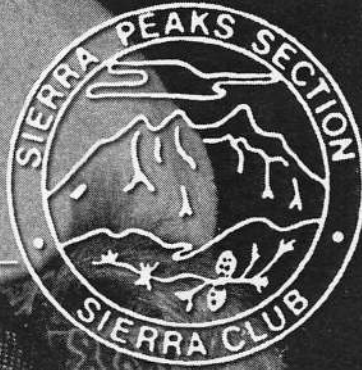


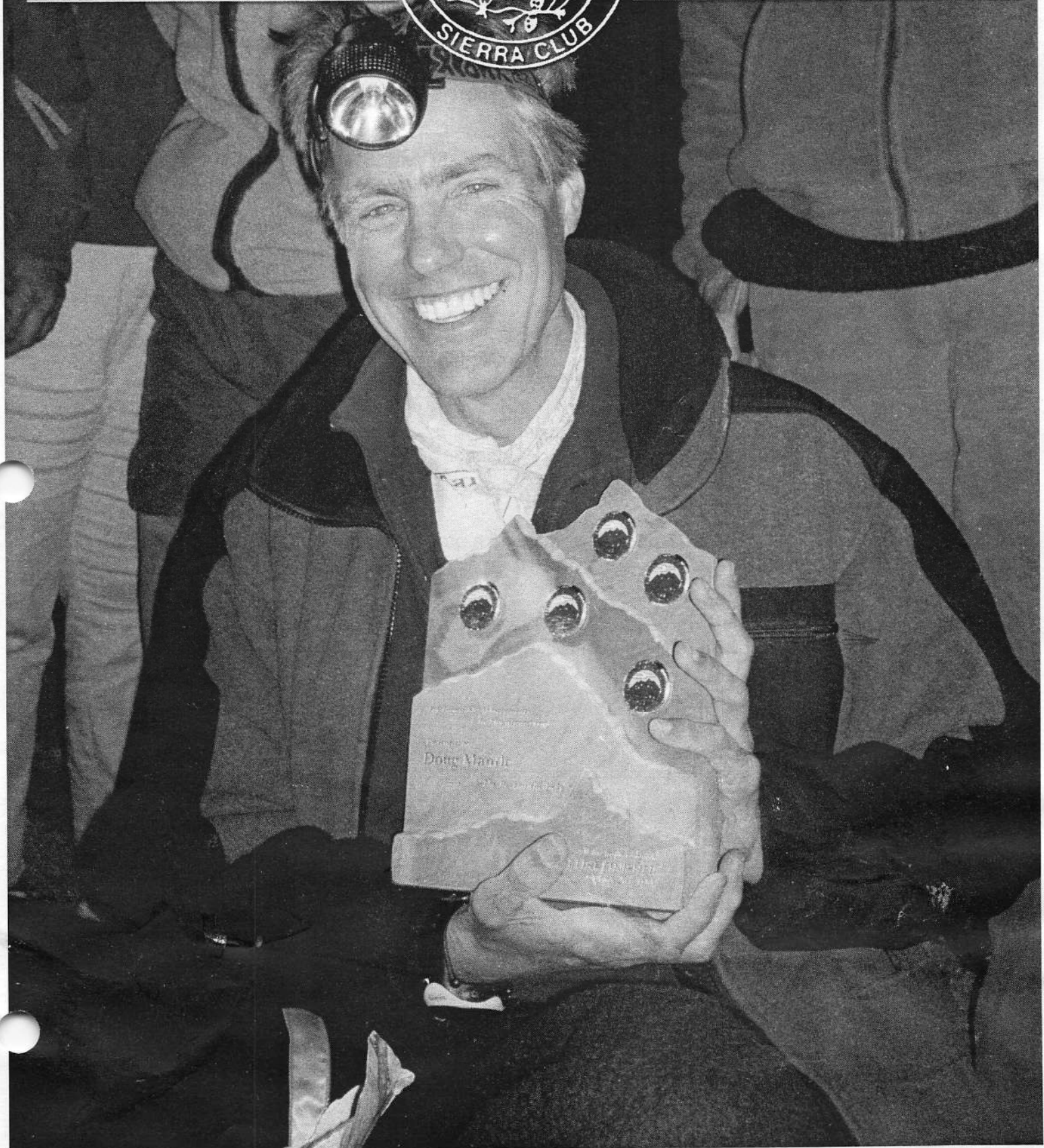
# The Sierra

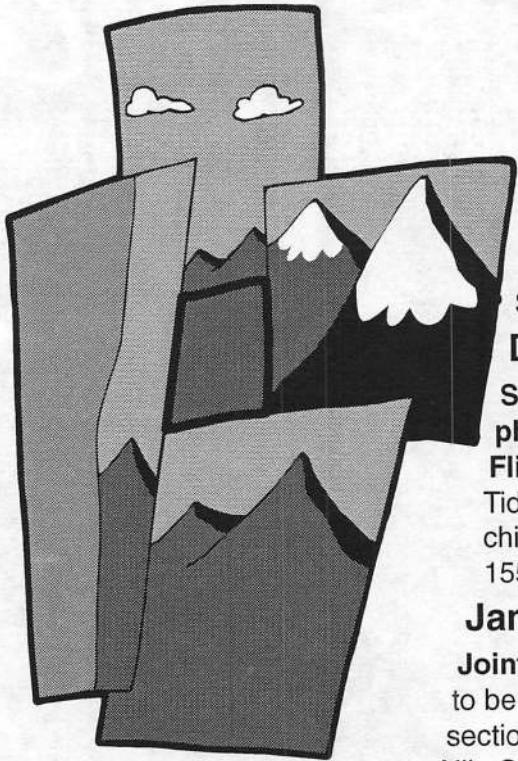
VOLUME 43 NUMBER 6



# ECHO

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 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 (please inform parking attendants that you are attending a Sierra Club meeting).

### December 8

**SPS Banquet – Speaker: Greg Epperson, rock climber and photographer from Bishop, California. Location: La Canada – Flintridge Country Club.** Tickets \$28.00 Send SASE to Barbee Tidball with dinner selection noted. Dinner choices will include chicken, fish or vegetarian entrees. Call Barbee Tidball 562/424-1556 for last minute tickets.

### January 12

**Joint Meeting HPS/DPS/SPS** This year's joint section meeting is to be held on our regular meeting night. The fifth annual joint sections meeting will feature Matthew Richardson, Erik Siering and Nile Sorenson. They will present a slide show program on their February 1999 ascent of Cerro Aconcagua, high point of the western

hemisphere. Come socialize with your DPS & HPS friends and hear about our fellow member's adventure.

### February 9

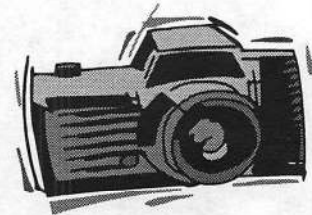
**Famed Yosemite climber, Jim Bridwell,** will present a program on his recent ascent of the North Face of Bear Tooth Peak, Alaska.

### March 8

**Virgil Talbott - Avalanche Awareness,** Virgil will present a program on Avalanche Awareness for Sierra Nevada backcountry travel.

### April 12

**Greg Roach - Kings, Kern & Great Western Divide,** Greg will present a program on climbing in the Sierra.



### Front Cover

## Doug Mantle Listfinsher - extraordinaire

See Story inside of Doug's  
5th list finsh celebration -  
October 2, 1999

Photo By: Mary  
McMannes

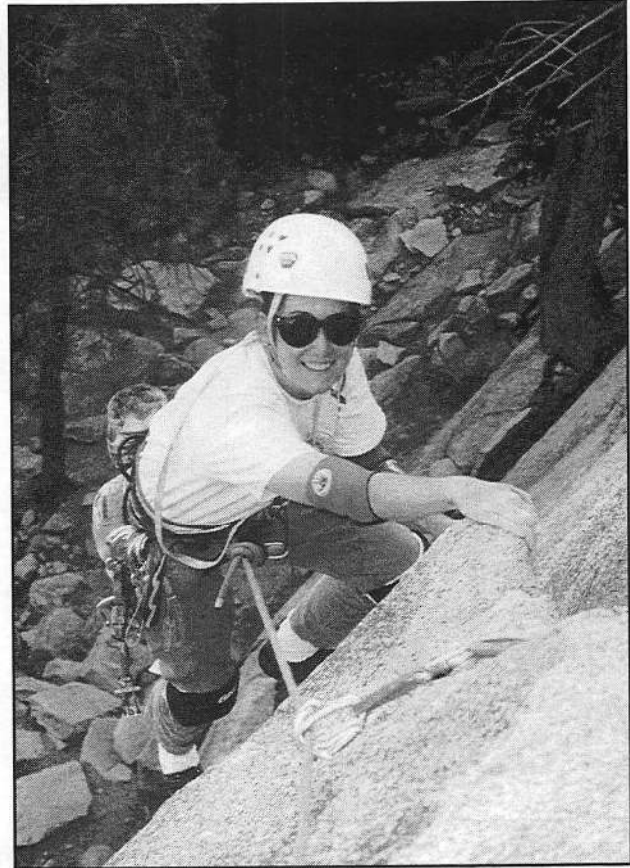
## Peak List

Mt. Silliman	Moses Mtn.
Clouds Rest	Kern Peak
Mt. Powell	Kilimanjaro
Mt. Thompson	
N. Maggie Mtn.	

## ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

1999 was a great year for the SPS with Doug Mantle finishing the list for the 5th time on Clouds Rest and Steve Eckert on Kern Peak. Some of us plan to finish once; 5 is truly outstanding.

I want to thank everyone who gave generously of their time to the SPS. I had a wonderful management committee to work with. Tim Keenan was our enthusiastic and creative Outing and Vice-Chair through July when he moved to Northern California. Barbara (Cohen) Sholle, who has done outings 2 other years, did an excellent job taking his place as Outings Chair. Matthew Richardson was our Secretary/Aconcagua summitter. Scott Sullivan was the ever efficient Treasurer, who will be finishing the list one of these years. Keith Martin, the Fifth Officer and Programs Chair, got some great speakers.



The whole SPS thanks Barbee Tidball and Barbara Sholle for doing a fantastic job on *The Echo*. Barbee also continued her position as Conservation Chair working with the National Sierra Club on establishing a Fixed Anchor Policy to be compatible with climbing and conservation issues. Barbee also represents the SPS in the Whiskey Creek Group meetings in Bishop to voice concern with the future policies of the Forest Service wilderness areas in the Sierra. After all that Barbee still found time to organize our Banquet. Eric Lesser helped Barbee with Conservation. Elena Sherman faithfully mailed *The Echo*. Doug Mantle and Duane McRuer offered their guidance as co-Safety and Training Chairs. Tina (Stough) Bowman kept track of Mountain Records. Dan Richter as Archivist facilitated our use of the UCLA Library. Ann Kramer kept us informed on the Council. Mirna Roach recorded our members addresses, e-mails, etc. Bill Oliver, a true history buff, was the historian.

I enjoyed being Chair of the Sierra Peaks Section and working with all of you. Thank you to everyone for all the hard work and a job well done.

Happy Climbing,

*Patty*

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Subscription Today**

Renew at the Sustaining level -- For just  
\$25.00 a year you will receive your Echo  
by 1st class mail and help the section.

Renew by March 2000

## SPS - Winter & Spring Trips 1999 - 2000



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.

### DECEMBER

**RE/M Dec 4-5 Sat-Sun SPS/LTC Indian Cove Rock Workshop/Checkoff:** Checkoffs Sat. Ldrs.: Shields, Hudson.

**I/M/E Dec 12 Sun LTP Navigation Warren Point,** Joshua Tree National Park Ldrs. Freimanis, Bradshaw

### JANUARY

**RE/M Jan 9 Sun SPS/LTC Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff. same as Dec 4-5 except that checkoffs for M and E must be pre-arranged.** Ldr: Virgil Shields, Co-Ldr: Dan Richter

**I/M/E Jan 9 Sun LTP Navigation Warren Point,** Joshua Tree National Park Ldrs. Freimanis, Bradshaw

Join the DPS party animals for Happy Hour. Meet at 5:00pm McCormick & Schmicks, downtown LA. Send sase to Ann Kramer for directions

**M/E Jan 22 Sat LTC/SPS DPS Local Snow Practice** Ldr: Sorenson.

### FEBRUARY

**M/E Feb 5 Sat LTC.SPS/DPS Annual Baldy Snow Practice** same as Jan. 22. Ldr. Nile Sorenson, Asst. qualified safety instructors.

**M/E Feb 12 Sat LTC/SPS Mt Rubidoux Workshop/Checkoff** same as Dec 4-5 except the checkoffs for M & E must be pre-arranged. Ldrs.: V. Shields, D. Richter.

### MARCH

**T/MR: Birch Mtn (13,602')** Ski the SE slopes of a cl2 SPS peak. Sat hike in via Tinemaha Crk, set up snow camp. Ski pm. Sun climb peak, ski out. Restricted trip. Must have suitable mountaineering experience. metal-edged skis, skin, beacons, ice axe, crampons, and advanced skiing abilities req'd. Send sase or e-mail w/ experience, h&w phones, rideshare info to co-ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, R.J. Secor.

### APRIL

**I Apr 8 Sat Lamont Peak (7429')** Intro trip w/ car camp and moderately paced ascent (brief Cl2) of an SPS qualifying peak near Walker Pass. 4 mi rt mostly on use trail, 2250' gain. Lug soles mandatory. Send sase and H&W phones. Newly added Hundred Peak nearby may be climbed independently on Sun. Ldrs: Jerry & Nancy Keating.

**I/M April 15-16 Sat - Sun LTP Navigation Indian Cove,** Joshua Tree National Park. Check-offs Sunday. Ldrs. Freimanis, Bradshaw

**T/MR Apr 29 - May 7 Sat - Sun Trans-Sierra Ski Tour:** SPS/SMS Join a 7-day backcountry ski tour across the Sierra Nevada. Depending on snow/road conditions the trip may go from Onion Valley to Mineral King, or the High Route, or the Monarch Divide, or a tour along Eastern Sierra Crest such as Onion Valley to South Lk. Peak climbs included. For this restricted trip you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable mountaineering experience. Metal-edged skis, skins, beacons, ice axe, crampons, and strong skiing abilities and stamina reqd. Must have skied with leaders before. Send sase or e-mail, climbing/skiing resume, h&w phones, rideshare info to co-Ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, R J Secor.

**Send your photos & trip write-ups to The Echo. We are always looking for stories of your mountaineering adventures.**


**MAY**

**M/E May 6-7 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff.** Ldr: Nile Sorenson Asst: qualified safety instructors

**MR: May 13 - 14 Sat - Sun Mt Agassiz (13,8931) and Mt Goode (13,0851):** Climb two fine peaks in the Bishop Pass area. Moderate backpack from road (South Lake area) to Saddlerock Lake camp. Sat. Mt. Goode, Sun Mt Agassiz. Experienced climbers ice axe and crampons. Send sase w/ experience, h&w phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Barbee Tidball Co-ldr. Barb Sholle.

**I/M: May 20 - 21 Sat - Sun WTC/SPS Crag Pk (9515'), Smith Mtn (9455'):** Bkpk in So Sierra forests & meadows, climb 2 pks w cl/3 summits. Sat hike from Hooker Mdw to camp in Albanita Mdw, 4 mi, 11 50' gain, set camp, climb Smith, 4 more mi, 900' gain, return for happy hr. Sun climb Crag, 6 mi, 1100' gain xc, pack out. WTC/equiv reqd. Send 2 sase w rec/cond & exper, H & W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Beth Epstein Co-ldr: Kim Gimenez

**M: MAY 20 - 21 Sat - Sun Mt.Dade (13,600'):** Snow climb restricted to SC members with ice axe/ crampon experience. Sat hike 4 mi, 1000' to Treasure Lk and enjoy the scenery. Sun climb peak from east via the Hourglass couloir 1.5 mi, 2200', then return to camp and cars. Send sase, H&W phones, SC#, climbing resume to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Asst: Nile Sorenson

 **I/M/E May 21 Sun LTP Navigation Check-off Grinnell Ridge, San Bernardino Nat. Forest** Ldrs. Freimanis, Creighton

**E: May 27 - 29 Sat - Mon SPS Mt Powell (13,3641), Clyde Spires (13,2401+), Picture Peak (13,1201+) exploratory:** The USGS moved the name of one of our listed peaks to another mountain! We will climb the new Mt Powell (steep snow w/ class 3 rock) and consider it for addition to The List. Also planned are climbs of two other non-listed peaks, class 4 Clyde Spires and class 3 Picture Peak. Please submit climbing resume with recent rock and ice experience, SC#, carpool info, sase to Ldr: RJ Secor. Asst: Dan Richter

**T/MR: May 27-29 Sat-Mon SPS & SMS Powell (13,360') and Thompson (13,4941):** Enjoy a long weekend of cornsnow skiing and peak climbing. Metal-edged skis, skins, beacons, ice axe and crampons experience and advanced skiing abilities reqd. Send sase or e-mail w/ experience, h& w Phones rideshare info to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel, Asst.: Mark Goebel

**I: May 27-29 Sat-Mon Coyote (10,892') and Angora (10,1981):** Kick off summer with two Southern Sierra class 2 peaks. Sat. hike to camp Sun. long day to climb peaks. Mon hike out. Send sase w/ backpacking experience, h&w phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Barbee Tidball Co-ldr. Larry Tidball

**JUNE**

**M/E: Jun 3 - 4 Sat - Sun LTC, SPS, DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff:** For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. Practice and instruction available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Check offs will be first. Restricted to SC mbrs with some prior basic training in snow. Send 2 SASE, SC#, climbing resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson Asst: Doug Mantle

**M/E June 3-4 Sat -Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff** same as May 6-7 trip. **Ldr: Nile Sorenson Asst: qualified safety instructors**

**I: JUN 10 - 11 SAT - SUN SPS/WTC Olancha Pk (12,123')** Moderately strenuous climb of emblem pk in S Sierra. SPS intro trip geared to new SPS climbers and strong WTC students. Sat hike 7 mi, 3600' gain from Sage Flat to base camp off PCT trail. Sun climb pk and out. Total gain for wkend 6500' in 23 mi rt. Send 2 sase, H&W phones, recent cond, rideshare info to Ldr.: Patty Kline, asst. Paul Graff.

**M: Jun 16 - 18 Fri - Sun Mt.Darwin (13,831') & Mt. Mendel (13,710'):** Restricted to SC members with ice axe / crampon and exposed class 3 experience. Fri bkpk from North Lake 6.5 mi, 3500' gain, over Lamarck Col to Darwin Canyon. Sat climb Mt. Darwin, 6 mi rt, 2 100' gain. Possible climb of Mt Mendel, 3 mi rt, 1560' gain. Return to camp. Sun pack out. Send 2 SASE or I plus e-mail, qualifications with recent experience & conditioning, H&W phones, SC#, \$5 permit fee and rideshare info to Ldr: Neal Robbins, Asst: Nile Sorenson

**M: Jun 17 - 18 Sat - Sun Mt Dade (13,635'), Mt. Mills (13,468'):** WTC/SPS Snow climb restricted trip ice ax & crampon exper. Sat bkpk from Mosquito Flats to Treasure Lks, 4.5 mi, 800' gain, climb Dade via hourglass (1.5 mi, 2500' gain), share happy hr. Sun start early for Mills (3 mi, 2400' rt), pack out. Not for WTC students. Send resume of snow climbing exper, SC number, 2 sase, H & W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Beth Epstein Co-ldr Kim Gimenez

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## JUNE Continued

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**MR: June 17 - 18 Sat - Sun Mt Baxter (13,125'):** Sat strenuous bkpk in beautiful east side canyon along Sawmill Pass trail, 6500' gain to camp. Sun climb peak 2400' gain to summit. Experienced climbers ice axe and crampons. Send sase w/exper., h&w phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Larry Tidball Co-ldr. Barbee Tidball.

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**MR: JUN 22 - 25 Thu - Sun SPS Mt Williamson (14,375'), Mt Tyndall (14,019') Junction Pk (13,845').**Strenuous (yet jovial), restricted (SC members) climb of fine high peaks. Ice-axe & crampons probably required; plus cl 3 climbing. Backpack up Shepherd Pass (8 mi, 6000+' gain) first day, likely to be toughest. Send 2 sases w/H&W phones, e-mail; recent experience & conditioning, SC#, \$5.00 check (to "AW" for trail fee), to Ldr: Asher Waxman. Co-ldr: Matthew Richardson.

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**MR: JUN 24 - 25 SAT - SUN Mt Ritter (13,1432):** Moderately paced snow and rock climb of Emblem Pk west of Mammoth Lakes. Sat backpack from Agnew Meadow to Ediza Lake, 6 mi, 1250' gain. Sun climb pk, 4 mi, 3750' gain and pack out. Trip restricted to S.C. members with M level snow and rock checkouts or equivalent. Send sase with S.C. #, experience, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Mars Bonfire Co-Lrd: Doug Mantle.

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## JULY

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**I: July 1- 2 Sat - Sun SPS/HPS Sirretta Peak (9977'), Cannel Pt (8314'), Mt Jenkins (7921') Owens Peak (8453'):** Enjoy early summer carcamp in the Southern Sierras. Cannel and Jenkins are HPS peaks; hikes are moderate by SPS standards. First two Sat, 10 mi rt, 3200' gain. Last two Sun, 12 mi loop, 4500' gain. Send sase with recent experience, H&W phones to Ldr: Mars Bonfire Co-Ldrs: Virgil Popescu, Tom Hill

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**E: Jul 1 - 4 Sat-Tues Palisade Crest (13,553'), Temple Crag (12,976'):** Restricted to SC mbrs only Mtneers List, small experienced grp. Sat hike 6 mi 3500' gain to camp at Elinore lake. Climb Pal Crest on Sun by class 4 Northwest Ridge route from Scimitar Pass. Monday climb Temple Crag. Must be comfortable on exposed class 4 rock. May consider Jepson or Gayley depending on time and strength of group. Pack out on Tues. Send 2 SASE, SC#, exper resume, cond, H&W phones', email, rideshare info to Ldr. Nile Sorenson, Asst: Bill Oliver

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**MR: JUL 29 - 30 Mt. Ritter (13,1431) & Banner Peak (12,936')** Restricted to SC members with ice axe crampon and "exposed class 3 experience. Not for WTC students. Sat bkpk from Agnew Meadow to Ediza Lake, 7.5 mi, 1230' gain. Possible climb of Banner Peak, 6 mi rt, 3660' gain. Sun climb Mt. Ritter, 6 mi rt, 3870' gain, and pack out. Send 2 SASE or 1 plus e-mail, qualifications with recent experience & conditioning, H&W phones, SC#, \$5 permit fee and rideshare info to Ldr: Neal Robbins, Asst: Paul Graff

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## NORTHERN PEAK GUIDE - UPDATES AVAILABLE

As stated in previous *Echo* issues, the yearly Updates, Revisions, and Additions for the **Northern Sierra Peaks Guide** remain available at no charge to guide owners. Send a SASE, with one ounce postage for each year that is requested, to: Pete Yamagata 2109 1/2 10th Street #3, Sacramento, CA 95818-1313. The URAs run yearly from 1994 to 1999 (available Jan. 2000). Also, please check out my mountaineering web site at: <<http://Hwww.lanset.conVpyamagata>>. I plan to have a Northern Sierra peaks page by the time this announcement is printed. Thank all of you for your support. Pete Yamagata

## Mountain Records

We had another good season for placing register books on our listed peaks. Thank you, Erik Siering and Bob Sumner, for placing register containers on Mt. Powell (Eric - an SPS cast aluminum cylinder) and Mt. Lola (Bob--an ammo box to replace nesting tin cans). Erik also fixed the container on Mt. Thompson and placed a book there, and Bob took a large notebook to Tinker Knob. SPS register books were also placed by Al Conrad (Pilot Knob north), Paul Graff (Mt. Langley), Matthew Richardson (Mt. Gibbs), R. I Secor (Mt. Brewer and Tehipite Dome), Scott Sullivan (Electra Peak), and Barbee and Larry Tidball (Mt. Ritter). Thanks y'all! I also placed books also on Tower Peak, Sawtooth Peak (Mineral King), and Thunderbolt Peak.

October 19, 1999

Tina Bowman, Mountain Records Chair

## SPS Membership Report

### CONGRATULATIONS! ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Emblem #556 - Barbee Tidball  
Senior Emblem #125 - Asher Waxman  
List Finisher #53 - Steve Eckert  
X5 List Finisher - Doug Mantle

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert Amaral

Anne Marie Turner  
1783 N. El Molino Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91104  
W(626) 585-1216  
H(626) 794-1313  
anne.turner@mckhboc.com

### HAPPY READING NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Dale Stuart  
4112 Konya Drive  
Torrance, CA 90503  
(310) 371-3202  
dalestuart@vel.net

### MOVERS & CHANGERS ADDRESS CHANGES

Gil Chotam  
H(818) 262-9338

Tim Keenan  
8820 La Riveria Drive, Unit B  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(same phone number:  
916/369-7608)

Gary Craig  
23624 A Western Ave.  
Harbor City, CA 90710

Julie Rush  
3202 Larga Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90039-2212

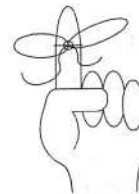
Greg Campbell  
3043 Balearic Dr. SE  
Marietta, GA 30067-5403

Robert Amaral  
7653 Shoreline Dr.  
Stockton, CA 95219-4591

Frank Sanborn  
2101 S. 324<sup>th</sup> St., #17  
Federal Way, WA 98003

Joseph White  
[josephwhite@earthlink.com](mailto:josephwhite@earthlink.com)

**Reminder: send in your comments on the Sierra Club's proposed Fixed Anchor Policy. Comments are due December 15, 1999**



See the October/November Echo for a review and publication of the new proposed Sierra Club Policy. Passage of this policy or the re-affirmation of the existing policy will affect the Sierra Club's position on the Forest Service's Reg. Neg. on Fixed Anchors in wilderness areas. In 1998 the Forest Service tried to ban the use of Fixed Anchors in all wilderness areas.

As climbers we need to recognize that many of the Sierra Club's non-climbing members do not and will not ever truly understand why we feel fixed anchor usage is essential in wilderness areas. We have the support of many non-climbing members. But they need to hear from Sierra Club mountaineers that you want a Club policy that allows the use of fixed anchors. Without our taking an active role and voicing our desires the rest of the Club does not know how important the use of fixed anchors is.

**Send your comments today!**

## Sierra Peaks Section Meeting Minutes

**September 8, 1999**

Location: Department of Water and Power building,  
downtown Los Angeles  
Minutes taken by: Matthew Richardson

### **Management Committee Meeting**

In Attendance: Patty Kline, Scott Sullivan, Keith Martin, Matthew Richardson, Dan Richter, Barbee Tidball, Barbara Sholle  
The Meeting began at 6:40 pm.

Patty told about a dedication ceremony at Camp 4, Yosemite, to celebrate its placement on the National Register of Historic Places. The ceremony is scheduled for September 25.

The LTC lecture will take place on October 2. September 18 is the deadline for signups.

Scott presented the treasurer's report. We have \$3,287 in checking and \$907 in savings, for a total of \$4,194. The third quarter ends September 30.

August meeting minutes were read and approved.

Barbee gave an update on the banquet. Management committee members will get banquet tickets to sell at the October meeting.

Barbara reported on the Nominating Committee's progress. They have found 7 well-qualified candidates to run for this year's SPS Management Committee election.

The Management Committee appointed three members of an Election Committee to oversee the election. The members will be Barbara Sholle, Duane McRuer and Ann Kramer.

Matthew, as secretary, designated *The Sierra Echo* to prepare the election ballot.

The Committee will consult the SPS Mailer to help choose a method of distribution for the ballot.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

### **General Meeting**

The meeting was chaired by Patty Kline. There was one new attendee, Roy Randall, and we hope he'll come again.

Barbara Sholle, acting Outing Chair, presented reports on recent trips. Dan Richter congratulated Asher Waxman on earning his Senior Emblem, and Patty told of Erik Siering reaching his Senior and Master Emblems.

Patty mentioned the stylish SPS t-shirts which are available for purchase at meetings.

Ann Kramer gave a report from the nominating committee. They have succeeded in fielding 7 well-qualified candidates for the up-coming election. She also described coming changes in the Sierra Club Angles Chapter. The sections will be sending representatives to the Executive Committee, and so the Group Council will probably be eliminated.

In addition she shared the sad news the Sierra Clubber Merwin Lucas has passed away.

Next, Patty asked whether there were any nominations from the floor for the election. Since there were none, she declared the nominations officially closed.

This month's trivia question: What was the name of the survey party that called prominent Palisades peaks "Northwest Palisade" and "Southwest Palisade", and by what name are those peaks known today?

Patty shared the news about the dedication ceremony for Camp 4 in Yosemite being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

She warned about new permit procedures for the Inyo National Forest. Among the changes: \$15 fees for Mt. Whitney, pick-up in person, and a jump to \$5 for permits other than Whitney. Letters are needed to oppose these measures!

Barbee Tidball offered a clarification of accident report procedures. They should be filled out whenever an incident occurs, just in case. Lawsuits can



September 8 continued

arise even years after the fact, and failure to create a record can put the Club at a disadvantage.

Dan reported on the climbing archives. They will be turned over to UCLA, where we will have free access. They will stay in Southern California, and there will be an archivist assigned to their handling and storage.

John Robinson won the trivia contest by identifying the George Montigue Wheeler party. The peaks were North Palisade and Split Mtn., respectively.

Keith Martin Program Chair, gave Duane McRuer the honor of introducing this month's speakers.

John Robinson and Jerry Keating presented an inspiring historical program about the early days of the SPS. They dedicated the program to the memory of Chuck Miller, third Chair of the SPS, and also to Bill Sanders, who drowned last month crossing a river in southern Arizona.

There were a number of noteworthy SPS members from the early days present for the occasion. Among others who made it were Chuck Gerckens, Bill Heusel, Tom Amneus, George Hubbard, Nancy Keating and Mary Ann Miller

### October 13, 1999.

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

Minutes taken by: Scott Sullivan

### Management Committee Meeting

In Attendance: Patty Kline, Scott Sullivan, Keith Martin

The Meeting started at 6:45 pm.

September meeting minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer reports a bank balance of \$4046.00

Alex Lowe killed in an avalanche on Shisha Pangma. Chapter wide conservation campaign is Oct. 15 -17. 7 past chair pins were ordered at a cost of \$10.16 each.

DWP meeting rooms are secured through November 2000. Outings deadline is November 5, 1999.

Banquet tickets were distributed to management committee.

Approved reimbursing Patty \$55.00 for trivia prizes for 1999 meetings.

Approved \$50 to reimburse Mingo Morvin (program) for transportation costs.

Discussed program ideas for 2000.

Discussed Angeles Chapter Awards

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

### General Meeting

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

New attendees were introduced.

Patty asked trivia questions. Prizes were carabiners. Which SPS mountaineers peak was named April 24, 1903? Ed Lubin got the correct answer of Mt. Sill. Who made tough pitons in the 1940's? Keith Martin got the correct answer, John Salathe.

What rock climber proposed 5.10A-D in 1973?

Keith Martin got the correct answer with Jim Bridwell

See management committee minutes.

Buy Banquet tickets from the management committee.

Barbara Sholle presented the outings report.

George Toby described the Chuck Stein memorial service on Lamont Peak, Sept. 26, 1999.

Mingo Morvin presented his rock climbing slides.

*Added comment form Conservation Chair:*

Mingo Mrovin talked alot about his role in setting over 2000 routes in Joshua Tree and stated his goal to set 500 new routes in the Sierra. We are currently experiencing a conservation reaction against the proliferation of fixed anchors. Mingo states that he uses very few bolts, however do we as Sierra Club members and mountaineers truly support the attitude of setting numerous rock climbing routes in the Wilderness, and even closer to our hearts the Sierra wilderness. Let *The Echo* know your thoughts.

## Elections Report by Barbee Tidball

I was recruited this year to assist in helping to count the SPS Management Committee ballots, a task that fell to me after Barbara Sholle's fellow nominating committee members were unable to attend the November meeting. With the great list of candidates - Scot Sullivan, Keith Martin, Mathew Richardson, Paul Graff, Eric Lesser, Patty Kline, and Ron Hudson we had a stack of ballots to count.

Barb read off the votes and I tallied....then I totaled, oops a tie between two of the candidates. I had Barb recount half the stack and I recounted the other half.....oops the number changed. Change the process again, this time the count re-affirmed our original count. One last re-check and we knew we had the correct tally.

Patty Kline soon learned about the tie. And her

reaction was "Oh no, we don't want to have a run off election". Patty then went even further.....Patty elected to withdraw her name from the list of candidates. After seven years of dedicated and energetic service to our section, Patty decided that it was time to step aside and give others a chance to become involved with the section. Management Committee, if you don't know, is a great way to become closely involved with the members and workings of our section. Historically all of the SPS's well known and active leaders have at one time assisted the section by serving on the Management Committee.

The year 2000 Management Committee will include new and continuing members -- Scot Sullivan, Keith Martin, Mathew Richardson, Paul Graff, and Ron Hudson.

## YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK VOLUNTEERS IN PARK PROGRAM OCTOBER 2-3, 1999

**By Keith Martin, Project Leader**

The fourth annual volunteer work project, held in Yosemite National Park on the weekend of October 2,3, was another success. Hosted jointly by the Orange County Sierra Singles and the Sierra Peaks Section, eight hardworking participants engaged in two days of work helping to build the Wilderness Permit Office in Tuolumne Meadows.

We all arrived Friday night at the Volunteers in Parks campground located in the valley. At 8am we were met by Ken Stowell with the Yosemite Volunteer in Parks program and given instructions to get to the construction site. Once there, our eager and talented volunteers busily engaged in framing, painting, staining, installing door frames, installing sheetrock and plumbing. To make this even more fantastic, some of our participants had never done this before, yet with the guidance of other members of the group and the park coordinators, they made positive contributions which will remain as long as the permit office is in use.

The Permit Office has five separate rooms. The public enters a room with the front desk where backpackers will get their permits from the park

rangers. We helped to stain the beautiful cabinets which have been installed in this room. Next to the front desk is the cleaning and storage room for the bear canisters. Yosemite Park is encouraging all backpackers to use canisters to protect their food, and they have a large number of canisters available which they rent out for a nominal fee. Next to the storage room are two restrooms where our volunteers spent most of their time installing framing, plumbing, doors and sheetrock. The office has been built entirely with the help of volunteers supervised by the Volunteers in Parks staff. Ken Stowell estimates that well over 300 hundred individuals have participated in its construction. Ken has been informed by the Park administrators that there will be a plaque installed listing the names of all who contributed to this unique and worthwhile project. I look forward to seeing the names of our participants: Virgil Talbott, Roger Massoud, Karin Heiser, Sandy Pipins, David Jamison, James Murphy, Geoff Gorchynski and myself proudly displayed along with all the other volunteers.

Saturday night we had our traditional Bar B Que, potluck dinner and after dinner campfire. Before long we were all in our sleeping bags resting up for the next morning's task. Sunday we worked into the early afternoon, some members leaving early for the drive home. Thanks again to all that participated. I look forward to our next opportunity to help the park.

## Mt. Silliman

September 12, 1998

A Private Trip by Ed Lubin

On September 12, 1998, I did Mt. Silliman, elevation 11,188 feet, as a day climb with two friends, Jacques Bernier and Cheyl Walling, summiting from the south.

We took the trail from Lodgepole in Sequoia National Park, elevation 6720 feet, towards Cahoon Meadow, turned right up Silliman Creek, finding an easy fisherman's path on the South side that was washed out at the creek junction. (there were short, sharp switchbacks at the junction, and a sign which I believe read "Cahoon Meadow".) The fisherman's path became partly over grown in places with knee-high vegetation.

We turned right again where the creek forked near the glacier serrated toe of the West ridge of Mt Silliman. In a short distance we began an exhilarating ascent of a quite broad and steep, spectacular granite slab roughly 1300 feet high. The upper most eastern part reaches nearly to Silliman Lake, the bottom lake of a tiny chain in the cirque above.

The slab slopes at about a thirty-five degree angle. There was enough traction on it, but due to the steepness and extreme exposure, a fall could have been fatal - little would have prevented tumbling clear down to the foot of the slope.

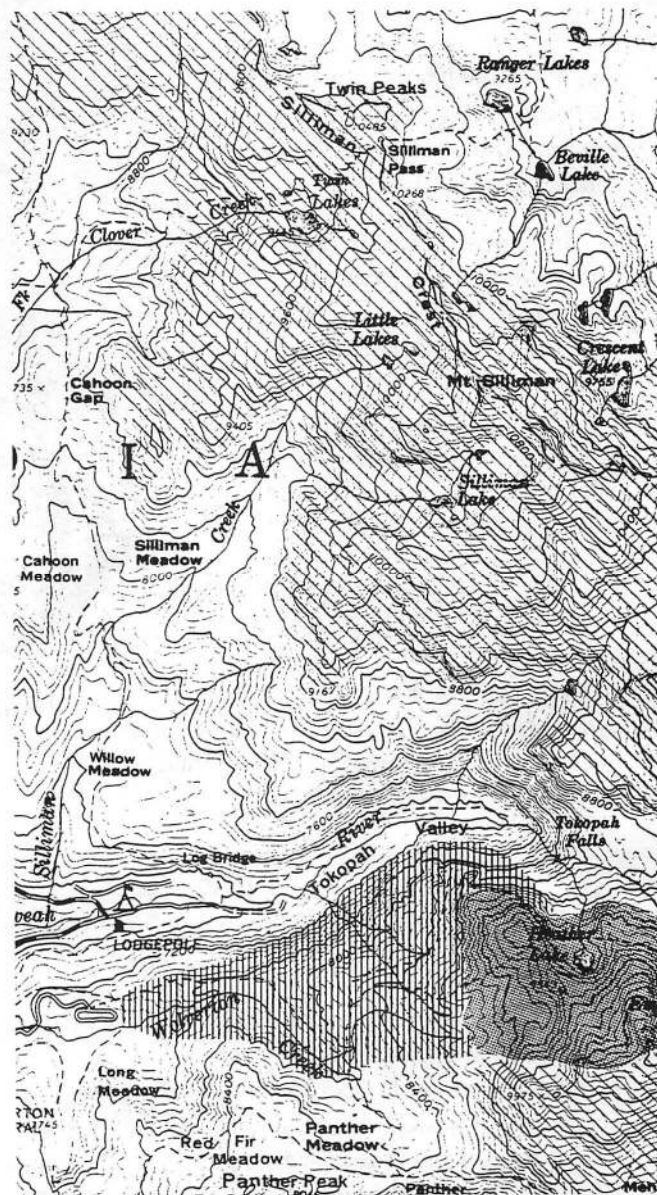
For much of the distance, we went up shallow depressions in the slab. Some contained avoidable rivulets of water emptying from the lake outlet. The more voluminous flow that no doubt cascades down earlier in the season, could create a climbing hazard, perhaps too great of one. However, there also appeared to be relatively narrow "off-rock" approaches at both ends of the monolith, which probably could be used instead.

Our route then went left, passing near the lake shore. The final pitch was easy talus and scree. Not far from the base, the Northern part of the highest lake in the cirque came into sight. It was down slope to our right, located almost due South of the summit.

We gained the summit, lingered awhile to absorb the sublime views, then descended the easy scree filled chute just east of our up-route, and returned to the monolith. We went down the slab about midway to where it steepened even more, then headed directly toward Silliman Meadow, where we took the fisherman's path back to the trail, and it on out.

Moving at an easy to moderate pace, the climb took about ten hours all together.

Our southern approach proved to be a good alternative to the circuitous, Class 2 northern route that requires staying on trail until Silliman Pass. The peak is then so distant that the climb is sometimes done as a backpack. The undulating terrain, such as at Cahoon Gap, also increases the total round-trip gain. Another advantage of the Southern approach is increased solitude, because way more of the route is off trail.



## FIFTHINISHER

Late last October, it hit me: 40 peaks to go. I can finish the list next year!

The frenzy. All finishers have felt it. Is December too late for Tunemah? Electra in January? Absurd, yes, but I've never bested this beast.

So, November, off I go, to the Clark Range. Hike in 20 miles (have to park at Badger Pass); next day, as I top out on Merced Peak - Winter begins. Five inches of snow, and another frenzy - to get out!

Next weekend, I'm off for Angora and Coyote. Hike in 20 miles, get Angora; next day, 2:00am precisely, another big snow begins, I flee in the dark... and write off 1998.

1999 begins. I wasted the early months, skiing some repeats, acclimatizing climbing Shishapangma I'm ready!

In typical SPS fashion, I arrive home from Tibet on 5/15, shop, drive to Lake Tahoe. Next day, surely I don't need an ice axe to climb little Tallac. I slid 20' coming down, ruptured a tendon in my major thumb. Surgery. I'm still recuperating. But I got Tallac. 37 more!

Trip #2 for 1999, I'm back (grrr) for Coyote. Did it. That pm... my left eye: lightening bolts --- my vitreous is separating --- now big floaters. Tuesday, eye surgery. 36 to go, but at this rate I may not be able to get my tongue to operate the wheelchair for the Finish.

The rest of the Sierra season was less horrifying. Except, perhaps doing Marion Peak (Taboose Pass route) on day one in July (9,300' gain). Ah, my poles (Leki, not Gdansk).

I should mention the drives. Ticket #1 was excusable (86 mph). I drove to Tuolumne one Thursday for a Friday permit. Then noting the absence of my pack, I did the bonus round trip in record time, 1300 miles for Florence and Vogelsang. Rush fans note, I listened on four different stations

en route (640, 680, 780, 840).

Then there was Black Kaweah. Solo. My left hand in a 67 lbs. cast. Eek.

Anyway, I got all done but one with a month to spare, which brings me to the official Clouds Rest trip writeup:

On 10/2/99, 25 invited and/or annoyed participants gathered early at Tenaya Lake and sped the 7 miles to Clouds Rest. Festivities commenced with champagne (Doug Bear), poetry (Barbara Sholle - note to Barbara: you thought I was helping you Finish the list; you were helping me), too many photos, and an AWESOME Indian Summer day. We noted that by carrying champagne to Marion for Bobby Lilley's 1965 Finish, Rich Gnagy likely began the tradition. What am I, Rich, chopped liver?

Brad Jensen made a staggering revelation.

My last advertised SPS Finish was in 1982, after which the North Lake Dam burst, Ted Pinson froze to death, and I shellacked George Hubbard at ping pong. Survivors from that rain drenched affair, back again, included the Hollemans, Gnagy and, miraculously, Ted, with regrets from Dolores Holladay, Mike Manchester and George.

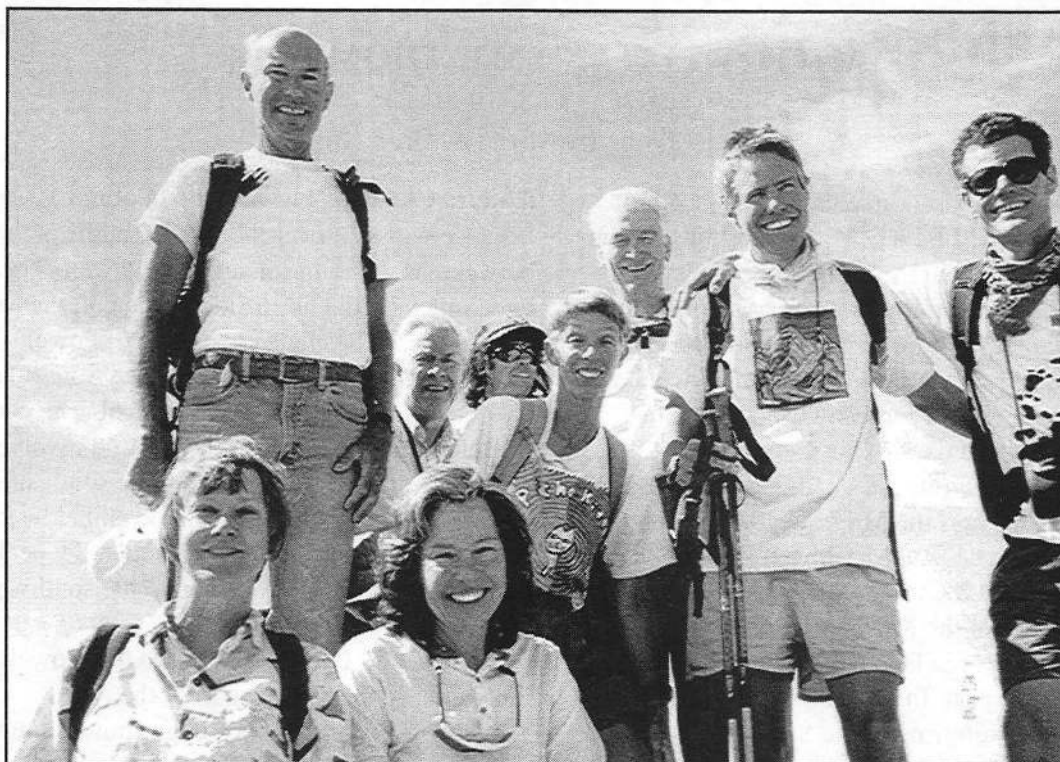
We regrouped in the sandy, piney flats SE of Mono Lake. A Vandenberg rocket stunned the twilight. A "21 Gun Salute" from the Fourth sounded the finish. In between was THE PARTY, notable for fare, prophesy and friends.

We'd tabbed "Indian" as the potluck theme, and as usual (and improbably) the ingenious excelled! I counted 16 dishes, from Tandoori Chicken to Pistachio Halvah, without a single common curry. Great days!

Our wine tasting pitted Mexico (yes), France, Chile, Australia, and Washington State in a "very unscientific" test of non-California Chardonnays. Your author may have mixed up the bottles, but he faintly recalls the France version winning.



*Doug Mantle*



*List Finshers: Rich Gnagy (x1), Gene Mauk (x1), Steve Thaw (x1), Tina Bowman (x1), Duane McRuer (x1), Doug Mantle (x5), Doug Bear (x1), Mary Motheral (x1), Barbara Sholle (x1)*

I unveiled a mural drawn for my first Finish by May Heishi and her student, dated 9/20/74. May was no archivist of peaks, but proved a prophet. I'd never before noted the peak names scrawled above the silly sketch of a very dark brown-haired, cramponed youth, me. 1974. No plans or intentions. But May had written "Aconcaugua", "Everest", and "Vinson" and, eerily, "Gosainthan". That's the Nepalese name for Shishapagnma, which I climbed in May, 1999, 25 years after the mural.

I suggested to Mac this proof of the power of prophecy should energize his Presbyterianism. He dryly snorted that her powers had emerged after 1973 when she lost the car keys on Pico Fiasco.

I embraced the new tradition begun after the eats: 5x Finishers

are showered with lavish booty. Doug and Shang Bear created an original California 14er T-shirt. Tina B. marking my humiliation earlier this year, presented Kong Strap-in crampons. Betty and Mac offered a cool early volume on all 14 8,000ers (forget it. Not doing them. Not all, anyway). Gene Mauk added a treasured photo from Vi Grasso's 1991 Finish. Mary Mac offered umbrella, pumpkin, pine chicken legs and nice commentary. Then, buddy Randall

Danta astounded with a 5-Finish Pin-adomed-slate, engraved phenomenon. WOW!

For the record, most tramped up Cathedral on Sunday in fine style.

As Mary Mac noted, "these are the best people in the WORLD".

Truly.

Thanks, to all.

Doug Mantle



*Doug & THE GIRLS - All Hiker's Extraordinaire  
Barbara Sholle, Mary Motheral, Tina Bowman, Mary McMannes, Pat Holleman*

## MT. POWELL AND MT. THOMPSON

JULY 3 - 5, 1999

A Private Trip by Mirna & Greg Roach

This was a relaxing three day trip over 4th of July weekend. The first day Mirna and I hiked up to the Baboon lakes from the South Lake trailhead where we spent the afternoon fishing and relaxing.

The distance is about 4.5 miles and 2000 feet elevation gain from 9000 to 11000 feet above the level of the sea. The second day we climbed the peaks, and the third day we hiked out.

The Mt. Powell (elevation 13,360+) on the SPS list is not the same as the Mt. Powell named on the U.S.G.S. maps. The SPS Mt. Powell is 0.4 miles northeast of the U.S.G.S. Mt. Powell is located on the eastern edge of the Mt. Thompson 7.5 minute map at UTM 557115. This fact has caused some confusion in the past. In referring to Mt. Powell in this article I am referring to the SPS Mt. Powell.

We were up early 4th of July morning and climbed up the canyon from Baboon Lake to Sunset Lake. We stayed on the west side of the canyon and climbed up a gully with snow in it, instead of following the stream coming down from Sunset Lake. This kept us high above Sunset Lake and avoided the boulder fields near the lake.

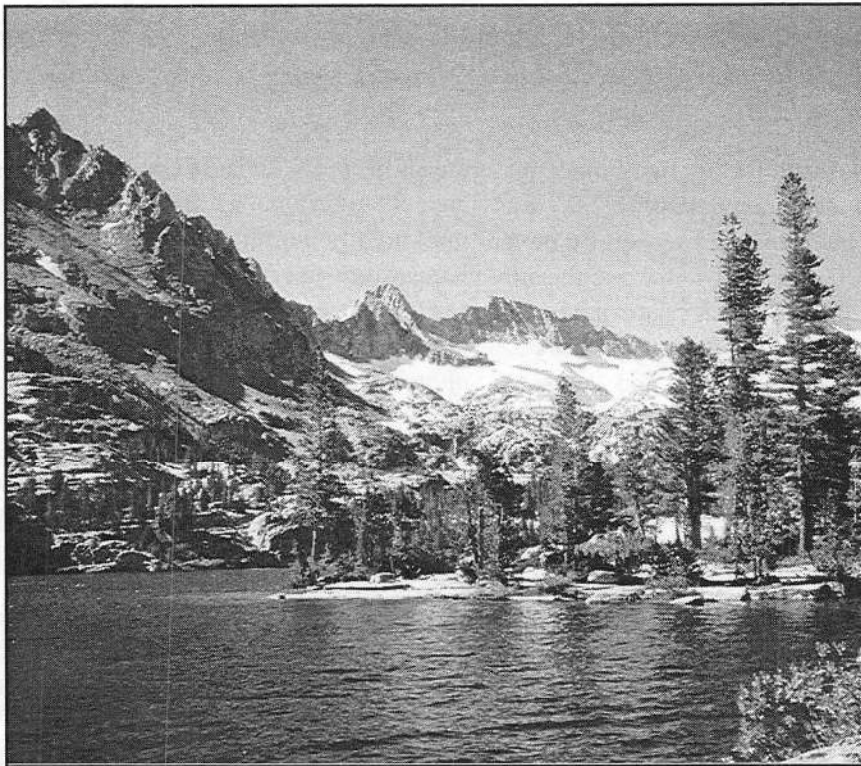
Many sun cups were encountered in the snow fields above Sunset Lake as we climbed up to the col between Mt. Thompson and Mt. Powell.

Two years ago, I had climbed Mt. Thompson on

a Sierra Club trip, but we did not climb Mt. Powell because we went over the wrong saddle at the Col between Mt. Thompson and Mt. Powell. There are two chutes on the north side of the col; the easier 2nd class route is the chute closer to Mt. Powell - the one on the right as one approaches from Sunset lake. This I will call the Thompson-Powell Col. The chute on the left is much steeper at the top and involves about 30 feet of 5th class climbing on the south side. Once on the south side of the col stay well below the ridge leading up to Mt. Thompson. In fact, the peak is more easily climbed by going up the southwest side of the ridge.

Mirna and I decided to climb Mt. Powell first this time. To the right (west) of the Thompson-Powell Col is a huge snow chute which

goes up the north east side of Mt. Powell and ends on the plateau near the summit. This was a low snow year and the chute was icy in places and full of loose rock higher up, but it went and soon we found ourselves on the summit of Mt. Powell. We enjoyed the view of the Sierra in the morning light. Both Mt. Powell and Mt. Thompson are located on broad plateaus. Like many of the Sierra Peaks



Blue Lake with Mt Thompson in the back ground. Photo Greg Roach

they have steep northern and eastern faces and much gentler slopes coming up from the south and west.

Now over to Mt. Thompson. We did not feel like climbing back down that loose icy chute so we went

southwest on the plateau and descended on the eastern side of the plateau. This put us on the south side of the Thompson-Powell Col at about 12,400 feet elevation. From here we climbed up the southwest side of the ridge leading to Mt. Thompson. Actually we got into a chute which leads to the Mt. Thompson Plateau. The peak is a large pile of rocks at the north end of the plateau. We descended back down the southwest side of Mt. Thompson to the southern side of the Thompson-Powell Col then over the col and back past Sunset Lake to our camp.

It felt good to be able to spend another night in the mountains and not have to rush back to civilization. Sometimes I think too much emphasis is placed on getting into the mountains "conquering the peak" and getting back to civilization. The peaks are not conquered - they were there before we were and will be there after we are gone. Finding the real beauty of the mountains comes from learning to live in them and with them on Nature's terms. More times should be spent becoming one with nature. Oh well, maybe I'm just slowing down as I get older.



Mirna Roach with LeConte Canyon in the background. Devil's Crag and Wheel Mtn. in upper left. Photo taken by Greg Roach from Southwestern ridge of Mt. Thompson.

### **SPECIAL VOLUNTEER NEEDED; PLEASE HELP!**

**The Angeles Chapter needs a special volunteer. The ideal candidate will be an accountant or engineer possibly retired, who can spend a day in the Chapter's downtown office every month or so to prepare a spread sheet for us. This is a vital part of the process of applying for soft money reimbursement for the Chapter's Schedule of Activities; it means many thousands of dollars to the Chapter annually.**

**Merwin Lucas perfected the task and performed it for us until recently. Now, we need a new volunteer to take over this important and specialized task. The Chapter office is easily accessible by train or bus; call for directions. If you drive, parking is free. If you are interested please contact Linda Hoyer, (213) 387-4287, ext. 205.**

Place Names of the Sierra Nevada, From Abbot to Zumwalt by Peter Browning

Maggie Mountain (10,042)

There are two versions of how the mountain was named. One is that Frank Knowles, who accompanied Clarence King to Mount Whitney in 1873, named it for Maggie Kincaid, a Tulare County school teacher. (Farquhar.)

The other is that the Kincaids were on a hunting trip. A government surveyor came by, and stayed with them. He highly praised Maggie Kincaid's biscuits, and asked if she would like to have a mountain named for her. "Well," she replied, "today I sat right on top of this mountain and it doesn't have a name." So Maggie Mountain it is. The name was on the first Kaweah 30' map, 1904.

N. Maggie Mtn. & Moses Mtn.

June 5 - 6, 1999

by Barbee Tidball

My first trip of the season, and I wondered if I could carry a pack and hike as we drove through Bakersfield and on towards Mountain Home State Forest. I was however looking forward to getting out of the office and into the Sierra. The trip was a repeat journey for Scot and Larry who led a similar trip ten years earlier.

All the SPS trip write-ups over the past seventeen years indicated that we were heading into bear country, so we were dutifully packing the extra weight of our camp stools, alias bear cantisters. Fortunately or not we never saw a brown or black bear, but maybe it was too early in the season. Saturday morning seven hikers joined us. Our group was a mixture of WTC students from the Spring class looking to get in their required climbs and long time SPSers. The hike was along a well travelled trail with the only hardship being a VERY cold stream on the way to a campsite. Boots in hand we all made it across the stream - with cold feet successfully, although a few participants had to be reminded to unbelt their packs, just incase they fell. The first few trips of the year seem to be designed to remind us of what we forget to bring and/or do.

We selected a camp site just before the second major stream crossing on the Maggie Mtn. side of the stream. (1000' gain and about three miles to camp). This area sees lots of backpacking travel so it is best to scout around for an established campsite. Sites in early June were a bit hard to find because of snow in places.

We set camp and head out to climb Maggie. Scot

and Yvonne soon dropped back and returned to camp to nurse Yvonne's very painful feet (this was her first backpack since foot and knee surgery and her feet just weren't ready after all). The remaining group made steady progress up to the peak and summited by early afternoon. On the summit Michael told us that climbing this peak was significant for him - Maggie Mtn., is named after a distant relative! Michael's family has for years, apparently as far back as at least 1873, been hiking and camping in the area around Maggie Mtn. and Maggie Lakes. Michael didn't bring biscuits, but we all found his bit of history fascinating.

Cold grey skies surrounded us on Maggie Mtn. so we soon headed back to camp, where were greeted by a roaring campfire compliments of Scot and Yvonne. Everyone joined in to make a "garbage bag" salad.

Sunday we crossed the creek on a log located up stream from camp and headed out for Moses Mtn. We were trying to navigate our way through the trees so that we would end up well along the ridge, close to the actual summit. The best laid plans often do go astray, and the group ended up climbing up and down a LONG section of the rocky class 2-3 ridge before reaching the summit. I truly realized that this was my first weekend out for the year as I hit a wall somewhere along the ridge.....but none-the-less everyone made the summit, including a very tired me!

Thanks to Larry and Scot for organizing the trip and to everyone for joining us for our first climb in the 1999 season. Jennifer Brow, Michael Hernandez, Tom, and Andy Pimm very successfully completed one of their WTC required trips and Rich Gnagy, Alice Tseng, Larry and I were able to start out the 1999 Summer climbing season on two fun Western peaks. Next time Yvonne and Scot Jamison will have to summit with us.....



Michael Hernandez on the summit of Maggie Mtn.

Alpine Lilly on Moses Mtn.

*Lilium parvum*







Barbee Tidball, Larry Tidball, Alice Tseng, Rich Gnagy, Tom, Jennifer Brow, Michael Hernandez, and Andy Pimm photo by Yvonne Jamison

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## Are We There Yet?

**What:** Steve Eckert's SPS Peaks List Finish

**Where:** Kern Peak (11,510', class 2)

**When:** 2-3 Oct 1999

**How:** Co-Listed with SPS (Angeles) and PCS (Loma Prieta)

**Why:** Good question! See below.

**Who:** Michele Bedjai, Urvashi Bhagat, Dewey DuMond, Rebecca Eckert, Steve Eckert (leader), Jeff Fisher, Nancy Fitzsimmons, Chris Franchuk, John Hossack, Maggie Hudson, Ron Hudson, Tim Hult, Richard Leiker, Joan Marshall, Penelope May, Carlton McKinney, Ret Moore, Maia Pindar, Landa Robillard, Charles Schafer, Aaron Schuman, Elena Sherman, Erik Siering (co-leader), Carol Snyder, Anthony Stegman, Dixie Storkman, Warren Storkman, Wayne Storkman, Scott Sullivan, Bob Suzuki, David Underwood, Damon Vincent, Richard Whitcomb, Ahmad Zandi.



Steve & Rebecca Eckert  
L. Robillard photographer

Another trip report... I've written emotional ones, factual ones, useless ones, but never an "over the hill" one. People keep asking me what I'll do next, or if it's a let down to finish all 247 SPS List Peaks, or even if I'm done climbing. Few ask me why I climb any more, and fewer still understand the answer.

But first, the trip itself: Over a year ago I started telling my friends to reserve the first weekend of Oct 99 for my list finish. I figured if I set a public goal, I'd be motivated to nail all those remote "orphan" peaks (or face the jeering crowd). I expected to be weathered off or miss the route on at least a couple of peaks leading up to Kern, but this season went like clockwork. By the time the list finish trip came up I was actually getting out of shape because I was no longer climbing every weekend.

Why finish on a little bump like Kern Peak? So everyone could come! Not a high (sexy, desirable, etc) peak but one where a large group could camp comfortably and not trample delicate terrain. Many people thought I should do a dayhike finish to facilitate a massive tailgate party, but I wanted to skip the squalor of campgrounds and finish in the style that I started. Another list finish trip was changed at the last minute to the same weekend as mine, and sadly a number of people dropped out to go on the other trip (proof, perhaps, that I should have chosen a more fun place!). I'm only finishing once, so you guys missed it big time.

The 9 mile hike from the Blackrock trailhead to Redrock Meadow was done by early afternoon. We took lots of breaks, boring the fast people but relieving the slow people, and STILL had time after we made camp (in open trees above an old corral and between a couple of abandoned log cabins) for a nap, a quick side trip to Indian Head, or a longer trip to Jordan Hot Springs.

Happy Hour ran from 3pm until 9pm, with the old fire ring serving first as a table, then as a focal point, then as a source of heat, and finally as a fading beacon. Imaginative offerings ranged from homemade veggie sushi to burritos, with many and varied bottles, proving that tailgate parties don't require tailgates. As we stared into the fire, people told stories of past climbs and climbers. Some present were older than my parents, and could provide prospective. Others were just starting, and eagerly soaked up info and suggestions. All seemed to appreciate the camaraderie of climbing, which thrusts very different people together and gives them instant common ground.

Up before dawn the next morning, I chanted my obnoxious little morning song (which you will ONLY hear on a climb I lead, and which ALWAYS keeps everyone from falling back to sleep) to start the day. We were so many, and 24+ tents were so spread out, that it took three verses while walking around to reach everyone. Three of our group stayed in camp, fearing that 7 miles to the peak and back would be too much with the 9 mile backpack out. The rest of us flailed around a bit searching for the good trail that leads toward

the summit. Keeping 30 people together while hiking cross country takes some doing, but everyone was very cooperative until the route became clear and the obstacles became few. One person signed out but continued at a slower pace, the rest of us regrouped on a shoulder below the summit, then charged uphill and picked our way over the ruins of a hut of some sort to the register... somewhat of an anti-climax after the party the night before, but a certifiably great moment for me as the last summit on THE LIST! We still had 29 people on the summit, even with 3 in camp, 1 signed out on the way up, and 1 signed out the day before (Jeff ran up the peak as a dayhike and headed back home for his son's birthday).

We split the group at the summit, with Erik leading the faster people out and Steve sticking with the back of the group. My group came directly down the drainage from the peak to camp (stay high, traverse to the east side of the valley to avoid brush) while the main group retraced their steps to camp and were ready to leave by the time we arrived. Everyone got to their car between 4pm and 6pm, except for the 2 who had signed out. There was a brief scare about the signed-out guy the NEXT evening, when his wife called me for details on where to send the search and rescue teams! It seems they didn't agree on a "time to panic", and she didn't expect him to spend another night plus the whole next day getting to a phone. He's fine, but when you sign out NO ONE COMES LOOKING.

If all you want is a travelogue, stop reading here! The basic trip report is over.

Several people have asked me what my favorite or most memorable peak was:

That's not as simple as it sounds. My biggest accomplishment wasn't in the Sierra at all, but rather a solo



Landa Robillard photographer

summit of Denali (from 14k to over 20k in a day). I still get emotional reading my old trip report (on the web, URL below), but is pushing yourself and taking calculated risks "fun"? If so, Devil's Crag ranks near the top even though it killed someone two weeks after I was there. I can point to peaks like Whaleback where the fun was mental (finding a hidden route), peaks like Ruskin and Middle Palisade where the fun was in sustained 3<sup>rd</sup> class climbing, or even Angora where the fun was being the only person there that year. I can't pick one "best" peak. Sorry. I can say I'll miss going to places I've never been before, but at least I can climb the other side of the mountain!

One guy asked which peak had the best view. Oh, my, that really depends on the season! I think the best views are from the least obvious peaks. Giraud, for example, has a view of the Palisades that beats all others hands down. It's close, it's not sideways, there's a thousand-foot cliff between you and your view, and very few people have been there. Bago has a better view than East Vidette, even though it's lower and surrounded by high peaks and is a much less interesting climb, because you can see up and

down many drainages. Climbing Williamson from George Creek is not often thought of as "scenic" (just a bushwhack), but if you climb it under crampon conditions you can gaze toward Whitney while you stomp up the snow and see a shadowbox of peaks unfolding minute by minute: Trojan, Barnard, Russell, and eventually the whole Sierra. Looking through storm clouds from Johnson down into LeConte canyon (in March) was like looking from Denali down onto the Kahiltna glacier, but in late summer the view would be quite pedestrian.

When did I start climbing "the list"? Back in the early 80s, when I moved to LA and joined the SPS. I grew up in Alaska, where peaks didn't have trails leading to them, there were few people, and no guidebooks. I loved climbing on snow, and camped on Mt Baldy's summit in January just for a grin, but didn't really think about a list of peaks at the time. I bumped around the Sierra a bit, tending to climb over and over from the places I knew well, refused to buy Roper's guide, and didn't keep records. By the mid 80s, I was leading private trips and had taken the LTC courses required to lead SPS trips. By the late 80s my knees were shot and I was looking at a wheelchair, only 30 years old and only 20 SPS peaks climbed. No specific injury, but the doctors couldn't figure out how to make it possible for me to even walk down a stairway. Physical therapy didn't help. Arthroscopy didn't help. I despaired. Then I got a treadmill and walked for one minute out of every fifteen ALL DAY EVERY DAY based partly on a conversation with Dale Van Dalsem (who I believe had worn out cartilage, but could keep the bones polished by walking frequently).

It took six months to work up to even a half-day hike, but by 1990 I was living in Northern California where the DHS did predictable-difficulty dayhikes twice a weekend. In 3 or 4 months I worked my way up from 5 mile to 25 mile hikes, and never looked back. I was working too hard to do much in the Sierra, but I routinely lead 20-30 mile local day hikes for a couple of years. Basically, I started REALLY climbing the list in 1994, just 5 years ago. I did as many peaks in 1994 as in the previous decade, and in the following years I climbed 40, 45, 58, 43, and 34 peaks - not all of these were in the Sierra, but most were. In 1997 I managed to climb at least one SPS peak in every month of the year. In the late 90s I finished my SPS leader credentials (M rating), and I also found time to climb three continental high points (Elbrus, Aconcagua, Denali), plus some climbing in Nepal and Mexico, etc. I discovered that I have to push myself at least every other week or my knees start to hurt again. Why do I climb? One answer is "So I can walk." Do it often, or don't do it at all.

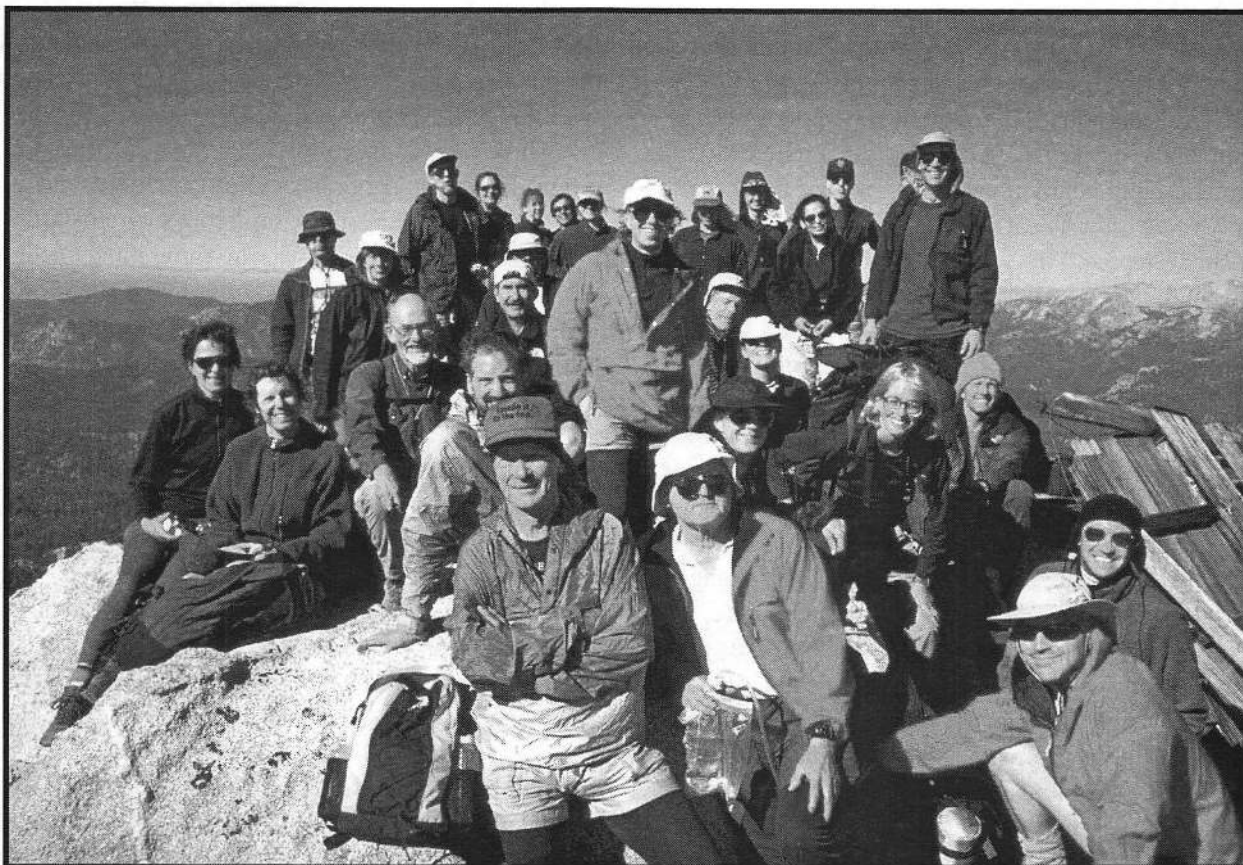
But the big reason I climb, the reason I started climbing, is for perspective. The mountains are my cathedral, a place for introspection, a place where human intervention doesn't swamp out natural processes, a place where you and all your stuff is just a dot, a place where skill and preparation matter more than your station in life or where you live, a place where you can be alone. Really alone. I discovered that climbing solo was astonishingly different than climbing with a partner or a group. You see more bears, you hear more things rustling, you smell more plants, you seemingly take more risks because you won't have help but you also hone your skills so you don't need help. Each detail about your day magnifies itself into the only and most important thing in the universe, while at the same time you look down at the valley and realize that no one else even knows you are on this ridge (much less having trouble with this one hold). Why do I climb? One answer is "So I can remember what's important."

Along the way, I have helped accumulate some information that used to be hard to find. If everyone contributes, everyone can have safer and more enjoyable trips. Have a look at <http://www.climber.org/Resource/index.html> for links to trailhead directions (including Blackrock for Kern), ranger station contacts, bear box locations, and a clickable map of the Sierra with all of the SPS peaks (plus a few more) and data like elevation and GPS coordinates. Have a look at <http://www.climber.org/lists/index.html> (or send email to [info@climber.org](mailto:info@climber.org)) for a list of about 30 email discussion lists where you can advertise your trips, find out about other trips, get beta on conditions, or trade insights on the best gear available. Have a look at <http://www.climber.org/TripReports/index.html> to read hundreds of trip reports (some long and detailed, some short and funny) from fellow climbers. Send your contributions to [webmaster@climber.org](mailto:webmaster@climber.org), and note that Climber.Org has no commercial content or ads - it's all about volunteers exchanging free information.

Thanks to all who have come on my trips, roped up on technical summits, joined in death marches, and provided advice through trip reports or personal chats. For the next month or two, it's time to catch up on all the OTHER parts of my life that were neglected while I did 30 or 40 peaks per year. Remember that the

mountains will be there next year, and make sure you are also. Don't take risks like I took last year on Clyde Minaret just to finish this damn list - everyone who finishes looks back at some period when it became a job instead of a hobby, but it's not worth dying for. Remember you don't "conquer" a mountain, you are allowed to visit. Sometimes you have to sneak up while it's not looking to avoid being hammered. See you in the mountains!

· Steve Eckert



**The Finish!!!!**

Charles Schafer Photographer

### Leave No Trace Principals

#### **Plan Ahead & Prepare /Camp & Travel on Durable Surfaces**

- Know the area and what to expect. Ask local land managers or other users what to expect: popularity, potential weather, trail conditions, wildlife habits, regulations
- Travel in small groups to minimize impact to land and other visitors. Areas away from roads are sensitive to human use. Impact can be significantly reduced by keeping group size small, 4-6 is best and the maximum should be 10 persons.
- Protect yourself and your food from bears through proper food storage. We need to halt the human problem of improper food storage. Hanging food is considered only a delaying tactic, canisters are best.
- In popular areas, camp in established campsites. In remote areas, spread use. Camp on durable surfaces and move camp every 1 to 2 days.
- Avoid lightly impacted trails and campsites to allow recovery.

## IN HIGH PLACES: THE SNOWS ON KILIMANJARO

Burton "Papa" Falk

By the time we were ready to begin our climb of Kilimanjaro, we'd been in East Africa for almost two weeks. The four of us were happy to be there: my son Bret, a recent Berkeley graduate, just beginning his career as an industrial engineer; my old climbing friend, JB, licking the wounds from a recent divorce, Doug, young bearded and eager, whom we'd met only three months earlier while rock climbing at Joshua Tree, and me, enjoying a respite from a slumping steel foundry business.

Starting off in Nairobi we first headed west across the green hills of Africa to the open plains of the Serengeti, where we spent three days viewing the enormous herds of grass-eaters and the regal but fly-bitten lions who stalked them. Each evening, with drinks in hand, we gazed at the sun, giant and orange, as it sank into the haze in the west.

We then swung north passing through villages of red-robed Masai, redolent of sweat and smoke, a people who believe that the universe revolves around them on our way to the soda lakes of the Great Rift Valley, where we spent another day photographing pink flamingos against a storm-darkened sky.

Our last venture in Kenya was to be a climb of that country's highest peak, 17,057 Mt. Kenya. To our dismay, however, after only two pitches, a sudden, violent storm beat us off the eroded volcanic plug, forcing us to return to the 15,715' Austria Hut. Not willing to turn back completely empty handed, that same afternoon we made the easy, non-technical ascent of 16,331' Point Lenana, the third highest peak on the Mt. Kenya massif, and three days later we were back in Nairobi, where we discovered that, for political reasons, Kenya's southern border had been closed, and that the only way for us to get to Tanzania was to fly north to Ethiopia, then back south to the Kilimanjaro airport.

That was cause for a long day, including a 4 a.m. wake up call; an in-transit hour and a half in the Communist-controlled Addis Ababa airport, under the humorless glares of AK47-bearing teen age militiamen (and a thankful farewell to arms upon leaving); a heated argument with the immigration officials upon our arrival in Tanzania as to whether Doug, with a South African visa stamped in his passport, could enter their country (an obvious, but unsuccessful- I threatened to call our

embassy-attempt for baksheesh); and, finally, upon checking in, bone-tired, at our hotel in Arusha, to find that there was no hot water for showers, and that the garden below our second floor windows teemed with boisterously drunken locals.

Three days later, following a dusty, jolting ride out to the Leaky diggings at Olduvai Gorge, and a day of viewing game in Ngorongoro Crater (our lodge on the crater's rim was anything but a clean, well-lighted place, i.e., we were issued a single low-voltage light bulb to illuminate our room), we pulled in at the old German woman's hotel in Marangu, at the base of Kilimanjaro.

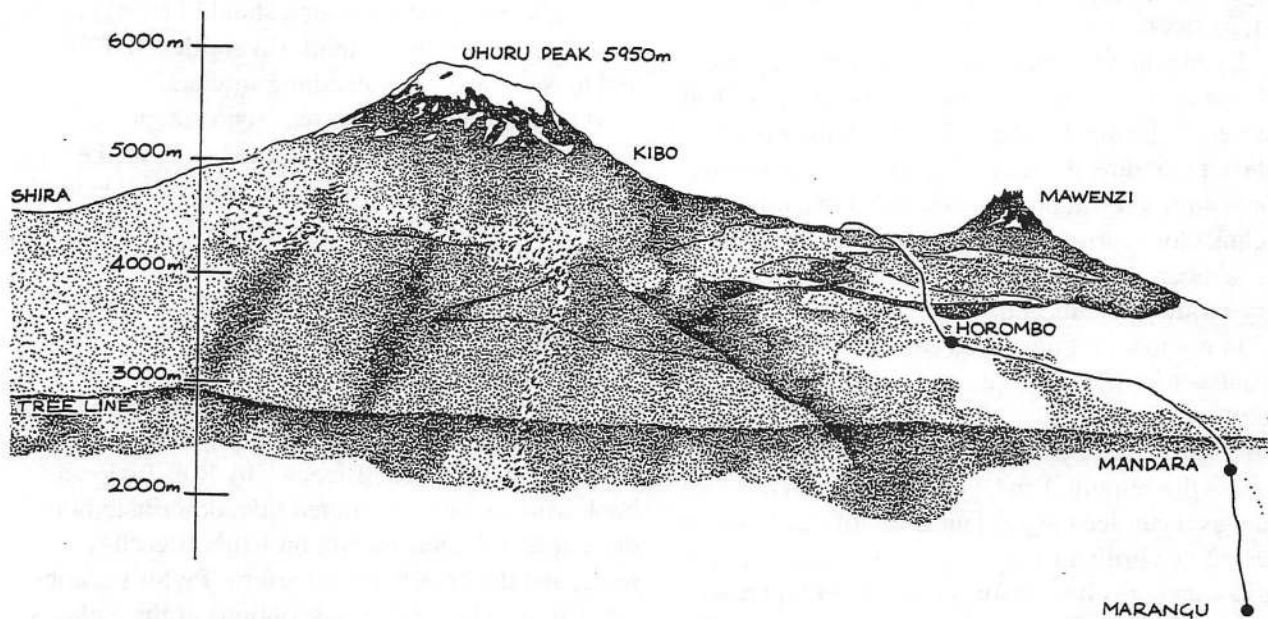
It was while we were checking in that the proprietress, Fraulein von Lany, introduced herself, explaining that her father had immigrated to East Africa prior to WW I, when the country was still a German colony, and that she had lived there all her life. On the walls of the lobby hung several yellowing photographs of herself, along with other nordic-looking climbers, on the summit of Kilimanjaro, a peak she had climbed four times when she was younger. Now nearing seventy, von Lany was, with Teutonic determination, making ends meet in her miserably poor homeland. For dinner we were served stewed chicken and vegetables, both of which had been raised on the premises by the hotel staff. After our meal, the Fraulein invited us into her small office, where she explained the logistics of the climb.

"It will take three and a half days to reach the summit," she said, "and one and a half days to come back down." She then listed the clothing, and equipment we would need to take along, and informed us that her porters would carry everything except for our day packs, in which we were to tote our own cameras, snacks and rain gear. Each of our four nights on the mountain would be spent at a National Park hut, at which the porters would prepare our meals. When she was finished, she added, with a twinkle in her blue eyes, "I wish I was your age so I could climb the mountain just once more." She then bade us goodnight, leaving us alone in the dimly lit foyer, a cloud of insects buzzing around the dimly pulsating light fixture.

We began our climb at 11.45 a.m. the next day, Aug. 19, from the Park headquarters building,

located at the 6,000' level on the south-western flank of the Kilimanjaro massif. Starting out in partial sunshine, on a trail lined with Japanese cherry trees, the weather soon turned cloudy and drizzly, which-considering we were entering a rain forest, was no real surprise. At the outset of the ascent JB and I agreed to take photographs every fifteen minutes (me on the hour and half hour, JB at :15 and .45 after), as we thought it would be interesting to view the resulting slides rapidly, like a child's flip-page book, speeding up the gradual change in vegetation as we gained altitude. Joachim, our guide, and our three porters seemed to be good fellows. They grinned, laughed a lot and gnawed roasted corn on the cob at each rest stop. On the trail, Bret hailed fellow climbers with "Sambo" rather than the traditional Swahili "Jambo."

Our first night's destination was the Mandara



Camp, a group of A-frame buildings, located at 8,900', a gift to Tanzania from Norway, in hopes of increasing tourism in that cash-strapped socialistic country. Upon visiting the camp outhouse, I found that previous users-perhaps not familiar with indoor plumbing-had squatted directly on the fixture, feet on either side of the seat, sometimes missing the hole entirely. I changed my plans, walked across the campground and into the trees, where, the moment I lowered my pants, the mosquitoes began feasting.

On our second day out we continued upward and westward, passing through a belt of giant,

mossdraped heather, reaching the 12,340' Horombo Camp about noon. Although it had been overcast and misting most of the morning by the time we arrived at Horombo we had climbed above the clouds, and because of the clearing we should have been able enjoy a handsome sunset that evening. Unfortunately, the display was spoiled somewhat by the gawky silhouette of the radio facilities of the nearby National Park ranger station.

On the third morning which dawned bright and sunny, we climbed to the 15,000' saddle between the Kilimanjaro's sister peaks, 17,453' Mawenzi and 19,340' Uhuru Point on Kibo Crater, the actual high point of Kilimanjaro, Tanzania and the entire African continent. Only a few tufts of grass and a bit of scattered lichen softened the otherwise barren volcanic landscape, which stood out in stark relief under the bright ultra-violet rich sunshine.

Lunar-like, I thought, not too originally.

About 1 p.m., we pulled into the 15,520' Kibo Hut, a large stone building located at the base of the trail leading up Kibo Crater, to the west. We dumped our gear inside the dank structure, and returned outside at once, hoping to soak up a little warmth under the fragile high-altitude sun. Unfortunately, the immediate vicinity of the hut reeked of the urine from a thousand nocturnal whizzes, so we moved further off into the surrounding rocks, and spent the balance of the afternoon reading and napping as best we could.

About 5 p.m., as the sun began to slip behind the crater, we reentered the hut, where, by the light of a dim pressure lantern, we downed a meal consisting of corn mush and cocoa. By 6:30 p.m. we were curled 'up in our sleeping bags in an almost useless attempt to get a little sleep before an early morning wake up call.

At 1 a.m., Joachim shook us awake, and a scant thirty minutes later we were plodding up the trail. I don't remember much about the night's ascent other than that the moon was so bright that we didn't need headlamps, that it was so cold we could wear parkas comfortably, and that the high altitude climb didn't seem as demanding as I had anticipated. About half way up the trail we stopped for a break in the cave, where in June 1887 Count Samuel Teleki, for whom a campsite on Mt. Kenya is named, rested before turning back on one of the many early attempts to climb the peak. (Kili was finally conquered by Hans Meyer and his alpine guide, Ludwig Purtscheller, on Oct. 6, 1889).

By the time the eastern horizon began to glow dull red ("Ah, the sun also rises," I thought), we had reached Gillman's Point at 18,530', on the rim of Kibo Crater, directly above the Kibo Hut, where we stopped for a few moments to watch a magnificent Technicolor sunrise in full wraparound Cinemascope. I remember it dawning on me (n.p.i.) that I was in a very exotic place, indeed.

In my journal I described the final portion of the ascent as follows: "Even though I'm pressure breathing like a steam engine, I fall behind on the last leg of the climb, and by the time the rest of my group reaches the summit, I'm lagging by about five minutes. I can see the guys up ahead of me, however, dressed in a brilliant array of yellow, blue and red parkas, and the effect is magnetic. When I do reach the top, I spend a few moments catching my breath, then I start taking photos. Mt. Kenya to the north is hidden by clouds, but Mt. Meru to the west and Mawenzi, just across the saddle, are beautiful in the rich high altitude sunlight. About a half hour after our arrival, a group of eight European climbers also arrive on the summit. They seem totally exhausted. A man and woman, holding hands, lie down and fall asleep immediately."

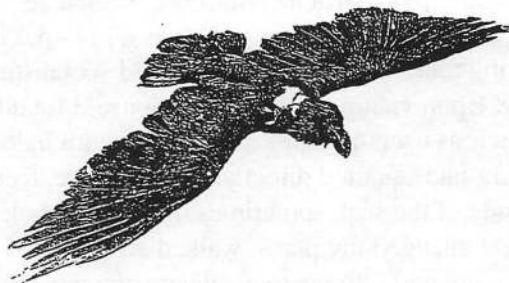
Regarding the famous snows of Kilimanjaro, although there were gigantic mesas of ablated glacial ice looming up like the prows of ghost ships to the south and west, on the summit and the surrounding crater itself *only* a few inches of seasonal snow remained. Crampons were not necessary.

Turning back about 9 a.m., we were soon racing down the scree slopes of the crater, toward the Kibo Hut, where our porters, who had been waiting there, served us tea. That afternoon we returned to Horombo Camp, where that night I slept for eleven hours straight.

We arrived back at the hotel in Marangu the following day, Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>, and on the 24<sup>th</sup>, we flew from the Kilimanjaro Airport to Tanzania's hot and humid capital city, Dar es Salaam, on the shores of the Indian Ocean. The next morning we caught an SAS flight to Copenhagen, via Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and Athens, Greece, a route which took us high over the Nile River Valley. A very stirring sight, indeed.

And that was the short, happy life of Burt Falk during the summer of 1982. I still remember much of the experience in vivid detail, and I still marvel at how well the whole affair turned out. Unfortunately, the steel foundry business to which I returned didn't. But that's another story, which-should I ever get around to write it up—I think I'll entitle "To Have and to Not Have," or something similar.

Odds & Ends: Want to read more about Kilimanjaro? Three of my favorite books on the subject include: 1. "Kilimanjaro," by John Reader, a profusely illustrated coffee table-type volume, including a history of the discovery and the early climbs of the peak, plus descriptions of the author/photographer's own ascents. 2. "Snow on the Equator," by the always engaging H. W. Tilman, including, among other African adventures, accounts of his and Eric Shipton's 1930's ascents of Kibo and Mawenzi, and, 3. "The Breach," by Rob Taylor, a book with a double entended title, describing both the author's illfated attempt on Kili's Breach ice route, and the breach of the trust by Taylor's climbing partner. The graphic descriptions of the author's long hospitalization in Tanzania are truly hairraising.



*Great-billed Raven from:  
The Kilima-njaro Expedition,  
H.H. Johnson 1886*



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