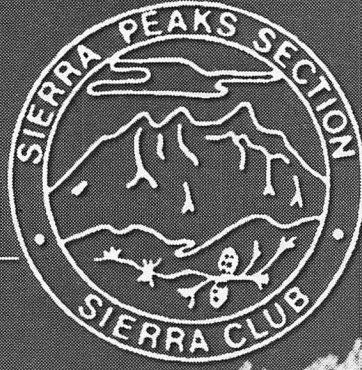


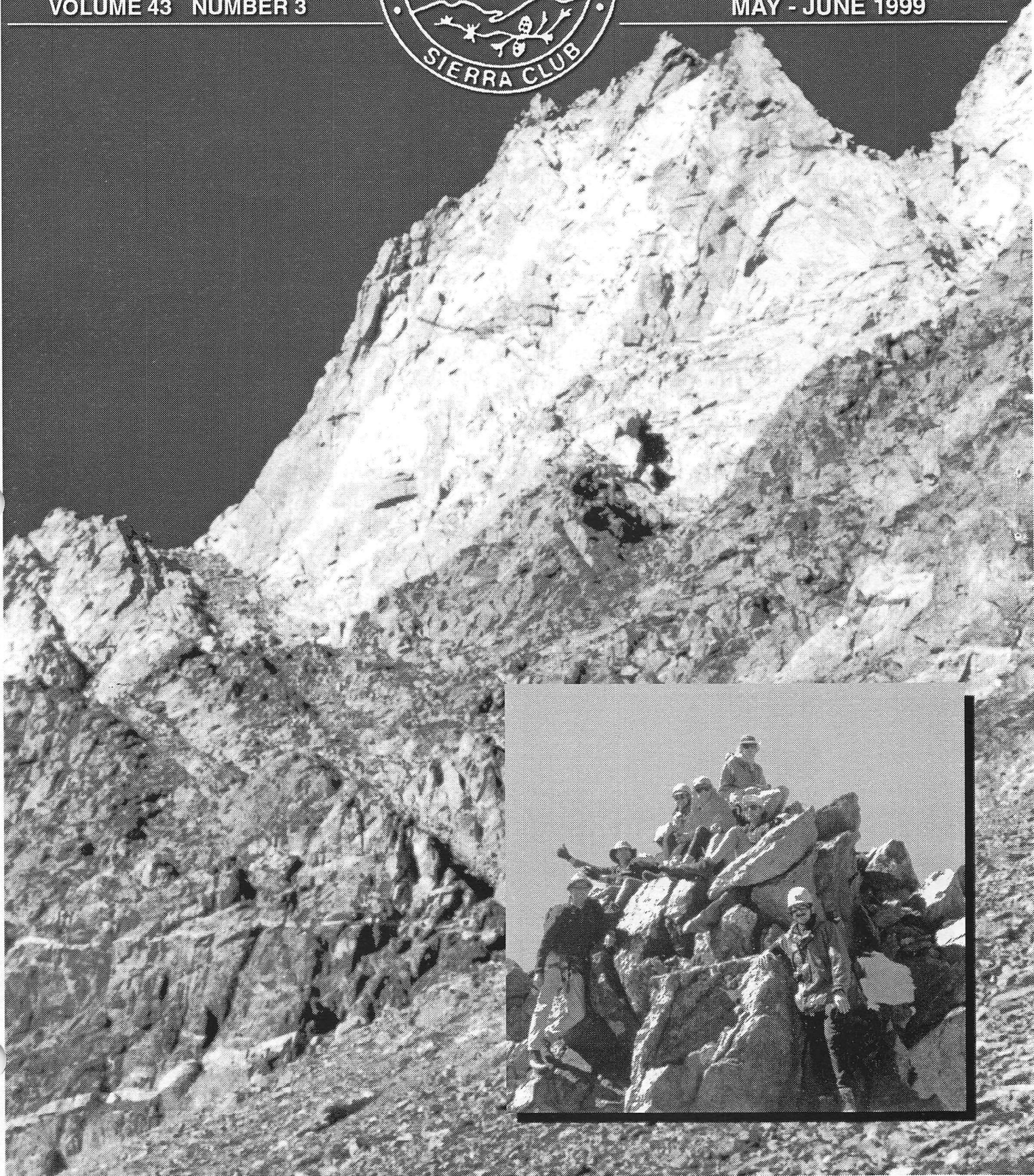
The Sierra

VOLUME 43 NUMBER 3

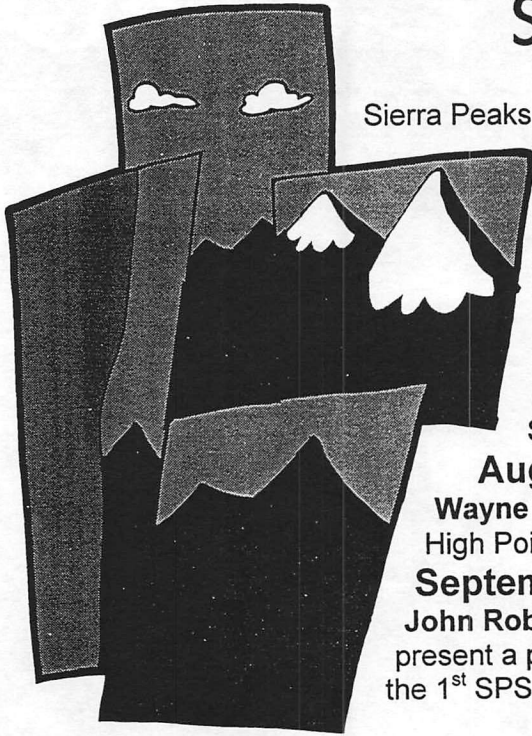


ECHO

MAY - JUNE 1999



SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS



Sierra Peaks Section meetings are held in the Los Angeles room behind the cafeteria at the DWP, 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. Department of Water & Power, 111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, Free parking on site. Please state you are attending a Sierra Club meeting.

July 14

Jim Long will present the follow-up to his 1998 program, "The Range of Light". The new program is titled "Ice Caves of the Sierra Nevada."

August 11

Wayne Norman takes us leisure climbing with a program on "The High Points of England".

September 8

John Robinson & Jerry Keating, founding members of the SPS will present a program on the early days of the SPS including pictures of the 1st SPS trip.

October 13

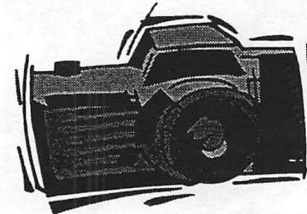
Mingo Morvin will present a program on Sierra Rock Climbing.

November 10

Rich Henke will present a program on his ascent of the No Face of Mt. Robson in the Canadian Rockies.

December 8

SPS Banquet – Speaker: Greg Epperson, rock climber and photographer from Bishop, California. Location: La Canada – Flintridge Country Club. See Sept/Oct Echo for menu and more information.



FRONT COVER

Mt. Humphreys

October 4, 1997

Photo by Tina Bowman
Summit Group

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

ATTENTION ALL TRIP LEADERS:

Send in your trip write-ups and/or photos for the next publications of the *Echo*. We accept photos that accompany an article or tell a story without an article.

PEAK INDEX

Olancha Peak
Joe Devel Peak
Ed Lane Pt.
Sawtooth Peak
Needham Mtn.

SPS Merchandise Available

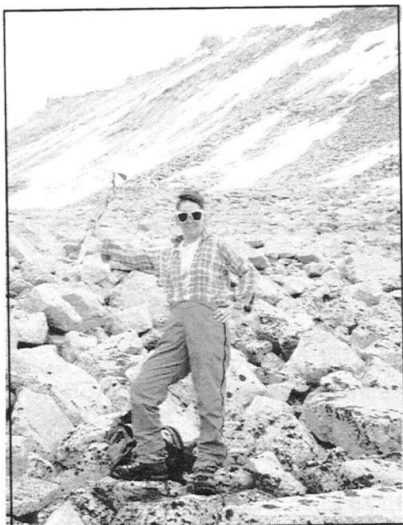
Contact Patty Kline at the next SPS meeting or send your request to Patty Kline, 29362 Callon Drive, Topanga Canyon, California 90290.

T-Shirts \$12.00 plus \$3.00 shipping.
Colors – Ash, yellow, lt. Blue
Size – Med., Lar, X-Lar.

Achievement Pins \$15.00 each

SPS Patches \$ 2.00 each

Make all checks payable to the SPS.



ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

With the summer upon us this quote comes to mind. "And after ten years spent in the heart of it, rejoicing and wondering, bathing in its glorious floods of light, seeing the sunbursts of morning among the icy peaks, the noonday radiance on the trees and rocks and snow, the flush of alpen-glow and a thousand dashing waterfalls with their marvelous abundance of irised spray, it still seems to me above all others the Range of Light." I am truly moved every time I read or hear this quote by John Muir. It is from one of my most treasured books, The Gentle Wilderness: The Sierra Nevada @1967 by the Sierra Club. The whole book is filled with excerpts from Muir's journals and many of his other well known quotes, along with 100's of beautiful photos.

On April 17-18, I attended Tina Bowman and Dan Richter's Rock Practice at Joshua Tree. All eleven of us had a very enjoyable time practicing for M or E sign - offs such as dulfursitzing and fallen

climber tie off. There were some sign - offs too. We also had fun just climbing near the Indian Cove Amphitheater. That evening we did some climbing directly behind our campground site on the Dos Equis Wall. We climbed the first pitch of the South Buttress (5.7***). Some of the holds had broken off since the route was put up, making the rating a lot harder. A few of us stood on Bob Bruley's shoulders for the entrance move, including me. Bruley is as strong as an ox, and when it came his turn, he just jumped on it like a fly.

This summer I am leading several SPS Intro Trips. It would be great to see more leaders do this because I get a great response from them and get twice as many applications as spaces. You may ask why would anyone want to go on one of these. Well, WTC students are the main ones who sign up along with some very qualified mountaineers who found us on the Internet. From there many of these people become members of the SPS. Former WTC students like Matthew Richardson and Tim Keenan ended up becoming very active in the SPS. Tim-, as you know, is our Vice-Chair/Outings and Matthew is our Secretary.

The California Mountain Guides need your help. Guiding has been a part of the Sierra for a long time. The SPS uses guides for some of our workshops in the Sierra for example. The Inyo National Forest (INF) is drastically limiting the amount of people the guides can take to the INF year round. Write to the Inyo National Forest Supervisor, Jeff Bailey, 873 N. Main St. Bishop, CA 93514. Let him know that you want to continue to be able to hire a guide for trips into INF Wilderness and that the current INF policy is taking that ability away.

Greg Epperson will be our speaker giving a slide show you won't want to miss. He is one of the most well known rock climbing photographers on the planet. Some of you may not recognize the name, but Greg has photos published in most every issue of Climbing magazine and Rock and Ice, as well as many instructional books. I'm sure you have all seen an Epperson photo. I met Greg this Spring at the First Annual Joshua Tree Rock - In. Greg, whom I found very personable, is a native of San Diego and now lives in Bishop. Mark your calendar now for the Banquet December 8th.

Happy climbing,

Patty

SPS – Spring & Summer Trips 1999



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/R June 25-27 Fri – Sun Tower Peak (11,503)
Ldrs Doug Mantle, Tina (Stough) Bowman

I June 26 Sat Homer's Nose (9023') Ldrs: John Cheslick, Charlie Knapke

M/R June 26-27 Sat – Sun Temple Crag Ldrs Matthew Richardson and Tim Keenan

Jun 29 – July 6 Angeles Chpt. Fundraising trip Cast Off and Castaway to Fiji Ldr. Maya Hyams
Contact World Encounters 800/972-8996

JULY

I July 3-5 Sat – Mon Silver Pk (11,878') SPS & WTC trip. Ldr: Patty Kline, Co-Ldr: Joe Wankum

M/R July 9-11 Fri – Sun Mt Darwin & Mt Mendel
Ldrs. Beth Epstein and Kim Gimenez

E/R July 17-18 Sat – Sun Clyde Minaret (12,281)
Ldr Nile Sorenson Asst Randall Danta

I July 17-18 Sat – Sun Black Hawk Mtn. (10,348')
Ldr. Patty Kline, Co-ldr Beth Epstein.

M July 17-18 Sat – Sun Mt Johnson (12,871') Mt. Gilbert (13,106') Prov. lead Maria Roa, Asst Greg Roach

JULY CONTINUED

M July 17 – 18 Sat – Sun Mt Langley (14,042'), Cirque Pk (12,900') WTC/SPS trip. Sat backpack 4 mi, 1250' gain to Chicken Spring Lake S of Lone Pine. Optional climb of Cirque Pk, 3 mi, 1650' gain. Sun climb Langley, 5 mi, 3000' gain; possible traverse to NW summit; pack out. Send 2 SASE w/ experience & \$3.25 permit fee to Ldr. Steven Ross, asst. ldr. Angel Cardoza

MR July 17-19 Sat – Mon The Doughnut Peak aka Mt. Winchell (13,775') Ldr. Paul Graff, Asst Keith Martin

I July 23 – 26 Fri – Mon Finger Pk (12,404') & Tunemah (11,894') Ldr. Steve Eckert, co-ldr. Erik Siering.

M July 24-25 Sat – Sun Mt Langley (14,026') Ldr Paul Graff, co-ldr. Bill Oliver

MR July 24-25 Sat – Sun LeConte (13,845'), Mt Corcoran (13,714') Sat bkpk 4 mi, 3700' gain from Whitney Portal to Meysan Lk. Sun climb LeConte via cl 3 NW chute. Continue past LeConte to Corcoran, 2800' gain in cl 3 traverse. Return to camp & pack out. Possible snow conditions restrict this trip to SC members w/ ice axe and crampon exper. Not for WTC students. Send 2 SASE, snow and rock quals to Ldr. Brad Jensen, asst. ldr. Greg Roach

I July 24-25 Sat – Sun Cloudripper (13,525') Ldr. Wayne Norman, co-ldr. Barbee Tidball

I July 29- Aug 2 Thur – Mon Forester Pk (12,057'), Electra Pk (12,442'), Rodgers Pk (12,978') Mt Davis (12,311') Ldr. Ron Hudson, co-ldr. Sue Holloway

AUGUST

I Aug 7-8 Sat – Sun Iron Mt. (11,149') Ldr. Wayne Norman, co-ldr. Luella Fickel

I Aug 7-8 Sat – Sun Mammoth Lakes Bkpk, Iron Mtn. (11,149') Ldr. Sylie Asselin, Asst. Paul Graff

I Aug 13-16 Fri – Mon Mt. Pickering (13,474'), Cirque Pk (12,900') Ldr. Patty Kline co-ldr Jim Fleming

M Aug 21-22 Sat – Sun Four Gables Ldr. Robbins, co-ldr Dave Endres

M Aug 21-22 Sat – Sun Mt Russell Ldr. McDonnell, co-ldr. Virgil Shields

I Aug 21-22 Sat – Sun Pilot Knob #2 (12,245'), Four Gables (12,720') Ldr. Allan Conrad Co-ldr Bob Wyka

I Aug 21-22 Sat – Sun Iron Mt. (11,149') Ldr. Bob Bruley Co-ldr Asher Waxman

AUGUST CONTINUED		OCTOBER	
MR Aug 21-29 Sat – Sun Mt Kaweah (13,802'), Black Kaweah (13,720'), Red Kaweah (13,720') Week long bkpk. Climb of Black Kaweah restricted. Ldr Barbee Tidball Co-ldr Keith Martin		I Oct 2-3 Sat – Sun Kern Pk (11,510') SPS List Finish! Ldr Steve Eckert Co-ldr Erik Siering	
MR Aug 27-29 Fri – Sun Tehipite Dome (7,708') Ldr. Matthew Richardson co-ldr Bill Oliver		C Oct 2-3 Sat – Sun Yosemite Volunteer Project Ldr Keith Martin, Asst Virgil Talbot	
SEPTEMBER		M Oct 9 –11 Sat – Sun Mt. Gayley (13,510') : Hike from N Pine Creek Glacier Lodge trailhead Sat. Morning to Sam Mack Meadow (6 mi, 3200' gain). Sun climb 1800' via Palisades Glacier to notch between Gayley & Sill, thence up "yellow brick road" to summit. Mon return to cars. SC members only w/ substantial snow & rock climbing experience. Not for WTC students. Send 2 SASE, SC number, etc. to Ldr: Marc Hertz Asst.: Darrell Lee	
I Sept 4-6 Sat – Mon Arrow Peak (12,959) Ldr Carlton McKinney Co-ldr Igor Mamedalin		Oct 12-19 Angeles Chpt. Fundraising trip Ancient Art & History of Egypt Ldr. Maya Hyams Contact World Encounters 800/972-8996	
MR Sept 4-6 Sat – Mon Round Top (10,380'), Freel Pk (10,881'), Pyramid Pk (9,983') and More Ldrs. Dan Richter & Asher Waxman.		M Oct 16-17 Sat – Sun Clouds Rest (9050') and more. Ldrs Doug Mantle & Tina Bowman.	
MR Sept 10-12 Fri – Sun Tower Pk (11,755') Ldr Asher Waxman Co-ldr Dan Richter		Oct 18-27 Angeles Chpt. Fundraising trip Rob Roy's Scotland Ldr. Roxana Lewis, Contact Charter Travel 310/670-3884	
I Sept 11-12 Sat – Sun Smith Mtn. (9515'), Sirretta Pk (9977') Ldr Jerry Keating co-ldr Sid "San Jac" Davis and Nancy Keating.		Remember when sending your SASE for a trip recent conditioning, H & W phones, Sierra Club always include your climbing resume, information on membership no., and rideshare information.	
E/MR Sept 25-26 Sat – Sun Church Dome Rock/Potluck Intermediate and advanced workshop. Ldr. Virgil Shields Asst Pat McKusky			
I Sept 18-26 Sat – Sun Joe Devel Pk (13,327'), Mt Gould (12,300'), Mt Hitchcock (13,186'), Mt Young (13,176'), Mt Hale (13,494'), Kern Point (12,730'). Ldrs Mirna & Greg Roach			

Dear Fellow Climbers,

If you are willing to carry a book or container and book to any of the peaks listed below, please let me know (562) 438-3809). Thanks!

Tina

Tina Bowman
Mountain Records Chair

Peak	Need as Noted
Banner	new ammo box (hinge broken)
Barnard	book
Carillon	pencil
Corcoran	canister (no lid)
Dana	ammo box
Electra	book
Florence (Mineral King)	ammo box, book
Gibbs	book
Hilgard	container, book
Langley	book
Lone Pine	ammo box, book
Maclure	book
Matterhorn	ammo box
North	book
Pyramid (North)	ammo box and book or nothing-too popular?

Peak	Need as Noted
Russell	book
Thunderbolt	book
Tower	book
Williamson	SC box needs repairs (superglue/cement)
Winchell	book
Peaks Not on the List	Need as Noted
Balcony	container and book (?)
Cahoon Rock	container
Columbine	container and book
The Hunchback	container
Painted Lady	container
Sherman Peak	container and book
Tioga Peak	container
Venacher Needle	container and book

SPS WEDNESDAY MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 1999

Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee Meeting

Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown Los Angeles

In Attendance: Patty Kline, Timothy Keenan, Matthew Richardson, Scott Sullivan, Keith Martin

Minutes taken by Matthew Richardson.

The meeting began at 6:40 P.M.

November meeting minutes were read and approved.

The committee discussed the draft policy for fixed anchors at Joshua Tree, and the deadline for Appointed Positions for the Section were reviewed and approved.

Four new outings were discussed and approved, including a Rock Workshop on 3/27-28.

The committee discussed and approved a speaker's fee of \$50 for Jim Long, who will present the The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Joint General Meeting: SPS DPS HPS and Ski Mountaineers

Patty Kline, Chair of the S.P.S., presided. Ann Kramer gave a report on the Climber's Happy Hour. It seems that the DPS is out-partying the other sections!

Patty announced her intention to continue the tradition of a trivia question at each S.P.S. meeting, with the correct answer. winning a prize.

Patty introduced Timothy Keenan, S.P.S. Vice-Chair & Outings, who discussed his hopes for the outings program in the coming year.

Patty introduced Edna Erspamer, DPS Chair, who in turn introduced members of the DPS Management Committee.

Byron Prinzmetal, HPS Chair, was introduced by Patty and extended an invitation to climbers from other sections to join HPS outings.

Patty introduced Angeles Chapter Conservation Chair Al Sattler, who issued an appeal to attend conservation meetings.

Keith Martin, Chair of the Ski Mountaineers, was introduced.

After a break, Patrick McKusky presented a program on changes in the Leadership Training Program and how they will affect the outings sections.

February 10, 1999

SPS Management Committee Meeting

Location: Department of Water and Power downtown

Attendance: Keith Martin, Patty Kline, Scott Sullivan, Tim Keenan, Dan Richter, Barbee Tidball
Minutes taken by Scott Sullivan

The meeting started at 6:45 pm

January meeting minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's reports a bank balance of \$3,634.62, Angeles Chapter Awards banquet is March 27. Pat and Jerry Holleman and Ron Hudson will receive awards,

Patty announced the Angeles Chapter find raising trips,

We unanimously approved upcoming outings.

We approved programs through October.

Discussed potential list changes submitted by Doug Bear. These will be published in the Echo for further input from members prior to the July SPS meeting.

Discussed peak register problems on Mt. Tallac, Dicks, and Pyramid.

Patty will coordinate getting SPS information to WTC students.

Barbee brought a new batch of brochures.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

SPS Meeting General Meeting

Location: Department of Water and Power downtown LA

Minutes taken by Scott Sullivan

Patty Kline: chaired the meeting which started at 7:40pm.

New attendees were introduced.

Tonight's trivia question is "How much did the biggest trout caught in CA weigh? Who caught it, where and when did it happen?"

Treasurer reports a bank balance of \$3,634.62.

We are trying to organize a June trip planning meeting for leaders. More details to come.

Angeles Chapter Awards banquet is March 27. Pat and Jerry Holleman and Ron Hudson will receive awards.

Patty announced the Angeles Chapter find raising trips.

Anne Kramer gave the council report. There are Angeles Chapter group election issues. Ballots must be sent to everyone who lives in that geographic area for groups based on a geographic area.

Dan Richter spoke about the LTC program. It's easier to get started on the path to becoming a leader, but more difficult to become certified. There

February Meeting Minutes Continued

will an LTC seminar on April 10, and the Rock Workshop is April 17-18.

Trivia answer is 26.8lbs, Danny Sterman at Twin Lakes in 1983. Pat Holleman won the prize for having the best guess.

Mingo Morvin presented his slides of bears and other wild animals.

March 10, 1999SPS Management Committee Meeting

Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown Los Angeles

In Attendance: Patty Kline, Timothy Keenan, Keith Martin, Scott Sullivan, Matthew Richardson, Daniel Richter

Minutes taken by: Matthew Richardson

The meeting began at 6:39 P.M.

February meeting minutes were read and approved.

The Outings Chair submitted several trips to the committee, all of which were approved.

Dan Richter discussed SPS climbing archives, and the need to create a secure situation for their storage.

He described several options, and the committee decided to authorize purchase of a filing cabinet.

The matter will also receive further study.

Suggestions for changes to the SPS List, from Tina Bowman (Keeper Of The List), were presented. The changes were all approved.

It was decided that the SPS will no longer maintain a summit register on Pyramid Peak.

Patty inquired if any committee members were planning to attend the chapter awards banquet. None were able to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Sierra Peaks Section General Meeting

Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown Los Angeles

The meeting was chaired by Patty Kline, who congratulated SPS members Erik Siering and Matthew Richardson on their February climb of Aconcagua with Nile Sorenson.

This month's trivia question: What was the date of the first ascent of the Mountaineer's Route on Mt. Whitney (by John Muir)?

Patty announced two SPS marriages.

Congratulations to Doug Bear and Shang Lee, as well as Ron Grau and Ellen Senior.

Patty warned of rumors that charges will be instituted for climbing Mt. Whitney.

Dan Richter told us that the Sierra Club's national Mountaineering Oversight Committee is made up entirely of SPS members.

Keith Martin won with an answer closest to the correct date of the first ascent, October 21, 1873.

April 14, 1999Sierra Peaks Management Committee Meeting

Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown Los Angeles

In Attendance: Patty Kline, Keith Martin, Timothy Keenan, Scott Sullivan, Matthew Richardson, Daniel Richter

Minutes taken by: Matthew Richardson

The meeting began at 6:54 P.M.

Patty announced the following:

The Sierra Club policy on conflict of interest states that no Sierra Club publication shall publish opinions contrary to adopted club positions.

Dan Richter has organized a committee for the preservation of climbing archives, to be known as the Bill T. Russell Memorial Climbing Archives. It will be chaired by Erik Siering.

Changes in the SPS Peaks List will be incorporated in the new edition, to be published soon in the Echo.

The treasurer reported a total bank balance of \$4,965. He also alerted the committee to a marked decline in membership renewals and receipts of dues.

It was decided that committee members would call members in arrears.

There was an update on banquet planning. Lynn Hill will not be available a speaker. Other possibilities are Colby Coombs, or more likely Greg Epperson.

The outings chair announced that this season's outings look good, and shared that he will be moving out of the area within several months.

The committee expressed unanimous opposition to a proposed change to the national bylaws which would boost ExComm membership from 9 to 25.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

Sierra Peaks Section General Meeting

Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown Los Angeles

Minutes taken by: Matthew Richardson

The meeting began at 7:40 P.M.

Patty greeted those in attendance, and introduced Ann Kramer. Ann gave an update on the upcoming D.P.S. banquet.

Patty shared information on coming changes in the permit system for the Sierra Nevada.

This month's trivia question: Name the government owned domain where the SPS and the LTC do training, which has a body of water containing goldfish.

April Meeting Minutes Continued

Dan Richter was the winner, correctly identifying Barker Dam.

Dan Richter announced that John Fischer would teach a snow skills clinic in June

Eric Lesser, Conservation Co-Chair, warned of a plan to increase off-road vehicle trails.

Kurt Wedburg mentioned that a study was being done on trout in the Sierra Nevada. Apparently they aren't natives.

The Outings Chair reported that, to date, two outings had been canceled due to lack of snow.

Patty announced that Outstanding Service Awards were given to Gerry and Pat Holleman.

Keith introduced Sierra mountain guide Kurt Wedberg, who presented a program ranging from his start in mountaineering through climbs in the Sierra and around the world (especially a recent expedition to Ama Dablam).

Sierra Club Insurance Revisions

Date: May 26, 1999 submitted by Ann Kramer

The Sierra Club's Guide to Insurance Coverage has been revised. The entire Guide to Insurance Coverage, and all of the forms mentioned (applications, releases, accident reports, etc.) are available on the GCOC Extranet, a Sierra Club internal Internet web site. This site is sponsored by the Sierra Club Outing Department and the Group and Chapter Outings Committee as an online resource for all Chapter, Group and Section outings Chairs and volunteer outings leaders. The site enables volunteers to retrieve information at home that would otherwise require a telephone call or mailing to the national Outings Department.

To reach the site, direct your web browser to this URL
<http://mitchell.sierraclub.org:8080/outings/extranet/index.html>

When you get the dialog box (Login and Password are case sensitive.):

Login: www\ComOutl

Password: NormanClyde

Then go to the Group and Chapter Outings Extranet.

Commercial General Liability Coverage - Domestic Exclusions in the Domestic General Liability Policy (2) Limitations with regard to Rock Climbing and Mountaineering

MOUNTAINEERING INSURANCE POLICY:
CONDITIONS AND COMPLIANCE

Prepared by the Insurance Committee, March 1996

At the time of this publication, there is new flexibility in the coverage of additional training activities in

conjunction with mountaineering outings. As a condition we are required to report to the insurer, in advance, all outings that involve instruction. What is stated below, to the extent it imposes stricter standards, is Club policy with respect to operating within this insurance coverage and takes precedence over the actual policy language for purposes of planning and conducting Sierra Club outings and activities.

1. Definitions

In the first place the only Club outings or activities which are governed by these rules and accordingly denominated "*Mountaineering Outings*" are those which require the use of ropes, pitons, jam nuts, runners bolts, ice axes, carabiners or belaying techniques. For this discussion the foregoing list of items is what is referred to herein as "*Mountaineering Hardware*." Necessarily included within a Mountaineering Outing are instruction courses or training schools involving Mountaineering Hardware.

2. Requirements for Running a Mountaineering Outing

A. Chapter and Group Outings In addition to all Chapter or Group requirements, the outing or activity must:

- apply to and be approved by the Mountaineering Oversight Committee (MOC) and satisfy all of its requirements in advance; (application begins on page 37)
- obtain in advance from all participants a signed liability release agreement (see page 21);
- if applicable, provide appropriate training notifications for transmittal to the insurer well in advance of the trip. This will be administered through the MOC in accordance with its requirements.

B. National Outings In addition to other Outing Committee and subcommittee requirements, the outing must:

- via the subcommittee chair of the sponsoring subcommittee, be approved by the MOC and satisfy all of its requirements in advance;
- obtain in advance from all participants the approved liability release agreement;
- if applicable, provide appropriate training notifications for transmittal to the insurer well in advance of the trip. This will be administered through the MOC in accordance with its requirements.

3. Equipment for Safety

The policy language applies only to trips which require Mountaineering Equipment. This should be interpreted to mean any outing or activity where the leadership anticipates, contemplates, or expects to use Mountaineering Hardware. In no event, should this be treated as restricting leadership from taking along such mountaineering or other safety equipment as may be prudent to deal with *unanticipated* hazards. Similarly,

there is no prohibition against trip participants bringing along whatever mountaineering or safety equipment they may choose to bring on a trip for their own personal safety. The important thing is that leaders not attempt to avoid the extra requirements for a Mountaineering Outing if the leaders know or reasonably believe that Mountaineering Hardware will *be required* in order to negotiate the required itinerary on an outing. Remember, violation of these policies could expose the club and its leaders to uninsured claims.

Instruction and Training

A. General Limitations

- Our insurer does not want us to teach rank beginners or run climbing schools that are open to the public. On the other hand, in general, there seems to be no objection to conducting "on-trip training" where specific techniques or skills are *enhanced* in the process of making a particular ascent or reaching a destination. Similarly, there appears to be no prohibition against conducting a general instructional session to hone or fine-tune existing skills and to add new expertise to basic mountaineering skills.
- There is no prohibition against conducting training/certification exercises with respect to climbing leaders to assure that they have the requisite leader skill level or to improve their existing skills. Such sessions must be reported, however, as described in Paragraph 2a above.
- Generally, what will be acceptable is taking people who have learned their basic mountaineering skills elsewhere and improving them on our trips. Basic mountaineering skills would include, among other things, having the skills to rappel and belay, use basic foot and hand holds and basic knowledge of knots and mountaineering equipment. These are skills which should be learned at a climbing gym or mountaineering school, if not already possessed by past experience on mountaineering ventures.
- Thus, we should not attempt to provide training for beginners at climbing gyms, on local rocks or during Mountaineering Outings.

B. Basic Requirements

- Approval by MOC
- Provision of insurer information including:
 - type of training planned
 - location
 - number of instructors
 - number of participants (maximum and minimum)
 - length of trip
 - length of training (if different)
- Insurer acknowledgment of receipt of information
- Outing or activity meets all other requirements
- Provision of After Trip Report

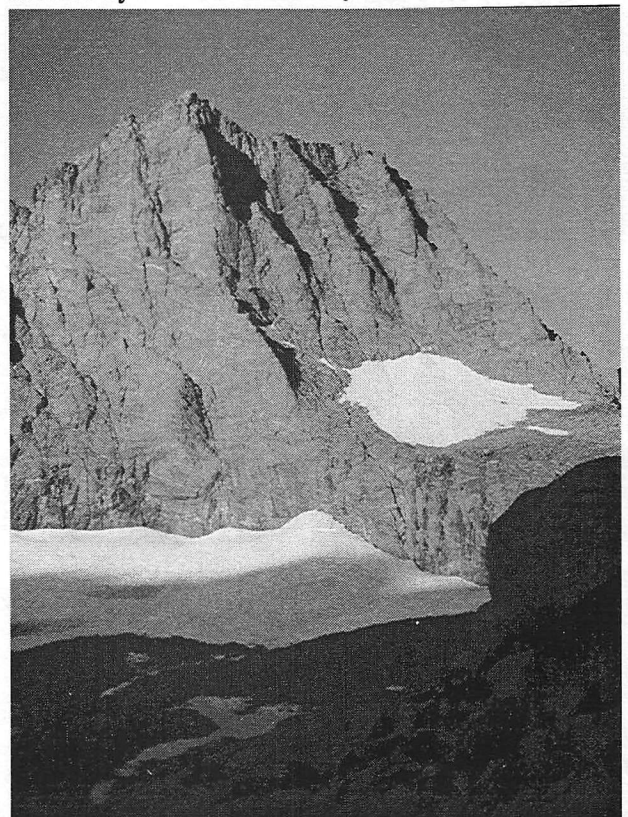
These must be submitted to the Regional Outings and Lodges Manager promptly upon completion of the outing - The standards for the

report have been established by the MOC. At a minimum it must contain a final roster, with complete addresses and telephone numbers, and the signed liability releases. This information must be sent to Regional Outings and Lodges Manager within 30 days of completion of the trip. In addition, the following information should be sent to the outing chair for the entity sponsoring the outing: a discussion of the itinerary and routes and mention any incidents or accidents that caused injury. **Do not communicate opinions.** Use the Accident Report Form to advise of the details of any accident or illness.

4. Questions

After reviewing this Sierra Club insurance manual, a number of questions may be answered, leaders with questions regarding compliance should direct them to the MOC. Importantly, since Mountaineering Outings involve additional risks, a cautious and conservative approach should be taken by leaders to them and to the interpretation of these restrictions. Good judgment must be exercised in this area or the coverage will either be terminated or become unavailable on a reasonable commercial basis. Our good loss record for 1995 is what allowed us to obtain enhanced coverage in 1996 and one can be sure that the same consideration will exist for future years.

Only those trips reviewed and approved by the Mountaineering Oversight Committee will be covered by the Club's Liability Insurance.



Norman Clyde, September 13, 1997

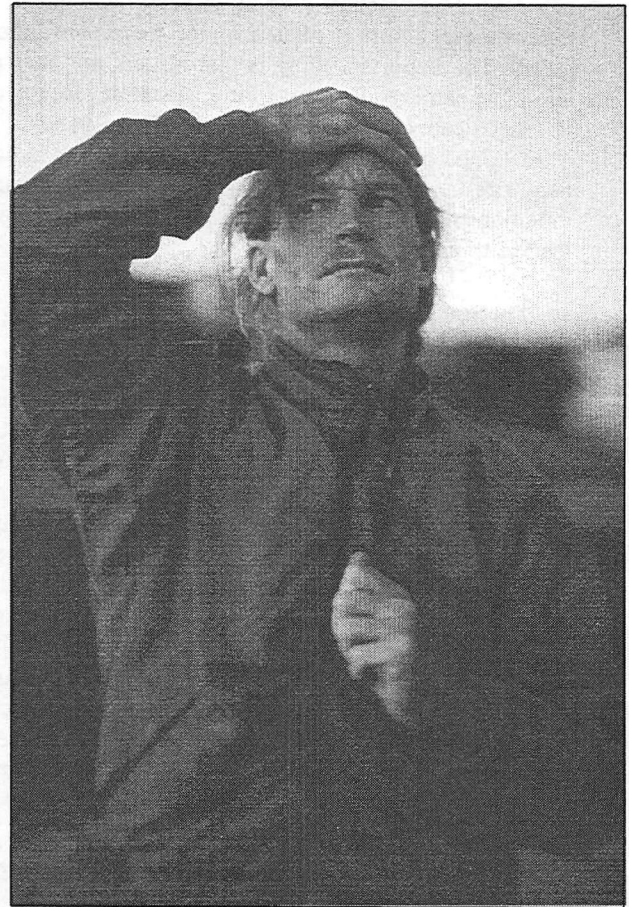
Tina Bowman

rock prints

a collection of rock climbing photography
by Greg Epperson

The challenge, skill and sometimes aloneness of rock climbing is beautifully portrayed in Greg Epperson's new book, *Rock Prints, a collection of rock climbing photography*. The book is principally a picture book, but then how else could you describe rock climbing. Greg has captured climbers splayed out on a wall, or triumphantly catching the finger tip hold that allows them to climb on. The location photographed are also beautiful and intriguing. Shot in black and white film the photographs show the texture and shades of the rock far more dramatically than a color photo would have.

Rock Prints captures the spirit of rock climbing - the hard work and the laughter. This book is recommended viewing for all SPS members.



SPS Membership Report

Address Changes

See the attached updated Membership Roster

Welcome !!! New Members

Bruno Geiger	Cerritos
Maria Roa	La Verne

Welcome !!! New Echo Subscribers

David Harris	Claremont
Mark McCaustland	San Francisco
David Adler	Soquel
David Endres	La Crescenta
Greg Campbell	Los Angeles
Roy Randall	Los Angeles

Accomplishments

Emblem #554 Richard Carey July 18, 1998

81 and still climbing

The *Los Angeles Times* reported first that Gerry Bloch was again attempting to be the oldest person to climb El Capitan and then a few days later they reported that Gerry was successful.

In 1986 Gerry Bloch set a record at then age 68, for being the oldest person to complete the climb. Now at age 81 he has again completed the 2,500 foot climb. This time his companions were Mike Corbett, rock climber and big wall climber and Craig White, climber and cameraman.

Despite arthritis in his hands or rather in spite of it, the climb was completed in seven days.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles B. Miller, who held leadership positions in both the Angeles and Mother Lode chapters of the Sierra Club, died of pancreatic cancer May 6 at his Idyllwild home. He was 78.

A Southern Pacific Pipelines engineer/manager, Chuck served for several years in the late 1950s on the Angeles Chapter Conservation Committee. He was a founding member and climbing leader of the Sierra Peaks Section, earned SPS Emblem #12 in 1957 and that same year chaired the SPS Mountaineering Committee. He was the SPS chairman in 1958 and continued on the SPS Management Committee as alternate officer in 1959. Mary Ann Eide was the SPS secretary in 1959, and she and Chuck married before moving to the Sacramento area in early 1960.

While in Northern California, Chuck served on the Sierra Club Council and on the Mother Lode Chapter Executive Committee. He was the Mother Lode Chapter chairman in 1963 and 1965.

He and Mary Ann later moved back to Southern California and permanently settled in Idyllwild in 1990. While in Idyllwild, Chuck joined the board of the Idyllwild Water District and also was as an officer of both the 39ers and Friends of the San Jacinto County Parks.

As a youth, he was active in the Boy Scouts and had a particular love for the San Jacinto Mountains. As he grew up he became a staff member at Camp Tahquitz and in 1946 and 1947 was the camp director. He earned his bachelor's degree from

Caltech in 1944 and an advanced degree from the Claremont Graduate School in 1947.

Along with Frank Sanborn and Pat Meixner (Gentry), Chuck went before the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee in 1955 to seek approval for the SPS. At the time, some committee members questioned whether it was feasible to form a section to conduct weekend knapsack trips to the Sierra Nevada, but the SPS contingent prevailed.

It was Chuck who authored a full-page overview of the SPS in the May 1957 issue of *The Sierra Club Bulletin*. After explaining the SPS' purposes, Chuck added, "In these ways we hope to promote the Sierra as a wilderness retreat for larger numbers of Sierra Club members, and to extend protection for those wilderness areas in the range not presently within established wilderness boundaries. This we want to do so that those who follow in our footsteps to the summits in the 'Range of Light' can enjoy the same exhilaration that we do each time we conquer yet another Sierra peak."



A memorial

service is planned for this summer on a yet-to-be announced date. Meanwhile, cards may be sent to Mary Ann at P.O. Box 3566, Idyllwild, CA 92549. Donations in Chuck's memory may be made to the Friends of the San Jacinto County Parks, the Ramona VNA and Hospice or the American Cancer Society.

Note to the Echo readers: As submitted by Jerry Keating (714/524-3862), the above is based on information provided by the family, as well as on articles in *The Sierra Echo* and in the activities schedules of the Angeles and Mother Lode chapters. 5/15/99

Photo SPS Banquet 12/13/98 Chuck and Mary Ann Miller

JOE DEVEL PEAK

AUGUST 14-17, 1998

by Patty Kline

It was a small miracle that the leaders, myself and Jim Fleming, made it to the Cottonwood Pass road head 25 miles above Lone Pine on the Horseshoe Meadows Road. Not too far from home my high mileage truck boiled over with major trouble on Highway 14 in Acton. Leaving it to the mercy of unscrupulous mechanics, I found the last rent-a-car in the area. Jim and I arrived in style around 11 pm in a Ford Contour.

Our group of 5 left the parking lot for the trail directly behind it at 8:15 am. The trailhead is located at the very end of the Horseshoe Meadows Road. Besides Jim and myself, the group consisted of Bill Stampfl, Spencer Berman and Lynn Frick. On the 13 mile hike to Lower Soldier Lake at 10,400 we got a small rain shower. The 1,500 foot gain seemed like a lot more with the undulating trail. There was a nice bear box in camp for our food with no bears in sight. The rodents know people are now camping all summer near the bear box and make it their business to nibble any stray lunch you have in your tent at night while you sleep. They begged for food at our happy hours.

Saturday morning on the next day there were a few puffy, white clouds by 8:00 am, and they kept building. We picked up the trail on the south side of Lower Soldier Lake and joined a trail which ultimately would join the Pacific Crest Trail above Rock Creek Ranger Station. We didn't go that far. After about 4 miles, losing about 400 feet, we turned towards the peak, going generally in a northerly direction. Visible from the trail there is a rocky butness, which is the eastern escarpment of the peak. We were well west and out of sight of this butness when we turned off the trail. Going cross country steadily uphill after a mile the peak came into view. We were at the tree line about 11 am at 11,600 feet when a thunder storm proceeded to dump 5 inches of rain on us. At this elevation it was hail. Everything was white in a few minutes. For the next few hours on the way back to camp this kept up. My Sierra Club cup acted as my rain gauge and was almost overflowing as were a lot of other things. It made for spectacular stream crossings that were high to begin with for the El Nino snow year of 1998. These crossings were not dangerous, being small streams, but just enough to ford and get entirely wet boots. While drying out at happy hour I was getting numb. Lynn Frick, member of the Ski Mountaineers, was more than equipped and loaned me some dry clothes. To heck with Gortex. She

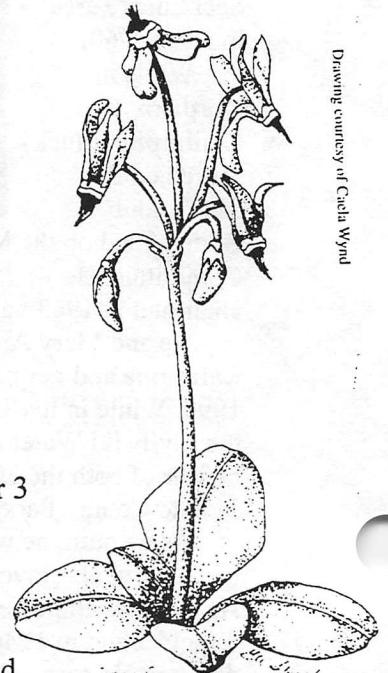
stayed dry with plastic gear in the rain. I now am following her example for 1999.

Sunday morning we again set out for Joe Devel, which I was now calling "The Beast." Joe Devel has a very respectable origin. It was named after Joseph Devel, a member of the Wheeler Survey party. Joe was on the party that made the first ascent on September 20, 1875. Lynn decided to stay in camp while the 4 of us bagged the peak. It was about 3,500 feet of gain for the day, 12 miles, 4 of which were easy cross country. The peak is sandy and class 2 only on the top. There is a ridge on the very top. We worked our way left on the ridge, encountering about 3 false summits before the left most peaklet, which is the true summit at 13,327 feet. There were great views of Whitney on top. The descent makes a great run in the sand all the way down to the trees.

Back in camp that afternoon we had our third happy hour. The jokes from the happy hours spilled over to laughter the entire trip. Prizes were awarded the first 2 nights for the most tasty appetizers. we gave up our original intent of getting Pickering today because we needed to make good our aborted climb of Joe Devel the day before. The next morning we hiked out to our vehicles under clear skies and all went for dinner at an SPS favorite, The Pizza Factory in Lone Pine. It was a great group and a fun and somewhat leisurely outing.

Shooting Star
Genus *Dodecatheon*
Family: Primulaceae

Nine species are found native in California. The flower is common in the Sierra in Spring /Summer in wet areas. A popular flower, species of Shooting Star can be grown at home from seed. It will take 2 or 3 years to bloom and is best situated in an area where you can withhold watering (summer) during the flower's dormant period.



Drawing courtesy of Cecilia Wynn

SPS/LTC Rock Practice

Joshua Tree, April 17-18, 1999
Tina Bowman and Dan Richter, Leaders

Ten of us--there were three no shows, grr!--met Saturday morning at our family campsites in Indian Cove and headed down to the amphitheater. While Dan Richter checked off and passed my husband, Tom Bowman, for E-level rock and Mars Bonfire practiced for E, the rest of the group went with me. We fiddled with knots and rope coiling in the shade of the projection building since the temperature went into the 90's (amazing--it had snowed in J-Tree on Monday). Clearing out of the way of a large Christian group, we practiced various ways of moving on rock before setting up several rappels with separate belays. Cruel leader that I am, each participant had to experience the joy of the duffersitz and practice body belays even though each had a harness and belay/rappel device. In the Sierra we often have a minimal amount of equipment or do not expect to have to belay or rappel unless conditions change, so we worked first under those assumptions, then practiced with the nifty gear. Helper Bob Bruley set up another rappel with back-up belay on a steeper pitch for us to practice on. After lunch in a bit of boulder shade, the rest of the group-- Karen Raasch, Richard Whitcomb, Judy Hummerich, Patty Kline, Mars, and Dan--tackled a climb with a top rope while Tom set up a fixed line that Bob and I traversed and

Jason Lynch studied. Back at camp, we rested and rehydrated in the shade. Judy and Richard, who passed the SPS Mountaineer's List for rock, headed back to San Diego, and Mars went back to his hotel. With our route in the shade, Dan, Patty, Tom, Bob, and I worked on a top-roped climb rated 5,7 though the first several moves were harder, despite Dan's and Bob's making them look easy. Bob then headed home, and the remaining six of us went to town for the Thai buffet--quite good. The Access Fund-sponsored weekend for climbers to help clean up Joshua Tree and participate in climbing clinics had brought many climbers together for the weekend, a number of whom were there at the restaurant for the good food too. Sunday morning we practiced setting anchors, imagining several scenarios, all pleasantly done in the shade. Paul Graff joined us, and he and Dan went off for his E-level checkoff(he passed also). The rest of us went up, and Tom climbed a fourth-class pitch and set up a belay for us to climb and down-climb on. We wrapped things up at noon and soon headed our various ways after quite a successful weekend. We had a great group of participants, and all seemed to have a good, worthwhile time. Many thanks to my co-examiner, Dan and helper, Bob.

Off the Beaten Path to Olancha Peak

Olancha Pk (12,123'), Ed Lane Pt (11,295')

May 8, 1999

by Erik Siering

It became quite clear that Jim Jenkins had not done the route that he described. Or perhaps the late author was simply a dopesmoker. In any case, his "Self-Propelled in the Southern Sierra, Vol. 1" guidebook writeup of trip #86, excursions B&C, is way off the mark. Bob Sumner and I discerned this as we ascended Olancha Pk via the northeast ridge, continued over Ed Lane Pt, and descended the Falls Creek drainage. It was a committing and strenuous dayhike. A classic traverse that I'd wanted to do for some time. SPS climber Dick Beach reportedly pioneered the northeast ridge route long ago. I added the Falls Creek descent to complement this off-trail adventure.

We set up a shuttle by leaving one vehicle at the end of the road at Falls Creek (5150'). This is accessed via the signed, dirt Walker Creek Road

from Hwy 395 in Grant, south of the town of Olancha. Driving north roughly four miles on the power line road, we parked at our 06:30 takeoff point at which the road and lines markedly veer northeast (3900'). This is before Cartago Creek; the objective is the broad second ridge south of the creek. The first ridge is distinguished by its many beautiful sheer rock faces.

The route proceeds to the west, across the flats and directly up the steep sandy slopes. Just like Cartago Pk to the north... Four thousand feet of inexorable gain, accompanied by relentless bug swarms, attained the first rocky outcropping (7505'). This is also where Jenkin's description falls flat. Described as a "hill" followed by a "rolling stretch of ridge," it is in fact a jumbled set of gendarmes before further broken terrain. Route finding and

extended scrambling negotiated this obstacle, whose flanks drop away sharply. Cross from one side to the other through a pair of notches. In between, climb a steep class 3 crack from the south to the north. Someone had even set up a fixed line here fairly recently. This convoluted course is the only evident means of negotiating the brief rock maze without extensive class 4-5 maneuvers.

The remainder of the steep push lay beyond. We eschewed the rocky ridge for a thousand feet up a tree-lined southeast draw, through a distinct break (8800') to the northwest to reach the backside of a sandy flat bench (9320'). Jenkins advises surmounting a "rocky barrier" to top the "small hill." No such hindrance is encountered.

The angle and terrain then eases. Sporadic snow patches replenished our water supply. Following the ridge to a saddle (10,400'), we bypassed a small bump on the north. Both peaks are visible to the south, as well as expansive views of the Sierra to the north and west. The Kaweah and Whitney groups were shrouded white. Higgins Lake lay frozen below. There was virtually no snow in the Cartago-Horseshoe Meadows vicinity, remarkable for this season. But our stretch through treeline to top the jagged crest (11,200') still featured plenty of deep post-holing on this snowbound northeast incline.

Open terrain to the west now offered the best footing, on mixed talus and snow rather than the crest boulders. On the summit plateau (11,500'), we joined the slopes used for the customary ascent from the trail. The snow here was nearly continuous with no indication of recent traffic. Yet the summit apex itself was blown clear of snow.

We cut our stay short due to the late hour, 15:30, and proceeded south down the ridgeline to the saddle between Olancha Pk and its southern neighbor, Ed Lane Pt. One last push uphill brought us to the jumble of summit boulders atop Ed Lane Pt. It is rarely climbed. Even less so intentionally. The sparse register, placed by the late Carl Heller of China Lake S&R, is rife with accounts of those climbing it upon initially mistaking it for Olancha Pk. One entry even dubbed it "Consolation Peak." However, the perspective of Olancha's southeast face is impressive from here.

We quickly headed south across the flat top of Ed Lane Pt to the Falls Creek saddle (10,600'). Daylight had become an issue. Over the side at 18:00, we plunged down 2600 feet of soft snow in an hour. Thereafter we trudged down tedious scree and debris to avoid the brush as best we could, eventually crossing to the south side of the creek to bypass thickets. Frequently we sidehilled north facing slopes to skirt the willows and tree fall. No recent travel or any footpath was evident. Truly a "wild route," in Jenkins parlance.

This continued interminably through nightfall. Our final obstacle was a 40-foot waterfall (5400'). We were on headlamps now; the roaring cascade was spectacular even with our dim illumination. A series of easy class 3 pitches on the south led to the base of the falls. We appreciatively traced a tourist footpath the last quarter-mile, past ruined cabins, beyond a creek crossing to the parking area at 21:40. The Tequiza beers tasted mighty fine!

Statistics: approximately 12 miles, 9000 feet gain total. Our time was just over 15 hours.

Sawtooth Peak, Needham Mountain

September 12-13, 1998

By Patty Kline & Beth Epstein

Saturday morning eight of us assembled to pick up our permit at the Mineral King Ranger Station as it opened at 7 am. The ranger likes to see everyone together as a group for the bear and conservation talk, which is very informative. The license numbers of cars to be left at the roadhead were noted so that rangers can be alerted in case vehicles are in the parking lot past the return date. Across the street from the ranger station was a spacious shed for storage of all food which isn't packed in. We were told not to leave any in the car because of the bears. This time of year the marmots pose no threat to car engines -- they only eat radiator hoses, electrical

wiring, etc when the snow melts and they come out of hibernation. The leaders of this trip were Patty Kline and Beth Epstein, and the participants were Dan Bovee, Kim Gimenez, Jason Lynch, Carlton McKinney, Suzanne Mulzer and Peter Veregge.

We drove the few minutes up the road to the Sawtooth Pass/Monarch Lakes roadhead at 7,800 feet. We took an easy pace for the 6 mile, 2600 foot gain to Lower Monarch Lake. There were two conveniently placed bear boxes set near many level campsites a few hundred yards from the lake. After setting up our tents and storing our food where only the mice could nibble, everyone set off for Sawtooth

except Carlton, who already had the peak. We took the deteriorated trail toward Sawtooth Pass. It went through lots of sand and had many branches, many ducked, which makes it confusing. We worked our way southeast just below the Pass en route to the peak. Sawtooth is rated class two but has some easy third below the summit block. The views from the top of this 12,343 foot peak were great, and after much picture taking we descended to camp. The sandy uphill made a great run down. The statistics from Lower Monarch Lake were 2000 feet of gain and 4 miles round-trip.

Back in camp we quickly got ready for our community happy hour in the chilly evening air. There was an appetizer competition with prizes awarded. Jason got first place for his pita bread stuffed with tomato humus. Peter Veregge won second place for his freshly popped popcorn.

--Patty

As our Sunday morning 7:00 am start time approached, our participant list began to thin with the prospect of a late drive home down Mineral King's winding road. Carlton, Kim, Jason and I began hiking at 7:30 and headed up the pleasant green gully toward Sawtooth Pass as we had the previous day, but as we were planning to traverse below Sawtooth on use trails, we began to cut southeast across through the sand where the prominent use trails began to ascend -- a mistake, as everyone has said before; better to gain the ridge, or near it, at Sawtooth Pass where the footing is more solid. We eventually ended up that high anyway, and made our way below Sawtooth toward the south ridge.

If, like us, for some strange reason you decide to bypass Sawtooth on the way to Needham, you'll miss the scree descent from Sawtooth's summit down the southeast face to the Amphitheater Lake drainage. Instead, we used a break in the south ridge which Carlton spied about 200' above the saddle. There is a distinctly smooth, red, flat flake standing on end which marks a class 3 gully down, into which we traversed after entering slightly south of it through a keyhole. This deposits you atop the giant

slabs a couple of hundred feet above the lake basin. We traversed these northeast and down toward Needham, then began the miserable sandy slog up the southwest face. There is a faint ridge which goes a little better than the rest for a few hundred feet from about the 11,200' level. We were on Needhams' 12,520 foot summit at 11:30.

We wanted to return to our camp at lower Monarch Lake via Upper Monarch Lake to avoid the gain and traverse of the morning (we also eliminated the possibility of criss-crossing the ridges in and out of the Crystal Lake basin, in part because it would necessitate crossing the steep snow lingering above upper Monarch), so we headed across the meadows to the south end of the saddle between Amphitheater and Monarch Lakes, where it looked like the wall might go third class. On closer inspection, the darkly prominent southernmost crack was too vertical, and the reddish ledges to the right looked a little thin, but there was a zigzag ledge and crack system slightly further right that looked possible. (It started vertical, moved right horizontally, and became vertical again, like a "Z" turned counterclockwise on its nose). In the last 25 feet or so the exposure increased, but everyone was game and climbed well to the notch. I was so giddy with relief when we had all topped the ridge that when Kim pointed out the well-trodden trail angling toward Upper Monarch just below us, I said, "But that goes UP!" Of course, gravity being what it is, it also took us down through sandy ledges to upper Monarch Lake, which we circled, picking up the trail to the lower lake on the northeast side of the dam, and arriving back at camp at 3:30. We packed up and took the main trail down, reaching the cars about 5:30.

This was an interesting time to be in the mountains -- snow banks lingering and melting, flowers blooming, summer and spring and fall all converging and edging each other aside.

Thanks to Patty and all the participants, who made it a fun trip.

-Beth

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CONSERVATION 2 LINERS

□ INYO NATIONAL FOREST REPORT

The Inyo and Sierra National Forests are hosting public meeting in June on their progress with the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS) for the Ansel Adams, John Muir, Dinkey Lakes and Monarch Wildernesses Management Plan. Gary Guenther has also been in contact with Bill Bramlette, Inyo National Forest Deputy Supervisor. Following is a summary of Gary's finding on the DEIS to date .

- (1) A revised DEIS on the wilderness plan will contain a "Needs Assessment" and should be out for public review in May 2000.
- (2) In the next few months the INF will make a rough proposal on what they should be gathering data on (both use and resource data) and then put that out to the varied interest groups for their input to make sure they are on right track. Those groups will include the Whiskey Ck Group, BCH, and commercial users. BB said can't afford not to, must do it right this time. He doesn't want to gather data on areas without problems
- (3) He said there would be no changes in service day allocation to commercial users either up or down as it would require NEPA. The forest might address the site overcrowding due to commercial users at Hilton. Note; The Inyo and Sierra has never done NEPA on any allocation of use in the past.
- (4) The INF needs to demonstrate how the varied issues can be addressed effectively in the operating plan and acknowledged the forest has done a poor job in the past related to this.

Since Gary's report was sent the Forest Service announced that they would be conducting the following action on a Revised DEIS

- (1) Dr. Rany Gimblett, of the School of Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Arizona in Tucson has been hired to develop field methods for capturing baseline data. (If you remember, the lack of real scientific data on conditions in the Wilderness was one of the strongest criticisms last November of the DEIS)
- (2) Public meetings will be held. (The first public meetings were held June 15 and 17, 1999)
- (3) The Forest Service plans to complete gathering data for the revised plan by October 1999. Specialists and wilderness managers have been given the task of data gathering and compiling. The information teams will be led by Mike Le Fevre & Martie Schram for the Sierra Nat, Forest and Mary Beth Hennessy for the Inyo.
- (4) The most common topics of disagreement with the original proposed plan were commercial use; recreational livestock grazing; access – trails and cross-country travel, stock; campsites; campfires in wood-short areas; party size; quotas; fish stocking.

□ YOSEMITE UP DATE

The following has been copied form *Yosemite National Park – Planning Update May 1999*

Scoping Comment Analysis for the Draft Yosemite Valley Plan

□

In early December 1998, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, along with park officials, decided that four earlier planning efforts -the Draft Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan, Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan, Yosemite Lodge Development Concept Plan, and Yosemite Falls Project preliminary review draft -would be brought together into a single process and document, the Draft Yosemite Valley Plan.

Considerable time had passed since the inception of several of these planning efforts and the consolidation of plans was seen as a new development in the planning process. Therefore,

although extensive public comment already had been received on the first three of these earlier plans, it was decided that time should be allotted for the public to offer additional scoping level comments on the new Yosemite Valley Plan (YVP).

This public comment process served as a mechanism for gathering additional information relevant to the planning process and to better understand your concerns. Comments were weighed on their merits -individually and collectively - along with a variety of other planning information, such as the results of various studies, historical reports, consultation with outside experts in various disciplines, and the best professional judgment of park staff.

The scoping period for the YVP began December 16, 1998, and was extended through February 1, 1999. National Park Service staff took into consideration comments that:

- Pertained broadly to the planning process;
- Raised a pertinent issue not raised previously;
- Identified new information pertinent to the planning process;
- Identified elements or aspects of the plan that were outside the range of the five concepts presented in the YVP scoping press release, but would meet the goals and objectives of the planning process; or
- Addressed an area where park staff was attempting to refine the goals and objectives of the plan.

WHO REVIEWED COMMENTS?

The scoping team consisted of five Yosemite National Park Service (NPS) employees. All letters were read and scoping level comments were added to a growing list and database of general and specific comments.

WHO COMMENTED?

A total of 598 scoping comment letters were received, with California residents forming the largest group of respondents. Long-time park visitors, members of gateway and local communities, campers, environmentalists, park employees, and many organizations all provided input. Some comments were from members of families that had a tradition of camping in Yosemite for generations; a number were intent on sharing their observations of Yosemite and their changing visitor experience over time.

TYPES OF COMMENTS

Scoping level comments were identified as "general" or "specific" and the overall tone and content of each comment was assigned a "pro" or "con," according to the issue addressed. "General" scoping comments related to the planning process or other broad, overarching aspects of the plan; while "specific" scoping comments referred to a particular element, facet of the plan, or a plan alternative.

Among other comments, some highlights include:

- A large group of comments related to "carrying capacity" for the Valley. The vast majority of these pointed out the need to limit the number of people, not just the number of vehicles.
- Another sizable comment group supported the evaluation of remote staging areas for parking out of the Valley, yet within the park.
- Many comments targeted air quality and noise as important concerns.
- A large number supported the General Management Plan as a valid document to guide park planning.
- Several favored the removal of employee housing from the Valley.
- Additional input voiced the need for NPS planning to move slowly and deliberately, even extending the public comment period if necessary.
- A number expressed concern about the effect of Yosemite Valley planning on other areas of the park.

In total, 319 letters (53%) commented on the amount of development there should be in Yosemite Valley. Eight percent of those favored more development, 29% favored maintaining facilities or resources status quo, 39% favored modest reduction in development, while 24% favored radical reduction in development.

To receive a copy of the Scoping Comment Analysis Report, call (209)372-0261 and leave your request with your name and address on the message machine, or write to Yosemite Public Information Office, PO. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389, or send your request with your name and address via e-mail to yose_va11ey_p1an@nps.gov.

YVP Progress Report

What Have We Been Working On?

AS THE ALTERNATIVES are being developed for the Draft Yosemite Valley Plan /Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, the work of Yosemite National Park staff is being augmented by outside experts to ensure that we have the best possible information.

A sampling of this work includes:

- A trail workshop to develop non-motorized circulation elements of the alternatives, including pedestrian, bicycle, and stock uses.
- The use of criteria originally developed for the 1992 and 1996 Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan/Supplemental EIS to determine the number of employees that need to be housed in the Valley
- Ongoing noise and air quality studies.

On going mapping of the rockfall zone for Yosemite Valley

Delineation of wetlands in the east end of Yosemite Valley, including identification of one-year and five-year flood lines through campgrounds.

Completion of an ethnographic inventory/evaluation of the Yosemite Valley Native American Cultural Landscape.

A survey of National Register qualified structures and sites in Yosemite Valley, including preparing the nomination for the listing of Camp 4 (Sunnyside Campground).

Completion of a cultural resources inventory and archeological test excavations in the Yosemite Lodge/Lower Yosemite Fall area.

A review of our transportation plans and proposals involving experts from federal, state and county transportation agencies, to improve transportation components of each proposed alternative.

Design workshops for all transportation elements (parking, transit facilities, intersection alignments, traffic flow, etc.) to ensure that each of the alternatives provides for safe and efficient access and movement throughout the Valley

Alternative fuels analysis for cleaner, quieter shuttle buses.

Camp4/Swan Slab

After lawsuits by Friends of Yosemite, Access Fund, the American Alpine Club and individuals and an other suit by the Sierra Club Yosemite decided to defer all decisions on Yosemite Lodge Area redevelopment until the Valley Plan in completed. At this time 2 proposals for the Valley Plan are being considered. "The first, a 'maximum protection' proposal, would preserve Camp 4/Swan Slab from all new development. It would also reduce lodging and camping through-out the Valley, and would build the highly controversial 1,500-car parking lot at Taft Toe. The second proposal would provide for Yosemite Lodge units and employee dormitories around Camp 4 and up against Swan Slab." (Camp 4 quotes and information from the Access Fund)

"If I do a hard bolt route, it's nice, but the memory is short. If I climb a hard alpine route, the memory lasts forever." - Steve Haston, British alpinist and all-rounder. *The Quotable Climber, edited by Jonathan Waterman*

THE SIERRA ECHO

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ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes to Matthew Richardson 333 Sycamore Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. The ECHO is mailed via 3rd class mail and will not be forwarded by the post office.

PEAKS LIST: Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending \$1.00 and a SASE to the section Secretary: Matthew Richardson, 333 Sycamore Ave., Claremont, CA 91711.

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 (\$15.00), senior emblem pins (\$15.00), master emblem pins (\$15.00), 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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