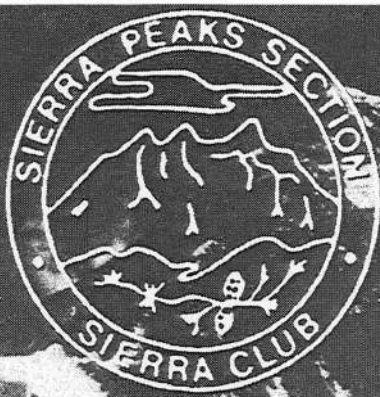


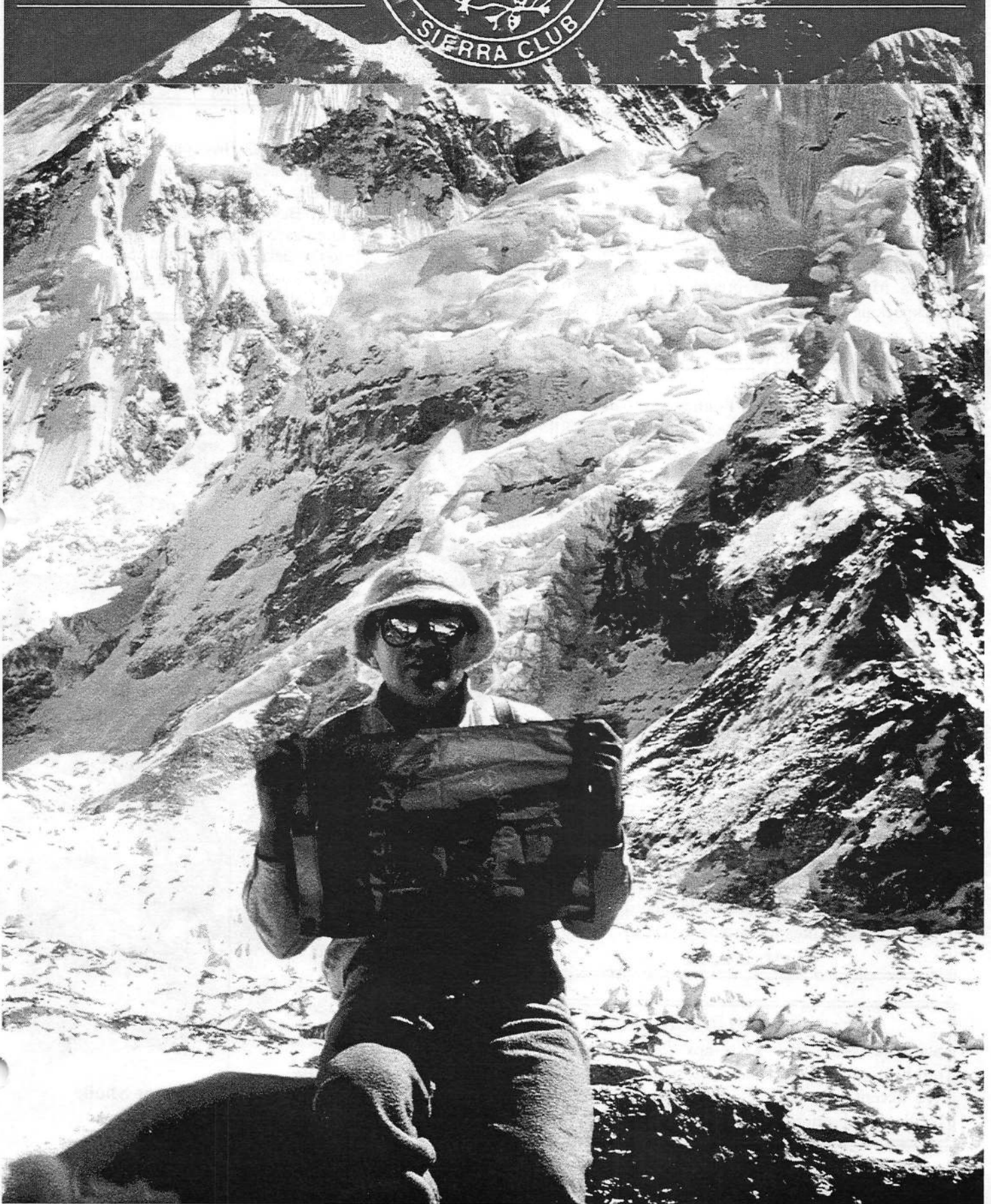
# The Sierra

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 3



# ECHO

MAY - JUNE 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.

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.

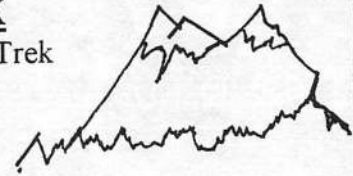
October 14

**Sam Roberts** SPS member and professional photographer, will present a program on the John Muir Trail



## PEAK INDEX

Nepal - Khumbu Trek  
Pyramid  
Mokelumne  
Highland  
Disaster



## 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.

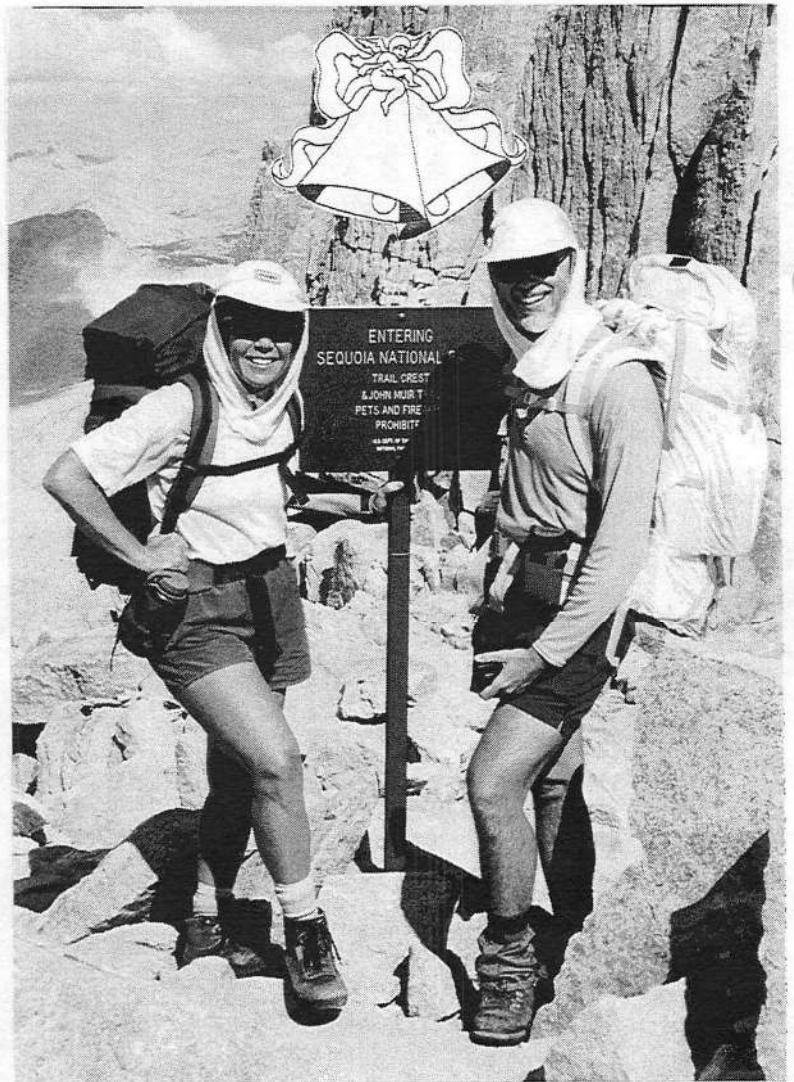
**FRONT COVER**  
**Nepal/Everest**  
**View from Kala Pattar**  
**Jack Miller holding a SPS**  
**emblem flag**

### Matthias Selke

Was last issues' mystery photographer.  
The peak shown, was correctly identified by  
Pete Yamagata and Matthias as  
**North Guard**

### Attention all trip leaders

Send in your trip write-ups for the next publications of the *Echo*. Also send in photos. We accept photos that accompany an article or identified photos without articles.



**Congratulations**  
**SPS'ers Barbara (Cohen) & Dave Sholle**  
**married on May 30, 1998**



# SPS - SUMMER & FALL TRIPS 1998



See past editions of *The Sierra Echo* for detailed write-ups of trips without full write-ups. Trips previously described are listed without detailed write-ups in subsequent publications. Note all trips listed as MR or ER are restricted trips open to Sierra Club members only with the appropriate rock or snow skills.

## JUNE

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

I Jun 13-14 Sat - Sun Olanca (12,123') Ldrs. P. Graff/J. Graff.

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

MR Jun 27 - 28 Sat - Sun Mt Thompson (13,494') & Mt. Powell (13,360') Ldrs. G.Roach/B. Cohen Sholle

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

## JULY

Nature Knowledge trips being led this month by Natural Science Section on July 3-5, 11, 18, & 25. See Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activites

I July 4 - 6 Sat. - Mon. Mt. Muah (11,016) & Cartago (10,480+) Kline/Fleming

I Jul 11 - 12 Sat - Sun Round Top (10,381') & Freel Pk (10,881') Ldrs Keating/ Keating

## JULY continued

MR Jul 11 - 12 Sat - Sun Mt Emerson (13,204') & Mt. Goethe (13,264') Ldrs. Hudson/G. Roach

MR Jul 11 - 12 Sat - Sun Independence Pk (11,744') & University (13,632') Ldrs. B. Bruley/Richter

O July 14 Wed Climbers' Social Hour Ldrs. Kramer/Siering

ER Jul 17 - 19 Fri - Sun Mt. Sill (14,153') Fri - Sun Ldrs. Sorenson/Mantle

MR Jul 17 - 20 Fri - Mon Mt Keith (13,977'), Center Pk. (12,760') & Mt. Bradley (13,289') Ldrs. Knapke/B. Cohen Sholle

MR Jul 18-19 Sat. - Sun University Pk (13,632') Ldrs.: O'Rourke/Adams

MR Jul 18 - 19 Sat. - Sun Middle Palisade (14,040') Ldrs Richardson/Richter

C Jul 18 - 19 Sat - Sun Yosemite Volunteer Project Ldrs.: Martin/ Pappas

M Jul 19-21 Sun - Tue Gray Pk (11,573') & Mt Clark (11,522) Ldrs L. Tidball/B. Tidball

I Jul 23 -26 Thur - Sun Triple Divide (11,607') & Merced (11,726') Ldrs. Thaw/Mantle

MR Jul 24 - 27 Fri - Mon Mt Lyell (13,114') & Mt Maclure (12,960') Ldrs. Keenan/Brinkman

I Jul 25 - 26 Sat - Sun Lone Pine Peak (12,943') Ldrs. P. Graff/ J. Graff, D. Lee.

MR Jul 25-26 Sat - Sun Mt Powell (13,360') Ldrs. Gimenez/Epstein

## AUGUST

Nature Knowledge trips being led this month by Natural Science Section on Aug 1, 2, 8-9, & 22-24. See Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activites.

I Aug 1 - 2 Sat - Sun Iron (11,149') Ldrs B. Tidball/B. Cohen Sholle

M Aug 1 - 2 Sat - Sun Mt Lyell (13,114') Ldrs. Hertz/Shields

MR Aug 1 -2 Sat - Sun Mt. Le Conte (13,960') Ldrs. B. Bruley/Richter

I Aug 8 - 9 Sat - Sun Mt Lamarck (13,420') Ldrs. Herzog/Lee

O Aug 12 Climbers' Social Hour . Ldrs. Kramer/Siering.

I Aug 14 - 17 Fri - Mon Joe Devel Pk (13,327') & Mt Pickering (13,474') Ldrs. Kline/Fleming

AUGUST CONTINUED	OCTOBER
MR Aug 15 – 16 Sat – Sun Mt. Winchell (13,775') Ldrs. Richardson/Keenan	Nature Knowledge trips being led this month by Natural Science Section on Oct 16 - 18 & 17 - 18. See Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities
MR Aug 15 – 16 Sat – Sun University (13,632') , Independence (11,744') Ldrs. Holchin/Arnebold	Oct 3 – Sat. Leadership Training Seminar, Griffith Park Ldr. Bill Oliver
MR Aug 15 – 23 Sat – Sun Mt Kaweah (13,802') Black Kaweah (13,720') Red Kaweah (13,720') Ldrs Martin/B. Tidball	I Oct 3- 4 Sat – Sun Mt Henry (12,196') Ldrs. Stough/Mantle
M/ER Aug 21 – 30 Fri – Sun Peaks of Evolution & Ionian Basins Ldrs. Jones/Mamedalin	O Oct 7 Climbers' Social Hour . 5:00 pm McCormick & Schmicks See July 14th write-up
M Aug 22-23 Sat – Sun Wallace (13,377') & Haeckel (13,418') Ldrs. Hertz/Rieck	M/E Oct 11 – 12 Sat. <del>10-11</del> Sun. Leadership Rock Safety Skills & Rescue Course. Adv. Course designed to impart leader safety skills & rescue techniques for leading grps in mtn. terrain. Instructor is AMGA certified alpine guide John Fischer. Course given in Buttermilk country near Bishop, weather permitting. Fee \$75.00. Course ltd. to M & E leaders or equiv; participants must be SC members. Send SASE, climbing resume, rideshare info. Ldr. Dan Richter.
I/M Aug 28 – 30 Fri – Sun Mt. Hale (13,440'), Mt Young (13,177') & Mt. Muir (14,015') Ldrs. Wyka/Conrad	M/E Oct 17 - 18 Sat. – Sun. Leadership Rock Safety Skills & Rescue Course. See Oct. 10-11 write-up. Ldr. Bill Oliver.
ER Aug 28-30 Fri – Sun Norman Clyde (13,855') Ldrs. Sorenson/Oliver	I Oct 24 Sat Willow Hole/Rattlesnake Cyn Adventure Trip WTC/LTC Trip. Attention prev. Indian Cove Nav Noodlers. Hard earned homework comes alive as we actually hike your rte. Strenuous 13 mi., 1500"gain xc. Tough hikers send SASE Ldr. Diane Dunbar/Don Creighton
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Nature Knowledge trips being led this month by Natural Science Section on Sept. 5-7, & 26. See Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities	
MR Sept 4 – 7 Fri – Mon Tehipite Dome (7,708') Ldrs. Murphy/Martin	I Oct. 25 Sun Navigation Workshop and Check Off, Sheep Pass Ldr. Harry Freimanis
I Sept 5 – 7 Sat – Mon Foerster Pk (12,057') & Electra Pk (12,442') Ldrs. L. Tidball/G. Roach	C Oct 31 – Nov 2 Sat - Mon Wilderness First Aid Course Course runs from 8am Sat to 5pm Mon. Current CPR card reqd. Course fee \$120 incl course notes, 3 days lodging & meals. Satisfies Angeles Chp. LTC req. for 1 <sup>st</sup> aid. Send SASE, \$120 (WFAC-refundable through 10/1) to WFAC, PO Box 3414, Fullerton, CA 92834. For more info call Ldr. Steve Schuster
O Sept 9 Climbers' Social Hour See July 14th write-up. Ldrs. Kramer/Siering.	<b>NOVEMBER</b>
I Sept 12 – 13 Sat – Sun Needham Mtn (12,520') & Sawtooth Pk (12,343') Ldrs Kline/Epstein	I Nov 7 – 8 Sat – Sun Navigation Workshop and Check Off, Indian Cove Joshua Tree Ldr. Freimanis
MR Sept 12 – 13 Sat – Sun Tehipite Dome (7,708') Ldrs. G. Roach/Hudson	M/E Nov 7.- 8, Sat – Sun Rock Workshop Joshua Tree, Ldr. Dan Richter
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+') Ldrs. Hudson/Siering	<b>DECEMBER</b>
I Sept 19-20 Sat – Sun Mt. Goode (13,085') Ldrs Zylla/Andrew	M/E Dec 12 Sat Rock Workshop, Stoney Point Ldr. Ron Hudson
I Sept 19 – 20 Sat – Sun Bloody Mtn (12,552') Ldrs. Kline/Wankum	M/E Dec 13 Sun Rock Workshop, Stoney Point Ldr Dan Richter.
M Sept 25 – 27 Fri – Sun East Vidette (12,350') Ldrs. O'Rourke/Epstein	I Dec 13 Sun Navigation Workshop and Check Off Warren Point Ldr. Harry Freimanis
MR Sept 26 – 27 Sat – Sun Mt Winchell (13,775') Ldrs. Holchin/Stough	
I Sept 26 – 28 Sat – Mon Silver Peak (11,878') Ldrs. Kline/Browder, J. Graff	
I Sept 27, Sun Navigation Workshop and Check Off Grinnell Ridge Ldr. Harry Freimanis	
<b>Information on Leaders</b>	
May be found in the SPS Roster, published yearly with the July/August edition of <i>The Sierra Echo</i> . Or in the Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities published 4 times per year	



## Echoes from the Chair

### ELECTION RESULTS

The special election to add Caltech Peak to The List was defeated by the membership. Out of 129 ballots cast, only 55 were in favor, and 74 opposed.

More surprising are the results of the national Sierra Club election. Alternative B, not making an official Club position on U.S. immigration levels, passed with 60% of the vote. And elected to the Board of Directors were David Brower, Jennifer Ferenstein, Chuck McGrady, Michele Perrault, and Veronica Eady. While I am disappointed that the Angeles Chapter will not be represented on the Board, I know that each of these Board members is aware of the issues we are concerned about in the SPS, and that our Club will benefit from their leadership.

Barbee Tidball made the astute observation at the April SPS membership meeting that there were three "political parties" in the 1998 national Sierra Club election: the Nominating Committee, the John Muir Sierrans, and the Population/Immigration candidates. It is significant that three of the John Muir Sierrans were elected to the board, while only two of the Nominating Committee candidates succeeded. But two of the John Muir Sierrans had more votes than the Nominating Committee candidates. In fact, out of a total of 22 candidates, the John Muir Sierrans finished in the top ten. It is conceivable that the John Muir Sierrans will attain a majority in next year's election.

Sierraly,



R.J. Secor



### Minutes from the SPS Meeting April 8, 1998.

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

RJ chaired the meeting which started at 7:40pm. Minutes of March meeting were read and approved. New attendees were introduced.

RJ asked a new trivia question: What happened to the original register placed on Mt. Brewer in 1864 and removed in 1897? Prize is A Mountaineer's Life by Alan Rouse.

Treasurer reports a balance of \$6114.44.

Eric Lesser spoke about conservation. Sequoia National Forest plans additional logging under the guise of fire control. We should write letters to protest this policy. Now is the time to comment on the Sequoia and King's Canyon National Park Management Plan. See the last page of the Echo (March -April) for more details on both these items.

There was a discussion regarding joint SPS/DPS/HPS January meeting. Most seem to be in favor of continuing these joint meetings.

Patty Kline and trip leaders presented trip reports.

Patty Kline is on the nominating committee for the Executive Committee and is accepting input.

Barbee led a discussion about the National Sierra Club election and reminded everyone to send in their ballots in time to arrive in New York by April 18.

Keith plugged upcoming programs.

Trivia answer: The register was placed in the Sierra Club Archives and was destroyed in the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

Doug Mantle presented slides from his climb of Mt. Logan.

## SPS Membership Report

June 1998

### **Achievements!!!**

Bob Ayers received Senior Emblem #122 on The Thumb on 7/16/97

Carol Synder received Emblem #549 on North Palisade on 8/30/97

### **Welcome !!! New Members**

Angel Cardoza, Jr  
3105 S. Rita Way  
Santa Ana, CA 92704  
day (714) 730-5397  
eve (714) 641-8394

Thomas Gorman  
406 Monterey Rd Apt L  
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Carlton McKinney  
5161 Dahlia Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90041

### **Good Reading New Subscribers**

Mike Givich  
1737 Gates Ave  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Duncan Schaefer  
P.O. Box 731  
Martinez, CA 94553

Mike Weaver  
5532 Vista del Amigo  
Anaheim, CA 92807

Don Ralphs  
431 Alma Real Drive  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272  
(310) 454-0703

Sean Thomas  
11572 Everston St.  
Norwalk, CA 90650

Mark Wilson  
1027 Calle Juca  
La Habra Heights, CA 90631

### **Address Changes & Name Changes**

Barbara Sholle  
(Formerly Barbara Cohen)  
4166 Clark Ave  
Long Beach, CA 90808  
(562) 429-2647

Mary McMannes  
19545 Sherman Way Apt 98  
Reseda, CA 91355-3450  
(818) 701-6513

Suzanne and Igor Mamedalin  
5936 Jackson Ranch Road  
Weed, CA 96094  
(530) 938-1208

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

#### **Need a Lift? Inyo Dial – A – Ride**

Are you planning a trans-Sierra trek or a long climb using different entry and exit trailheads. The Inyo-Mono Dial-A-Ride offers trailhead service for the Eastern Sierra. Arrangements can be made for specific trips for one or more persons. Advance reservations are required. The service uses 8, 12 and 16 passenger air-conditioned vans. The director is Monicka Watterson. Call 800/922-1930 or 760/872-1901 for information and reservations.



## An Open Letter to *The Sierra Echo* Caltech Peak Comments

Dear Editor,

Whether or not the special election on Caltech Peak was legal and/or ethical, it was certainly "pushy". Why the "railroad" job--what was the hurry? Had the vote been postponed to the regular election, this controversy could have been avoided and we could have been reading trip reports instead of letters in the last Echo.

I agree with Jerry Keating that the SPS should do more "exploring" of unlisted peaks, especially those in new areas and involving new approaches. Finishing the SPS list more than once is a notable achievement, to be sure, but peaks don't have to be on The List to be worthwhile climbs! Also, the quota system being what it is, if list finishers will schedule and climb unlisted peaks, others might have a better chance to climb the listed peaks they need. Perhaps unlisted peak suggestions could be submitted for publication in the Echo.

Barbara Lilley

### MOUNTAIN RECORDS – PEAK NEEDS!

Howdy, Fellow Climbers!

May 11, 1998

Below is the current register and canister needs list. If you are planning a trip to a peak on the list and could help out by carrying a book and/or container, please let me know. Please continue to send in your register reports, even for those peaks not in need of a book or container. Unlisted peaks also often need containers and/or books; I'm building a list of such needs. If you are planning to climb an unlisted peak and wish to carry a small container/book, please let me know.

*Tina*

Tina Stough

Mountain Records

PEAK	CANISTER	AMMO BOX	BOOK	NOTES
Banner		X		New ammo box (hinge broken)
Carillon				Pencil needed
Corcoran	X			No lid on cannister.
Dana		X		
Disaster			X	
Electra			X	
Foerster	X		X	(nothing there)
Gibbs			X	
Hilgard	X			Container needed
Lone Pine		X		Exchange with SPS cylinder. For more room
Maclure			X	
Matterhorn		X		Exchange with SPS cylinder. For more room
Morrison			X	
North			X	
Roundtop		X	X	(nothing there?)
Sill			X	
Thunderbolt			X	
Williamson				Sierra Club box needs repair. Please take along superglue/cement and tape.
Young			X	

## Sierra Snow Check-Off May 9-10, 1998

By Bill Bradley

Although we think of May as spring, winter had not left the Sierra for our Leader Snow Check-off weekend. The Onion Valley Road was closed by drifts and boulders at about the 7500 foot level. The snow was hard (great!) and nighttime temperatures got down into the low twenties.

Thirteen participants and leaders met in Independence for our caravan up to the snow slopes. After hiking the road to 8500 feet, we found a good campsite on snow not too far from water. After setting up our tents, we found a great slope for ice axe arrests. One of our candidates, known for his ability to get up good speed on arrests, unfortunately caught his spike on snow and did an amazing cartwheel, injuring his knee in the process. After resting a while, he was able to continue with the session.

It snowed lightly Saturday night and Sunday morning, but those out for practice only headed out with Nile Sorenson for a crampon climb, snow conditions being ideal. Overall it was a successful weekend with one candidate passing "E" level; four passing "M" level; and one passing Mountaineer's List snow requirement.

I would like to express thanks to those who helped out with checkoff, instruction, and paperwork: Nile Sorenson, Tim Keenan, Barbara Reber, and Barbara Cohen.

## Bear Canisters – Inyo National Forest

By Barbee Tidball



For the past few months I have read and listened to many rumors and misinformation on the requirements for bear canisters in the Inyo National Forest. To set the facts straight let me clarify the Order issued by the Inyo National Forest and intent of the Order as I have had it clarified by the Forest Service.

On July 25, 1997, Bill Bramlette, Acting Forest Service Supervisor for the Inyo issued Order No 04-97. This Order was designed to protect the Wilderness, wildlife and the public. Under the act, the Forest Service prohibits within the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Golden Trout, Hoover, Boundary Peak, Inyo Mtns., and South Sierra Wilderness areas the following:

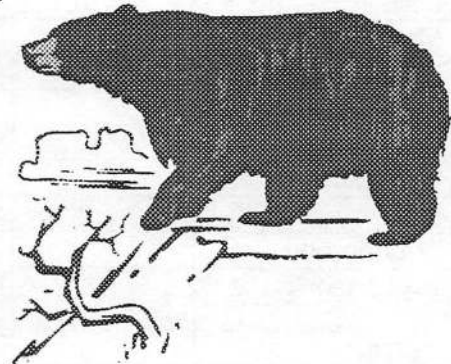
**"Possessing or storing any food or refuse unless stored in a bear-proof container or in another manner designed to keep bears from gaining access to the food or refuse.**

Failure by a wilderness user in these areas to meet the requirements of the Order is "punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both."

In addition the Forest Service is passing out a flyer that for Onion Valley Wilderness Users states: "You must store your food in portable bear-proof canisters when camping East of Kearsarge Pass."

What this all means to you is that the Forest Service is very concerned about encounters between wilderness users and black bears and that **it is your responsibility to make absolutely sure that bears do not get into your food or any other part of your pack.** You can be cited if that happens. The Order does not require you use a bear-proof canister, but the use of these canisters is **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** in all areas of the Sierra. The Order requires proper food storage and prohibits the feeding any wild animal.

From my own research I am learning that many scientific studies support the use of portable bear-proof canisters for the storage of all food, toothpaste, sunscreen, soap, etc. Sleeping with your food may work (I'd be afraid to risk it though); hanging your food often does not work and the use of bear boxes is causing other wilderness resource protection problems. It appears that the "good old days" of packing in the wilderness are over. The impact of thousands of hikers in the Sierra has led to thousands of smart bears. I for one am finally heading down to my local equipment store to purchase a bear-proof canister. The canisters are a lot less costly than a fine from the Forest Service.





## **SPS SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT – April 7, 1998**

Submitted By  
Doug Mantle and Duane McRuer

### **I. Visions and Goals**

We began our second tour as SPS Safety Committee Co-Chairs as the mountaineering insurance was reinstated. The SPS Management Committee of the time did an excellent job reestablishing written procedures consistent with the new rules, obtaining Chapter Safety Committee approvals, setting up the paper trails required for the newly defined restricted trips, etc. After these initial set-up activities had been accomplished the SPS Safety and Training Committee's intent was to establish a program that maximized the Sierra Peaks Section's mountaineering activities consistent with safety. Our goals included the establishment of new leader and participant cadres for restricted trips in the Sierra as well as for expanded mountaineering activities in the Cascades and elsewhere. To accomplish these goals we have:

- a. **Continued and expanded the traditional very close connections with the Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Committee. These have taken several forms:**
  1. Making the technical requirements for the SPS Mountaineer's List coincide with those for the "M" Level of the LTC; ~
  2. Joint leadership of SPS and LTC restricted trips for refresher training on rock and snow, including instructors;
  3. Providing examiners for LTC Checkouts. Initially, the SPS actually ran the checkouts (as legally, the LTC could not do so!). This has now transitioned to a situation where the LTC is in charge, with the SPS Safety Committee in a supporting role.
- b. **Established an ongoing program of restricted training to improve participant skills.**
- c. **Actively recruited and supported promising candidates for leadership roles from all available sources**
- d. **Expanded the SPS qualified instructors group**
- e. **Continued a series of safety-oriented programs/discussions at occasional SPS meetings \_**

### **II. Accomplishments**

- b. The SPS relationships with the LTC continue to be in fine shape. Dan Richter, the new LTC Chair, has begun to establish a much more active training and checkout program in both the fundamentals and more advanced topics. We're cooperating to the full extent of our resources.
- c. We've been fortunate to add several highly qualified leaders to the SPS Examiner's List as full members of the SPS Safety Committee. We believe that several more possibilities are in the pipeline. [Note: the criteria for this role include Graduation from the LTP as an "E" Leader; Experience in an assisting and internship role at SPS training and checkout activities; Extensive SPS trip experience; Teaching skills and judgement].
- d. We've been able to sign off over two dozen potential participants on the rock or snow portions of the Mountaineer's List.

## Inyo National Forest Permits Wilderness Reservation System (WRS)

By Barbee Tidball

On May 8, 1998 The Inyo National Forest sent out a press release announcing their plans to hold public meetings on Monday, June 1, 1998 in Mammoth and Tuesday, June 2, 1998 in Bishop on the current Wilderness Reservation System. The meetings are a direct result of wilderness user protests that public comment and meetings were not planned prior to the possible renewal of the current operator's contract to provide this service. Unfortunately the Forest Service did not also listen to requests for at least one meeting to be held in the Los Angeles area and one in the San Francisco area. The Forest Service did however, send out a letter on May 14, 1998 to interested wilderness users requesting their input on the system. Following is a summary of that letter and suggested comments for SPS members to consider prior to sending comments to the Forest Service. **The Forest Service will be taking comments until July 1, 1998. Send all comments to: Mary Beth Hennessy, Wilderness Team Leader, Inyo Natrional Forest, 873 N. Main St., Bishop, CA 93514., phone (760)873-2448. Or the web site [www.r5.fed.us/inyo](http://www.r5.fed.us/inyo).** Note all items in italics are direct quotes from the Forest Service May 14, 1998 letter.

Objectives of the Inyo Forest wilderness managers. Primary goals to be accomplished through the wilderness permit reservation system.

- 1) *Manage recreational visitor use. Our trialhead quota's have been in place nearly 20 years. These quotas disperse use over time and space to eliminate heavy peaks in visitation which provides solitude and minimizes resource impacts.*

Suggested comments and thoughts:

- a. The Inyo Forest has inadequate data for determining quotas and actual resource impacts in most areas of the wilderness. This is due to many factors including the Forest Service's failure over the past 20 years to fully manage the forest per their existing management plan and/or inadequate funds to do the necessary resource impact studies.
  - b. Wilderness permits are a tool for gathering data on wilderness usage. How well is the current permit contractor gathering data? Is the contractor accurately supplying data to the Forest Service?
  - c. Do you believe quotas are needed in all areas?
  - d. Consider whether you think quotas should be based upon resource protection or social standards.
  - e. If quotas are based on resource protection and not social standards will this mean issues like solitude and other social factors required in the Wilderness Act will not be considered?
  - f. Consider whether you believe the current quota system is fair and equitable for all users. Should packers be allow increased service days when private hikers are turned away from receiving permits in the same areas?
  - g. Do you think wilderness permits are easy to obtain or difficult? What changes would you suggest to the current issuance system for permits? (consider locations to pick up permits, time of day permits can be picked up etc.) Did you like the old 50% day-of-use permits availability, or do you like the 100% reservable system?
- 2) *Educational Tool Contact with visitors provides opportunities for educating the visitor in minimum impact techniques and philosophies, trail condition information and restrictions, and any last minute safety messages.*

Suggested comments and thoughts:

- a. Do you feel this is the best way to reach and educate wilderness users? Remember to consider that obtaining a permit is often the only time the Forest Service has contact with the wilderness user.
- b. Do you agree the minimum impact principles should be taught and encouraged to all wilderness users?
- c. Do you think that education will help reduce the number of regulations required to manage the wilderness?
- d. The Forest Service currently publishes information on the back of your permit as well as allowing the WRS provider to send out advertisements and pamphlets on bears; other wilderness related services that can be purchased, and they provide a copy of *Wilderness Wisdom* a newsletter



published by the Inyo National Forest. Do you read this information when you receive it, do you think it is helpful?

- e. Are permits the best place to reach wilderness users? Do you think trailheads, public seminars in metropolitan areas, more rangers on the trail to talk to and educate, requiring equipment manufacturers to provide minimum impact data with gear like tents, or some other method is a better way to reach wilderness users? How did you learn your wilderness skills?
  - f. Whose responsibility is education of wilderness users? Is it the place where you get your permit?
- 3.) *Visitor use data. Wilderness permits are the only source of visitor use data and are used for reporting to Congress, budget allocation, and management decisions.*

Suggested comments and thoughts:

- a. Do you feel this is the best way to gather data on wilderness users?
- b. Data gathered should be controlled by the wilderness team active in the wilderness areas. The use of data gathered needs to be improved, too much is not applied in management of the resource.
- c. Permits tend to concentrate on trailhead numbers. Do you think better resource protection data could be obtained through other scientific studies of site and trail usage methods?
- d. How have the Whitney zone permits affected other trails in the Sierra? Do you think the system is working or are you noticing increased levels of use in other areas where you used to find solitude?

Other issues to consider:

1. *Since 1995, the Inyo National Forest has provided these services through a private contractor. The current contracted reservation service will be up for a second year optional renewal at the end of this year.*
2. Consider whether you felt you received better information and had more opportunities to interact with the Forest Service through the old method of obtaining permits from the Forest Service. Would you like to see day-of-issue permits put back into the system? With perhaps 50% of the permits being day of issue this could provide for easier access to the Sierra than hoping for a no-show permit to be available.
3. Where should permits be picked up by mail, from camp ground hosts, at Forest Service offices, at pack stations, etc.? Should pick up and the reservation system be integrated, or not integrated.?
4. *The no-show rate for reservations. This affects the quality and reliability of the data. This also affects the ability of users to get permits. Last season there were occasional problems with over crowding from over-issuing of no-show permits. They estimated a 40% no-show rate.*
5. The current use of a private company to administer wilderness reservations will probably continue due to budget issues in the Forest Service and *ranger station and visitor center front desk workload*, and the Forest Service desire to spend what funding they have on other programs. Is this appropriate?
6. *Central Sierra consistency. The Inyo National Forest's wildernesses are shared with the Sierra, Sequoia and Toiyabe National Forests and are contiguous with Yosemite and Sequoia and King's Canyon Nat. Parks. Each or our administrative actions affects each other and the public. In order to benefit both the public and our internal administrative needs, we are aiming for consistency in how we administer wilderness permits and reservations in the central Sierra Nevada.*
7. *National Reservation Contract. There is a possibility that national direction for all campground and other recreation related reservation systems, including wilderness permits, will be joined into one large national contract for recreational reservations.*
8. *Recreation Fee Demonstration Project. We may have an opportunity to collect use fees for recreation activities with 80% of the money generated being used to manage the Inyo Nat. Forest's wilderness areas.*
9. The Sierra Club is strongly opposed to the concept of the Recreational Fee Project until such time as all monies from grazing, mining and other commercial uses as well as recreation fees are equitably levied.
10. Separate your comments between the advanced wilderness reservation system and wilderness permits.

### **NOW AVAILABLE – NORTHERN SIERRA PEAKS GUIDE UPDATES 1997**

1997 *Updates, Revisions, and Additions* for owners of the Northern Sierra Peaks Guide by Pete Yamagata are now available. Please send a SASE (1oz. postage) to: Pete Yamagata, 2109 1/2 10th Street #3, Sacramento, CA 95818-1313. Three new peaks and twelve route updates or revisions have been included. The 1995 and 1996 *Updates, Revisions and Additions* are also available separately by sending a SASE with an additional ounce postage for each yearly publication. The original 1994 edition of the *Northern Sierra Peaks Guide* remains available, with all URA's, by sending a check for \$10.00 (with Sierra Club Member Number included) or \$11.00 (for non-members) to Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507.

## NEPAL-KHUMBU TREK

By Jack Miller

This trip began with great expectations for adventure, high Himalayan climbing and for a modest measure of cultural enrichment. We were all experienced climbers and had a permit to climb three peaks designated as trekking peaks (Island Peak 20,238'; Pokhalde 19,044' and Parcharmo 21,097"). We were really looking forward to challenging fun.

Then came the snow. Lots of deep wet, soggy, unexpected, dangerous, unseasonable snow. Our plans for climbing adventure were over. We suddenly became American trekkers looking for cultural enrichment and photo opportunities. We learned later that four Belgians were killed by an avalanche while in their tents at the base camp of Island Peak.

All the climbs of the 8000 meter peaks were postponed and most were canceled. I met a woman from Colorado who had been part of an expedition that hoped to put the first American woman on the summit of Everest. She was above 25000' when the storm hit. The winds flattened their tents, and she said the drifts in the Khumbu ice fall were ten to twelve feet deep.

We were a group of four mostly from my home town region around Portland Oregon. We spent a day and a half being tourists in Kathmandu. We visited the Monkey Temple, a Buddhist and Hindu religious place, where the locals come to worship and leave food for the monkeys and dogs that live there. The monkeys are great climbers and would be admired by Yosemite's best. The dogs are less interesting.

Many of the streets in Kathmandu are narrow, muddy and crowded. Pedestrians, bicycles, carts, cars, motor scooters and sacred cows all politely and patiently move along the in same space. The smells, crippled beggars, cooking food, hustling rug merchants, money changers, the little Hindu and Buddhist religious places, shops selling used mountaineering equipment and clothing, souvenir shops selling trinkets, prayer wheels, rusty antiques (real junk) and religious art, the walking wooden flute sellers, apple and orange vendors on bicycles, along with the raggedy people and honking horns create a touching impression of industry and poverty.

Trekking began in Lukla. We flew there in an 18-passenger plane that landed on a 1500-foot grass and dirt runway that slanted uphill at 10 to 12 degrees. When we realized where we were landing

we were a bit anxious, but the pilot landed quite smoothly and got a nice round of applause for his fine work.

The first night we camped beside the roaring Dudh Kosi river which we crossed the next morning on a mildly daunting rickety wooden bridge with no handrails. We followed the Dudh Kosi for much of our trip. It is in a very deep gorge and we were usually within sight of spectacular waterfalls and rugged unnamed 20,000-foot, glacier covered peaks.

Before entering the Sagarmatha National Park, but while we were well above 9000 feet we passed acres of lush green terraced vegetable gardens where they were growing cabbage, beans, peppers, onions, chard and buckwheat.

Our route took us to Namche Bazaar the center of commerce for the Khumbu region and from there on to Tengboche (12687 feet). Tengboche is a Sherpa village that is the site of the Tengboche Buddhist Monastery and it is nestled in a valley surrounded by the world's most spectacular peaks. The Nuptse-Lhotse ridge with Everest's summit peeking over is to the northeast, the seemingly unclimbable vertical rock and ice of Ama Dablang dominates the eastern skyline and the ruggedly beautiful glacier-covered Tamskeru and Kangtega are to the south.

While in Tengboche we had a very pleasant visit with the reincarnate lama in the monastery there. He wished us well on our trekking and climbing and seemed proud when he showed us a photograph of himself and Jimmy Carter. Mr Carter had visited him in 1985 for the opening of a Cultural Center there. When we left he came out on his porch with us, looked up at the early evening sky and told us that we would have fine weather for our hiking the next day. Two hours later it started raining and it continued raining and snowing for the next two days.

We spent the time reading, sleeping, knocking snow off the tents, visiting the nearby teahouse, chatting with other trekkers and climbers and rushing out to watch when we heard the booming of nearby avalanches. The morning the storm ended we awoke to a beautiful bright sunny day. All of the famous peaks were covered with glistening snow. It was a wonderful day and perfect for picture taking.

This unexpected snow storm not only ended our climbing plans but delayed our trekking. Most of our equipment and clothing were carried by yaks.



They would normally forage for food but the vegetation was now under two feet of snow so they had to go down to lower elevation for hay while we waited.

Anyone thinking of going to Nepal should seriously consider using porters rather than yaks to carry their stuff. It may be a little more expensive but you will be able to control your own agenda better. Our pace and schedule were dictated to a great degree by the yaks and their owners. You should also be sure the staff is experienced with snow, is familiar with the area where you are going and speaks English. Our trek could have been much more enjoyable and enriching.

When we left Tengboche we went on to Dengboche, which was as close as we ever got to Island Peak. It was there that we heard about the four Belgians being killed. This persuaded us to forget Island Peak and go on to Periche (13950 feet). At Periche we met several people who had come down from high peaks and had now postponed or abandoned their climbing plans.

One of two Himalayan Rescue Stations is located at Periche. It was staffed by two American physicians and a nurse. One doctor gave a very enlightening and helpful lecture on mountain sickness.

We stayed an extra day in Periche waiting for the yaks and taking a conditioning hike. When we left we went on up the trail to Laboche (16175 feet) and on to Gorak Shep (17000 feet). It was along this trail to Gorak Shep that our so called "Trekking Sherpa", a flat-land Hindu that we suspected had never been to the Everest region before, came up to us with a knowing smile, pointed to a nearby peak and said "There's Everest." And we thought "gee, that sure doesn't look like the pictures we've seen." We consulted each other and our maps and figured out which peak was really Everest. Our "Trekking Sherpa" later apologized and corrected his mistake.

From Gorak Shep we hiked to the top of Kala Pattar (18450 feet) which is the perfect viewpoint for Everest. Everest base camp, the Khumbu ice fall and glacier, part of the Everest climbing route, Nuptse, Pumori and lots spectacular scenery. We started early and for the first hour we were numb from the stinging bitter cold. But by the time we arrived at the summit the sun was shining and it was a lovely day. We of course took lots of pictures and we looked and looked and looked so we would never forget those ruggedly beautiful and famous places.

We headed next for the Sherpa village of Thami, the home town of Sherpa Tenzing Norgay and one of the region's better known Buddhist monasteries. We retraced our steps back down

through Laboche, Periche, Tengboche and Namche Bazaar. From Namche we headed west following the Bhote Kosi river to Thomde. There we saw what was left of a washed out water diversion system to create hydroelectric power. There is lots of falling water in the Khumbu and very little electricity, but they are trying hard to improve that ratio.

We stopped for lunch in Thomde where we were carefully watched by several very curious children. And, they in turn, were watched by four very curious Americans. I sat writing in my journal beside a tiny flower garden. There is no flat land there so gardens must be built by building a wall and filling in behind with dirt. Someone had gone to that trouble to make this little three-foot square garden to plant six little marigolds.

We arrived in Thami in mid-afternoon. It was foggy, windy and cold. The next day we hiked a few miles up the Bhote Kosi river toward China (a three day hike). Along the way we stopped to visit the remote Kerung Monastery. Our host was a short, happy, round old monk with a huge goiter. He made us feel quite welcome, showed us his ancient building, his Spartan quarters, the library with its ancient prayer books, the ancient drums and huge horns used during festivals, a monster of a prayer wheel that was about 12 feet high and 10 feet across, and he made prayer flags for us. It seemed to us that the monastery was seldom visited by tourists. We learned later that we had strayed into an area too close to China where tourists are forbidden.

The next day we visited the Thami Monastery which is larger and our tour and visit were more formal. It is headed by a reincarnate lama and has a school for young monks. It was fascinating to watch and listen as these young boys practiced their ancient chants. After our tour we were given an opportunity to buy, as souvenirs, some of the old stuff they had around.

There are very few people in Thami and they seem to live at the subsistence level. They grow potatoes and tend their yaks and other cattle which provide milk. We saw no other gardens or sources of food.

There is a school in Thami and quite a few children playing around. Our Sherpa guides told us that in Nepal only some of the boys go to school and none of the girls. I had with me a copy of Stephen Bezruha's book "Trekking in Nepal" and while I was looking at it the children gathered around. I was surprised to see how delighted and excited they were to see pictures of familiar things. With gestures, and lots of talk I did not understand, the older brighter ones explained the pictures to the

others. In the book there is a Nepalese-English dictionary of the most used words and I tried to teach them a few English words and learn a few Nepalese words, but discovered that only the kids that go to school learn Nepalese. The language of the home is Sherpa and these kids couldn't understand.

Next we headed back towards Tengboche for the Buddhist festival of Mani-rimdu. We retraced our steps back to Thomde and Namche. We had been told of a museum of the Khumbu region and the Sherpa culture located in Namche. We asked our guides about it and they assured us there was no such place in Namche. When we finally found it we spent an enlightening few hours learning about the region and its people. It was also in Namche that one of our party correctly pointed out that since leaving Lukla the only wheels we had seen were prayer wheels. A comment on Nepalese religion and priorities.

Mani-rimdu is a gay and colorful Sherpa dance drama depicting the triumph of Buddhism over the ancient and primitive Bon religion of 7th century Tibet. Sherpa people from all over the Solu-Khumbu gather in Tengboche for the celebration. But about half of the people there were westerners who were there to watch and take pictures. Their costumes were colorful and beautiful, the masks were colorful and expressive, and the musical instruments were primitive. The amazing ten foot long horns honk, the cymbals clang and the drums go boom, but all with no melody or rhythm that our western ears could detect. In contrast the spontaneous after-hours Sherpa dancing and singing were delightfully melodic, rhythmic and enjoyable.

After Mani-rimdu we were off for Gokyo Ri (17600 feet). Or were we? The first day after leaving Tengboche we hiked for two hours, and then waited the rest of the day for the yaks to catch up with our stuff. For us to have any chance of reaching Gokyo Ri in time to climb it and get back to Lukla to meet our plane our leader had to argue strongly with our guide to get the Sherpas to move along fast enough and far enough to get there on time. We left Tengboche early Saturday morning and by Monday afternoon we had hiked the fifteen miles (that's five miles a day) to the spot where we started hiking up the mountain.

We hiked to the top of Gokyo Ri on Tuesday morning. It was another beautiful sunny day and the

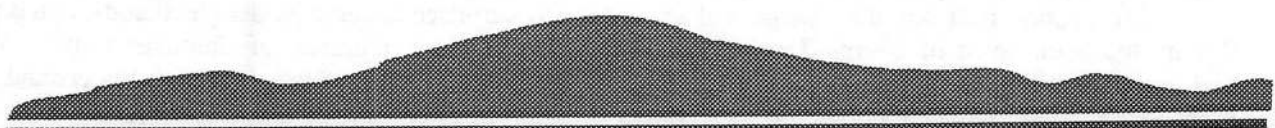
view was great. Probably better than from Kala Pattar because we were a little farther away from Everest and could see the climbing routes and its features better. We could also see more big peaks and spent quite a bit of time with our maps trying to figure out what was where.

On the way back to Namche we stopped at the Buddhist Monastery at Kumjung where we were shown a leather cone with red hair called the Yeti scalp. Since none of us had ever seen Yeti we could not say for sure whether what we saw was his scalp or not.

We also stopped to visit the school at Kumjung. There is both a primary (grades 1 thru 5) and a secondary (grades 6 thru 10) school there. We had a very enlightening visit with the Head Master. We learned that all children are required to attend grades one through five and it is free. All may attend grades six through ten and it is free for girls and boys must pay a little. They are trying to change the tradition of girls not going to school. From what we could see the classes were about evenly divided between boys and girls. We looked at some of their books and we saw the displays in the classrooms. We concluded that they study the same things we study in our schools.

We headed back to Namche Bazaar and from there on to Lukla. In Namche one of our party told us that he had been reading about Nepal and the Himalayas for many years, and when we got to Namche the first time he was quite excited about finally visiting the commercial and cultural center of the Solu-Khumbu. Now we were leaving Namche for the fourth and last time and he said he was "glad to be leaving the stink hole." At the time we all agreed. But as we reflect back on our trek we also agree that our last impression was not the lasting one.

Our takeoff from Lukla's dirt and grass runway was exciting. It was a downhill race for the sky. One moment we were gripping our arm rests, roaring and bouncing along, gaining speed along that downhill runway and suddenly we were out in the air hundreds of feet above the rocky terrain. And finally thousands of feet above the beautiful lush green terraced farmland and getting our last look at and saying our final goodbye to the land of the Sherpas, Mt Everest and the rugged beautiful high Himalayas.



**IN HIGH PLACES:  
THE FRUSTRATION OF CLARENCE  
KING**

BURTON A. FALK

By 1873, the year in which he turned thirty-one, Clarence King had accomplished more than most men could hope to achieve in a lifetime. Gifted with keen intelligence, engaging personality, intense determination and indefatigable physical strength, King had enjoyed one success after another while engaged in a series of explorations and surveys in the Western United States. In September of that year, however, he became aware of an embarrassing blemish on his record--a blemish that concerned his long preoccupation with Mt. Whitney, California's highest peak.

Clarence King began his meteoric career ten years earlier, in 1863, when, as a recent graduate of the Yale Scientific School, he became a member of Professor J.D. Whitney's Geological Survey of California. The following summer, on the evening of July 2, 1864, while King was with the Survey's field party in the Roaring River Valley of the present day Kings Canyon National Park, William Brewer, the field party leader, and Charles Hoffman returned to the camp after making the first ascent of Mt. Brewer. The two reported that several miles to the southeast they had seen a crest whose peaks were higher than any of those in the immediate vicinity. Both Brewer and King believed that one of those peaks must be the as yet undetermined high point of California. King immediately petitioned to cross the intervening mountains and climb the peak, a request to which Brewer readily acceded, and thus, on the morning of July 4, 1864, King and a

companion, Dick Cotter, set out on the first attempt ever to conquer Mt. Whitney.

A copy of the U.S. Geological Survey's topographic map of the Kings Canyon-Sequoia N.P. area illustrates the difficulties that King and Cotter faced. A good way to visualize the terrain is to think of a large capital letter H, with Mt. Whitney located on the right side of the H, the main Sierra Crest, at the bottom, and the Roaring River Valley situated along the left side of the H, the Great Western Divide, at the top. The cross-tie between the two ranges is formed by the rugged Kings-Kern Divide. In the straight line approach

to their goal, King and Cotter crossed both the Great Western Divide and the Kings-Kern Divide, before dropping into the northern reaches of the Kern River Valley on their second evening out. On their third day they climbed what they believed to be the highest peak on the main crest, however, upon reaching its summit they discovered that two nearby peaks loomed even



taller. In his book, "Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada," King relates, "That which looked highest of all was a cleanly cut helmet of granite, lying about six miles south. Mount Whitney, as we afterward called it in honor of our chief, is probably the highest land in the United States. The summit looks glorious, but inaccessible." The mountain that the pair climbed was "reverently" named Mt. Tyndall, in honor of the British scientist and natural philosopher. Because they lacked provisions to enable them to continue their exploration, the disappointed King and Cotter were forced to return to the survey camp back on the Roaring River.

Clarence King, however, was not a man to be easily thwarted. While in



Visalia with Brewer later that same month, King asked for permission to make a second attempt at locating Mt. Whitney. Brewer, a kindly man, agreed, allocating King \$100 for expenses and arranging for two soldiers to accompany him on the expedition. On July 14th, the three men left Visalia on horseback with enough provisions to last for two weeks. Two days out of town, following the newly constructed Hockett Trail along the South Fork of the Kaweah River, the party came upon the mountain pig farm of a family from Pike County Missouri, "The Newtys of Pike." King, who always had an eye for women, was bemused by the oldest daughter, Susan, whom he first saw lying by a campfire, "her mind absorbed in the simple amusement of waving one foot (size 11) slowly across the fire, squinting with half-shut eye, first at the vast shoe and thence at the fire." After spending an evening with the family, Susan's father decided that King would make a suitable son-in-law. After some hesitation, he blurted out to the explorer, "Thet--thet--thet man what gits Susan gits half the hogs!" King's hilarious encounter with these "conspicuous retrograde(s)..in the Darwinian view of development" is wonderfully recounted in "Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada."

The following morning, the three adventurers pushed on eastward to the Kern River, a point at which their wanderings become blurry. Sierra historian, Francis Farquhar, says, "Without map or place names to go by it is not easy to determine King's route to Mt. Whitney." It is clear, though, that King crossed the main crest of the Sierra through some unidentified pass, and, as reported in Volume I of "Geology, the Report of the California State Survey," "worked for three days before he could reach the base of the mountain, whose summit he was endeavoring to attain." Unfortunately, King, using what

Farquhar calls "a genius for finding the wrong routes," failed in his attempt to climb this peak. He was forced to return to Visalia, once again unsuccessful in his bid to make the first ascent of Mt. Whitney.

It is worth noting that while King was busy making his second attempt on Mt. Whitney, the balance of the Field Survey Party--Brewer, James Gardiner and Richard Cotter, were engaged in mapping out a large portion of the central Sierra Nevada. Some of the peaks they named that summer include: the Palisades, Mt. Gardiner, Mt. Cotter, and Mt. Clarence King--a peak upon which, as far as the author can determine, King never set foot.

Field party work for the Survey was placed on hiatus in 1865, primarily due to lack of funding by the State Legislature. In the summer of 1866, however, King and Gardiner were once again in the Sierra, this time mapping the Merced Range, the Ritter Range and the peaks to the north and east of Yosemite's Tuolumne Meadows. The two men, who were to remain friends for life, were responsible for naming of Mt. Clark (previously known as the Oblisk, a peak which King and Gardiner were the first to climb) and the Minarets, among others.

In 1867, King decided it was time to launch out on his own. That spring, with enormous chutzpah, he convinced the U.S. Congress to provide him with the funding "to direct a geological and topographical exploration of the territory between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada," including the route of the Pacific Railroad--The Fortieth Parallel Survey. His principal sponsor was California's U.S. Senator, John Conness, a man for whom, using incredible foresight, King had earlier named a peak in northern Yosemite. Another emphatic recommendation came from Colonel R. S. Williamson of the U.S. Army Engineers, for whom King had

named the second of the two higher summits he had seen from Mt. Tyndall. Small wonder that he was successful. King's task as finally commissioned was to last for three years and his party was to include two assistant geologists, three topographical aides, two collectors, a photographer, a military escort, and a half dozen extra men, for a total crew of thirty-five. Not bad, when you consider Clarence King was but twenty five.

Five years later, in the spring of 1871--the Fortieth Parallel Survey having been extended for an additional two years--King's crew began the season working out of a base camp located near Fort Bridger, Wyoming. That June, while King was passing through the Carson Valley, NV, traveling east to the work site after purchasing supplies in San Francisco, he decided to once again have a try at Mt. Whitney. He detoured south.

It took King four days in a hot and dusty stage coach to reach the Owens Valley town of Lone Pine. On his arrival there June 18th, he found the Sierra covered with a "dark-blue mass of storm," so he was forced to cool his heels an additional two days. On the seventh morning the skies cleared and King, along with a French climbing companion, Paul Pinson, and a boy to take care of the pack animals, started into the mountains. A day and a half later, King and Pinson summited on the peak that King recognized immediately as the one that he had failed to climb seven years earlier. Standing on the top, he felt positive that it was indeed Mt. Whitney, the crest's highest point, even though clouds blocked his view to the north. He was delighted with his achievement and recounts in "Mountaineering" how he and Pinson "gaily" made their rapid descent through the ever thickening clouds. Gaily, that is, until they almost plunged over a steep precipice in their haste.

King returned to report that the

peak he had conquered was located in the proper relationship to Mt. Brewer and Mt. Tyndall, whose summits he thought he had spotted "through windows in the storm." Yes, his mercury barometer had indicated a lower summit elevation than he had expected, but King rationalized the discrepancy was due to the stormy weather. For the following two years it was commonly assumed that Mt. Whitney had been located and climbed.

A different story emerged in 1873, however, when Mr. W.A. Goodyear, a former assistant of the Geological Survey for the State of California, reported to the California Academy of Sciences that he had recently climbed King's so-called Mt. Whitney, and that he had seen an even higher summit to the north, the true Mt. Whitney. Alas, Goodyear was correct! The mountain that King and Pinson climbed was the 14,027' peak, first named Mt. Corcoran; finally named Mt. Langley, the most southerly of the eleven 14,000' peaks along the Sierra crest.

King read Goodyear's report in early September 1873, while traveling on the transcontinental railroad to California, and to his credit he didn't dispute Goodyear's conclusion. Instead, he "lost no time in directing my steps toward Mt. Whitney, animated with a lively delight."

Arriving in the San Joaquin Valley, King hastily recruited two Tule River settlers, Seaman and Knowles, as companions for his expedition, and shortly thereafter they were heading east on the Hockett Trail, determined to locate and climb the elusive peak for once and for all. In spite of the fact that King became ill for three days, and that the party spent "days of snow and sleet under a temporary shelter of blankets," King and Knowles finally reached the summit of the true Mt. Whitney, by way of its gentle west slopes, at 11 a.m., September 19, 1873.

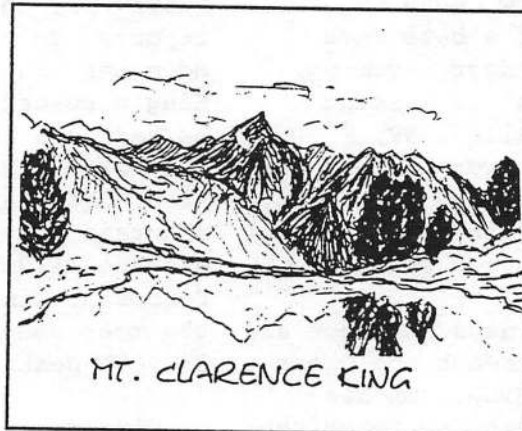
King's delight was short lived, however. At the summit he found a cairn indicating that three Lone Pine residents: John Lucas, Charles Begole and Albert Johnson, had made the first ascent of August 18, a full month earlier, and that, furthermore, they had named the mountain Fisherman's Peak. To add to his chagrin, two additional climbing parties had also reached the summit in the meantime. Characteristically, King did not dwell on his disappointment, but, rather, relished in his surroundings. He wrote, "The day was cloudless and the sky, milder than is common over these extreme heights, warmed to a mellow glow and rested in softening beauty over minaret and dome. Air and light seemed melted together; even the wild rock springing up all about us wore an aspect of aerial delicacy....It was like an opal world, submerged in a sea of dreamy light."

During the next few years, Clarence King spent more and more time in Washington, D.C., where he was acknowledged as one of that city's most promising young men. His good friend, Henry Adams, wrote of him: "His wit and humor; his bubbling energy which swept everyone into the current of his interest; his personal charm of youth and manners; his faculty of giving and taking, profusely, lavishly, whether in thought or in money as though he were Nature herself, marked him almost alone among Americans."

In 1878, King published a landmark book in earth sciences, "Systematic Geology, Vol. I of 'The Report of the U.S. Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel'." The following

year he was named as the first Director of the newly established U.S. Geological Survey, a post that he relinquished two years later in order to throw his enormous energies into a series of mining and business ventures. King's priorities were changing. His interest in making first ascents was replaced by the desire to accumulate wealth and to enjoy the finer things of life.

Sadly, King's endeavors in the world of capitalism, especially his involvement in two Mexican mines, didn't pay off. After a few good years, he found himself reduced to a series of geological consulting assignments to make ends meet. His brilliant career deteriorated even more rapidly in the early 1890s, when a chaotic national economic climate, the strain of a secret inter-racial marriage and a chronic back injury forced him into a short stay at an



asylum. By 1901 he was a broken man, suffering from tuberculosis, and living alone in Phoenix, Arizona. That same year, the day before Christmas, two weeks short of his sixtieth birthday, Clarence King made his final ascent.

Although multitudes of visitors now tramp through the Sierra each summer, the character of the range remains unchanged since, over a hundred and thirty years ago, Clarence King and the California Survey first explored the area. Standing on top of Mt. Whitney, that "cleanly cut helmet of granite," on a brilliant summer's day, looking out over the surrounding "minaret and dome," it is easy to bring to mind the memory of the remarkable Clarence King and his frustrating fascination with California's highest peak.



## PYRAMID, MOKELUMNE, HIGHLAND, DISASTER

Leaders: Patty Kline, Bob Michael  
by Patty Kline and Bob Michael

On this trip we did an SPS peak a day and experienced a combination of dining in great restaurants at night and moteling it or camping. Our group consisted of the 2 leaders, Pete Yamagata and John Dodds. We met on Saturday, August 23, at 7:30 am at the now defunct Twin Bridges Store. This is on US 50 about 16 miles W of South Lake Tahoe and 7 miles W of Echo Summit. It is necessary to get a permit for any entrance into the Desolation

Wilderness, which Pyramid Peak is in. This self-issue permit is obtained 1/2 mile back at the Twin Bridges roadhead.

We took off for Pyramid at 8:00 am about a mile W of the Twin Bridges Store near some old cabins. We were careful to look for a spot to park where we would be well off the busy highway. The trail was nonexistent at first through heavy manzanita and ponderosa pines until we got to a use trail which went along the E (right) side of Rock

Canyon Creek. This use trail goes a good part of the way to timberline and the class 2 talus blocks near the top of Pyramid at 9,983'. After a nice lunch on Pyramid we retraced our steps, getting back to the cars at 4:30 pm in 8 1/2 hours. The day was 3,900' of gain and 6 miles round trip. 2 of us grabbed the last room at Motel 6 back in South Lake Tahoe. All 4 of us had dinner at a good Mexican restaurant called Margaritas, but the name was deceiving as they only had a beer and wine license.

Sunday we did Mokelumne. It took 1 hour to drive SW on Hwy 89 and 88 to the "Bear River Reservoir" road where we turned S. From here it was about 30-40 minutes to the roadhead. A good description of the complicated directions to the Tanglefoot Trailhead are in Pete Yamagata's Northern Sierra Peaks Guide. It was just John, Pete

and me hiking today. Bob had a sore foot. We left at 9:15 am and were virtually on trail except for the last mile. Then it was open crosscountry with a little section of class 2 bouldering at the top at 9,332'. We congratulated Pete on top for his 1,000th ascent of a peak (repetitions included.) The totals for the day were 13 miles round trip and 3,700' of gain in 9-10 hours. That night we found a great combination restaurant and inn at 28355 Hwy 88 in Pioneer ~



**Photo: On Top of Pyramid 8/23/97  
Pete Yamagata, John Dodds, Patty Kline &  
Bob Michael.**

called the Black Stallion Inn. Decor in the tastefully decorated luxurious rooms with choices of country or Japanese was delightful.

Monday we got an early start for the long drive to Highland. The roadhead is located on Hwy 4, 0.4 miles W of Ebbetts Pass in the "PCT" South Trailhead" parking lot. John Dodds had water pump problems and spent the day getting his Cherokee repaired. Bob, Pete and I finally started hiking at 10:30 am. It was a piece of cake for the first 4 miles south to Nobel Lake at 9,450'. We took a faint use trail at a stream crossing on the E side of the lake. The trail soon disappeared on a flat bench above the

lake. From there it was cross-country towards a steep, prominent gully which leads to the Tahoe base of the SW ridge of Highland. The going was now on a loose, tiring class 1-2 ridge. This ridge lead to a 10,824' false summit from where the true peak is finally visible. The discouraging drop to the 10,550' notch between the two summits is done on some rather exposed sandy class 2 ledges on the E side of the false summit. We spent a little time on the summit at 10,934', enjoying the incredibly beautiful view before heading back. We got to the cars at 8:30 in 10 hours. It was 14 miles round trip and 3,200' of gain. We stayed at Minden, Nevada at the Carson Valley Inn that night.

Tuesday morning Pete headed back to Sacramento and Bob, John and I drove the 1 1/2 hours to the roadhead for Disaster via Hwy 395 S and 108 W over Sonora Pass. 17 miles W of Sonora Pass we turned N (right) up the paved Clark Fork Road for 9.3 miles to the signed "Disaster Creek Trailhead" and a sign "Carson Iceberg Wilderness." The road ends 100 yards beyond. Our start time for Disaster was 12:45 pm. We went up the Disaster

Creek Trail for about 2 miles; and then had trouble finding a decent route, especially because we had cut the time so close. A great use trail takes off E from the main trail on the E margin of a huge meadow. We were still on the main trail and failed to see that nice use trail, which has an obscure beginning. We came across it by accident after going N up the main trail about mile further and turning ESE cross-country up the heavily wooded flank of the peak. This trail took us S of peaklet 9,252'. It faded out in a grassy meadow at 8,800', 1/2 mile SW of the peak, but the summit was in view. We headed up the grassy, sparsely forested bowl on the SW flank of the peak to the broad ridge E of the summit knob. The summit at 10,047' was a couple 100 yards to the W with class 2 basalt boulders. We returned to the cars at 8:15 and, yes we finally camped. The day's totals were 7 miles round trip and 3,600' of gain in 7 1/2 hours.

Pete's guide was very helpful and it was nice to have him along for the first 3 peaks. Everyone had a really good time on this 4 day leisurely paced trip.

## HOW MUCH POOP AND PEE FROM COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL STOCK IN THE JOHN MUIR AND ANSEL ADAMS WILDERNESS IS THERE PER SEASON?

Something you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask. Read on if you are brave.

980 head operate from east side pack stations including administrative stock 520 head estimated to operate from west side, no actual numbers are available. 1500 head total

An average mule produces 6 qts of urine and 44 pounds of manure in 24 hours. That equals 2250 gal of urine and 66,000# of manure a day.

Considering the average season is approximately 90 days then the total for the entire season would be 202,500 gallons of urine and 5,940,000 # of poop (2,970 tons). This figure does not include private recreational stock or the 12 active production livestock grazing allotments totaling 2230 cows and 1900 sheep. Considering there is approximately 575 miles of trails and if one were to assume that 25% of this waste was deposited equally on them it equates to 88 gallons of urine and 2,583# of poop deposited on every mile of trail every season. In reality a much larger percent is deposited on the first few miles of trail, leading into wilderness, where there is also the largest concentration of users, including day hikers. The largest complaint from wilderness users concerns pack stock use with grazing, manure and churned trails being the factor most often cited.



Alternative 2 (Emphasizes Pristine Condition) in the DEIS John Muir/Ansel Adams Wilderness Plan would require the removal of solid human waste but no mention is made of the exotic animal waste. That's interesting considering humans have the ability to control where they deposit their waste while animals don't with most of it being left either on the trail system or in riparian areas. Submitted by Gary Guenther

## 1998 National Sierra Club Election

by Barbara Cohen

Even though only 15% of the membership voted in this election, the results were favorable to SPS concerns. The figures for the members elected to the Board of Directors were:

1. David Brower 31,778
2. Jennifer Ferenstein 26,339
3. Chuck McGrady 24,575 (also elected by the board members to be the new president)
4. Michele Perrault 23,100
5. Veronica Eady 22,680.

The other members of the board who are continuing on are Philip Berry, Robbie Cox, Michael Dorsey, Anne Ehrlich, Betsy Gaines, Chad Hanson, Roy Hengerson, Susan Holmes, Lois Snedden and Adam Werbach.

The rest of the candidates were ranked as follows:

6. Tony Ruckel 22,126
7. Ben Zuckerman 20,502
8. Emily Miggins 20,308
9. Susan Schock 20,210
10. Jeff DeBonis 18,468
11. Sara Patton 15,125

12. Phyllenore Howard 14,373
  13. Debbie Heaton 12,627
  14. Jon W. Robinson 12,565
  15. Joyce Tarnow 12,062
  16. John Mitchem 12,014
  17. Judy Anderson 11,371
  18. Lawrence D. Rupp 11,307
  19. David Orr 11,161
  20. Dell Erickson 11,002
  21. Ross McCluney 9,973
  22. Richard Worthen 8,379
- Write-ins 124

Ballot A received 31,134 (40%)

Ballot B received 46,935 (60%)

Four of the top five vote getters were highlighted in the March-April Echo, including Jennifer Ferenstein, David Brower, Michele Perrault, and with a partial highlight Chuck McGrady. These Board members join Phillip Berry and Betsy Gaines who have indicated support for outings and mountaineering related issues in past *Echo* election surveys.

## Bridgeport Ranger District Reviews Application for Catski Services

The *Nordic Voice* issued an Alert to all backcountry skiers and other winter recreational users in the Bridgeport Ranger District area. Sierra Catski has applied for a special use permit to conduct a commercial catski operation. The purpose of the operation is to provide the public with alpine skiing, snowboarding and Nordic skiing in the backcountry environment. Skiers will be snowcat or snowmobile driven to ski areas.

The areas proposed are used by Nordic skiers and/or are being considered for Wilderness status. Eagle Peak is proposed with a staging area near Twin Lakes and pick-up area near Buckeye Canyon. This area is currently an easy 6 mile loop ski trail to the hot-springs and canyon area. Monument Peak/CraterCrest area is proposed with a staging area at Green Creek Rd. at Hwy 395. Both proposed areas are described in Marcus Libkind's *Ski Tours in the Sierra Nevada*, Volume 4.

The Forest Service is accepting comments until July 1, 1998. At issue are the following points:

- ✓ Portions of Eagle Peak and Monument Peak/Crater Crest area have been proposed by the Forest Service for Wilderness designation. A commercial permit would end this proposal.
- ✓ All 3 areas border existing wilderness areas. The F.S. already is short staffed to monitor use.
- ✓ Backcountry skiers have used these areas for years, there is no need to commercialize the area.
- ✓ The operator proposes to use explosives to control avalanche danger. There is no way that the catski operator can assure private backcountry users (skiers and snowmobilers) are not in the area when explosives are set off.
- ✓ The current use of the area by skiers and snowmobilers is not contested, what is contested is the commercialization of public wildlands.
- ✓ The proposed use of Copper Mtn area requires the crossing of BLM land. The Forest Service does not have the authority to grant permission on the use of BLM lands.

Write: U.S. Forest Serv., Attn. Sierra Catski, HCR 1 Box 1000, Bridgeport, CA 93517. Copy the letter to Mary Wagner, Dep. Forest Spvr., Humbolt-Toiyabe Nat. Forest, 1200 Franklin Wy. Sparks, NV 89431.



## "Deregulating" the Electricity Industry

by Rich Ferguson, Ph.D., Energy Chair Sierra Club California

### It's about where your money goes

Ready or not, "deregulation" is coming again soon, this time to the electric power industry. Starting January, 1998, Californians may begin paying their electricity bills to companies other than PG&E, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric. No longer will you be forced to feed polluting power plants with your electricity dollars - if you are now served by an investor-owned utility, you will get to choose where your money goes.

This change is more properly called "restructuring" than "deregulation", since the wires that bring electricity to your house will still be owned and operated by the monopoly utilities. If your lights go

out, you will call the same folks you call now. Reliability of service, good or bad, should not be affected by the changes taking place.

What's new is that the monopolies no longer control who gets paid for energizing the wires. The electricity grid of wires, transformers, substations, etc., acts like a large reservoir of electrical energy. When you turn on your TV, energy is drawn out of the pool: California's use would drain it in an instant if energy weren't continuously pumped in by generating plants. In the past, the utilities decided which power plants were paid to generate 'your' power for the pool - now you have a choice.

### How will you know where your money goes?

Legislation passed this year, supported by the Sierra Club, requires that all electricity providers disclose to consumers the fuels with which 'their' electricity is generated. In 1995, electricity generated in California came from:

Natural Gas	37.5%
Hydroelectric	24.7%
Nuclear	17.3%
Coal	8.6%
Oil	0.2%
Renewables	11.8%

(Renewables include geothermal, biomass, wind, and solar power resources) In addition, approximately one-sixth of the state's electricity was imported from outside California the sources of which are difficult to identify.

In 1998, consumers may continue to buy electricity from the utilities if they prefer, and sources of this electricity are expected to be similar to those in the table above. But you may also buy power from independent marketers who will contract directly with generators they believe you would prefer to support financially. Sierra Club members will receive offers from marketers claiming to sell electricity which is "green" or "environmentally friendly", etc..

### Know your power!

We hope, of course, that all consumers will want to buy electricity generated by non-polluting power plants. Check out the advertisements, due to begin arriving in November, for the marketer obtaining electricity from sources you prefer. It should not be



"One is always pleased to go on a camping trip with people such as these."

*Norman Clyde*

## CLOSE UPS OF THE HIGH SIERRA

*The Sierra Nevada Classic by Norman Clyde*

COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY

### VERN CLEVENGER

AVAILABLE AT REI, SPORTS CHALET, GEOGRAPHIA,  
TRAVELER'S BOOKCASE, USFS VISITOR CENTERS  
CHESSLER BOOKS AND ADVENTUROUS TRAVELER

*Ansel Adams & friends on one of Norman Clyde's  
Sierra High Trips circa 1927. Photo: W.L. Huber*

PUBLISHED BY SPOTTED DOG PRESS, BISHOP  
SEE US AT THE BANFF MOUNTAIN BOOK FESTIVAL IN NOVEMBER

difficult, since every marketer must disclose how the electricity they sell is generated.

In addition, the Center for Resource Solutions, a San Francisco non-profit group, has developed the "Green-e" label to identify electricity "products" which meet minimal environmental standards. In order for a marketer to use the Green-e logo, at least 50% of their electricity must be generated from wind, geothermal, solar or other renewable resources. In addition, the rest of their supplies are required to be less polluting than electricity sold by the utilities. The Center will ensure that their logo is not misused, and marketers are not making deceptive claims. And the California Public Utilities Commission has the awesome job of trying to keep everyone honest.

**What about municipal utilities like LADWP and SMUD?**

The 'munis' are not subject to the California's electric deregulation rules, but most are expected to follow suit in the next few years. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is already selling electricity from a geothermal plant under the 'brand' Greenergy (cute, huh?). SMUD charges a penny a kilowatt-hour extra for 100% renewable power, which I am personally happy to pay. With new management in charge of Los Angeles Department

of Water and Power (LADWP), we can expect a similar program before long.

**Whatever happened to public policy?**

The Sierra Club has labored to persuade Congress, state legislators and regulators to insist that utilities build cleaner, more environmentally friendly power plants. Have we now given up? Are we now at the mercy of the 'free' market? No. Sierra Club activists and staff continue to push for laws and regulations which would reduce the threat of global warming, air pollution, fish kills and other environmental ills related to energy. We promote public policies advancing energy conservation at every opportunity.

For better or worse, the electricity industry is changing. Each of us will be able to do our own small part for the Earth by making sure that when we pay our electric bill, our money goes where it does the least damage.

For more information available over the Internet, check out the following:

Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT)

[www.cleanpower.org](http://www.cleanpower.org)

California Energy Commission

[www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)

Or take the "Clean Power Pledge" and return the coupon below:

**THE CLEAN POWER PLEDGE**

**As a consumer concerned about the environment, I prefer not to send my energy dollars to polluting fossil fuel and nuclear plants any longer.**

**I intend to purchase affordably-priced clean power from qualified renewable resource providers.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to Sierra Club, 1100 11th Street, Suite 311, Sacramento, CA 95814**

**If you do NOT wish to receive information from clean power suppliers at this time, please check here.**

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**PEAKS LIST:** Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending \$1.00 and a SASE to the section Secretary: Scott Sullivan 11277 Ryandale Drive, Culver City CA 90230.

**MISSING ISSUES:** Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Elena Sherman, 11277 Ryandale Drive, Culver City CA 90230. Extra copies of the 30th Anniversary ECHO are available by sending \$4.50 per copy to the section Mailer. Copies of the Tribute issue (Nov/Dec 89) are also available from the Mailer for \$2.00.

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

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