting my absentee ballot (voting NO for a special election) was not included in the count or in the quorum, contrary to section 2.11 of the SPS bylaws. Evidently, there was no vote on the matter. They decided to follow the orders of the 1997 Management Committee.

I attempted to have this special election declared invalid at the March Management Committee meeting, as it has violated sections 1.6, 2.7, 2.8, and 7.1 of the SPS bylaws. The vote was 4 to 1 to let the special election stand. Also, my four colleagues decided to extend the ballot deadline to May 12, 1998.

I am troubled by this special election because the traditions and proper procedures of the SPS have not been followed.

First, changing The List is a very sensitive issue to many members, and there has been very little discussion about Caltech Peak in the Echo. The membership has not been fully informed about this issue.

Second, bylaw 1.6 requires a special election to be held EITHER [my emphasis] by direction of the SPS Management Committee, Angeles Chapter ExComm, general meeting of the SPS membership, Sierra Club Council, OR [my emphasis] the Sierra Club's Board of Directors AND [my emphasis] upon petition to the SPS Management Committee signed by at least 5% of the membership of the SPS. In other words, a Club entity must call a special election AND there must be a petition. This requirement has not been met.

Third, section 2.7 of the SPS bylaws calls for an elections committee to consist of at least three members. There is only one member of this elections committee, the special election was her idea, and she paid the SPS \$20.00 to offset the cost of this special election. Also, the ballot is very easy to reproduce, and she has been counting the ballots as they are delivered, informing others of the results, in violation of section 2.8 of the

SPS bylaws. It is interesting that she was the one who proposed extending the deadline another nine weeks. The execution of this special election is suspicious.

Finally, section 7.1 of the SPS bylaws spells out what must be done to change The List. After approved by the Management Committee, proposed changes to The List shall be submitted to the membership for vote in the annual election. Proposed changes may also be made by special election by following the process of petition in section 1.6 of the bylaws. Needless to say, this requirement has not been met.

What troubles me most, however, is the way this matter has been railroaded. I have been a member of the SPS for 27 years and have great respect for the membership and The List. As Chair, I consider our bylaws as my contract with the membership and I don't want to breach this trust. My four other colleagues on the Management Committee have interpreted our bylaws to suit the agenda of a small fraction of the membership.

Caltech Peak is not the issue. The issue is that a majority of the Management Committee has violated the SPS bylaws in an attempt by a few Caltech graduates and their friends to get the SPS membership to honor the California Institute of Technology by adding Caltech Peak to The List.

Sierraly,



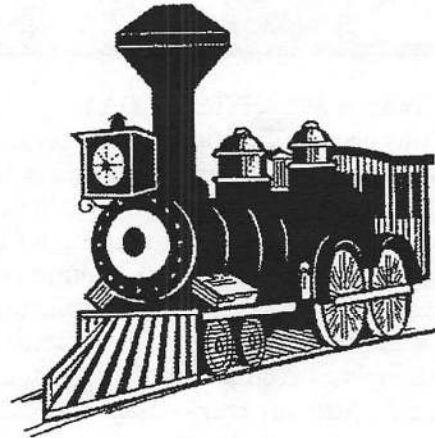
R.J. Secor

THE "ENGINEER" RESPONDS!

Whoa, Nelly! Let me clarify some things before I'm run out of town on this nag of a brouhaha!

1. Bill T. Russell died in January 1997. In the January / February Echo Doug Mantle proposed that we honor Bill T. by adding Caltech to the list.

2. Following the bylaws (7.1) and policies and procedures (section 7) to make it possible for the membership to vote on adding or not adding Caltech, I scheduled and led an exploratory trip, July 17-19, 1997. On July 21 I sent the editors a report on the trip and brief letter proposing Caltech as a list addition, hoping I was in time for the July / August issue, which came out in time for the August 13 meeting. I knew that R. J. was ready to submit a Con" letter and that the editors knew this or possibly had his letter. The article and letters, however, did not appear until the September / October issue, clearly too late for the annual ballot since there had been no time for response to the issue. On October 1, 1997, I also submitted another letter to comply with policies and procedures 7.3 to "furnish an evaluation of the peak in terms of the peak-addition criteria." My original letter (see p. 12 of the November / December issue) was more general than this point-by-point proposal (p. 10 September/ October).



3. In November 1997 the Management Committee discussed whether to have a special election or wait until the next annual ballot in October. One issue we talked about was the cost for printing and mailing a special ballot. In this context I offered to contribute \$20 if cost was a deciding factor. The committee approved the special election. I did, by the way, contribute \$20 to reduce the cost of the election to \$45.92. (The cost to the health of my psyche has also been donated.)

4. After three issues (six months' worth) of the Echo, with pro and con articles, a quorum of the 1998 Management Committee put into action the special ballot. Perhaps three issues' worth is very little

discussion of the issue, but the editors had to solicit another letter--articles pro and con no longer pouring in--leading me, for one, to conclude that the membership had said pretty much all there is to say.

5. We haven't had an elections committee of three in years--it's hard enough to find one person who will do the work. Yes, according to 2.7 of the bylaws, we are supposed to. I'm not arguing that it's right, but it seems the SPS has functioned just fine in trusting one person for the annual ballot to solicit nominations: prepare, send out, and receive ballots; and then have help in counting them. Again, yes, I tried to facilitate things by making up a ballot and mailing it. I opened the first forty-eight to separate them into pro and con files. Since then the sixty-eight others I have received to date have remained sealed, placed in a folder to be counted by the management committee after the election closes. Thus no one knows the status of the election at this point. Aside from using more inexpensive white paper than colored, the ballot was prepared in the same way as the annual SPS ballot. Unless we plan to use a special watermark or put invisible ink on the ballots to guarantee their authenticity, we'll just have to go on trusting our members. Any of our ballots could have been easily duplicated.

6. At the March 1998 meeting the Management Committee examined section 1.6 of the bylaws, which reads (I am quoting the entire section): The membership of the Section shall choose members of the Section Management Committee in an annual election. In addition, special elections or referendums on any subject within the province of the Section may be held either by direction of the Section Management Committee, the Chapter Executive Committee, a general meeting of the Section membership, Sierra Club Council, or Board of Directors, and shall be held upon petition to the Section Management Committee signed by five percent (5%) or more of the members of the Section. The direction or petition shall state the issue to be voted upon in proper form for a ballot. A quorum for any special election shall be ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Section. A majority vote (more than half the vote) of those voting is required to establish Section policy. However, if the issue is the removal of an elected members of the Management Committee, a majority vote of at least two-thirds of those voting is required; if a member is so removed, the resulting vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term is to be filled within three months in a special election utilizing the same procedures as for the annual election of members of the Management Committee. Whenever possible, and if a delay of not more than two months is entailed, special election should be held in conjunction with the annual election. It may be legalese, but the second sentence is clear. It has one compound subject, "special elections or referendums," and two predicates: 1. "may be held either by direction of the Section Management Committee, the Chapter Executive Committee, a general meeting of the Section membership, Sierra Club Council, or Board of Directors" [i.e., any one of these groups may choose to hold a special election]; 2. "and shall be held upon petition to the Section Management Committee signed by five percent (5%) or more of the members of the Section" [i.e., must be held when five percent of the members sign a petition--this is a checks and balances provision to protect the members]. Sentence two does not say that the Management Committee or the others listed must also have a petition signed by five percent of the members. For example, if for some reason the Sierra Club Board of Directors told us to have a special election, why would it need to petition the members of the section? Again, the petition possibility is in place to protect the membership by giving an appeals process. **THE SPECIAL ELECTION DOES NOT VIOLATE THE BYLAWS.**

7. Finally, Barbara Cohen, as co-editor, suggested at the March Management Committee meeting that the deadline for returning ballots be extended to May 12 by mail or May 13 at the monthly meeting so that one letter she had in hand could be printed in the March / April Echo. I then proposed it to the committee, and it passed.

I have other matters to railroad now. Just call me Engineer Tina.

Tina Stough

Tina

March 22, 1998

One Management Committee Member's Reply

To those SPS members who question the decision of the committee to uphold the legality of a special election to place Caltech Peak on the List

by Keith Martin.

I understand that there is a group of SPS members who question the actions of both the current and the past management committees to have a special election to place Caltech Peak on the List. The decision to have the special election was made by the previous management committee at the November meeting. The current committee, at the urging of some SPS members, reviewed the legality of the previous committee's decision. Critics claim that sections 1.6 and 7.1 of the bylaws have been violated by the special election. The applicable sections, as cited in the Revised Bylaws dated November 10, 1986 are as follows:

"1.6 Elections The membership of the Section shall choose members of the Section Management Committee in an annual election. In addition, special elections or referendums on any subject within the province of the Section may be held either by direction of the Section management Committee, the chapter Executive Committee, a general meeting of the Section membership, Sierra Club Council, or Board of Directors, and shall be held upon petition to the Section Management Committee signed by five percent (5%) or more of the members of the Section. The direction or petition shall state the issue to be voted upon in proper form for ballot. A quorum for any special election shall be ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Section. A majority vote (more than half the vote) of those voting is required to establish Section policy. However, if the issue is the removal of an elected member of the Management Committee, a majority vote of at least two-thirds of those voting is required: if a member is so removed, the resulting vacancy...

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 the votes cast being required for passage. Additions to the Peaks List must have previously been scheduled and climbed by the Section. A change to the Peaks List may also be authorized for inclusion on the ballot by following the process of petition in Section 1.6 and the process for inclusion on the ballot in Section 2 of these Bylaws."

The contention of the critics is that the final sentence of Section 7.1 excludes a special election for peaks unless 5% of the membership has petitioned for the special election. I understand that the previous management committee interpreted this section to mean that any of the procedures outlined in Section 1.6, including approval by the majority of the management committee is sufficient to include the peak on the ballot. The requirement for a petition of 5% of the members as stated in section 1.6 was interpreted as being only one way of getting an issue onto the ballot, and not exclusionary of other methods. My experience with reading bylaws from other organizations is that bylaws always include petition of the general membership as one of the methods for getting an issue on the ballot. It was not mandatory for all issues. If it were mandatory, there could never be an election for any issue

As to the intent of the original writers of the bylaws to limit the method of adding peaks to the list, I can sympathize with those who contend that peaks should only be added during annual elections or by a special election approved by a petition of 5% of the membership. As presently written, Section 1.6 circumvents this intent. I would welcome comments from the membership about the wisdom of modifying Section 1.6 by adding the following sentence: "Special elections to place new peaks on the list can only be held if requested by a petition of 5% of the members of the Section."

The Last Word / Special Election & Caltech Peak

By Patty Kline

I believe that sections 1.6 and 7.1 concerning elections and peak additions respectively can allow for a legal special election for a peak addition, in this case Cal Tech Peak. For brevity's sake I won't elaborate. This has already been explained thoroughly in replies by Tina Stough & Keith Martin. It remains to be seen if Caltech will be added to the list or not., but it would sure mess up the list on the back of the T- shirts.

THE INYO DEIS PLANNING PROCESS – METHODS

To be able to review the current Draft Environment Impact Statement for Management of Wilderness areas in the Inyo, the reviewer needs to understand the process used by the Forest Service to prepare the plan. The current plan was prepared generally using the LAC or Limits Of Acceptable Change planning process. It is an "issues" oriented plan that attempts to set guidelines for management of the wilderness area. Along with this planning process the Forest Service had to consider a multitude of existing management methods for protection of the Inyo wilderness, historical recreational uses, existing land impacts etc.

The LAC process was developed as an "reformulation of the recreational carrying capacity concept...". The process includes a strong emphasis on public involvement in the process. Carrying capacity has been found to be inadequate when reviewing impacts on an area. "There is no clear or predictable relationship between use and impact. In fact, we now know that in most wilderness settings a little use caused most of the ecological impact, and additional use causes less and less additional impact. In addition, such factors as the resiliency of the site, size of user group, mode of transportation (foot, horse or float), length of stay, season of year, and behavior patterns of users are often far more important in determining impact than mere numbers of users."

The LAC process recognizes that most wilderness decisions are "inherently political in nature." For this reason public involvement combined with the views of the land managers, scientists and other researchers is important.

The LAC process is a nine step process. The process is very similar to a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) which includes an EA (Environmental Assessment) or an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). The goal of the process is to not confuse, but to coordinate all aspects of forest planning. The LAC process was developed with the concept that change is a natural and unavoidable consequence of recreation that involves both environmental and social factors and changes.

Following is a brief description of the nine steps. For further reading see *Wilderness. Compilation of Articles on LAC* by Jerry Stokes et.al. This document should be available through the USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington D.C. 20090.

1. **Identify area issues and concerns.** In this step the public and Forest Service identify special features, characteristics and qualities within the study area that require management concerns. For the Inyo plan this step was started with the 1992 formation of the P.I.T. (Public Involvement Team). Joe Fontaine from the Sierra Club participated in the P.I.T. and at one time presented a program to the SPS on the work the team was doing. The SPS in turn added information and comments to the P.I.T. process by sending comments to then Chair Larry Tidball. The SPS comments were compiled into a letter and sent to Joe Fontaine.
2. **Define and describe wilderness recreation opportunity classes.** Opportunity classes are developed to create management sub-divisions within wilderness. Each class should represent a unique habitat, recreation source or other condition. Some plans prepared by the LAC process will only have 2 or 3 classes, this plan has numerous. Each class has defined set of environmental and social conditions. These conditions are used in the LAC process to outline management objectives for each area.

3. **Select indicators of resource social conditions.** Indicators are measurable resource conditions and social atmosphere. Camp fires are a classic example of an indicator. The number of fire rings, fallen wood quantities, etc. Indicators are important because they show the condition of an opportunity class, but reviewers should use care to obtain data from a number of areas before coming to any decisions about management of an area.
4. **Inventory existing resource and social conditions.** Inventories are developed by surveying users and studying the resource.
5. **Specify standards for environmental and social conditions.** Inventory data is important for setting the area standards. Standards are used to identify restoration, enhancement or protection factors.
6. **Identify alternative opportunity classes.**
7. **Identify Management actions for each alternative.** The Inyo Management plan has a preferred alternative (by the Forest Service) and other alternative management directions. In reviewing the plan after these are identified the reviewer is not limited to accepting any one alternative or none of the alternatives.
8. **Evaluation and selection of a preferred alternative.**
9. **Implement actions and monitor conditions.** The implementation sometimes takes a period of time to be functioning with all the new goals. One of the most important steps that should be conducted is monitoring. Without proper monitoring the information gathered and decisions made will never be proven or will there be an opportunity to adjust.

In future Echoes we will discuss the specific issues in the current DEIS.

Yosemite Valley Work Project

July 18 – 19, 1998

Orange County Sierra Singles & The Sierra Peaks Section

Keith Martin, Leader

Once again OCSS & SPS are sponsoring the 3rd annual work project in Yosemite as part of the Volunteer-In-Parks Program. We will be working with Ken Stowell in conducting minor trail maintenance and signs repairs at Bridalveil Parking Lot, Wawona tunnel and various trails along Glacier Point Road. Last year's participants will remember Ken as the leader of the group building the historic fence at Meyer's Barn. We will be working with Ken from 9:00 am to 3:00pm both Saturday and Sunday.

We will again be staying at the Yellow Pines Group Camp Site in the Valley. We plan to have another outstanding potluck and bar-b-que on Saturday night. This project is open to all Sierra Club members. If you wish to receive more information contact, Keith Martin at (310)316-7617 or send 2 SASE's to Keith at P.O. Box 864, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

I would again like to thank last September's participants especially those who stayed through Sunday including: Cyndee Pappas, Carries Owens, Kathleen O'Rourke, Annette Shehan, Jim Murphy, David Underwood, Jim Valensi, Gewn Hembrook, Elizabeth & Ken Corathers, Virgil Talbot, Larry & Barbee Tidball and Steve Laven.

1998 SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL ELECTION

CANDIDATES REVIEW

The 1998 Sierra Club Board election has a long slate of candidates. The 1998 nominating committee selected eight candidates and fourteen candidates were placed on the ballot by petition. These figures alone indicate that this is an election in turmoil, even before one considers the Population Issue. There are three strong factions (this is becoming similar to party politics between Democrats and Republicans) that have grouped together to run for the Board. The first group is candidates selected by the nominating committee; this group probably best represents the status quo in the Club and its operations. The second "party" is the Population Control group who supports alternative A on the ballot. The third "party" is the John Muir Sierrans who advocate changing the way the Club handles its finances and conservation priorities. As editor I encourage you to study this election review, the candidate's ballot statements and the Candidate's Forum on the Internet. Vote for qualified individuals, and not for "party" politics. I have tried to highlight mainly outings related issues in this review, although space permitting I have touched on a few of the other issues. Note in particular that a few of the candidates do not support mountaineering as a wilderness activity and/or as a Club insured activity.

REMEMBER TO MAIL YOUR BALLOTS BY APRIL 14TH TO INSURE RECEIPT IN N.Y. BY APRIL 18, 1998.

QUESTIONS:

- 1.. Do you lead Sierra Club trips?
2. What have been your actual Sierra Club volunteer activities over the past three years?
3. What is your position on the importance of Outings of all sorts (including mountaineering) at all levels of the Sierra Club?
4. The Sierra Club has no position (yet) on the use of fixed anchors for safe ascent and descent of rock climbs in designated wilderness. Some argue that fixed anchors should be prohibited by the Wilderness Act, even if that means closing or limiting wilderness rock climbing. Climbers say that fixed anchors in wilderness should not be outlawed, but should be managed to the same strict management standards as other recreational activities, even restricted or prohibited where there is adverse impact, and minimum necessary for safety, substantially unnoticeable, and an insignificant impact. What do you say?

LEGEND: Shaded areas indicate comments that seem to support mountaineering as an outings activity and/or the candidate supports the use of fixed anchors as the SPS uses fixed anchors in wilderness.

CANDIDATE	Q - 1	QUESTION 2	QUESTION 3	QUESTION 4
Judy Anderson (Nominating Committee)	Yes, Angeles Chapter "O" rated	Desert Act, many different SC comm., conservation activist for desert, forest & wilderness issues	Important to educate members & for social aspects to keep members together. Mountaineering teaches respect & trust for others.	Accepts management by an agency that controls the placement of fixed anchors like they manage the placement of trails.
David Brower (Petition - John Muir Sierrans)	Yes, in the past.	Current Board member	Strong Outings supporter of all levels including mountaineering.	"As the 1 st person to use expansion bolts in the U.S. (Shiprock), I can't fuss. But 6000 bolts in Yosemite are too many, and rappel-bolters should be required to migrate to another planet. As a world-class climber then, who wouldn't dare keep up with them now. I am in favor of their climbing safely. They do less harm than my pitons did -- in teaching 10,000 soldiers how to climb."
Jeff DeBonis (Petition - John Muir Sierrans)	No	None	Important for experience of environment & social to meet other like-minded people. Good for Club's grassroots efforts.	No response to question.
Veronica Eady (Petition - John Muir Sierrans)	Yes, Inner City Outings	Inner City Outings	Good vehicle to attract new members & educate. Backbone of grassroots issues.	No response to question
Dell Erickson (Petition - Population Alt. A)	No	Voyagers Nat. Park protests, Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness issues.	Sees Outings as a great way for people to get together w/ a competent leader.	Feels policy setting on fixed anchors should be left to government agencies with reasonable management controls.
Jennifer Ferenstein (Petition-John Muir Sierrans)	No	Montana Ex-com & local group Ex-com. Endangered Species, wildlife habitat, roadless area protection & water quality issues lobbying.	Sees Outings as an advocacy vehicle for SC issues.	Feels fixed anchors should be allowed for safety, but subject to management standards.
Debbie Heaton (Nominating Committee)	No	Delaware Chapter Chair, newsletter editor, council delegate, funding task force and ex-com councils	Supports continued Outings Programs. Sees to see outings as a good vehicle for conservation issues.	N/A
Phyllonore Howard (Nominating Committee)	Yes, Outings leader & program coordinator	Life member, many leadership roles in Club.	Outings program important as long as it is "self-funded" <i>Editor's note: Howard seemed to imply he might have a problem w/ SC paying for Mountaineering insurance.</i>	Has never considered the issue before. Noted that hiking and camping affect wilderness also. Would need to study issue further.

Ross McCluney (Petition-Population Alt. A)	No	None	Outings attract & hold members. However feels that recreation should be placed second to preservation on public lands.	"The core of the problem is not piton, axes, or bolts, but human numbers. There are too many of us."
Chuck McGrady (Nominating Committee)	No. seems to be active in other outings/camp director	Current Board Member and many club leadership roles	Feels very strongly in the importance of the Outings program.	Taught climbing years ago. "inclined towards a policy that would prohibit fixed anchors..." <i>Note McGrady was interviewed in 1997 and he did not support fixed anchors then either.</i>
Emily Miggins (Nom. Committee)	No	Only a SC member for 2 yrs. Forest protection issues.	N/A	No response to question
John Mitchem (Petition - Population Alt. A)	No	Does not seem to have actual SC activity history.	Outings are fundamental to the Club. Good introduction to conservation.	Not knowledgeable enough to comment.
David Orr (Petition - John Muir Sierrans)	No	Forest protection issues. Angles Chpt. Conservation Comm, & other conservation committees & groups.	"Mountaineering is integrally linked to the Club...and should remain so." Supports Outings, especially conservation-education-oriented outings.	The candidate appears to generally support fixed anchor use but he feels the Club need address a larger issue of appropriate technology and recreation in wilderness. Orr would like to see the Club consider closing some wilderness areas to all recreation.
Sara Patton (Nominating Committee)	No	General conservation activism	"Outings are crucial to teach & remind us what we are fighting for."	Accepts that fixed anchors could have adverse affects, but in an effort to balance climbing interests with environmental would be inclined towards strict management standards.
Michele Perrault (Nominating Committee)	Yes. Outdoor education programs and outings committees	Current Board member	Helped to assure the insurance coverage was provided to continue our mountaineering program. Strong Outings supporter.	"We should support fixed anchors when they are needed for safety, but manage their use for minimum impact which may require non-use in certain areas."
Jon. W. Robinson (Petition) Population Alt. A	No	Maryland Ex-com & local and national conservation committees.	Supports Outings including mountaineering as long as the insurance costs "do Not create an excessive burden."	No position. Concerned about leaving anything man made in wilderness.
Tony Ruckel (Nominating Committee)	No	Current Board member	Joined the Club through Outings. Has climbed all 54 of Colorado's fourteeners.	"I am opposed to fixed anchors in Wilderness Areas."
Lawrence D. Rupp (Petition - Population Alt. A)	No	None	"I exercise stewardship over acreage, surrounded by the White Mtn. Nat. Forest... So I do not go on organized outings. I am sure outings meet a set of genuine needs for many people.	No response to question

Susan Schock (Petition – John Muir Sierrans)	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Joyce Tarnow (Petition- Population Alt. A)	No	General conservation activism	Likes Outings as a way to introduce people to the outdoors. Does not understand what mountaineering is and considers it in the same category as bungee jumping! Outings important for SC.	Agrees SC needs a position. Concerned about damage to rock and costs and liability issues. Sees climbing as an unnecessary wilderness activity, done for “thrills” only.
Richard Worthen (Petition- John Muir Sierrans)	No	Illinois Ex-com, newsletter editor, fund raising		No position.
Ben Zuckerman (Petition – Population Alt. A)	No	Active in educating members about population issue.	Believes conservation is more important than Outings, but that outings including mountaineering are import. too.	“Fixed anchors in wilderness area make me uneasy because when one makes an exception to allow on impact , then how many other exceptions might then follow? That said, I do not have a strong opinion and would be open to arguments from camps in a debate on this issue.”

Editors' note: The current official Candidates' statements that were mailed with your ballots, includes an apparent endorsement of David Orr by the SPS Chair and by implication the Section. This is an issue that was never discussed by the Management Committee or with the membership. We suggest that you review this candidate's comments carefully and possibly reconsider this endorsement. Barbee Tidball & Barbara Cohen

Looking For An Alternate to Backpacking or Horse-packing?

Llama packing is gaining interest in the Sierra. While there are mixed views on the animal's impact, Llamas do provide an alternate way to travel without carrying the load. From an environmental view the jury is still out on whether the llama's eating habits will damage vegetation to a harmful extent or whether their small hooves are better for the trail than horses' hooves.

Llama packers in the Sierra operate out of Bubbs Creek, as well as other Sierra locations. For information on this mode of transportation call (800) 526-2725 or check out the Web site at www.wikiupbnb.com. More information can also be found by calling Sequoia & Kings Canyon at (209) 565-3341.

A Return to the Peaks

By David Brower

This was published in the May/June 1992 (Centennial Issue) of Sierra Magazine.

Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. - Goethe

TODAY, IN MY EIGHTIETH YEAR and the Sierra Club's hundredth, I find myself once again thinking about the Sierra Nevada, the Sierra Club, and what they have done for and to each other. I have been recalling people who followed along John Muir's trail, and speculating about those who are still at it.

I wonder if the Club's present leaders are as bold as their mountaineering, wilderness-adventuring predecessors. I suspect that Muir, were he alive to consider the Club's centennial, would want to know what happened to the vigor he brought to the founding of the Club. I made this point publicly not long ago when I reprimanded the Club's leaders for too often compromising on important issues. If the Club had stood firm in 1941, there would not now be a highway to Copper Creek in Kings Canyon National Park, a park the Club worked hard to establish in the 1930s. Because the Club temporized on the routing of an "improved" Tioga Road, massive vandalism perpetrated by the National Park Service in the early 1950s now scars the polished-granite apron around Lake Tenaya in Yosemite National Park.

I wish the mistakes had ended there. They didn't. As the Sierra Club's executive director in the mid-1950s, I once compromised, and Glen Canyon was lost, drowned behind a dam on the Colorado River. That still didn't teach us a lesson. Had the Club not backed out of a crucial lawsuit in order to avoid antagonizing Alaska politicians with whom it was working to gain state parks, the Alaska pipeline might not exist, and the Exxon Valdez spill might have been averted. And in 1989, in a show of ambivalence that would have saddened John Muir, the Board of Directors hesitated to support a proposal to tear down O'Shaughnessy Dam and restore Muir's beloved Hetch Hetchy Valley to its rightful state in Yosemite National Park.

In 1991, during the continuing battle over the Pacific Northwest's ancient forests, the Club was so eager to appear reasonable that it went soft. The timber interests, perceiving the Club's willingness to compromise, devised a scheme that hardly delayed the rate of old-growth cutting, while eviscerating our side's ability to file suit. Fortunately, this year in California the Club got it right, and refused to

accept the so-called Grand Accord-timber-harvesting legislation that would have permitted the logging of 68 percent of the remaining ancient redwoods in the next 20 years. I hope the Club's directors will now take an equally tough stand on the national level. Yes, the Sierra Club has saved millions of acres of wilderness around the United States, thousands of acres of ancient forests, and thousands of acres of desert-saved them for future generations to keep on saving. But for every acre preserved, another has been traded away.

Compromise is often necessary, but it ought not to originate with the Sierra Club. Our role is to hold fast to what we believe is right, to fight for it, to find allies, and to adduce all possible arguments for our cause. If we cannot find enough vigor in us or our friends to win, then let someone else propose the compromise-which we must then work hard to coax our way. We thus become a nucleus around which activists can build and function. The Sierra Club must discard its hubris, learn anew how to listen, abandon its obsolete conventional wisdom (a redundant term), find strong leaders, and get a move on. Nice Nelly won't get the job done.

I have seen tough-minded stands work for the Sierra Club. When the Forest Service and the ski industry wanted to develop the San Geronio Wilderness in Southern California, the Club directors were prepared to accede. I wasn't, and spent most of one winter night urging the directors to stiffen their backs. The wilderness is still there. When Walt Disney proposed a ski resort for Mineral King Valley in the Sierra Nevada, the Sierra Club was ready to fold. In this case, so was I, but Club Director Martin Litton wasn't, and he saved the day. When the federal government proposed dams for the Grand Canyon, we said we'd accept no dams. People knew what we stood for and gathered around. We defeated the proposals. If we had said (or thought) that we'd accept one dam but not two, clarity would have vanished from our deeds and faces. People would have seen that we were just arguing about how much defilement is acceptable, not opposing it entirely. They would have gathered elsewhere, if they gathered at all.

What has happened to this kind of boldness? For all the splendid increase in membership in the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, wilderness and indeed the ecological life-support system itself are increasingly going down the tubes. Could this be because, as Bella Abzug recently observed, the Sierra Club and other large environmental groups are acting like government bureaucracies?

Consider what Justice William O. Douglas once told President Roosevelt: Any government bureau more than ten years old should be abolished, because after that it becomes more concerned with its image than with its mission. That's a fair warning as the Club enters its second hundred years.

A NEW FACT has recently become clear to me: It is not variety that is the spice of life. Variety is the meat and potatoes. Risk is the spice of life. As a Sierra Club climber in the 1930s, I took my share of risks. I possessed a certain amount of boldness, a key trait for leaders, and one that served the Club well in the early decades when nearly all who guided the organization's affairs were accomplished mountaineers.

In 1939, a group of us from the Sierra Club demonstrated what boldness can do. At that time, the impregnability of Shiprock, in the New Mexico quadrant of the Four Corners, was notorious. Party after party of climbers had attempted the crumbling volcanic walls rising from the level desert, failed, and concluded that the formation couldn't be climbed. Each failure only increased the challenge. Bestor Robinson, Raffi Bedayan, John Dyer, and I decided we'd try it, too, but with a slight technological innovation: expansion bolts, anchoring devices that, so far as we knew, had never before been used to secure belays in mountaineering.

It took us just four anchor bolts -- but dozens of pitons -- to reach the top, and patience enough to spend half an hour drilling a hole for each bolt, plus four exhausting days, some ingenious engineering, several group consultations on lofty ledges, good balance, traversing of a 60-degree slope on crepe-soled basketball shoes, a lot of caution, many shivering hours, backtracking all the way to the base on the first two days, unwarranted confidence in our prewar equipment, a superhuman effort or two by John Dyer on the toughest overhangs, and, just before gaining the summit, one frugal bivouac supper and one restless night. I was finally yodeling victoriously from the narrow topmast that only the circling crows had landed on before.

The weather at the top was calm. The view was perfect. It had been a far better climb than any of us had ever made. Yet something was missing. Why didn't I experience the elation that had previously marked my arrival on untrodden summits? Somehow, four days of concentration on a single, lofty objective had stolen the surprise at its attainment. Then I realized that the exhilaration of climbing itself had been the climax.

I wish that every person who seeks to lead the environmental cause could experience the peak moments of a climb. Unfortunately, mountaineers no longer venture forth under the Sierra Club banner, and that causes me to reflect sadly on one of my most timid days, when as a Club director in 1988 I voted with my colleagues to sacrifice Club-sponsored mountain training and technical climbing in order to spare the organization an extra \$500,000 per year in payments for liability insurance. We thought we had no choice. Our insurers, who apparently knew little about mountaineering, but who did view the Club as ripe for accident claims, announced an abrupt and precipitous increase in the premium for "risky" outings involving the use of ropes or ice axes. So we axed our climbing sections.

Sure, only about 4,000 of our then half-million members were participating in outings where technical-climbing knowledge was required, and there were many other wonderful ways to spend the premium money. But I was gloriously wrong in my decision to cut our climbers loose, and so was the Board. We should have put the half-million dollars in the Club's budget, sought financial and battle support from our allies, then fought like hell to straighten out the insurance business. With such a concerted effort which I now urge the Club would have assured continuity in the building of bold environmental leaders, so many of whom have come down from the mountains to save them. The world now needs these leaders as it has never needed them before.

John Muir's readers are well aware of his boldness as a mountaineer and wilderness adventurer, whether from his accounts of his ascent of Mt. Ritter, his traverse on the narrow ledge under Upper Yosemite Fall, his climb to the top of a storm-tossed tree, or his perils in Alaska with the dog Stickeen. Muir was also a bold leader of the Sierra Club. Indeed, all early leaders of the Club gained daring from their exploration of Sierra Nevada summits and routes. Of the Club's 38 presidents, only two, Clair and Francis Tappaan, were All-Americans in football, but at least 30 were All Sierrans as mountaineers and some of them still

are. Seven have had Sierra summits named after them: Muir, LeConte, Colby, Leonard, Starr, McDuffie, and Farquhar. None of them hired guides to lead them. They learned from each other and from the mountains themselves.

What did they learn?

Judgment, for one thing. Climbers with poor judgment can expect to be weeded out early. Whether you climb a mountain for exercise, for challenge, for perspective, "because it's there," or because it's up and you like to keep on top of things, you start out by making judgments.

You want to get to the top, and you need to decide how to avoid barriers along the way. You take along enough human support and technical protection to give you a chance to fall more than once. You select the best possible route from far enough away so you know where the dead ends are and where you don't want to be if rock or ice decide to fall. You take with you enough training to know your physical limits. You don't expose yourself to more weather than you can handle, and dress for the worst you can reasonably expect. In the back of your mind you remember that the mountain will be there tomorrow if today refuses to cooperate. And if your sport is roped climbing, you know that a special kind of love travels both ways along that rope.

ADVENTURE IS NOT in the guidebook, beauty is not on the map. Seek and ye shall find." Some of you may remember those words, written by Terry Russell in *On the Loose*, a book about wilderness put together by Terry and his younger brother, Renny. Terry brought the manuscript to my home in the spring of 1965 and urged me to persuade the Sierra Club to publish it. I knew that doing so wouldn't be easy, because the Publications Committee was sure to balk at investing in so strange a package: pages of artfully arranged calligraphic text, grainy, drugstore-processed color snapshots, assorted quotations, and original verses.

From having rafted with the brothers through Glen Canyon in the early 1960s, I knew Terry had a rare quality that would come through in the book. His determination to get others to see the beauty and worth of unspoiled nature inspired me, and eventually we prevailed: The Club published *On the Loose* in 1967, and it became one of the decade's underground classics. Unfortunately, Terry's last adventure took place the summer after he brought me his manuscript, well before the book went to press. On a rafting trip on the Green River, he and Renny rounded a bend, whereupon a rapid surprised them and tossed their craft. Terry was lost.

Fortunately, his collection of writings and images remained behind. He had captured the beauty he so valiantly sought to preserve.

Thus, like Terry, you search. You take risks. Sometimes luck is with you, and sometimes not, but the important thing is to take the dare. Those who climb mountains or raft rivers understand this.

Scottish mountaineer William H. Murray certainly did: Until one is committed there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt would have come his way.

In the not-so-distant Sierra Club past, I saw Murray's remark on commitment serve almost as a religion for the people, including me, who helped keep dams out of Dinosaur National Monument, the Yukon, and the Grand Canyon; who helped keep loggers with itchy axes out of Olympic National Park; who helped ban DDT; who helped establish the National Wilderness Preservation System and new units of the National Park System in the North Cascades, Kings Canyon, the Redwoods, at Point Reyes, the Golden Gate, Cape Cod, and Fire Island. We did all this with a Club membership less than one-tenth its present size. Even our success in gaining passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 was accomplished with a far smaller Club than now exists.

Back then the Sierra Club made all this possible by boldly asserting itself. "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings." John Muir once said. Okay, John. We're raising our glasses. Here's to that boldness!

DAVID R. BROWER, an honorary vice-president of the Sierra Club, joined the Club in 1933. He has served in a number of volunteer and staff capacities, including 8 years as editor of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, 17 years as executive director, and 18 years as a member of the Board of Directors. In 1977 he received the Club's highest honor, the John Muir Award. He is currently the chairman of Earth Island Institute, which he founded in 1982.

VANDEVER AND FLORENCE
SEPTEMBER 20-21, 1997
PATTY KLINE, RJ SECOR, JOE WANKUM: LEADERS

This SPS Intro Trip was co-led with WTC, and everyone had a great Sierra weekend. This was typical Indian summer weather, barely reaching 32 at our camp at Franklin Lake Saturday night at 10,731'. There was no wind and few clouds the whole weekend. It had snowed and melted the Thursday before.

The 6 of us met at 7:30 am on Saturday morning at the Mineral King Ranger Station. 9 people cancelled out on our permit for 15. People were waiting in line to use some of our cancellations. I had arrived at 7:15 to get the permit ahead of time, but that isn't possible. Everyone in our group had to be present to hear the bear and pollution lecture. 3 of our vehicles had to have on record the license plate and make. All vehicles in the party had to have a slip displayed on the dash showing exit date. By the time everything was taken care of we were hiking at 9:00 from Farewell Gap Trailhead at 8,000'.

Saturday we hiked up the Farewell Gap Trail 3.1 miles to the junction of the Franklin Pass Trail. We located some trees above the junction where we removed all the food out of our packs and hung it on a nice high branch. From there it was another 2.6 miles to Farewell Gap where we ascended the class 1 rocks on the E slope of Vandever 1,500' to the 11,947' summit. Then we retraced our steps back to the Franklin Pass Trail and went about 2 miles to the first of the 2

Franklin Lakes. By now it was well after dark and very difficult to locate a campsite. Franklin-Lake is man made. There are 3 bear boxes on the NE side of this long narrow lake. The first box is ~ mile below the outlet. The next one is about 1/2 way up and was taken by a large group. We went up the trail another 0.1 mile in probably the least convenient of the 3 spots, being a 5 minute hike towards to lake to the bear box and another 5 minutes below that to the lake. We camped on small shelves with a great view. Darkness didn't hamper our community competition gourmet dinner. Bleu cheese on croissant crackers. Italian salami and rum coolers preceded the entry of fresh Oriental food. Angel almond cake was dessert. A prize was awarded to Marcia Keller- and Tom Power for the entry. Stats for Saturday were 5,000' of gain and 11% miles.

On Sunday for Florence we had a leisurely start at 9:00 am for the 3 miles up to Franklin Pass. At the pass we took the NE ridge to the 12,432' summit. After lunch on the peak, we went back to camp to pack up, then went for the road head. Stats for Sunday were 2,000' of gain and ~ miles.

The 3 participants were Larry Conn, Marcia 'Rellam and Tom Power. Thank you to R J and Joe for leading the trip with me.

PATTY KLINE

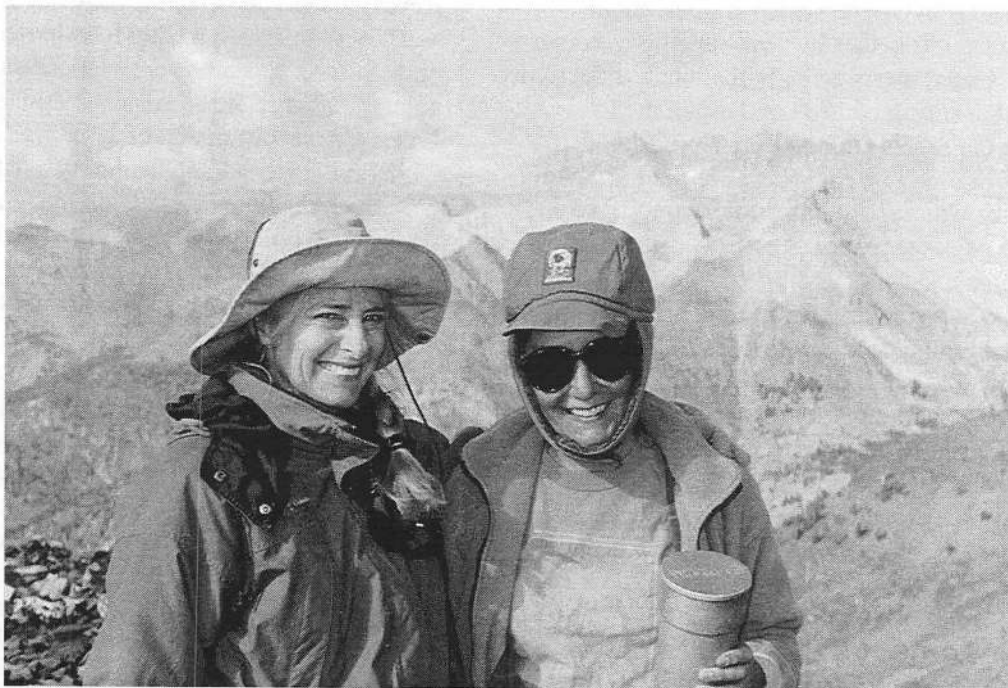


Photo: Patty Kline with Topanga neighbor, Marcia Kellam on top of Vandever

IN HIGH PLACES: MONTANA

Burton A. Falk

After reviewing a few back issues of the Highpointers Club's quarterly newsletter it becomes apparent that many, if not most, of the Club list finishers consider the climb of Montana's Granite Peak to be the most daunting of all the 48 contiguous state highpoint ascents. Consider comments such as these: "How hard could it be (to complete the list)? Well, four trips to Montana to get up Granite taught me this project could be harder than I thought." "...two tries to get to the top (of Granite because of bad) weather (and) too much snow." "... the fact that we summited with no injuries on a peak as difficult as Granite made the trip all the more sweet." "However tough Denali was, Kim just got more completely exhausted summit day in Montana and worn down by bouldering and I, well, two years later I'm still having nightmares about the vertical rock above the snow bridge." "We climbed Granite with Jackson Hole Mountain Guides and I felt it was the most difficult physical feat I had ever accomplished in my life."

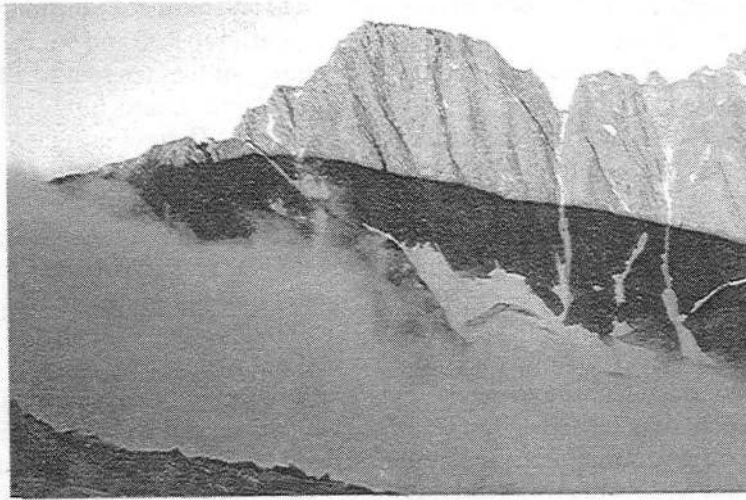
"Biggest Overall Challenge: Granite."

You get the picture.

Actually, as I found out for myself last summer, Granite Peak is, indeed, a worthy climb.

Throw another log on the fire, sit back in your easy chair; let me tell you about my adventures.

My son, Steve, and I flew into Billings on Thursday, Aug. 7, where, although the afternoon was sunny and warm, we could see dark storm clouds hovering over the Beartooth Mountains, to the southwest, site of our prospective climb. Renting a car, we took off, via I-90 and State Routes 78 and 420, for Fishtail, MT, where, in that small crossroads town, we stopped for a so-so meal at the Cowboy Cafe.



After dinner, we headed off again for our evening's destination, Emerald Lake Campground, only to immediately get lost. (As it turned out, the road sign for State Route 425 was missing.) Returning to Fishtail, I entered the saloon side of the Cowboy and asked a pair of Bud-swilling locals for directions. The overweight, red-nosed duo, decked out in Stetsons, boots and Levis, dissolved into hysteric laughter. They spent a minute or two slapping each other on their backs and guffawing heartily, until one them, almost falling off his bar stool, gasped, "You can't get there from here." Fortunately, the bartender, a comely young woman, overheard my question. She motioned me to a quiet end of the bar, gave the still snorting pair a death look, and provided me with proper instructions.

Later, as the last light faded from the western sky, we pulled into the campground where we found our Colorado companions, Charlie Winger, Dave Cooper & Gary Hoover, already retired following their long day's drive from Denver.

Next morning, Friday, we broke camp and drove a couple of miles up West Rosebud Creek to the Sliver Lake trailhead (6,558'), where, at 8:30 a.m., we hoisted our packs and started up the pleasant, aspen-lined trail.

Although the morning had dawned sunny, we could see puffy white clouds already beginning to billow up over the mountains to the south.

After a brisk two mile hike, we arrived at the dam forming Mystic Lake (7,250'), keystone of a large hydroelectric project dating back to 1926. Continuing along the pine-forested south side of the lake for another half mile or so, we then turned SE on the Phantom Creek Trail, upon which we switchbacked three miles up to Froze to Death Plateau, the flat-topped ridge between East & West Rosebud Creeks. At this above timber line juncture (10,140') we turned right (SW), heading up the trailless, boulder-strewn plateau, relying on a line of large cairns as our guide. By this time, 2 p.m., the scattered cumulus of the morning had consolidated into a sky-

covering dark gray carpet, and at 4 p.m., continuing ever upward, it began to sprinkle. In a small depression at the 11,000' level, about a mile shy of the base of Tempest Mountain, our intended destination for the evening, we hastily set up our camp atop the flattest boulders we could find. Then the rain started coming down--as we used to say in my boyhood hometown--in Torrance.

I have to confess I was tired by this time. Ten miles and 4,500' of gain with a full pack had taken their toll. The realization that I wasn't quite as fit as I thought was discouraging. On the other hand, with the storm raging outside, one of my life's most pleasant moments occurred as I slipped into my trusty Marmot Mountain bag, and, except for one pee break, stayed concooned there for the next twelve hours.

4:30 a.m. Saturday morning finally arrived, however. We left our camp in the pitch dark and proceeded up the plateau, arriving at the base of Tempest Mountain just as the first rays of the new day peered over the horizon. It was then, to our great delight, that we were treated to the view of a herd of Rocky Mountain Goats, backlit in the horizontal sunbeams. Although the handsome animals weren't exactly shy, neither did they allow us to get close enough to take any good photos.

Continuing on, we dropped into a saddle southwest of Tempest Mountain and then began our climb of Granite Peak, keeping to the user friendly south side of the east ridge. Although the day had broken clear, affording us good prospects of Granite (see photo, courtesy Charlie Winger), clouds now began to pour over from the west, occluding our view of the summit. Arriving at the infamous snow bridge about 9 a.m., we found it to be at least 10' wide, presenting no problem at all in crossing. It didn't come close--as suggested in several guide books--to requiring ropes, crampons and/or ice axes. Beyond the snow bridge the route turned steeper and more complex. To be honest, because the extremely competent Coloradans were leading, and because the clouds were hiding the route, our ascent, though zig-zagged, seemed neither dangerous nor difficult to me. In fact, upon reaching the 12,799' summit about 10:30 a.m., I wondered why we had spent so much energy hauling ropes up the route.

On our way down, however, we did put the ropes to good use, uncoiling them for two time-saving rappels. Also, while on descent, we met an ascending roped-up party, who seemed incredulous that we weren't likewise. In my judgment, the

final 500' of gain is primarily class 3, with a couple of class 4 moves thrown in for good measure.

We continued back to our campsite on Froze to Death Plateau, where, as we packed to leave, a new onslaught of clouds began to drift up out of the valley. Our expedition, which had gone swimmingly up to this point, now took an odd turn (or, more precisely, odd turns) for the worse. As the pea soup fog settled down over the plateau, obscuring our view of the guiding cairns, we thought, "Hey, no problem." After all, we possessed maps, compasses, and, between the five of us, an untold wealth of route-finding experience. Unfortunately, however, we soon found ourselves wandering from one side of the plateau to the other, following what could only hospitably be called the "scenic route." At one point, I swear, we started back uphill again. I'm confident that we managed to double the "as the crow flies" distance before reaching the Phantom Creek Trail at long last.

After 16 hours of exertion, we arrived back at our cars between 8:30 and 9 p.m. The Colorado contingent was content to retire to the Emerald Lake Campground, but Steve and I decided to drive on to Columbus, where we intended to enjoy the comforts of a hot shower and clean sheets at a plush motel.

Ha! Fat Chance! As it turned out the Montana State Fair was in progress in Billings, and there were, literally, no motel rooms available within a 50 mile radius of that city. Not knowing that and not willing to give up our dream of showers and sheets, we drove ever further westward along I-10, unsuccessfully seeking accommodations in Reed Point, Greycliff and Big Timber.

The bottom line is that we spent the rainy night sleeping in our car at an Interstate rest stop. Next morning, Sunday, found us back in Columbus, hosing down in a truck stop rent-a-shower. Since our flight didn't leave until 4 p.m., we drove to Red Lodge for a hearty breakfast at the Red Lodge Cafe, then back to Billings, where, taking the "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em" philosophy, we enjoyed a somewhat hasty tour of the fair.

ODDS & ENDS A further indication of Granite Peak's difficulty lies in its climbing history. Although attempts were made on its summit in 1889, 1910, 1914 and 1922, it wasn't until August 29, 1923 that Elers Koch and two others finally arrived on the top. This relatively late ascent gives Granite Peak the distinction of being the last of the fifty state highpoints to be conquered.

HELP SEQUOIA N.F. WITH A LETTER

By Eric M Lesser, SPS Conservation Co-Chair

The Sequoia National Forest south of Sequoia National Park is under attack again. Dubbed the "White River Project", this latest proposal by the Forest Service--under the banner of 'fire control'--offers an eventual sale of 13 million board feet of timber sales in a forest already subject to extensive past logging and road building with resultant poor forest regeneration and adverse watershed impacts.

A brief letter to the Dept. of Agriculture in the next few days from SPS members would be helpful. The bidding for the first phase of this project is set for May. The letter should ask that the White River Project timber sales be canceled. Additional possible points to make in your letter:

- this plan will needlessly cut healthy trees--many being red fir, which represent a low fire risk;
- this plan will disfigure ridge lines with the cuts and more roads and interrupt the integrity of the forests;
- this proposal ignores and contradicts the scientific findings of the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) report;
- this plan counters responsible stewardship of Sequoia National Forest at a time when Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck states that recreation and watershed protection are the highest uses of our national forests.

Send your letter to:

James R. Lyons, Under-Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
Office of the Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

NOTE: Ask for a reply.

NEW GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

By Eric M Lesser, SPS Conservation Co-Chair

Our great national parks of the Southern Sierra--Sequoia and Kings Canyon--are operating under a general management plan last updated in 1971. There is a current effort underway to update this plan to reflect the realities of the new 21st Century, including increased use, pollution threats, health of the flora and fauna, wilderness protection, and changes in fire management.

As stated by Michael Tollefson, Parks Superintendent: "The new general management plan will provide goals and a vision for the parks' future, as well as practical guidance in resource protection and management that will help us to achieve that vision. It will also identify how the parks may best provide for visitor enjoyment while protecting important natural and cultural resources. A well-devised plan will yield a realistic framework for making future decisions."

Public input is critical to this planning process and is welcomed by the planning team. Contact the following for more information about the process and ways to become involved:

Telephone contact:

(209) 565-3173

Email the General Mgmt. Plan coordinator:

david.graber~nps.gov

(for both above contacts, you can request a copy of the Sequoia & Kings Cyn
General Management Plan Newsletter #1, Winter 1998)

Log on to the UPS park planning page at:

<http://www.nps.gov/planning>

and go to the Sequoia & Kings Cyn Home Page

For other questions, contact Eric at (818) 985-2695 or emlesser~earthlink.net

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

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