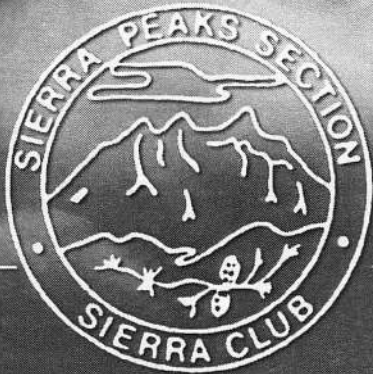


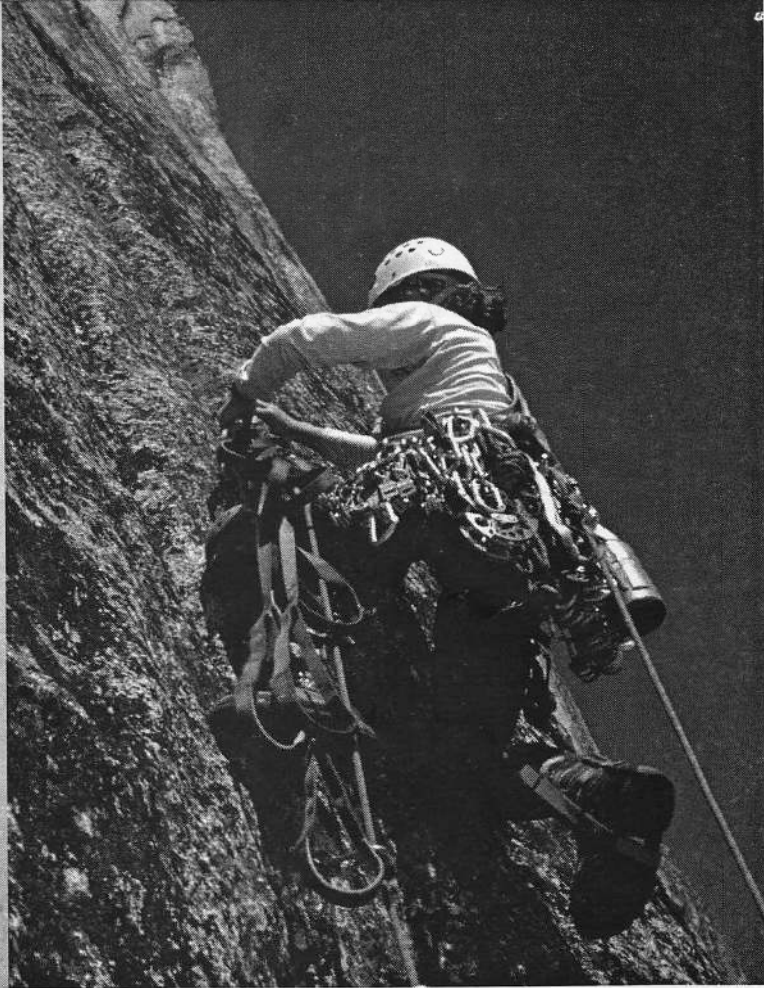
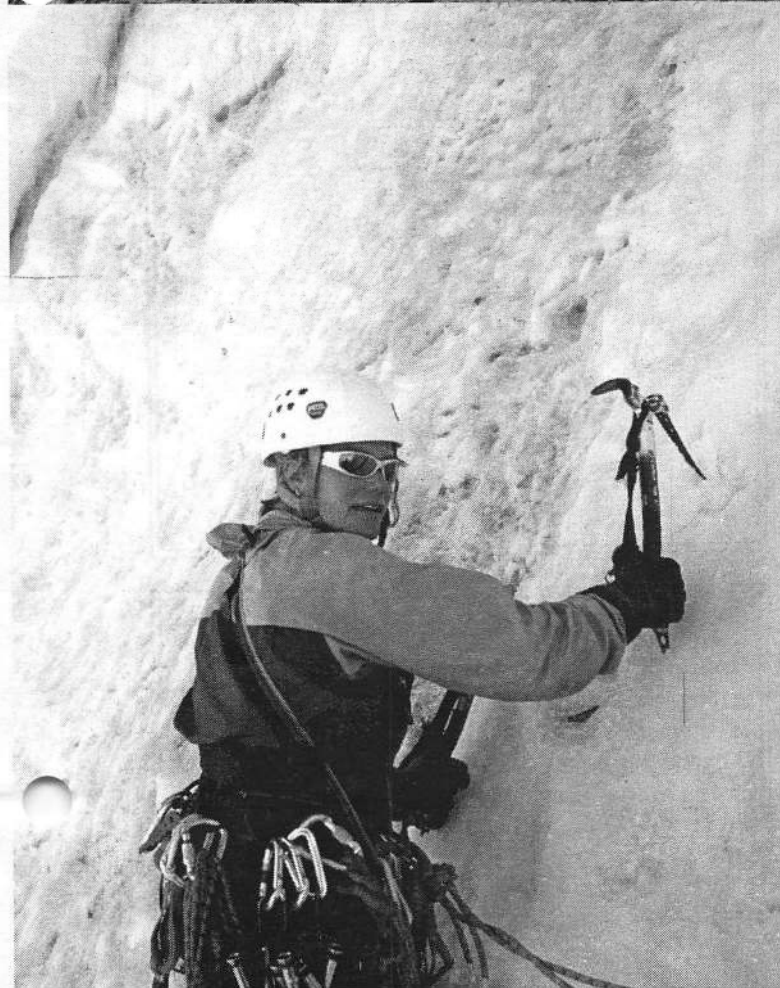
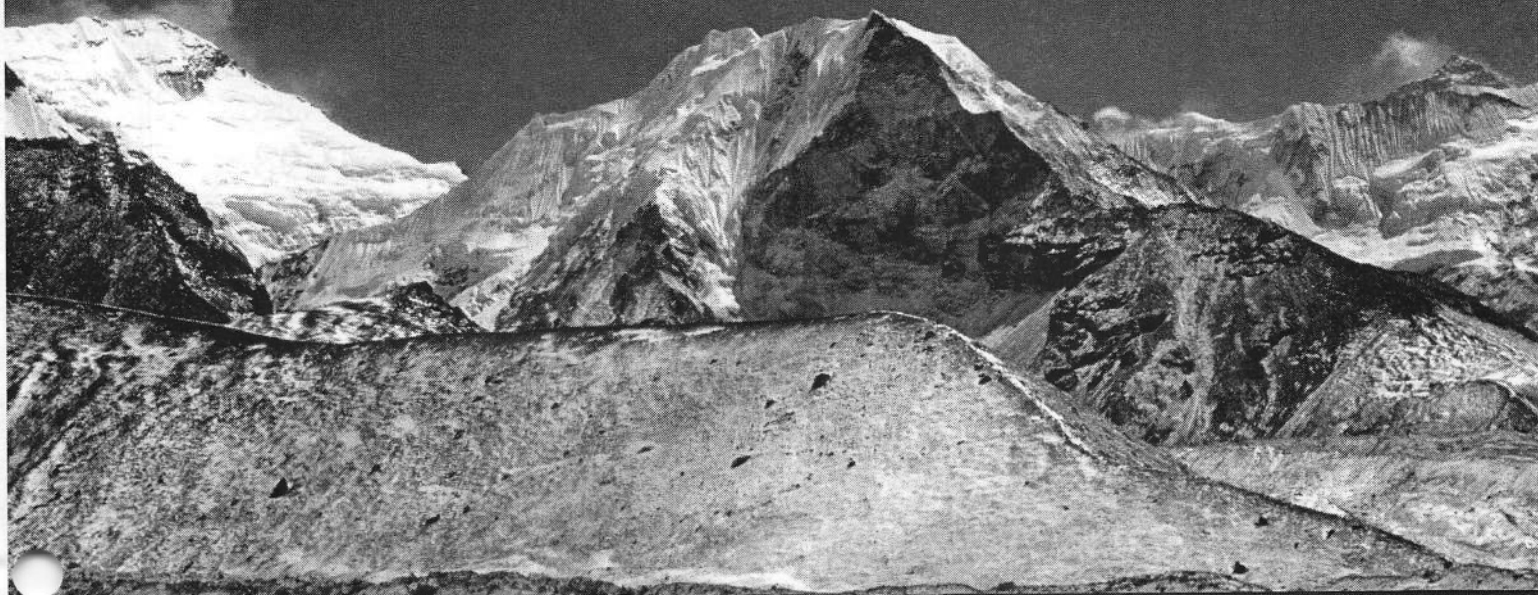
The Sierra

VOLUME 42 NUMBER 5



ECHO

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 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.

October 14

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

November 11

Mark Goebel member of the SMS Management Committee, will present a program on SKI Mountaineering - Sierra.

December 9

SPS Annual Banquet Location Greek Orthodox Cultural Center Long Beach. Speaker **Majka Burhardt**. AAI climbing guide, American Alpine Club 1997 Fellowship Award winner, World class mountaineer Co Speaker (Majka's husband) **Eli Helmuth** AAI climbing guide and world class mountaineer.

January 13

Joint Meeting SPS/DPS/HPS/SMS Dan Richter LTC Chair & Bill Oliver LTC co-Chair will present a program on the changes in the LTC and how they will effect the Mountaineering Sections. Great night to socialize and meet old friends or make new contacts from the climbing sections.

February 10

Mingo Morvin climber and nature photographer, will present a program on his experiences while photographing bears in the Sierra.

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.

FRONT COVER

- ❖ **Island Peak, Nepal**
- ❖ **Majka Burhardt on Mt. Hunter**
- ❖ **Majka climbing Liberty Bell, WA**

SPS Banquet Speaker
December 9, 1998

PEAK INDEX

Cloudripper
Mt. Keith
Mt. Bradley
Center Peak
Cloud's Rest
Half Dome
Mt. Rainer, Washington
Blackhawk
Tower
Muir
Hale
Young
Glacier Ridge
Lion Rock
Triple Divide
Whaleback
Recess
Gemini
7 Gables
Hooper
Senger

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 -FALL & WINTER TRIPS 1998



See past editions of *The Sierra Echo* for detailed write-ups of trips without full write-ups. Trips previously described are listed with out 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.

OCTOBER

Nature Knowledge trips being led this month by Natural Science Section on Oct 16 - 18 & 17 - 18. See Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities.

O Oct 14 Climbers' Social Hour . 5:00 pm Join us for L.A.'s best happy hr. before the regular monthly SPS meeting. McCormick & Schmicks in downtown LA. For map, parking info., menu Ldr. Ann Kramer, asst. Erik Siering

M/E Oct 11 - 12 Sat. - Sun. Leadership Rock Safety Skills & Rescue CourseLdr. Dan Richter

M/E Oct 17 - 18 Sat. - Sun. Leadership Rock Safety Skills & Rescue Course. Ldr. Bill Oliver.

I Oct 24 Sat Willow Hole/Rattlesnake Cyn Adventure Trip WTC/LTC Trip.
Ldr. Dunbar/Creighton

I Oct. 25 Sun Navaigation Workshop and Check Off, Sheep Pass Ldr. Harry Freimanis

C Oct 31 - Nov 2 Sat - Mon Wilderness First Aid Course Course runs from 8am Sat to 5pm Mon. . For info call Ldr. Steve Schuster

NOVEMBER

RM/E Nov 7.- 8, Sat - Sun Rock Workshop and Checkoff Joshua Tree, This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock req. for E & M ldrs. and SPS Mountaineers List. Check-offs for M & E rock will take place Sat. Group campground Fri & Sat nites, fee. Send climbing resume w/ SASE. Ldr. Dan Richter, Asst. Virgil Shields

I Nov 7 - 8 Sat - Sun Navigation Workshop and Check Off, Indian Cove Joshua Tree Ldr. Harry Freimanis

DECEMBER

M/E Dec 12 Sat Rock Workshop, Stoney Point Ldr. Ron Hudson

I Dec 13 Sun Navigation Workshop and Check Off Warren Point Ldr. Harry Freimanis

RM/E Dec 13 Sun Rock Workshop, Stoney Point This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock req. for E & M ldrs. and SPS Mountaineers List. Send 2 SASE and climbing resume. Ldr Dan Richter, Assts. Pat McKusky, Bill Oliver

JANUARY

M/E Jan 16 Sat. Local Snow Refresher: All aspects of snow (not ice) climbing covered. Lack of snow may postpone. **Trip restricted to Sierra Club members in good standing with some prior basic training in snow. Prospective WTC leaders & assists welcome. Send SASE & resume of recent experience to Leader : Bill Bradley; Assts.: Qualified Safety Instructors**

FEBRUARY

M/E Feb 6 Sat. Annual Baldy Snow Refresher: All aspects of snow (not ice) climbing covered. Lack of snow may postpone. **Trip restricted to Sierra Club See Jan 16 trip fro more info. Leader : Bill Bradley; Assts.: Qualified Safety Instructors**



Mountain Misery -
Chamaebatia foliolosa

Echoes from the Chair

PUBLIC COMMENT NEEDED

The public has until November 1 to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement proposing Management Direction for the Ansel Adams, John Muir, Dinkey Lakes, and Monarch Wildernesses. Barbee Tidball, Gary Guenther, and Joe Fontaine gave an excellent overview of the Forest Service plans at our September meeting. Here are some of the proposals that will have an effect on the SPS:

Group Size. Currently, the maximum party size is 15 people, either on or off trail. Parts of the draft plan propose to reduce cross-country parties to a maximum of 6 to 8 hikers. Cross-country travel is what the SPS does! While Yosemite National Park restricts the size of cross-country parties to no more than 8 hikers, as Barbee Tidball said at the September meeting, there is a lack of scientific data supporting this proposal.

Quotas. Trailhead quotas are now used, limiting the number of overnight hikers that can enter the wilderness at certain trailheads, plus a day hiker quota on the Mt. Whitney Trail. Part of the draft plan proposes destination quotas for both overnight and day hikers on all trails, limiting the use at specific locations in the wilderness. The definition of "destination quota" is vague in the draft plan. Conceivably, an SPS member may have to request a permit for a trailhead, a trail, a campsite, and a specific route on a peak!

Trails. Part of the draft plan calls for deleting a total of 54 miles of trails in the four wilderness areas. Some of these trails lead to SPS peaks, including Koip Pass Trail, Birch Lake Trail, Red Lake Trail, Baxter Pass Trail, and parts of the Crown Valley and Hell-For-Sure Pass trails.

Other proposals includes increasing the number of consecutive days that may be spent in a wilderness area (now managed on a travel zone and a ranger district basis) and prohibiting campfires above 9,600 feet north of the San Joaquin River and above 10,000 feet south of the San Joaquin River. What about campfire restrictions in the San Joaquin River basin? Presumably, campfires would be allowed all the way to the summit of Mt. Humphreys, the high point of the San Joaquin River basin. And this is my biggest concern about this Draft Environmental Impact Statement: the errors, misperceptions, and lack of hard data to back up the proposals. I am tempted to limit my comments to asking for a new, rewritten draft, but this is not realistic. Let's hope that the Final Environmental Impact Statement is more thorough. It probably will be, due in large part to public comments.

Send your comments before November 1 to:
Sierra National Forest
Attn: Wilderness Direction Comments
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611-0532

Sierraly,



R..J. Secor



Delores Holday crossing a side stream
In Yosemite, July 1998.

Minutes from the SPS Meeting August 12, 1998.

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

Patty Kline chaired the meeting which started at 7:45pm.

Minutes of July meeting were read and approved. New attendees were introduced.

The August Echo will be a few weeks late.

Next month's meeting features Joe Fontaine and Gary Guenther's presentation on the DEIS plan.

The American Alpine Club is requesting letters to congressman and forest service officials opposing the ban on fixed anchors in the wilderness. The letter the SPS management committee sent to the national Sierra Club received a positive response.

Paul Kluth recently passed away and there will be a memorial on Sept 12 and 13.

Don't forget the climber's social hour at McCormick and Schmicks before each SPS meeting.

The Southern Sierran is collecting "oops" stories for possible publication.

The trivia question for tonight comes from Keith Martin: What non-native bird that was introduced into the Sierras has a portion of its name that means mountaineer in another language? What is the name of this bird, in what language does part of its name mean mountaineer, who introduced it, where was it introduced, when was it introduced, and where is this bird native to? The prize is a SPS T-Shirt.

Patty presided over trip reports.

The trivia answer is White Tail Ptarmigan, Galic, Fish and Game Department, Mono Pass, 1970 and 1973, native to Alaska and Canada. Basil Anton won an SPS T-Shirt.

Linda McDermott presented slides from her travels in Alaska.

August 12, 1998.

SPS Management Committee Meeting

Minutes taken by Scott Sullivan

Attendance: Keith Martin, Patty Kline, Scott Sullivan, Anne Kramer, Eric Siering

The meeting started at 6:40pm. July meeting minutes were read and approved with modifications.

Treasurer reports a balance of \$4,694.62.

Reiner Stenzel ski trip is being deleted from the schedule due to a disagreement on dates among the leaders.

SPS needs someone to attend the Angeles Chapter Picnic on October 4 in Griffith Park.

The SPS nominating committee has nominated the following candidates for the fall ballot: Bob Bruley, Eric Lesser, Tim Keenan, Patty Kline, Keith Martin, Matthew Richardson, and Scott Sullivan.

Mark Adrian has requested clarification regarding the summit of Mt. Powell. The SPS location for the summit is different than the USGS location for the summit. This matter has been referred to Dan Richter for clarification.

There were four proposals to make changes to the SPS list. All of the following proposals were passed by a vote of 2-1 and will appear on the October ballot.

- 1) Change the name of Cal Tech Peak to Claremont Peak for SPS purposes and add this peak to the list, making it an emblem peak.
- 2) Remove emblem status from Mt. Williamson and make Trojan Peak the emblem peak in this area.
- 3) Make University Peak an emblem peak.
- 4) Make Mt. Stanford South an emblem peak

The meeting adjourned at 7:20. (*Editors Note: Relax!!! The four proposals were passed as a joke!*)

SPS Membership Report

August 1998

Achievements !!!

Congratulations to Steve Eckert who got his master emblem on on September 6, 1998 on Mt. Foerster.

Congratulations to Aaron Schuman who got his emblem on July 3, 1995 on Mt. Goddard.

Congratulations to Paul Graf who got his emblem on June 28, 1998 on Mt. Abbot.

Congratulations to RJ Secor who achieved 3X emblem status on August 24, 1998 on Mt. Darwin.

Congratulations to Tina Stough who achieved 2X Senior Emblem Status on Aug. 11, 1998 on Mt. Kaweah.

Congratulations to Barbara (Cohen) Sholle who became SPS list finisher no. 51 on Sept. 19, 1998 on Clouddripper.

Welcome !!! New Members

Paul Lipsohn
9152 Olive St
Bellflower, CA 90706-4450

Bruno Geiger
17626 Alora Ave
Cerritos, CA 90703

Ron Norton
5535 Pine Ave
Palmdale, CA 93551-1904
H: (805) 722-0012
W: (818) 677-2401

Joe White
1764 Troy Lane
Oceanside, CA 92054
H: (760) 439-9990
W: (760) 439-7751

Good Reading New Subscribers

Robert Amaral
6112 Dunsten Place
Elk Grove, CA 95758

John Robinson
11326 E. Hwy 26
Stockton, CA 95215

Mark Haas
433 Semple Avenue
Apton, CA 95003
(408) 684-0419

Susan Loftus
1278 21st Street
San Pedro, CA 90731
H: (310) 816-8744
W: (310) 831-8820

Address Changes

Mathias Selke and
Xin Gong
1885 Peterson Ave.
South Pasadena, CA 91030
323/550-1701H

Allan Conrad
2698 E. Yucatan
Grand Junction, CO 81506-
8656
(970)256-1150

Beth Epstein
Kim Gimenez
4048 E. Massachusetts St.
Long Beach, CA 90814-2825

Mary Helen / Glen Dawson
Villa Gardens
842 East Villa Street #350
Pasadena, CA 91101-1259

Bill Oliver
3910 W 182nd St #3
Torrance, CA 90504
(310) 323-6159

Joe White
1764 Troy Lane
Oceanside, CA 92054
H: (760) 439-9990
W: (760) 439-7751

CONGRATULATIONS SPS LIST FINISHER #51



**BARBARA SHOLLE IN CLOUD HEAVEN AS SHE
FINISHES THE SPS LIST ON CLOUDRIPPER**

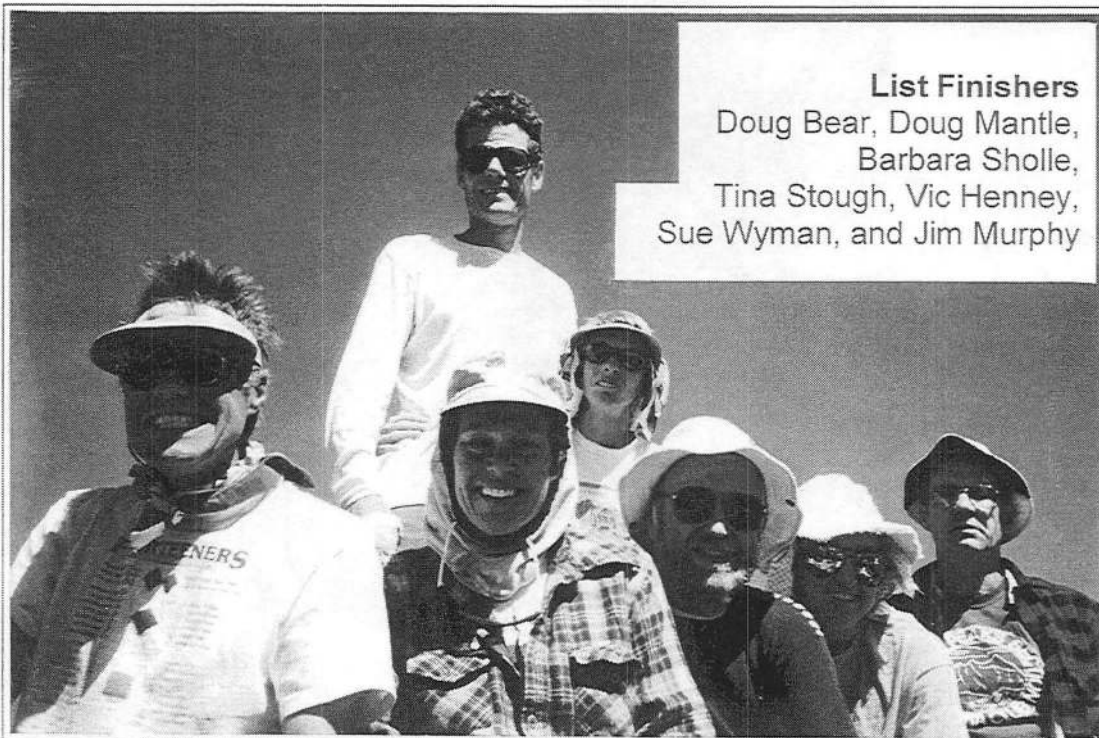
Cloudripper September 19, 1998

SPS List Finish Hike

by Barbara Cohen Sholle

After El Niño, and knee surgery in March, I thought that finishing the list this year would be doubtful. But climbing consecutive weekends from July 16-Sept. 4, including an 8 day trip, a 5 day trip, and a 4 day trip—made the day that I had dreamed about for several years appear to be a reality! On very short notice, eighteen hikers met me at Parcher's at 6:15 am for a jaunt (10mi rt, 5000' gain) up to Cloudripper. We followed the trail for about 600' above Green Lake (this is better than going directly south from the lake) and the rest was easy cross country (with a 300' loss) to the last 500' of class 2 rocks to the summit. We arrived within 5 ½ hours and champagne abounded on the summit. I was presented with some beautiful and very memorable gifts—Tina Stough gave me the List Finish Pin as well as a brass paperweight engraved with the dates of my HPS, DPS, and SPS finishes, Mary Motheral who was in Kenya at the time, had Doug give me an engraved onyx paperweight congratulating me, my husband Dave gave me a wood-burned plaque with my achievement on it as well as a T shirt with HPS, DPS, SPS boxes checked off. My pack was much heavier on the descent!

While holding the cylinder containing the register, I laughed and cried at the same time. Memories of prior trips came floating over me. So many wonderful friends have helped me along the way. I regret that Dave Dykeman and Vi Grasso could not be there to celebrate with me. Dave was my first mentor, having taken me on climbs of 48 Sierra Peaks. Vi provided much



List Finishers
 Doug Bear, Doug Mantle,
 Barbara Sholle,
 Tina Stough, Vic Henney,
 Sue Wyman, and Jim Murphy

encouragement and had every confidence that I would finish the list, when I did not have that confidence. She once told me that she'd take me up any peak, and if she couldn't, she'd get her friend Doug Mantle to do it. She passed away shortly before we were to do Devils Crag. Doug insisted on doing the climb. I had never climbed with him and was really nervous, but the trip went well and we all got the peak. Tina was on the trip and I copied every move that she made, including taking a split break when she did. Doug continued to help me get some of the other challenging

(technically difficult or remote) peaks. I am forever grateful for his sense of humor and his patience (that of a saint). My husband Dave has been unfailing in his support of my quest for the list and climbed most of my last 80 peaks with me. Upon seeing how far Tunemah was from the top of Finger, he chose not to do Tunemah—but I couldn't blame him—I wished I didn't have to do it either!

Completing this list has been an experience like no other. Mentally, physically, and emotionally, it makes graduate school, the two other lists, and even childbirth twice, pale in comparison!

Many friends couldn't attend and asked me to postpone it a few weeks or do it next year—but not only did I have a monkey on my back, I think it was King Kong and I knew that I had to strike while the iron was hot.

The participants and party goers were: Steve Eckert, Terry Flood, Carol Snyder, Vic Henney, Sue Wyman, Larry Tidball, Jack Miller, Jim Murphy, Mary Sue Miller, Mirna and Greg Roach, Scott Sullivan, Elena Sherman, Jack Wickel, Tina Stough, Doug Mantle, Doug Bear, Lori Beck, Duane and Betty McRuer, Scot Jamison and Yvonne, Dave Sholle, and me. Many thanks to Tina for hosting the party.



SEEING DOUBLE.....NO TRIPLE!
FEMALE TRIPLE LIST FINISHERS
Tina Stough, Barbara Sholle, Sue Wyman

Majka Burhardt & Eli Helmuth

Our 1998



Eli Helmuth on Lobuche

banquet speakers are a team - husband and wife climbers. I first learned about Majka in 1997 when I read about her receipt of the American Alpine Club's 1997 fellowship award. Always on the look out for speakers and since it had been a few years since we had heard from a female climber I called Majka (pronounced Mike-a) and we had a

delightful conversation. Majka expressed unbounding enthusiasm for climbing and lots of interest and energy. I was won over, and I encouraged the management committee to select Majka and her then soon to be husband, Eli Helmuth for the 1998 banquet speakers.

Majka Burhardt, age 22 grew up in Minnesota. She got involved in the outdoors by canoeing in Northern Minnesota and Canada and started climbing in 1993 in Wyoming. Majka currently guides for the American Alpine Institute (AAI) and has worked for Voyageur Outward Bound and Pacific Crest Outward Bound before coming to AAI.

Majka is in the process of completing her last year of undergraduate work at Princeton University, with a major in anthropology. She is writing her thesis on temporary cultures; specifically looking at mountaineering groups and corporate groups and the short term cultural bonds that they can form. We will have a chance to learn more about her studies at the banquet. The speakers' presentation will lace mountaineering adventures with stories about the local culture they traveled through to climb the mountains.

Eli Helmuth age 33, grew up all over the east coast, moved west 11 years ago and started climbing 13 years ago. For the last ten years, guiding has been Eli's career. Working first for Pacific Crest Outward Bound School and now at the American Alpine Institute, he has had the opportunity to travel and climb many places in the world.

The climbers were married on August 29, 1998 and live in Washington state when Majka isn't studying. For the immediate time being they live in New Jersey and are trying to deal with the lack of real mountains by rock climbing as much as possible and checking out the east coast climbing scene.

Majka climbed Cayambe (18,997), Cotopaxi (19,348), Chimborazo (20,703), Illiniza Sur (17,268), and Tungarara in Ecuador, as has Eli. She spent 2 months in Ecuador in 1996 climbing.

**1998 SPS Banquet Speakers
December 9, 1998**

In Nepal, Majka spent 2 ½ months traveling in the Everest and Anapurna regions in 1998. Majka soloed a peak that a few SPS members climbed a few years ago, Island Peak (20,305), (using fixed lines for descent only).

Eli and Majka have climbed to the summit ridge on Lobuhce peak (20,075) Majka received a mountaineering fellowship fund award from the AAC for an intended climb of the north face of Kwangde Lho. The climb was unsuccessful due to a wrist injury Majka suffered and has had to nurse for the past year.

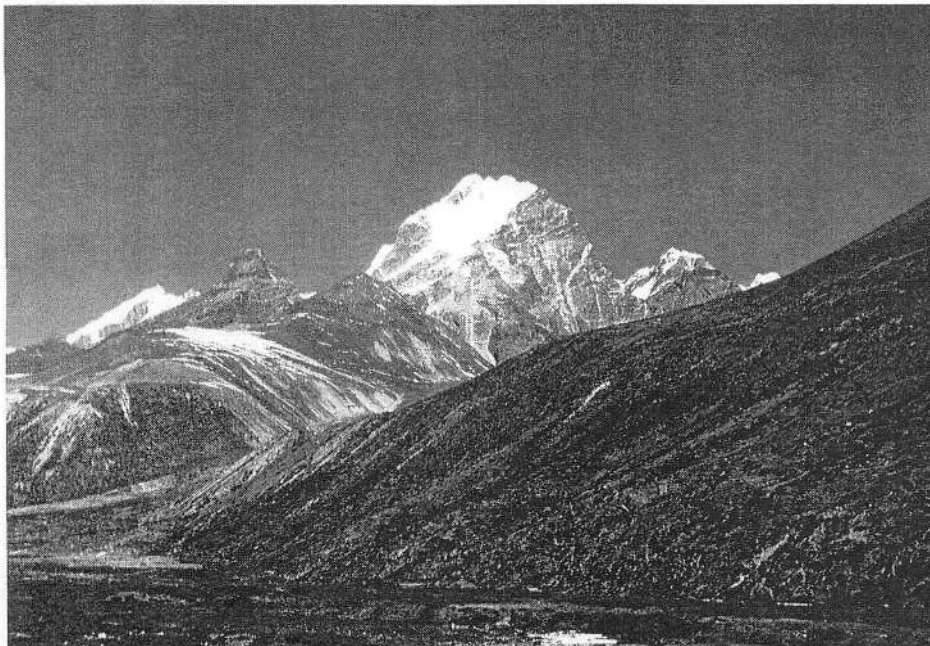
Majka and Eli both have completed numerous ascents in the North Cascades, the Sierra, and Alaska. In Alaska Eli and Majka intended to climb the Northeast buttress of Mt. Hunter. They did the first 3 pitches but had weather complications, and the death of a climbing friend on the route caused them to alter their plans.

This past June Majka participated in a climb of Denali as part of a group climbing to raise money to fight breast cancer. Climb Against the Odds is an effort sponsored by The Breast Cancer Fund of San Francisco that seeks to raise 2 million dollars for breast cancer research, advocacy, patient support and treatment. 5 breast cancer survivors and 7 women without cancer went to Denali in June and got to 16, 500' where they placed a cache for high camp. The expedition did not get to the summit. Majka commented "...though that is oddly appropriate as breast cancer has not yet been beaten. "

Majka and Eli are experienced ice climbers with ascents in Colorado and Nepal,. They have rock climbed all over the western US, working on new projects in the North Cascades and climbing the classics in Yosemite.

Eli has climbed in Ecuador extensively and made two trips to Patagonia. He put up a new route on Torre Norte among other climbs. He and Steve House made the first ascent of the Fathers and Sons wall on Denali in 1995, considered one of the last great problems on the mountain.

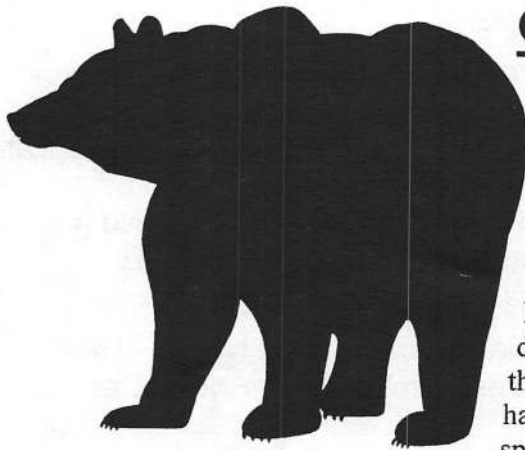
The couple has been climbing together for 2 years now and has many big trips planned for the future. In May 1999 they are going into the Juno ice fields in hopes of establishing new lines in the area and scouting out future projects.



Loboche Peak, Nepal

JOIN YOUR FELLOW CLIMBERS AT THE 1998 SPS BANQUET. TICKETS \$25.00

Send your check, along with dinner order specifying chicken, fish or vegetarian and a SASE to Barbee Tidball, 3826 North Weston Place, Long Beach, CA 90807. Questions, please call 562/424-1556. For a full description of the dinners and ticket order form see page 23 in this issue of *The Sierra Echo*. **See you at the Banquet.**



Center Basin – Bears

About two months ago Steve Eckert posted a Center Basin report (to Keith, Center and Bradley) about a trip that took place in mid July. Those of us on the trip encountered an unusually aggressive black bear. We actually had encounters on two nights, and it might have been two bears.

After Barbara's SPS list finish this weekend, we stopped at the Mt. Whitney ranger station in Lone Pine to look into getting a day-hike permit for Mt. Whitney. We chatted with the ranger at the counter for awhile, and we mentioned the aggressive bear we had encountered in Center Basin. She immediately handed us a special bear warning page that had been recently printed

concerning areas around and including Center Basin titled "Bear Warning and Emergency Food Storage Restrictions!!" It included phrases such as, "Due to local uncharacteristic aggressive black bear behavior...", and, "For your safety, sleep well away (100 yards if possible) from food canisters and boxes. Do not try to harass females with cubs or two adult bears travelling together. Several campers have been charged, scratched or bitten recently when they tried to defend food not stored in bear-proof boxes or canisters." The area of concern was "Bubbs Creek drainage upstream of Sphinx Creek..."

I'd say we got off pretty easy on the Center Basin trip, since we were not "charged, scratched or bitten", but the bear did not immediately back off from Steve standing up in front of it and yelling. It looks like the bear or bears have become even more aggressive since mid July. I don't see how this isn't going to come to a tragic ending for either the humans or bears, or both.

Anyway, just thought I'd report this, so that anyone traveling in the area knows to properly store food, to protect both themselves and the bears. Also, be careful while eating. Keep the food you are not immediately consuming locked in a canister, so your trip won't get cut short.

Dave Sholle

Bears and marmots are not the only dangerous wild creatures (other than SPS climbers) that we could encounter in the mountains. The Sierra is also home to cougars - mountain lions. The cougars do not pose a threat to climbers. The animal does however pose a threat to the big horn sheep populations. The San Francisco Examiner reported recently that "It is estimated that only 100 of the big horns exist in 3 preserves near Lee Vining, Mt Williamson and Mt Baxter. The cougar population in the Sierra is back to several thousand, perhaps back to its pre-white man numbers. Normally cougars prey on deer. However a few select cougars have acquired a taste for the big horns and are forcing them to stay in the in-hospitable high-country during winter, which interferes with eating and reproduction."

Fish & Game can not reduce the cougars numbers by hunting as it is prohibited by law. Trapping is difficult. Solutions need to be found to keep the populations in balance.

Mt Keith (13,977), Mt Bradley (13,289), Center Peak (12,760)

July 17-20, 1998 article by Steve Eckert

Can Somebody Hold My Hand?

Official SPS ice axe trip, 17-20 July 1998

Leaders: Barbara Cohen Sholle and Charlie Knapke

Followers: Mark Adrian, Mars Bonfire, Steve Eckert, Dave Sholle

This was supposed to be a pretty easy trip, made more enjoyable by the fact that El Ninny's snowpack should be covering the loose rock and scree of these class 2 peaks. Center Basin is a high and remote spot, where we would be free of people and bears, but some of us carried head nets in case the bugs were out in force. Some of us carried bear cannisters also, due to Vidette Meadows being only a few miles away. We took a 7mm static rope "just in case".

The hike in was uneventful. Onion Valley was not crowded and (for the first time in several trips for me) no ranger was there checking our permit. The famed snowpack of 98 does not exist at Kearsarge Pass, where we didn't even take ice axes off our packs for the short (and mostly avoidable) patches of snow. With a leisurely pace, the 13 miles to camp took all day, but we stopped below Golden Bear Lake (see way point CAMP, below) surrounded by water, stubby trees, and crags on 3 sides. Food was hung out of rodent reach...

Saturday we headed up a surprisingly loose chute toward Bradley. There was a strip of snow on the side, which two of us took advantage of while the rest plowed up the sand. Higher up the rocks became more solid, and soon we were at the saddle south of the peak - looking at third class options! It turns out the 2nd class route was covered in icy snow, and we kicked steps up to another notch that went as easy third for a move or two. (The rope was used on the way down to belay several people not comfortable with the short 50 degree slope.)

Back down by noon, we had lunch and crossed Center Basin to climb Center Peak. Charlie headed back to camp with a blown out boot sole, and I took over as co-leader since I also have an Angeles Chapter M rating. We wandered too far south on the way up Center. The footing is better on the far right of the east bowl, almost but not quite at the ridge.

And now about the trip report title: Only Mark knew in advance (beta from a friend) that Center Peak has a 4th class summit block! The SPS list and

Secor rate it 2nd class, but if you climb to the REAL peak, it's an 8-foot boulder which does not work well for short people. Tall people can grab the edge and finesse it with friction, short people need a boost or a stack of rocks. I got up it without a rope, but we belayed everyone else. When I get my film back, the web version of this report will have a picture of Mark plastered to the edge where he was heard to say "Can somebody hold my hand?" I've got witnesses!

Back in camp for happy hour, we had an old Coke that we picked up above Kearsarge Lakes on the way in, real Margaritas with corn snow, nuts, chips, confections, and a lot of fun. We should have had MORE of the good stuff, however, because a bear got most of what was left that night. It was 75 degrees at 11000' in the late afternoon. Definitely a summer trip!

About 20 minutes after hitting the sack, Charlie's streak of (bad) luck continued when he came shooting out of his tent to scare a bear away from his (low-hanging) food. I've had my cannister batted around before, but this time the bear knew precisely what to target. (S)he returned over and over until the response was too slow and the stuff sack was shredded.

So much for discussions that Center Basin (11k) is too high or too remote for bears to be a problem. Cannisters may soon be the only way for responsible people to store their food unless steel food lockers are provided by the rangers. I've started collecting GPS waypoints of all known bear boxes, and would like your help. See this URL for details:

<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Hills/1814/BearBoxes.htm>

We, as Sierra Club climbers, must NOT contribute to the death of bears - and they WILL be shot if they get human food too many times. The rangers are (unwittingly?) contributing to the problem by releasing campground bears in the

backcountry. They are smart, and they share their techniques quickly.

Sunday we climbed Keith under gathering clouds, with only a few drops falling while we were on the summit. Charlie hiked out with some borrowed food and a boot sole glued back on with Future Glue (a gel form of Super Glue). Mark's boot sole had also started to separate, but it was a newer boot and the few drops of glue remaining after repairing Charlie's boot held Mark's sole for the rest of the trip. (First aid kits should contain something like Future Glue Gel, which can fix boots and ripped fabric in addition to broken glasses.)

Back in camp around 4pm we had almost enough time to consider packing out. We decided that mosquitoes rule and we would just get up early the next morning. (Vidette Meadow had a healthy mosquito population, Center Basin was bug-free.) We ate and drank and turned in early. Now that the remaining food would fit in the 3 cannisters we had, we felt safe. The first known bear visit was 4am, when I heard it nuzzling cookware left on a rock. It did not bother my cannister, and ignored sunscreen and blistik left intentionally exposed. This bear knows easy food, and walked away instead of running when we yelled!

Eating breakfast pre-dawn, I noticed movement behind Mark. Yelling at the top of my lungs, I startled Mark more than the bear... Mark turned and found himself sitting on a rock eye-to-eye with a bear. Being 3 feet away, the bear decided to lunge at Mark's food sack before retreating, and got away with a handful of granola (and the bag). Does that count as an aggressive bear attack? A charge? Mark was shaken, but did not ask someone to hold his hand again. The bear lurked in the trees until I got around behind it and threw some rocks while doing a charge of my own. My yells were answered by a remote coyote, and the bear finally went away - probably to get some friends for a counter attack.

We stayed together down to Vidette Meadows, then split up and hiked over Kearsarge at different paces. 6 hours will get you from Center Basin to the cars, under 5 if you tried real hard, or 8 hours at a more leisurely pace.

This group was a lot of fun: Good conversations and no conflicts made a fairly hot scree slog type of trip into a good climb. Thanks to Barbara and Charlie for organizing it, and let's all think encouraging thoughts about Barbara's list finish (now only 12 peaks away).

Clouds Rest & Half Dome via JMT

August 21-23 By Mark Day

The need to pre-plan a trip into Yosemite during the summer starts months in advance but too many would be weekend backpackers haven't got the clue yet. We drove up Thursday and stopped at Wawona golf course in time for a 1:00 pm tee off. If you play golf this nine-hole course can deliver something I've never had, a deer. I've had eagles and birdies but on #7 I plunked a deer, (She was unharmed). Then we drove down to the Curry village where we had reserved a room. Not a tent cabin, been in them and don't trust the neighborhood. The line and wait outside the reservation office was over an hour long with people trying to rearrange their stay. Friday morning we caught the tour bus that takes you up to Tuolumne Meadows. Luckily I had a reservation for this because it was packed and some were on standby. Although the bus cost \$12.00, we were dropped off twenty feet from the trailhead. From there we packed in eight miles on the John Muir Trail to Sunrise High Sierra Camp. This time of year it was closed so we got a great spot. Saturday an early start got us to the trailhead for Clouds Rest before noon. Nobody was at the intersection camp so we set up (This site had a bear bag cable) grabbed our daypacks and took off. This class 1 trail from the southeast was hot with not much tree cover. Around four miles and near 3,000' gain brought us to the top. The view of looking down onto Half Dome was shared with ten others who had come up from Tenaya Lake. A fifteen-mile day got us back to camp and a waiting bear. We had bear bagged and carried in a bear canister so she was just browsing.

Next morning we raced up the cables and were the first ones on top of Half Dome. Not for long though as a dozen people trudged up. Back down to our packs, then to Happy Isles where we had left the car and on to Visalia in time to make our 3:00 pm tee off at the Links.



Mt Rainier

photo by Larry Tidball

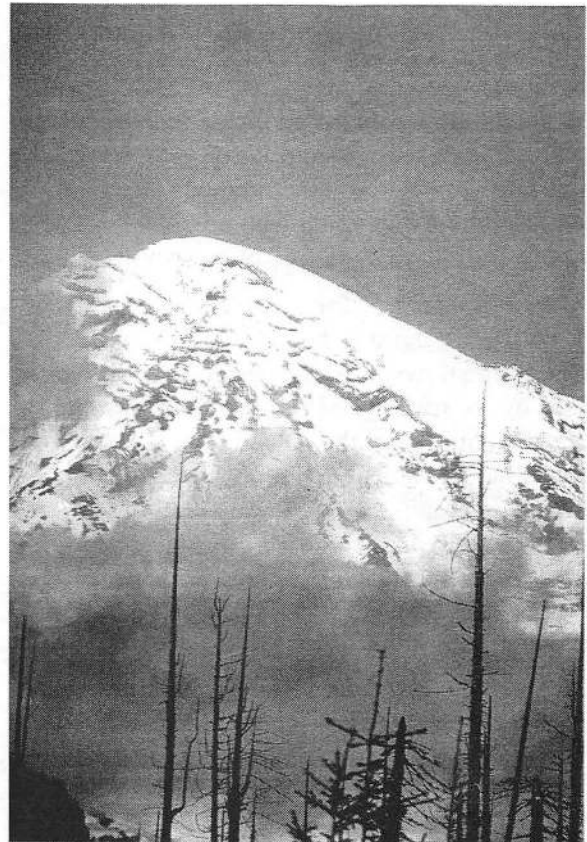
Mount Rainier

August 15-17, 1998

by Ron Hudson

I took advantage of a work-related trip to the Seattle area and brought along my mountain gear for this 14,410' snow clad majestic peak. Friday night I met Cathy Reynolds at Sea-Tac airport and we drove about two hours to the mountains. There are some Forest Service roads just outside the National Park, so we didn't have to pay for a campground. Camped, then left the spot early Saturday and were at the Paradise Ranger Station when it opened at 6:30 to get the climbing permit. Then packed up and hiked the 4500' gain to Muir Camp at 10,000'. Although it had been hot (90) the previous week in Seattle, a weather change was forecast, even rain possible Sunday. It was 100 degrees in British Columbia (Douglas Lake) where I did a 24-hour orienteering event 10 days before. Also, there had been little or no snow on Rainier since June, so crevasses were open and the lower glaciers had hard ice. Little opportunity to do one of the less popular routes without being involved in some serious technical ice. And, with a two person rope team it's best to be on a route with others nearby if one of us should fall in a crevasse. We were prepared with the right gear, though, with prussiks, slings, carabiners, pulleys, ice screw, deadman, end bights of rope, etc.

We set up the tent, along with a dozen or so other tent parties (a number were just backpackers). There were 15 or so in the climbers' hut, and the RMI hut had its daily 25 or so clients. The word was to start at midnight or before to avoid soft snow and rockfall hazard, and many were preparing for that. However, people were coming and going throughout the afternoon across the Cowlitz Glacier next to camp. Also, the freezing level was to be at about 9000' rather than the 12-14K feet during the heat wave. So, we felt we could get some sleep and leave 2-3 AM or so. Got awaked by a number leaving at 11 PM, then at 1AM the RMI group was getting ready. We got suited up and left at 2AM; we were the last ones to leave Camp Muir. Did the traverse across the Cowlitz and up a rocky trail to Cathedral Gap. Left our crampons on for the rock the others ahead did, and left them on the entire



climb. Also stayed roped together the whole climb; although we carried the rope in loose coils when we were on the rocky sections.

We could see in the waning moonlight there was a group camped (bivouaced) in the Ingraham Flats area which has campsite about 1000' higher than Camp Muir. Next we caught up with the RMI group when the trail went below the Ingraham Headwall; also about six climbers had turned back. Then another rocky trail went up Dissapointment Cleaver, that we followed, about 1000' gain. There was some rockfall hazard here, so groups had to keep aware of others above and wait to go at the right time. Pretty different from the other 3 times I climbed Ranier; all three it had snowed about a foot the day before, and new trail had to be broken. In 1981, we couldn't tell there was rock underneath while going up the Cleaver. In 1992 I didn't find the new-snow-covered route on the Cleaver, so we

3 followed the steps of one group in front of us and zig-zagged around crevasses up the Ingraham Headwall direct.

From the top of the rocky Disappointment Cleaver the route traversed back left most of the way toward the top of Nisqually Cleaver. This way, difficulties of surmounting a number of ice cliffs were avoided. There were a couple spots with short ladders and gaping crevasses next to the trail, but they were marked. RMI must have loved the conditions; a good safe well-beaten path that a thousand or so people had already used. Very straightforward (easy routefinding) for me this time, where two years ago (on the Emmons Glacier route) I had to find my own route with no climbers ahead, breaking trail through 12-18" of new snow.

At the west end of the ice cliffs we proceeded upward toward the summit. The early climbers were coming down now and passed us; also we passed by the resting RMI group. On this south ridge, though, we got the fury of the cold wind. I didn't bring my warmest clothes or heavy boots for the summer climb. But the wind was 20-30 mph and temperature in the mid 20's. Fingers and toes were cold but manageable as long as we kept moving. I felt a bit weak and disoriented for a short while; but some food seemed to cure it. Cathy was a bit cold too, but had no problem except earlier with headlamp batteries that had to be changed. The icy wind was also a stimulus to push on quickly to the summit. Finally at the summit crater, and then to its far side and 200' higher to the true summit. Right at the summit it was not easy to stand up—wind about 50 mph. After a couple quick photos we descended back to the crater. Fortunately, we were in the worst wind for only a few minutes since it was from the northwest and the crater is southeast, shielding from wind. Interesting that only a few bothered to brave the summit fury as we did. Many of the RMI group didn't bother to cross the crater. We got to the summit at 9AM.

Then we went fast down the well-worn trail that I called the "mountain bike path" to warmer, less windier, and denser air. We hung out above the Cleaver rock and checked with the RMI guides if they wanted us to move a certain way to avoid rockfall. We ended up among their teams to minimize danger to them and to us. The lead guide forged a circuitous route and had us all move quickly among the room-size ice cubes and seracs of the lower Ingraham Headwall. I believe that is where 11 people lost their lives 10 years or so ago when a serac broke loose above an RMI party eating their lunch.

It was hot in the sun then, but for only a short while as the clouds engulfed us just below Ingraham Flats. It even was snowing a bit! No more clear scenery back to the camp! Finally we got to the tent where things were warm and dry inside. So, 7 hours up and 5 hours down. Since we were not very tired, we could have gone back down the mountain then, but why descend into the clouds and rain when it was better weather at 10,000'?. It cleared up at Camp Muir and the wind stopped. So we ate, talked with others and caught up on sleep. We could see Adams, Hood, St Helens and other volcanoes in the distance. Went down Sunday morning; had to put on clothes as we descended into the gloomy cloud layer. Kind of a whiteout through much of the cloud layer with about 200' visibility. Also I slipped a bit on the hard Muir snowfield; I need new lugs on my boots. Not sunny back at Paradise, but the clouds were overhead. Drove back through traffic and left Sea-Tac in the evening.

So, all in all an enjoyable climb with some challenge to it in the wind. But no belaying or crevasse jumping as I did my previous two times, and there was plenty of ice and rock for scenery.

CONGRATULATIONS



Scot Jamison & Yvonne (Smith)
October 2, 1998

Tina (Stough) & Tom Bowman
October 10, 1998

Mountain Records

I wish to thank Greg Roach and Dan Richter for placing a new ammo box on Black, Doug Bear for removing the damaged ammo box there, and Larry Tidball for carrying an SPS aluminum cylinder and book to Foerster. Thank yous also go to those who placed books: Terry Flood on Morrison, Barbara Sholle on Pilot Knob (N), Nile Sorenson on Sill, Bob Wyka on Young. I left one on Disaster. I hope one was also placed on Maclure, but the leaders never sent me a register report for me to know!

For a while, we were replacing missing Sierra Club cast aluminum boxes; I suppose they were someone's idea of a fine souvenir. Now and then a few SPS cast-aluminum cylinders and their contents have disappeared (souvenirs? considered trash by someone? thrown off a peak?), including in the past several years those on Hitchcock and Hilgard. The newest phenomenon is the disappearance of the SPS bound register books—unused or recently started. One I placed August 31, 1997 on Pilot Knob (N) disappeared this year, and another left by me May 4, 1996 on Barnard also has vanished. Are the blank notebooks that desirable? Are sprites busy undoing my efforts? Theories, anyone? I'm perplexed.

September 27, 1998

Tina Stough, Mountain Records Chair

Tina

Blackhawk and Tower

by Greg Gerlach

Bob Wyka and I were on a scheduled SPS trip last year when Al Conrad mentioned that he did Tower and Blackhawk during a single four day trip. Bob and I decided that doing both peaks during the same trip was a great idea and therefore scheduled the peaks for this past August 8-11.

Bob and I drove up Highway 395 in two separate cars, leaving one at the Leavitt Meadows trailhead and the second at the Kennedy Meadows Resort. Bob rented a cabin for the night at the resort, but the noise made it hard to sleep.

We had a leisurely breakfast at the resort, and were on the trail by 8:30a.m. We motored up the trail, arriving at Lunch Meadow at 1:30p.m. The first couple of miles on the trail were dry and dusty due to the all of the packers. However, the upper trail was actually very pleasant. After dropping our packs at Lunch Meadows, Bob and I were on our way to Blackhawk by 1:45p.m. We got a little off route but corrected our mistake and arrived on top of the peak at 3:30p.m. After a few minutes on top of Blackhawk, we signed the summit register and started our descent. Bob and I did a standing glissade down a small valley filled with snow, finally running out of the white stuff at the 9200

foot elevation. The two of us arrived back at Lunch Meadows at 5:00. The next day Bob and I were on the trail by 8:15a.m. The trail took us through Summit Meadows, over Bond Pass and then over Dorothy Lake Pass to Ruth Lake, where we set up camp. We started for Tower at 12:15p.m. by ascending the obvious col southeast of Helen Lake. From the col, Bob and I dropped down about 200 feet and contoured over and up to the saddle located south of Tower Lake. From the saddle, we followed the standard route, staying 100 feet or so below the ridge to the easy class 3 staircase chute. We were on top at 4p.m., signed the summit register, and started our descent at 4:10p.m. The two of us were back at camp by 7p.m. with plenty of light still left to prepare dinner.

The next morning, Bob and I were on the trail at 8:10a.m. and arrived at the car located at Leavitt Meadows by 2:15p.m. We had originally scheduled four days for the trip, but managed to do it in only three days. Trip statistics:

43 miles and 11,000 feet of elevation gain.
Overall, it was a very nice trip and an efficient way to climb the two peaks.

Muir, Hale, and Young Peaks

Leaders, Bob Wyka and Allan Conrad

August 28, 29, 30, 1998

The five of us were all eager to get into the Sierra and have the 5400 feet of climbing behind us as we started up the Mt. Whitney trail toward Trail Crest at 7:15 am. We had just left the parking lot where evidence of a bear break-in was obvious to a car with its window broken and rear seat ripped up. The ranger notice on the car windshield said "Don't blame the bears, it is the fault of us people who leave food in their cars."

The trail is as I remember it from some 12 years ago except now the 99 switchbacks have been relocated to avoid the late season snow fields. Once we got to Trail Crest the leader took off for Muir having found no takers to join him. After a false start up the wrong shallow chute I located the correct route which was made evident by the well-defined dirt use trail that stands out among the granite rocks. The group reconvened at a very nice campsite about 300 feet above Guitar Lake, which positioned us well for the climb of Hale the next morning.

For the ascent to Hale, we used the east-facing chute north of peak 3879m that placed us in a direct approach and a climb of only 1 hour fifty minutes

from the camp to the summit. The weather in the morning looked ominous and made us hike a little faster. Peter Christian was suffering from some altitude problems and decided to stay in camp. Greg Gerlach started two hours before the group (at 6am) since he had additional objectives of Hitchcock and Guyot - a very challenging 20-mile day! It was rather chilly on Hale so Al Conrad, Larry Hoak and the leader made a hasty retreat and managed to traverse over to Young from Hale in about an hour as the weather started to clear. We spent over an hour on top enjoying the views of the Kaweahs, Milestone basin peaks and the Whitney area in pleasant temperatures. We arrived back at camp at 2pm and finally got around to dinner at 6pm. We watched with apprehension as the storm clouds began to darken around us and we finished dinner just in time before the rain started. Greg finally arrived back at camp at 8:20pm in a driving rain (and with four peaks behind him).

The next morning was clear and mild as we left camp between 6:30 and 7am finally reaching the cars before 1pm and an early arrival home.

- Bob

It is with great joy that I announce to the world that this weekend, Linda McDermott qualified for SPS Emblem status on Mt. Abbot.

Congratulations Linda!

Our group consisted of Linda, Mitch Miller, Paul Sue, Richard Whitcomb, Ron Bartell, and myself (Gary Craig). We packed in early Saturday to Treasure Lakes in the Little Lakes valley, and at noon Mitch, Richard, and I trudged off, up the Hourglass to snag Mt. Dade --- we needed it, and the others relaxed in camp. After summiting, Richard had a nasty slide of about 100' or so while descending the snow in the Hourglass, which had hardened up some in the late afternoon. He managed to arrest before hitting the rocks, and was luckily only shaken and bruised. This was enough to convince Richard to remain in camp on Sunday, forgoing Abbot.

The remaining five of us headed for the North Couloir route on Abbot at 6:45 Sunday morning. The snow at the bottom of the couloir was sufficiently hard when we got to it (despite direct sun for a few hours) that we used crampons for a short bit before reaching the rock on the lower right side of the couloir. No problems here; we scrambled up (cl 3) to Abbot's north ridge, and then south along the ridge to the summit, which we reached about 11:30. Celebratory brownies were passed around, followed by the obligatory "summit hero" photos. The return to camp went smoothly, and we were packing up the tents to head out by 3PM.

The weather was cool and breezy all weekend. It was mostly clear, except for some lenticular clouds on Sunday afternoon. No rain. A fine weekend.

Gary Craig

Glacier Ridge, Lion Rock, Triple Divide, Whaleback

August 8-15, 1998

(private trip report by David F. Sholle)

In early August of 1997 Barbara Cohen (now Sholle), Diann Fried, Greg Gerlach and I went in from Mineral King over Glacier Pass and Black Rock Pass for an eight day trip. Greg and Diann had to leave part way through the trip because of an injury, but Barbara and I continued on, picking off peaks. By 8:30 on the morning of the sixth day, we were on top of Stewart, and we were thinking about going on to Lion Rock, but we got rained on as we came down from Stewart. We waited out the rain in the tent until late morning, and then we decided to start heading back out, and leave Lion Rock for 1998. On the seventh day (sounds biblical), we went from Little Five Lakes over Black Rock Pass, down to Spring Lake, and then over Glacier Pass. Barbara still needed Needham, and, having driven in twice to Mineral King that summer, and not wishing to come in once more just for Needham, we decided to go for it. We switched to daypacks just below Glacier Pass, and then climbed over Sawtooth to Needham, then back over (almost) Sawtooth again to the pass, put on the backpacks and down to Monarch Lake at dusk. We were beat, and I later checked the stats on that day, and found we had done about 7000 feet of gain, much of it with backpacks. But at least we didn't have to drive into Mineral King again!

So, Barbara needed Lion Rock, as well as Triple Divide, Glacier Ridge and Whaleback, and Doug Mantle graciously offered to take us in on a pack trip from the north in the summer of 1998. On Friday evening, August 7, we met Doug, Mary Motheral and Ron Jones (he needed Triple Divide) at the Horse Corral Pack Station. The next morning, as we were eating breakfast, Tina Stough drove up after an all night drive from Long Beach. We left our gear with the packer, and then drove several miles to the trailhead, where we were greeted by clouds of mosquitoes. We shouldered our daypacks and headed off for Roaring River. At one point, we heard a crashing in the trees, and looked over to see a large bear coming down a big tree trunk head first, sort of in a controlled fall. The bear hit the ground, looked back at us, and took off running in the other direction. We had to take off our boots to wade across Sugarloaf creek, but the other crossings were possible on logs. We arrived at the aptly named Roaring River and set up camp. Doug had brought along a large screen tent, so we set it up for the first

time, to get the bugs out, so to speak. The insect type bugs weren't bad at Roaring River.

The next morning we left camp early, headed for Cloud Canyon. Mary stayed in order to help get the gear together for the packer. There was soon a swift water crossing - somehow most of us were able to cross it by balancing on slime covered submerged rocks, but Barbara waded across in Texas. I brought along my small video camera, and watching the video later, I'm surprised that it was possible for most of us to cross the stream without removing boots. As we were passing through Big Wet Meadow, approaching Cloud Canyon, we had a very impressive view of the spine of Whaleback, making me wonder how in the world we were going to climb it. There was one last stream crossing of Cloud Creek as the trail veered off from Cloud Canyon into Colby Canyon. The crossing was simple - there was a large log about three feet above a pool maybe three or four feet deep. The log, however, still had large dead branches sticking up out of it, and as I was maneuvering around the branches, I turned sideways, so that I was traversing the log while facing perpendicular to the log. Not a good idea. I began to lose balance, and of course I couldn't step back or forward to regain balance, so I made a quick decision that rather than fall in head first, I'd plunge in feet first, so I jumped in and then scrambled to shore. Fortunately my camcorder was in my pack, and did not get soaked, even though I was in chest deep water. We continued on perhaps several hundred yards into Cloud Canyon to camp, where I dried out as we ate lunch. We then left some equipment to mark the spot for the packer and Mary, and went back down to the junction and took the trail up into Colby Canyon to climb Whaleback. Ron had climbed it before, so when we left the trail, he stayed on it to go up to Colby Lake. We contoured up the east side of Whaleback, and eventually reached the ridge top just north of the summit. We then followed the ridge top south to the summit, doing some exhilarating walking on a (dull) knife edge in places. The register entries show that Whaleback is generally only climbed by those working on lists. The view over to the miles long Glacier Ridge was impressive. We returned to camp, where Ron and Mary had set up the screen tent, and we enjoyed dinner surrounded by a flotilla of bear canisters.

Tina took off Monday morning with her backpack and headed out early to go over Lion Lake Pass and Lion Rock Pass to the Big Arroyo area to bag some peaks she needed. She said she would return either Thursday or Friday. Barbara, Doug, Mary and I headed up Cloud Canyon to do Glacier Ridge. On this trip, I traveled most of the length of Cloud Canyon six times, so I think I can safely say the best way to travel it. Stay on the east side of the creek, but stay close to the creek, except in the occasional spots where thick brush or small cliffs next to the creek force you to temporarily move away from the creek onto the adjacent boulder fields. We crossed the creek near where the two side streams come down into it, near the perpendicular ridge that comes down to the east into Cloud Canyon from the summit of Glacier Ridge. We saw Tina heading up the snow slope toward Lion Lake Pass. We worked on up into the bowl south of the perpendicular ridge, and attained the main ridge of Glacier Ridge just south of the summit. There are several ways to get to the top of this ridge. One way is to go more to your left, then follow the ridge back to the right to the summit area, as Doug did. Another way is to do some high third class scrambling that puts you almost directly at the summit block. Some took this way down. A third way is to go between the other two, and scramble up some exposed but not difficult boulders and ledges, which Mary, Barbara and I did. I went up ahead of them and was able to get some very nice video of Mary and Barbara coming around a corner with impressive exposure.

Once we had regrouped on the ridge near the summit, there were two obstacles left. The first was a steep ten foot friction slab, which would be easy in rock shoes, going up or down, but which really drew your attention in mountaineering boots. The second was the final fifteen foot summit block, which started with chickenheads on a vertical section. The chickenheads began to run out near the top, but the angle eased at the same time. Doug had already set up a rope and proceeded to belay us up the friction section and the summit block. If one were to solo this peak, but still wished to use a rope, it is possible to easily walk around the back side of the summit block, tie a sling to a boulder, and then throw the rope over the top for protection. It is also possible to bypass the friction slab, by either working out a slightly different approach to the top, or by following a catwalk (that Tina used when she climbed Glacier Ridge on the way back from her Big Arroyo excursion) that takes you past the friction slab. I remember seeing something that I'd

describe as a catwalk (not a cakewalk), but it was for a much more sure footed cat than I am. On the way down, I was videoing as Doug was belaying Mary down a steep section, and in reviewing the tape, I noticed how silly the conversation was. Mary got stuck at some point, then said, "I'm making my move.", to which I replied, "It sounds like you are in a singles bar." Then, when she realized that the rest of the terrain below her was easy, she said to Doug, "I'm going down now.", to which Doug responded, "I certainly hope so." You had to be there. We continued down without incident, following friction slabs to Cloud Creek.

Early on Tuesday, Barbara, Doug, Ron and I headed back up Cloud Canyon to do Triple Divide. We left Cloud Creek and went up the slopes toward Triple Divide Pass, going south of Glacier Lake. There were snowfields then some loose steep scree as we approached the pass. We left poles and ice axes at the pass, then followed the ridge to the top. There were no real difficulties, just occasional decisions on which way to go around or to surmount an obstacle. Amazingly, as I opened the register, there was Ron's signature from a week earlier. He had backpacked in a week ago to climb the peak. Go figure. I think he went along on this trip just to see the surprise on our faces when we saw his signature. The view from the top was impressive, and we could clearly see the snow chute route that we were going to take on Lion Rock. There were thunderstorms to the south, and we wondered how Tina was doing. We descended back to the pass, then quickly descended snowfields to near Glacier Lake for lunch. We were baking in the sun on the snow. Ron and Doug decided it would be wise to continue west to the top of Cloud Canyon, near Lion Lake Pass, then descend on the snowfields back down Cloud Canyon to check out that route for doing Lion Rock on Thursday. As we cut over, clouds rolled in, the temperature plummeted, and we started down the snowfields as lightning struck the ridges above, sending echoing thunder down the canyon. We were surrounded by wet walls of loose rock, flowing water beneath the snow, occasionally visible through fissures, which along with the thunder and lightning really added an ominous feeling to the walk back down. We were in an off and on downpour on the way back to camp, and arrived soaked. The rain didn't really taper off until later that evening.

On Wednesday we stayed in camp and dried things off. Even Doug, deep in the Sierra, spent the day in camp without climbing a peak, instead

enjoying reading a book. Admittedly he had just come back from a trip climbing Mt. Alberta in the Canadian Rockies.

It rained a little bit early Thursday morning, and Barbara, Doug and I left camp early, headed back up Cloud Canyon once more for Lion Rock. We made good time, and met Tina coming back up over Lion Lake Pass. She had climbed Triple Divide, Big Kaweah, Eagle Scout, and Stewart, and was on her way to Glacier Ridge before returning to camp. We descended and traversed above Lion Lake, but below the un-named lake to its southeast. Meanwhile the weather was becoming increasingly threatening. We then worked our way up to the bottom of the snow chute on the northeast side of Lion Rock. Normally this snow chute ends before the saddle between the two peaks, entailing moving from snow to icy rock. We had seen from the top of Triple Divide two days earlier that it looked like the snow went all the way to the saddle, and our view from the bottom of the chute confirmed it. Doug led up the chute, with Barbara between he and I. The snow was too soft for crampons, and greatly steepened in the last hundred or so feet. Near the top, the chute was narrow, but the nearby rock walls didn't provide any assistance, being wet and steep. The snow had melted away from the rocks, and I couldn't help but think, "Gee, if I slip and I don't immediately arrest in this soft snow, I'll probably quickly slide between the snow and the rock." These little confrontations with one's own fear and doubt, and how one handles them, is, to me, one of the attractions of mountaineering. Achieving the careful balance between pushing oneself too far versus never taking a risk to improve one's climbing is an essential part of becoming a long lived mountaineer. Barbara took a belay for the last seventy or so feet, I climbed it without a belay by

concentrating on what was happening with my axe immediately in front of me. Once we got to the saddle, we left our axes and quickly scrambled over wet rock to the summit as light rain began to fall. The summit stay was short, and we hurried back to the saddle where Doug belayed down Barbara and then me (self preservation took precedence over pride when gazing down the steepest section) one rope length. To give some idea how steep it was, Doug descended the section facing in, but then lower down did a standing glissade to the bottom of the chute, while Barbara and I continued to kick steps facing in.

We continued down to above Lion Lake, while the weather became less threatening, then had a snack and continued on to Lion Lake Pass. Doug hurried on ahead to camp, while Barbara and I walked back more slowly. As we were descending from Lion Lake Pass, we saw a figure near a small lake in Cloud Canyon. It was Tina, who had just come back from soloing Glacier Ridge. We hiked back to camp together as it started to rain again.

The next day we packed up and waited for the packer to show up at noon. Tina spotted the packer first, saying, "Here comes the packer." Then Barbara said, "He just fell off of his horse." The horse had bolted at a stream crossing, throwing him. We took off for Roaring River, spending the night there, then hurried out to Horse Corral the next day, where we were able to take showers while waiting for the packer. It was a great trip, and we were lucky to get all of the peaks considering the amount of rain that fell. Of course it helped immensely that with Doug leading, there was never any wasted effort.

The Northern Sierra Peaks Guide Second Edition, Deluxe Version

is now available at cost in limited quantity. There are 83 peaks with 113 routes described, from Adams Peak to Leavitt Peak. Winter ski ascent information is included. The new booklet contains 25 color photos, an index, and high quality printing. Send a check for \$13.70, plus a 9" x 12" SASE with \$2.62 in postage for First Class delivery, or \$1.49 for book rate (much slower), for each copy requested, made out to: Pete Yamagata. Mail to: Pete Yamagata, 2109 1/2 10th Street #3, Sacramento, CA 95818-1313. Allow three to four weeks for delivery.

Recess, Gemini, 7 Gables, Hooper, Senger

SPS Trip Sep 18-20, 1998 by Ron Hudson

We started at the Bear diversion dam (Bear Ck trailhead 7400') near Lake Edison.

Hiked along Bear Creek to the Muir Trail - about 7 miles - and then another 1/3 miles south to the stream shown on the 7.5 topo. Left our packs and proceeded up the ridge toward Recess on the N side of the stream. On to the summit via the SW ridge. Back to our packs about 6 pm and moved them another 1.5 miles and made camp at the Lake Italy trail intersection. Frosty in the morning but started at 7AM and moved packs 4 mi to Sandpiper Lake. Then went up Gemini and then over to 7 Gables. Some 3rd class on 7 Gables - SE face and ridge to the N summit which is at least 40 feet higher than the peaklet to the SE. Then down the west face back to our packs. Next moved the packs 1.5 mi to Marie Lk (E side) and had about half an hour of light to set up. Perfect campsite - sandy, flat, trees too, protected, dry, nobody around. We started again at 7AM Sunday moving our packs 1.5 mi to Selden Pass. We went W from the pass across a slabby open area (like a granite parking lot in places) to the col E of Hooper and up to the summit block. The 4th class there is easier than the Hermit and Clarence King. All seven of us did this peak; 3 of the 7 took a belay. We were back to Selden Pass before noon and realized we may be able to go home a day early. Three of the group then departed to make the Florence Lake boat. We 4 scurried up and down Selden and did the tedious 16 miles back to and around Florence Lake to the cars which had been shuttled by those who started back early. So all arrived by 9:30 PM, and then drove home. Total for the 3 days was about 14,000' gain and 46 miles—some good exercise.

Weather was great. Bright and sunny, mild, no wind most of the time. Clouds came over Sunday afternoon. I encouraged people to wear light shoes and to pack minimal weight. 3 got all 5 peaks, 3 got 3, and 1 got two. The lake, rock, and meadow scenery was very spectacular. Flowers were still out in this El Nino year and most annuals were still green. Went across some snow fields, but they were no problem - firm granular crust with slight suncups. Participants were myself and Erik Siering (co-ldr), Bob Wyka, Greg Gerlach, Mars Bonfire, Bruno Geiger, and Herb Buehler.



Sierra Photo by Barbara or Dave Sholle



SIERRA PEAKS SECTION – ANNUAL BANQUET

TICKET ORDER FORM: Mail this form to Barbee Tidball, 3826 N. Weston Place, Long Beach, CA 90807-3317 along with a SASE for you tickets.

MAJKA BURHARDT & ELI HELMUTH BANQUET SPEAKERS

Name (s) _____

Number of Tickets _____ at \$25.00. Total amount enclosed _____

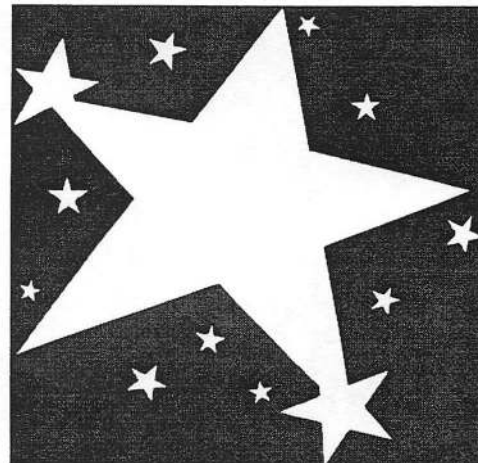
Dinner Selections: Involtini di Pollo con Erbe _____
(Chicken breast stuffed garden vegetables and Fontina in a herb sauce)

 Trance di Tonno alla Checca _____
(Grilled fresh tuna in a fresh tomato basil sauce with capers.)

 Pasta Boscaiola _____
(Artichokes, asparagus and mushrooms sauteed with extra virgin oil, oil with a touch of cream and tomato sauce and served over egg fettuccine)

Location: The Cultural Center – Greek Orthodox Church, 5761 Colorado, Long Beach

Time: 6:00 pm No Host Bar, 7:30 dinner.



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