

The Sierra



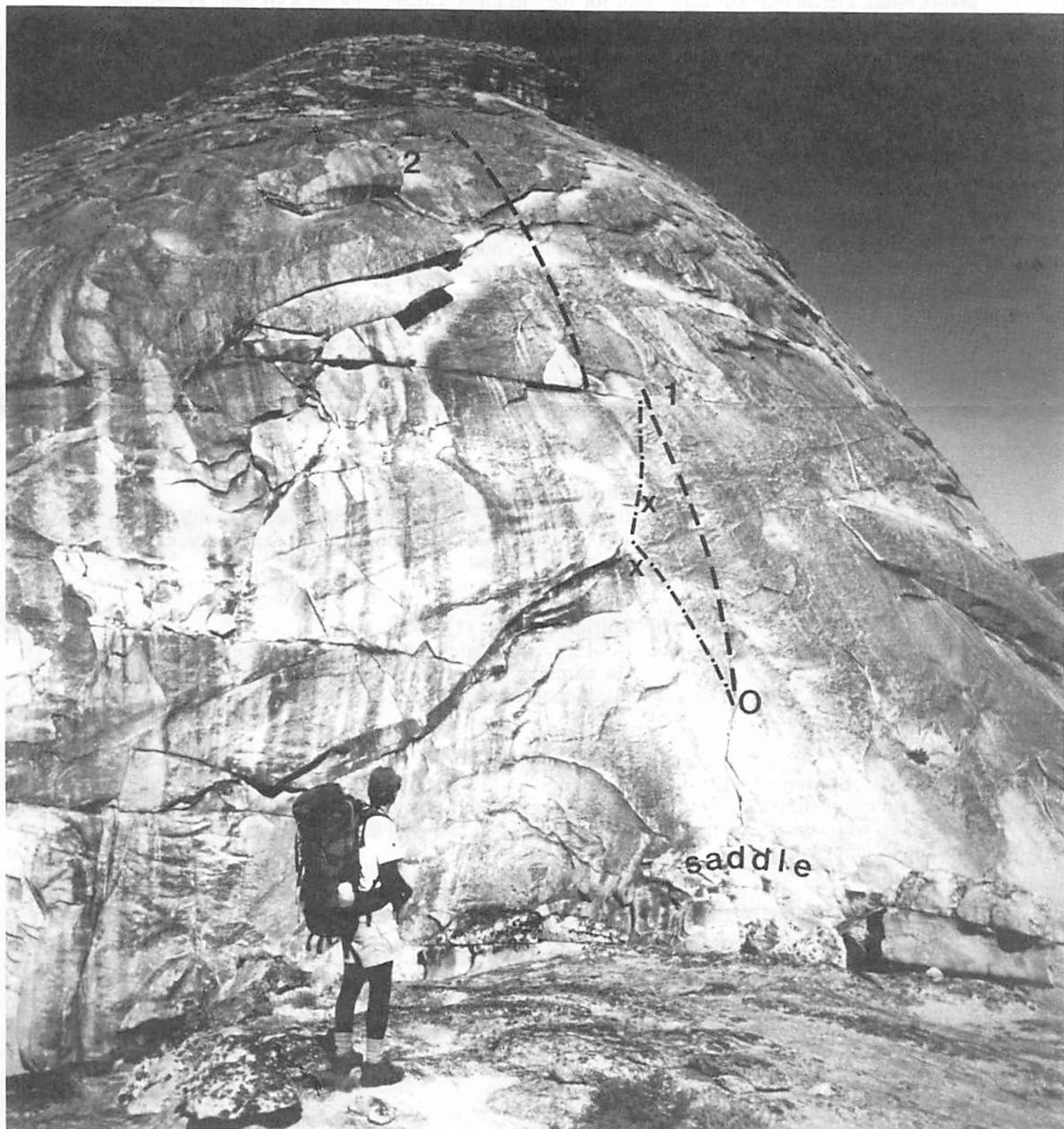
ECHO

VOLUME 38

1994

JAN-FEB

NUMBER 1



SPS SPRING CLIMBS

MAR 19-20 SAT-SUN

O: Trail Maintenance Party:

Help keep our Shepherd Pass Adopt-a-Trail in good condition. Trim Brush, toss off fallen rocks on Saturday and half-day Sunday, car camp on Sat. Night. Send SASE to Campy. Leaders Fred Camphausen, RJ Secor.

APR 16-17 SAT-SUN

M: University Peak (13,632):

From Onion Valley, backpack to Robinson Lake and snowcamp (1.7 mi, 1400' gain). Ice axe practice Sat. afternoon. Up early Sun. for the 3rd class Mtneer's Pk. SASE with experience, conditioning and phones to Bill. Leaders Bill Oliver and Larry Tidball

APR 30 - MAY 1 SAT-SUN

M: Lone Pine Pk. (12,943) Mt. Mallory (13,845):

Sat. backpack 4 mi, 3600' gain to Meysen Lake and climb Lone Pine Pk. Sun. 2500' gain to climb Mallory and hike out. Ice axe & crampon required. Send SASE, Cond/Exper to leader: Ali Aminian. Co-leader: Henry Arnebold.

MAY 14-15 SAT-SUN

M: Thor Pk. (12,306), Mt. Muir (14,012)

Sat. backpack 5 mi, 2900 gain to our camp. Climb Thor on the way in. Sun. 3.5 mi, 2300 gain to climb Mt. Muir, back to camp & out. Ice axe and crampons required. Send SASE, Cond/Exper to leader: Ali Aminian. Co-leader: Steven Thaw.

MAY 14-15 SAT-SUN

M: Mt. Thompson (13,494), Mt. Powell (13,360+)

Let's hope the snow climbing conditions are good for these Sierra Crest peaks. Send SASE with conditioning, snow climbing experience, car pool info to Dave D. Leaders: Dave Dykeman, Barbara Cohen.

MAY 28-30 SAT-MON

M: Birch Mtn (13,602), The Thumb (13,356)

Experienced Snow climbers, come celebrate the return to full-scale mountaineering with a spring snow climb, ice axes and crampons included. Send SASE with conditioning, experience, car pool info to Dave D. Leaders: Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon.

MAY 28-30 SAT-MON

M: Birch Mtn (13,602), Mt. Bolton Brown (13,491)

Backpack to Birch Lake and spend Sat. PM ice axe practicing to sharpen rusty skills. Sun a long climb of Bolton Brown w/4000+ of snow climbing. Mon. climb Birch & pack out. Send SASE with conditioning and recent ice axe and crampon experience to Leader: Larry Tidball, Co-leader Scot Jamison.

JUN 4-5 SAT-SUN

M: Mt. Baxter (13,136)

The "death march duo" will try to ameliorate their reputations with by keeping this one moderate. Send SASE with conditioning, snow climbing experience, car pool info to Dave D. Leaders: Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon.

COVER PHOTO

Mark Persons scrutinizes the SE face of Mt. Starr King, 9/25/93.

(Actually, the lines were added later!)

Photo by Bill Oliver

MORE SPS TRIPS

Date:	Rating: Trip Destination	Leaders:
June 11-12	M: Mt. Langley (14,026)	Ali Aminian, Reiner Stenzel
June 18-19	M: Bear Creek Spire, Mt. Dade	Larry Tidball, ScotJamison
June 18-19	I: North Peak, Mt. Dana	John Cheslick, Charlie Knapke
June 18-19	M: Mt. Corcoran	D. Dykeman, N. Gordon, B Cohen
June 24-26	I: Angora Mtn., Coyote Pk.	Barbara Cohen, Charlie Knapke
June 25-26	I: Mose Mtn, North Maggie	George Toby, Patty Kline
July 2-4	M: Black Hawk Mtn, Dicks Pk., Mt. Tallac	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
July 8-12	I: Trail Maintenance Party - Cottonwood Pass Area	Fred Camphausen, RJ Secor

SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 9

"Climbing Khantengri" Jack Robbins will present a program on his climbing trip to Tianshan with Anna Toly Bukreev and Rinat Habibullini.

MARCH 9

"Geology of the Sierra" Bob Michael will present a program on the geology of the Sierra. Rocks to mountains, their history and structure.

APRIL 13

"Climbing Starr King" Bill Oliver's program relates both early historical and recent ascents of the sleek "absolutely" inaccessible" Yosemite dome.

MAY 11

"Sierra Wilderness Planning Update" Joe Fontaine will discuss the progress the Public Involvement Team has made in planning the new Sierra Wilderness management guidelines for the John Muir, Ansel Adams, Dinkey Lakes, and the Monarch Wilderness Areas.

JUNE 8

"Australia and Tasmania climbing" Doug Mantle's 7 summits list finisher in Australia. Vi Grasso will present slides from this exciting trip.

Monthly meetings are held at the L.A. Dept. of Water and Power Bldg. at 111 N. Hope St. in the L.A. Civic Center. Auditorium on Level A (1 floor below the main lobby). 7:30 P.M. Newcomers Welcome!

PEAK INDEX

Mt. Baldwin

Black Kaweah

Bloody Mtn.

Dunderberg Pk.

Eagle Scout Peak

Excelsior

Mt. Hood

Kaweah

Lamont Pk.

Lone Pine Peak

North Peak

Red Kaweah

Smith Mtn.

Mt. Starr King

Question: What's the difference between a Fairy Tale and a Climbing Story?

Answer: A Fairy Tale begins with "Once upon a time..."
and a Climbing Story begins with "No shit! There I was ...".

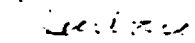
ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

Over the last few years, participating in, as well as leading SPS trips has been a rewarding experience for me. The feeling of accomplishment has been overwhelming and the people that I've met along the way have been terrific. I am truly honored to become the new SPS chair and I promise to put forth my best effort to keep the SPS going strong. Assisting me in this effort will be:
Vice-chair/outings--Larry Tidball,
Secretary/membership/mailler--Dan Richter,
Treasurer/merchandiser--Patty Kline,
Programs/banquet--Barbee Tidball, Mtn records--Vi Grasso,
Historian--Bill Oliver, Conservation--Mary Sue Miller,
Safety chair--Barbara Reber, Echo editor--Wayne Norman,
Council rep--unfilled. I look forward to working with all of you and welcome any suggestions from the membership for the betterment of the SPS.

With the return of insurance for mountaineering activities, these are exciting times to be part of the SPS. Let's have a full schedule of trips like we did before 1989. Please submit your trips for the July-October schedule. Whether the trips involve ice axe, crampons, ropes, whether they are intro trips, leisure trips, or (my favorite) death marches--let's have something for everyone with a range to include the WTC students through the experienced mountaineers.

If you haven't yet renewed for 1994, please send your \$12 to Patty Kline along with your S.C. number.

Looking forward to a great year of climbing in the Sierra!


Barbara Cohen

A Quote:

"One of the best paying professions is getting a hold of pieces of country in your mind, learning their smell and their moods, sorting out the pieces of a view, deciding what grows there and there and why, how many steps that hill will take, where the creek winds and where it meets the other one below... which contour lines on a map mean better cliffs or mountains. This is the best kind of ownership, and the most permanent

It feels good to say, "I know the Sierra" or "I know Point Reyes". But you don't. What you know better is yourself, and the Sierra and Piont Reyes have helped."

Terry and Renny Russell

Mountaineering Trips:

Larry Tidball, Vice Chair Outings

Since many members of the Section have joined since the end of SPS sponsored mountaineering trips in 1988, the Management Committee thought that a bit of refresher was in order. The insurance crisis has eliminated the many of the "M" rated trips, and all of the "E" rated trips from the SPS schedule. Also eliminated has been the Basic Mountaineering Training Program. This program (run by the Mountaineering Training Committee) provided the initial introductory training for many potential SPS climbers.

At this time, the details of return insurance for mountaineering trips are not available. However, we do know that training programs will not be permitted. Therefore, only climbers who have had previous training will be able to participate on trips requiring technical mountaineering skills. Climbers with previous training, but who have not kept current with practice and use of snow and rock climbing skills need to notify the trip leaders of this fact when signing up for the trip. As always, participation on any trip is at the discretion of the trip leader.

M Rated Trips: An "M" rated trip involving snow climbing would typically take place on slopes that in late summer would be class 1 or 2 sand or scree slopes. The snow on these slopes would be less than the angle of repose of scree, that is, less than 34 degrees. An occasional short section of soft snow up to 45 degrees may be encountered. Ice axe skills for snow climbing, self belay and self arrest are mandatory for these snow climbs. On "M" rated climbs, the snow should have a consistency that allows for step kicking. Crampons may be used on a "M" rated snow climb to facilitate an early morning start or more rapid movement on consolidated snow. However, crampons should not be necessary for climbing, but may be equipment required by the trip leader. An occasional top rope belay may be used to get the group past a short exposed or icy point.

E Rated Trips: An "E" rated snow climb extends conditions to steeper slopes and harder snow where crampons are mandatory. Roped snow travel, belays, and glacier travel with crevasse hazard may occur. Skills for these conditions including crevasse rescue techniques may be required depending on the trip. An "E" rated trip may also involve rock travel on belayed 4th class pitches. Climbing proficiency, belaying, knots, and rappel skills may be necessary.

Responsibilities of Participants: In addition to the technical skills involved in mountaineering trips; there is often a considerably harder or a more sustained level of physical exertion required to successfully complete the climbs. Climbing days may stretch longer with early starts and sustained effort to return to camp before dark. Participants need to be in good physical condition.

All trip participants must be able to exhibit to the climb leaders that they are competent and safe with the equipment and on the terrain encountered on the trip. For example, if a trip sheet requires crampons, that means more than just showing up with a pair. You must have them adjusted to fit your boots. The boots themselves must be appropriate for use with crampons. You must be able to fasten them properly and securely. Finally you must be able to climb safely using them.

When signing up for one of these trips, please be explicit in describing your technical skills, climbing experience on similar routes, and level of conditioning. If you have climbed with the trip leader before on non-mountaineering trips, please do not assume that the leader knows your qualifications. Describe *recent* experience. Experience or training from a number of years ago without ongoing practice or refresher training will not suffice for many trips. Be explicit and honest about the level of your technical competency. Don't forget a SASE and phone numbers so the leader can call to discuss your qualifications. Trip leaders will screen participants to assure a good match between the participants and the trip requirements. All trips will err on the side of safety if there is any question.

From the Editor: Background Noise

RENEW! RENEW! RENEW! RENEW! RENEW! RENEW!

Please return the 1994 ECHO renewal form (along with a check) to Treasurer Patty Kline by March 31st. Members renewing after this date must apply for reinstatement. Consider renewing as a SUSTAINING MEMBER. Sustaining memberships really help out our section.

Use the form at the back of the ECHO for ALL renewals. Persons who renew without this form will be considered INACTIVE, since there is no way to determine their section activity for the past year. If you have already renewed, but did not use this form, just fill out sections I & II and send it to Patty.

Membership renewals must include your current Sierra Club Membership Number to be eligible for mountaineering activities.

A Special Thank You to Ron Jones for allowing me to reprint his article on Dale Van Dalsem, who passed away this January, which first appeared in the Desert Sage, and also to Tom Scott who sent in a trip write up of Dale's SPS List Finish.

Bob Sumner has volunteered to contribute a regular 'Tidbits from the Sierra' Column. Thanks Bob.

Outings Chair Larry Tidball has included the latest wilderness permit information and forms for applying for permits for the 1994 climbing season. Be sure to submit permits to the Mt. Whitney ranger district on the correct form.

DEADLINES

The following dates are the deadlines for submitting copy for the ECHO.

Saturday	March 19, 1993	- March/April ECHO.
Saturday	May 21, 1993	- May/June ECHO.
Saturday	July 16, 1993	- July/August ECHO.
Saturday	September 17, 1993	- September/October ECHO.
Saturday	November 19, 1993	- November/December ECHO.

Wilderness First Aid Course Offered

A-16 is offering a Wilderness First Aid course Friday evening, February 25 through Saturday February 26, 1994 through the West Los Angeles Store and Friday, March 4, through Saturday March 5 through their San Diego store. The course are put on by a group called Wilderness Medical Associates. In West Los Angeles, Friday's class will be a 4 hour lecture at the store from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. Saturday will be a practice class in a local park from 8 am to 4 pm. The cost for the course is \$75.00. For more information call the West Los Angeles store at (310) 473-4574 and ask for Corey.

Wilderness First Aid Skill Workshop

There will be a one day Wilderness First Aid Skill Workshop, taught by Steve Schuster in the Lake Forest area on May 7. The class will give hands on practice and teach wilderness first aid skills. A previous First Aid course is a prerequisite. Class Fee is \$20.00 and the class notes are \$10.00. For more information write to Wilderness First Aid Course at P.O. Box 3414 Fullerton CA, 92634 or call (714) 526-6108

Leadership Training Course Available

Registration is underway for the Angeles Chapter's Leadership Training Course, a program to prepare Chapter members to be qualified Sierra Club Outings Leaders. The course begins with an all-day seminar to be held at the Griffith Park Ranger Station on Saturday, April 9, 1994.

All applicants must be Sierra Club members and have participated in at least five Club hikes or trips.

Club members wishing to enroll in the course should send a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope to Alice Danta, LTC Registrar, 12452 Woodlawn Ave., Tustin CA 92680. Completed applications forms must be returned to the Registrar NOT LATER THAN March 31, 1994.

ECHOES FROM OUR BANQUET

On December 8, 1993, the annual SPS Banquet was held at the Greek Orthodox Church Community Hall in Long Beach, with catering by Buon Gusto's Italian Restaurant. The festivities began with a convivial hour of cocktails followed by an enjoyable dinner.

As dinner finished outgoing Chair Larry Tidball awarded the door prizes which were donated by REI in Northridge, Sports Chalet, Mountain High, Ltd. Ridgecrest, A-16 West Los Angeles, Raven Maps and Images Medford Oregon, and Patagonia. Winners were: Gus Ordonez -- a Raven 3-D map; Mary Sue Miller -- a REI gift certificate; Bruce Rorty -- a book Feeding the Rat; Delores Holladay -- a book Bears from Mountain High; Bob Hicks -- another Raven map; John McCully -- an A-16 gift certificate; Bill Oliver -- Smoke Blanchard's book Walking Up and Down in the World (he already had it, so he gave it back); Ron Bartell and Rayne Motherwell -- also won Walking Up and Down in the World; Kent Wallace -- a Synchron jacket from Patagonia; Steve Nardi -- a book Bouldering Guide to Southern California from Mountain High; Wynne Benti Zdon -- a book Snoqualmie Pass from Mountain High; Duane McRuer -- a \$50 Sports Chalet gift certificate; Carol Hubbard -- an autobiography of Julie Tullis; Sigrid Hutto -- a Raven Map; Ken Olson another copy of Walking Up and Down in the World.

Larry then introduced the leaders with the most SPS leads this year: Dave Dykeman, Dave Petzold, Barbara Tidball, Barbara Cohen, Fred Camphausen, Rick Jali and Larry Tidball. Larry then asked all those who had led or assisted on an SPS outing this year to stand.

He then introduced new Emblem holders Jeff Gomillion, Christine Mitchell, Mel Daybell, Ken Jones, Ken Olson, Terry Flood, Jim Adler, Mirna Roach, and Gerg Roach; Senior Emblems John Jensen, Barbara Cohen, Judi Richardson, Jim Edmonson, and Brian Smith; Master Emblem Steve Thaw; List Finisher Dale Van Dalsem; List Finish plus Senior Emblem Bill T. Russell; and List Finish for the fourth time Doug Mantle.

Outings awards at the April Angeles Chapter Banquet will be given to Barbara Cohen, Harry Freimanis, and Scot Jamison. The Chester Versteeg Award for Outings Leadership will be given to Patty Kline.

Larry then thanked the outgoing Management Committee: Dave Petzold, Vice Chair and Outings; Patty Kline, Treasurer; Barbara Cohen, Secretary; Barbara Tidball, Banquet and Programs. Larry also thanked Barbara Reber, Safety Chair; Wayne Norman, Echo Editor; Mary Sue Miller, Conservation; Vi Grasso, Mountain Records; Dan Richter, Council Representative; and Bill Oliver, Historian.

He then handed the torch to incoming Chair Barbara Cohen, who as her first official act gave Larry his Past Chairman's Pin, remarking that next year its

designation should be gender neutral. Barbara then thanked Bob Wyka for keeping the mailing list on his computer.

Barbara announced that Vi Grasso, Bill Oliver, Mary Sue Miller, Barbara Reber, and Wayne Norman would stay on in their present capacities. She then introduced those who would join her on the new management committee: Larry Tidball, Vice Chair and Outings; Dan Richter, Secretary; Patty Kline, Secretary; and Barbara Tidball, Banquet and Programs.

Barbara Tidball then introduced Kitty Calhoun Grissom, co-winner of the American Alpine Club's 1991 Robert and Merriam Underhill Award for Outstanding Achievements in Alpinism. Kitty gave her slide presentation "The Spirit of Alpinism." She regaled us with her charm, humor, and courage as she told us of her exploits from the Cassin Ridge on Denali to the summit of Dalaghiri in the Himalayas. Kitty began ice climbing while in school in Vermont after reading a copy of Yvon Chouard's Climbing Ice. She has a propensity for "short cuts" as she calls routes directly up ice walls on Himalayan expeditions done alpine style. She also observed that women had the advantage over men on extreme alpine conditions as they tended to carry more fat and consequently could survive longer without food.

The banquet was a great success and was attended by 140 people. We should all give a vote of thanks to Barbara Tidball for the great job she did putting the evening together.


Respectfully submitted,

Dan Richter

Angeles Chapter Council Meeting, Monday October 25, 1993

It was reported that the Sierra Club is once again providing insurance coverage for climbs that require ropes, ice axes, etc. Many details have yet to be worked out. Coverage will resume either on 11/1/93 or 1/1/94. Coverage will not cover training programs such as BMTC, but will cover training outings.

Dan Richter



Angeles Chapter Council Meeting, Monday November 23, 1993

It was moved and passed that the Safety Chair should be asked to send all Outings Chairs a letter reminding them that outings cannot be lead by leaders who are not members of the Sierra Club.

There will be no Council meeting in December.

Dan Richter



Part II: Climbing Mt. STARR KING

Bill Oliver

Mt. Starr King is not a walk-up. It is best done with a rope - preferably two. A belayer may also come in handy. The two easiest routes are still those pioneered by George Bayley on the NE side (1875) and by Anderson/Hutchings from the SE saddle (1877). [Refer to Part I in the Dec. '93 *ECHO*.] Both are face climbs of about the same vertical gain and difficulty. The SE climb, however, is much more direct and lends itself far more readily to larger parties. Either classic route can be dayhiked from Glacier Point Road by a small, experienced group.

SE FACE

Mark Spencer ("Southern Yosemite Rock Climbs," 1988) rates the SE climb at 5.5. [In addition to the two classics, his guide presents six other routes: 5.7-5.9.] R. J. Secor ("The High Sierra," 1992) comes in at 5.0, while Steve Roper ("Climber's Guide to Yosemite Valley," 1971) pegs it at class 4. So, the route is at least 4.0 but probably not more than 5.5c. All that really matters, of course, is that someone be willing to lead the first pitch. As the face is, and should remain, unbolted, the lead climber at the saddle is forced to veer left onto steeper terrain in order to find pro placement. After the second cleans the pitch, others in the party can then readily friction directly up to the belay ledge (usually while roped up). The second pitch is still interesting but less difficult than the first. Then it's no more than moderate class 3 to quickly gain the gentle, broad summit.

I first climbed this route in August of '92 on a CMC outing co-lead with Larry Tidball, who had once done it in his distant RCS days (before he settled down). Our three-day outing, which included Mt. Clark, began a little before 7 am at the Mono Meadows Trailhead on Glacier Pt. Rd. [The trailhead is 10.2 mi. from the start of GPR on Hwy 41 - and just over 1 mile past the Ostrander Lake Trail, where the road abruptly turns north. Note: camping/sleeping is not allowed at the trailhead.] It's all trail and about 1-1/4 hrs to Illilouette Creek, where a large log upstream provides a dry passage. One continues on trail for, say, about a mile, then heads cross-country to the peak. Starr King is the northernmost and highest of three progressively higher, in-line domes. [The small creek coming down from the lower saddle was still a good water source as late as early October in '93.]

On the lower western slope we dropped our packs, hung our food and headed off at 9:25 for the higher saddle. Contrary to Larry's expectation, however, the final steep climb up to the saddle would have required possibly several time-consuming belays. So, skirting the killer manzanita we traversed the west slope of the middle dome and then readily ascended to the lower saddle. From there it's a somewhat long but simple friction walk to

the top of the middle dome. This vantage point places one just a little above the higher saddle.

Looming proudly overhead, the great SE face of Starr King still fires the soul, quickens the heart, and irresistibly beckons the intrepid mountaineer. The first pitch went "on" about 11:50 and before 1:00 all ten of us were safely perched on the ample ledge, about 130 ft. up the face. I was successful in leading this pitch after Jim Adler loaned me his rock shoes. Most climbers felt more assured on the face with rock shoes, but those in hiking boots also did fine. Having two ropes, we had set two parallel belay lines. [Warning: be sure your ropes are not less than 150 feet. You might get by with a little less, but this makes it much harder to throw the coiled rope back down to the narrow, high slab that marks the start of the climb.] Kent Santelman led the second pitch, which is almost a full rope length, and then anchored the rope. This then allowed two or three people to concurrently climb the pitch while self-belayed with prussik knots.

By 1:30 ten summit-found mountaineers were all happily exulting in their daring feat. The far-ranging view was about the same as previously described by Hutchings. On this occasion, however, recent forest fires were known to be the work of an arsonist rather than sheepherders. The two pitches were handily retraced with double-rope rappels, and we were all comfortably back in the saddle a little past 3:00.

Retrieving our packs, we took the trail SE to a splendid campsite just past Clark Creek. Mt. [Galen] Clark, another gnarly Mountaineer's Peak, was topped the next day by the SE Arete, Class 4 - twelve hours round-trip. Just below the summit, the crux presents a short, exposed step-across that is somewhat awkward to belay. With slings for anchors, it was handled by the simple expedient of lending a strong arm with a firm hand to all who would accept it.

Details - 1993

Mt. Starr King is not a peak simply to be checked off the List. A year later, this past September, I eagerly returned, ostensibly to gather additional material for this article. Granted but one lifetime, however, I'm far more inclined to revisit the fun peaks than, say, finish the List. Joined by Mark Persons, an intrepid friend, our plan was to dayhike both the SE and NE routes.

We departed the trailhead a little late at 7 am. At 11:20 I went on belay at the SE saddle. Route: Starting from the top of the prominent, vertically-cracked slab, head steeply up and diagonally left to an open book crack that yearns for a #2 Camalot. Then head up and diagonally right to where a horizontal slab offers good undercling holds and begs for a #1 Camalot. With the steepness slacking off now, walk on up rightward to the inviting ample ledge. [Cams are easily and quickly placed. Passive devices would be harder to keep in place on this route.] Mark led the second pitch: up along the

vertical slab at the left (west) of the ledge. Then friction up and veer left, before the rope runs out, to reach good slabs for anchoring.

We reached the Sierra Club box "Mt. Starr King, 1937" at 12:25. Mark proudly noted in the register that the second pitch was his first-ever lead. [This peak was only his third on the SPS List - his very first having been Mt. Abbot in May, followed by a dayhike of Whitney in July. Mid-October would find him tenaciously perched atop Cathedral Peak.]

NE FACE

We departed the SE saddle after lunch at 2:00 and easily walked around the right (east) side of the dome to the top of the NE "saddle." This is not really a saddle at all, but rather the conspicuous high point reached by trees on the NE shoulder.

A short third class lieback brings one to an adequate ledge from which to initiate the first pitch. From the ledge it is comforting to readily observe, off above, the start of the prominent right-heading, diagonal crack that characterizes this route. On belay at 2:40, I frictioned straight up, less than half the rope length, to a tight-fitting belay stance a little left of and below the crack. The second pitch goes nearly full-rope up along the crack to a small belay platform. At this point our route selection was reassured with the discovery of very rusty, old piton with a ring. The crack began thin, topped with dirt and grass, then expanded to a fairly consistent two+ inch width (#1 and #2 Camalots go well here). [The unrecoverable hex seen in the crack belongs to me!] The third pitch, up and left, is about 4+ friction.

Roper rates the NE climb the same as the SE: 4.0. Secor, however, puts it harder at 5.2 (vs. 5.0). while Spencer goes easier at 5.4 (vs. 5.5). Again, these extremes must at least bound the problem. I would say both climbs rate about the same, say, low 5's, except the NE route offers crack as well as face climbing and at a more sustained level.

Our names triumphantly re-entered the register at 4 o'clock - All Right! Back at the rusty piton, I figured it would be better to rapp straight down, rather than try to rapp the long diagonal crack traverse. The first double-rope rappel went to a stance from which a horn offered a good anchor for the next rapp. I was surprised and annoyed to discover, however, that the second rapp would not reach the ground, which falls off rapidly from the high shoulder where we had started. Well, it did appear that it would not be difficult to walk off, so we committed. The sheer face offered no intermediate anchors.

Rats! The second rapp left us seemingly stranded above smooth, steep rock. I had screwed up. It really wasn't that bad to eventually friction sideways left and down to the ground - I'd just have done it quicker on belay. I then managed to hurriedly and awkwardly establish a belay stance above and left of Mark, whom I reached on the third rope toss. [I really hate to waste good climbing partners.] Having belayed him down, I then rapped off. I was moderately concerned that when he got close

enough to me, Mark might punch out a headlight or two. Actually, however, he felt a little guilty at having needed the final belay. Privately relieved, I strenuously sought to disabuse him of his wrongly-held notion - and I marveled anew at how everyone views life from his own unique perspective.

Retrieving what gear we could, we departed Starr King at 6:30, heading counter-clockwise around the still proud dome. Who had won? I'd settle for a draw. Heading SW cross-country, we intersected the trail close to the lower saddle creek at 7:20 - and close to dark. The car was wearily regained at 10 pm.

Checking in later at Camp Curry in the Valley, we discovered that late at night the showers are hot and free. Resisting the unnatural (?) urge to sleep-in, the next morning we were up and off early to dayhike Half Dome by an alleged/elusive "third-class" route which begins at its base near Mirror Lake. [You might ask Mark someday about his unique perspective on this ultimately-aborted attempt.]

A week later I unexpectedly again climbed the NE face of Starr King. I had returned to look for the exposed roll of film of our climbs - cleverly lost out of my pack during our dark retreat. Not finding it, I hesitantly determined to re-shoot what I could. Having one rope and using self-belay methods, the climb and I went smoothly. This time, however, I simply down-climbed, on self-belay, the long diagonal crack and then rapped back to the start. Round-trip from the car was eleven hours - 6:30 to 5:30. A couple of days later Yosemite Lost-and-Found phoned with my lost and found film - who said timing is everything? More good news - Mark still climbs with me!

Early SPS Activity

Mt. Starr King is not found within the original 1956 SPS List of 200 peaks. It was, however, one of ten peaks added two years later in the third revision to the List. In 1967 it became one of 50 Mountaineer's Peaks. [This number includes the Emblem Peaks.] The earliest *ECHO* climbing article relating to this peak appeared in the Sep.-Oct. 1960 issue. In a Graham Stephenson story entitled "Yosemite Death Marching," he cites Starr King as one of eleven peaks climbed in nine days that August by him, Andy Smatko, Tom Ross and Fred Jensen.

In 1974 Jon Hardt and Bernie Petitjean put twenty climbers on top - one more than on the Walt Kabler/Ron Jones '76 outing. The all-time Starr King record, however, surely resides with Chuck Stein, Gene Mauk and Bill Birnbaum who, on July 10, 1977, assembled 24 climbers on top together. Among the summiteers were sons of Gene Mauk, Chuck Stein, Al Conrad and Jon Inskeep. [Refer to the cover photo in the Mar.-April 1978 *ECHO*.] All *ECHO* -reported climbs were from the SE saddle.

Assistance with this two-part story is gratefully **acknowledged** from: Glen Dawson, Mark Persons, Larry Tidball, Chuck Stein, Al Conrad, Jim Adler and Wayne Norman.

Thomas Starr King 1824-1864

Who was Starr King? He was a Unitarian minister, a popular lecturer, a nature writer, and he climbed mountains. King was born on Dec. 17, 1824, in New York City and he sprouted in Connecticut, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, following the pastoral assignments of his clergyman father. He commonly went by his middle name of Starr, his mother's maiden name. While yet in preparation for college, his formal schooling ended at the age of 14 on the death of his father. The burden of supporting his mother and five younger siblings led to his employment in various jobs of bookkeeping and grammar school teaching.

The following paragraph on King is taken from *The Dictionary of American Biography*, Charles Scribners & Sons, 1946:

"He gathered knowledge from every side with the spontaneity and delight of a child at play. Having an agile and retentive mind, he absorbed the contents of books with great rapidity. ... From his earliest years onward, he captivated all who met him. ... A generous disposition, sunny temperament, and almost rollicking mirthfulness were also a part of his attractiveness. Soon he began to preach, for from boyhood he had considered no calling but the ministry, and people were held by his clear thought, electric delivery, and rich, resounding voice."

In 1860 King published "The White Hills, Their Legends, Landscapes, and Poetry," a widely-read nature book set in New Hampshire. That same year, following eleven fruitful years of ministry in Boston, at the age of 35 he accepted the pastorship of an insolvent Unitarian parish in San Francisco - much to the non-delight of his wife and associates. To a friend, however, he wrote: "We are unfaithful in huddling so closely around the cozy stove of civilization in this blessed Boston, and I, for one, am ready to go out into the cold and see if I am good for anything." He originally intended to stay but a year.

Only three months after King's arrival, he set off with friends on a two-week journey to exult in the wonders of Yo-Semite Valley. His letters about this transforming experience, originally published serially in the *Boston Transcript*, were collected and re-published in 1962 by The Book Club of California (edited and notes by John A. Hussey): "A Vacation Among the Sierras - Yosemite in 1860." This would be but the first of several Sierra entries.

Extracting further from *The Dictionary*, upon King's arrival in San Francisco:

"People flocked to hear him preach and lecture. ... An enthusiastic explorer and mountain

climber, he introduced the East to the beauties of the Pacific Coast through vivid letters to the *Boston Transcript*. When the Civil War came and with it the danger of California's secession from the Union and the formation of a Pacific republic, his arguments and patriotic appeals were a powerful factor in keeping the state loyal. ... Unfortunately, his career was cut short in his fortieth year by an attack of diphtheria followed by pneumonia. In four years he had become one of the best known and most beloved men on the Pacific Coast."

In Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol, each state has positioned two statues of its eminent sons and daughters. From California, we find Fr. Junipero Serra and Thomas Starr King.

According to Peter Browning in "Yosemite Place Names" (Great West Books, 1988), the large dome south of the Merced was named King's Peak for Starr King in 1862. If true, this would have been prior to his death. It is not clearly known whether the renown Californian ever saw his namesake summit. This author would like to believe that he did. The following concluding passage leads one to imagine that on a certain gnarly July day in 1860 Thomas Starr King did, indeed, ultimately attain a view of a large dome south of the Merced. As we join his passage, King has ascended the Merced past Vernal Falls up to Nevada Falls:

"Tourists generally are content with the toil and the views that are gained when they reach the foot of the "Nevada." I climbed with one of our party above it, and on a mountain behind it, up and up, till we overtopped the obelisk that shoots from the side of the cataract. And still up we climbed in the hope of seeing a line of the kingly summits of the Sierra chain. My companion killed a rattlesnake that buzzed generously near our legs before making us acquainted with his fangs. And dangling his seven rattles as a trophy, without fear of any others, we still mounted, till we stood on a ridge that showed other obelisks of naked granite shooting up at the east, and very near us on the north, the great "Castle Peaks" [Tower Peak ?] which stand guard over the Mono silver region, - themselves frosted with silver on their summits that are borne up nearly 14,000 feet above the sea. With this picture of the taller "exclamation notes" of California in our mind, we hastened down to the base of the Nevada fall; then to the parapet of the beautiful Piwyack [Vernal Falls] where we rejoined our companions; then down the frightful ladders, and through the notch, to our horses in the larger gorge of the Yo-Semite; - and around our campfire in the evening, in front of the hotel, I, for one, believed what travelers from Europe, from Sinai, from the wildest passes of the Peruvian Andes, told us, while the music of the highest cataract was in our ears, - that nowhere had they seen such rocks and such waterfalls as those among which we had passed three glorious summer days."

POPULAR MOUNTAIN CLIMBING LEADER DIES

by Ron Jones

Dale Van Dalsem, popular DPS trip leader, died Saturday, January 8, 1994. Dale was mountain biking with his family in the Santa Monica mountains. While resting at the top of a long hill, Dale was stricken by a heart attack and died instantly. An autopsy showed that his arteries were heavily occluded with plaque, some as much as 90%.

He is survived by a daughter, Vicki, sons Bruce and Bryan and a grandson, Joseph Patrick Kauffman.

Dale was born June 6, 1933 in San Jose, California, moved to Blythe at an early age and had a life-long love and interest in the desert. He was passionately interested in the outcome of the California Desert Bill now before Congress.

Dale graduated from Stanford University in 1959 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. He often told me how he was classmates with now Senator, Diane Feinstein. He worked for a number of years in Indonesia, loved that country and wanted to spend a part of each year traveling and visiting the countryside and many islands.

He joined the Sierra Club in 1972 and led many hikes and climbs for the Desert Peaks Section and other climbing Sections of the Angeles Chapter. He chaired the DPS in '89-90, finished the DPS list for the first time in 1986 and the second time with me in November 1991. We had a terrific celebration party at Saline Hot Springs. Dale chaired the HPS in 1980, was celebrated for his use of bolt cutters for getting through fences and gates and I was present when he and Steve Smith finished the HPS list in 1993. Dale also finished the SPS list in September 1993 on Lone Pine Peak and thereby became the 17th Triple List Finisher of the climbing Sections.

Dale had many varied interests. We would see each other at track meets both indoors and out and he was a fan of track statistics. Leora and I also looked forward to seeing Dale and Marilou at concerts of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Symphony. Dale was a member of Mensa. He was also a 15 year member of the Hair House Harriers with the nickname, "Van Diver". Dale competed in harrier runs in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and as recently as Christmas of 1993 in Bali. He loved travel and had visited 85 countries throughout the world.

In addition to his local climbing in California and the southwest, Dale had organized and led many expeditions and trips including climbs of the three big Mexican Volcanos culminating in Mt Orizaba at 18,700'; had climbed widely in Europe such peaks as Mt Blanc, 15,771', the Matterhorn and Elbrus, 18,482'; his attempt on 8,000 meter Broad Peak in the Karakorum ended with bad weather and avalanches; he climbed on the slopes of Mt Everest in the Himalayas; he conquered Mt Kinabalu, 13,295' - the high point of Indonesia, Mt Kosciusko, the high point of Australia and in 1994 had begun plans for his third attempt on Mt McKinley. Dale hoped that he could continue as an active climber for another 15 years, until he was 75 years old.

Dale will be remembered for his caring about his friends; his exuberance for life, for campfire parties, for hot springs and his enthusiasm for climbing. "ON ON" *Ron J.*

Lone Pine Peak
Trip Report

September 25, 1993

Saturday, September 25, 1993 was set as the SPS list finisher peak for Dale Van Dalsem, a guest begun in August, 1967 with the ascent of Half Dome and interspersed with completion of the DPS list twice, the HPS list and numerous other peaks worldwide.

Dale led the trip with 13 other climbers and made the summit shortly after noon. Previous SPS list finishers joining Dale on the summit were assistant leader Dave Petzold, Tina Stough, RJ Secor, and George Toby.

While we recognize with respect these experienced climbers, it is important to note also that one of the group, Diane Dunbar, logged this as her first SPS peak! Congratulations, Diane, and best wishes for many more happy and safe climbs.

The group left Whitney Portal Campground on schedule at 6:30 following the trail to Meysan Lakes and then up the wide, steep rock chute to the ridge. There were a couple of humps enroute to the peak (Dale referred to them as "observation points, not false summits") and soon the group was basking in sunshine and sipping champagne with magnificent views in all directions.

Tom Scott had arranged for the party after to be held at a friend's cabin in Whitney Portal. Unfortunately several of the motley crew arrived the Friday afternoon before and Scott made the strategic mistake of introducing them to his friends. The party at the cabin was off, but a great one was organized at the campground.

About 50 people (a few more than the legal campground limit!) showed up to feast and fete Dale, each taking a turn to comment and share an experience with Dale in the firelight that lingered long into the night.

(Trip report submitted on behalf of Dale Van Dalsem by Tom Scott)

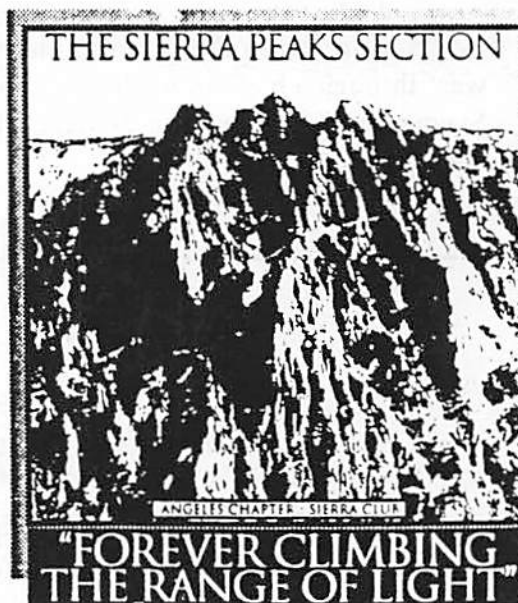
SPS T-SHIRTS

It is not too late to get your SPS T-Shirts. Wynne Benti-Zdon did a great job on the design. The T-Shirts show a great view of North Palisade on the front and the entire SPS list by geographic area on the back.

They are priced a \$12.00 in 3 colors: ash (sweat-shirt grey), fuchsia and yellow. There are 3 sizes: medium, large and extra large.

Buy them at the SPS meeting. You can also mail order them through me specifying color and size and enclosing a check (payable to the Sierra Peaks Section) for \$14.00 (\$2.00 to cover shipping).

Patty Kline
20362 Callon Drive
Topanga Canyon, CA 90290



Tidbits from The Sierra

A nice article for those who enjoy cross-country backpacking is **The Sierra High Route** by Steve Roper in the Fall-Winter 1993-94 issue of *Summit* magazine. The 195 mile long "non-trail" starts at road's end in Kings Canyon and ends at Twin Lakes near Bridgeport. Most of the route is between 9,500 feet and 11,000 feet, and avoids roads and trails where possible. Roper estimates that the entire route would take 3-4 weeks to complete, but that it can be broken into several weeklong loop trips. His 1982 book *Timberline Country: The Sierra High Route* provides details for those interested in pursuing this.

The American Alpine Institute is offering their annual winter courses in the Sierra Nevada (through April.) Classes are available in winter mountaineering, waterfall (ice) climbing, and backcountry ski touring. They also offer a 7 day Sierra High Route Ski Tour, which starts at either Onion Valley or the Shepherd Pass trailhead, depending on snow conditions. For more information, contact the AAI at 1515 12th Street, Bellingham, WA, 98225 or (206)-671-1505.

Some significant firsts happened last year in the Sierra...

Last April, Jeff Pagels and Mark Wellman became the first paraplegics to complete an unassisted traverse of the Sierra. They used specially created "sit-skis" on their 50 mile journey, which took them as high as 10,000 feet. Pagels called it "the hardest thing that I've ever done in my life. It wasn't fun." Many will recall that in 1989 Wellman became the first paraplegic to climb Yosemite's El Capitan.

Lynn Hill, an American now living in France, and Brooke Sandahl, of Bend, Oregon, completed the first free ascent of *The Nose* route on El Capitan. The free attempt had been attempted by numerous people since 1980. Their final effort lasted four days, and they finished just before a storm swept into The Valley. They rated the free route as 5.13b.

Todd Skinner, of Landers, Wyoming, completed the first free ascent of the *Direct Northwest Face* route on **Half Dome**. His effort took 61 days, lasting from June 1 until August 1. He went through a half dozen climbing partners during the project, and rated the free route as 5.13c. Skinner and his final partners were quite happy to find a swarm of "sunbathing beauties" upon reaching the top.

Bob Sumner

MARIO GONZALEZ WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR LEADERSHIP TO ASCEND THE FOLLOWING PEAKS: STARR KING, DARWIN, THUNDERBOLT, GARDINER, NORMAN CLYDE, PALISADE CREST, DEVILS CRAGS, THUNDER, GLACIER RIDGE, HERMIT, CATHEDRAL. (213) 614-2344.

SPS Membership Report
by Dan Richter 1/14/94

New Members

Asher Waxman
Carol Snyder

Reinstatements

John Cheslik
Steve Chin
Ted and Anna Pinson

New Subscribers

Phil Reber
John Sarna
Ken McElvany
Heidi Zimmer

Congratulations

List Finish for the Fourth Time Doug Mantle #1

Book Review

California's Fourteeners

by Stephen Porcella and Cameron Burns
Published by Palisades Press, Montana, 1991

California's Fourteeners is intended to be a climbing and hiking guide to the 15 peaks in California that are 14,000' and higher. That the authors decided there are 15 fourteeners is interesting in itself; many people don't consider Starlight Peak (the northwest summit of North Palisade) to be a separate fourteener, and others dismiss Polemonium Peak as an unworthy bump. Yet these peaks are class 5 and 4 respectively, and are frequently sought by mountaineers desiring exposed and challenging climbs. The growing popularity of these peaks indicates their worthiness as separate fourteeners, and they should not be dismissed (as the SPS apparently has done).

As one would expect, this guidebook starts out with the usual sections on safety, permits, wilderness ethics, etc. These topics are covered adequately. The descriptions of the routes are above average, while the maps and abundant pictures are helpful in "getting to know" the routes. The authors chose to document only the easiest route up each peak, which makes this book especially useful for peakbaggers. The exceptions are Mt. Whitney and Mt. Sill, which have two routes described. Precise road mileages are helpful for first-time visitors.

California's Fourteeners is a well-written and handy guidebook. A book like this is a good example for aspiring guidebook writers, and if all guidebooks were this functional and accurate, there would never be any bad reviews.

Bob Sumner

Minutes frm SPS Meeeting Nov. 10, 1993

Present: Larry, Dave, Patty, Bob Wyka, Mary Sue Miller, Bill Oliver, Vi Grasso, Barbara.

Larry started the meeting at 6:40 pm. Minutes read and approved. Patty reports \$2030.23 in savings and \$4426.12 in checking. Larry will write to National for support in our policy to keep registers on peaks. It is impossible to keep the registers on the area 23 and 24 peaks in good condition due to the large number of visitors. Vi will buy up to 10 ammo boxes for needy peaks. Now that the insurance has been reinstated, we need some guidelines as to determining the qualifications of participants on technical trips. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

General meeting began at 7:40pm. Bill Oliver reported that both medical and liability coverage apply to trips requiring ice axe, crampons, and rope and that these trips are open only to Sierra Club members. Dave Dykeman presented a slide show on his trip to Aconcagua.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Cohen, Secretary

Minutes from the SPS Meeting at DWP 1-12-94

Barbara Cohen started the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Also present were Larry Tidball, Barbara Tidball, Bob Wyka, Patty Kline, Dan Richter, Wayne Norman, Bill Oliver, and Vi Grasso.

Old Business: Dan read the Banquet report. Barbara T. reported that 140 people attended and that we lost \$231.76 which was expected. All agreed that the venue and food were very good and encouraged Barbara T. to look into using the same again next year. Patty reported that we had \$4,715.89 in our checking account and that as of January 1, 1994 \$2,038.73 in the saving account.

New Business: Vi reported that 9 cannisters and 5 ammo boxes are needed on peaks. Larry said that outings packets will be going out to leaders soon and that he intends to discuss what a "mountaineering trip" is in the next ECHO. Barbara T. distributed a letter sent to John Edginton regarding the new insurance. Barbara C. brought up the revival of the Mountaineering Committe and all agreed to have Larry coordinate the efforts for its revival.

The meeting adjoured at 7:35 p.m. and was immediately followed by the general meeting in the auditorium. Barbara opened the meeting with a moment of silence in honor of Dale Van Dalsem. Bill Oliver gave a certificate to Doug Mantle for twenty-five years in the Sierra Club. Doug then gave a slide show of his successful climb of Vinson Massiff in Antartica in December 1992.

Respectfully submitted.

Dan Richter

ECHOES FROM OUR CLIMBS

Mt. Hood - The Cooper Spur

8-1-93

Life loses in interest, when the highest stake in the game, life itself, may not be risked. - S. Freud

The Alaskan Airlines DC9 dipped sideways while turning, its shiny wings flexing slightly under the airborne stress. Looking across the aisle and out the starboard window, a picture formed in crisp contrast to the aircraft's artificial environment. Pine forests splayed over the land, while in the center stood a towering white-brown pyramidal hump. The target destination had been revealed, and it appeared worthy.

At 11,240', Mt. Hood is Oregon's highest mountain. This dormant Cascade volcano was first climbed in 1857 by a party of five. Since then thousands have climbed it. The Mazamas Club was formed in 1894, on the day when 193 climbers summited. Dogs frequently ascend it, and a gibbon made the climb in 1964. A bike was reportedly ridden along the summit crest also.

Leaving the Portland Airport, one goes south on I205 and east on State 26 to the Timberline Lodge turnoff. This winding road leads quickly to the Timberline Lodge, the starting point for south face climbs. This drive took about 2 hours on a Saturday afternoon. The scene here was not quite what I expected. The parking lot had over 300 cars in it. Throngs of families and camera-clicking tourists were milling about. One lift was operating, and snowboarders were carving up the slopes *en masse*. The gift shop and restaurant were full of people, their cash registers constantly chirping and ringing. It was a hopelessly commercial scene at the foot of a supposedly exceptional peak.

The Forest Service has created a climber registration alcove here also, though registration is not yet mandatory. It was strangely vacant - the tourists didn't even poke their heads in. A climber safety video played on endlessly, with no eyes to watch it.

Fortunately, I did not plan on climbing Mt. Hood by the commercialized south side. I drove down the Timberline Road, took State 26 east to State 35, north on 35 to the Polalie Campground, then west on Forest Road 3512 to the Cloud Cap Inn parking area. The Cloud Cap Inn is a historic building which is closed to the public, but there is an informal camping and parking area there. Also, an outhouse and piped water. The elevation here is about 5850'.

By 5:30 AM the next morning, I was off to climb the Cooper Spur of Mt. Hood, which is the northeast spur of the mountain. It has been described as "the most straightforward route" on Mt. Hood. Read that as steep. It is 5400' gain in only 3 miles. Most of the route is within the Mt. Hood Wilderness, but permits are not needed for day use.

Leaving the Cloud Cap Inn, one takes Timberline Trail 600 which heads southwest. After a hundred yards or so, an unmarked trail veers steeply to the right. This is the Cooper Spur climber's trail. It soon leaves the forest and follows the left lateral moraine of the Eliot Glacier, re-joining the longer Cooper Spur hiker's trail in about a half mile. Another mile of easy switchbacks brings one to the end of the trail at Tie-In Rock. I arrived here around 7:45 AM.

At 8800', Tie-In Rock is where the real climbing begins. The Cooper Spur snowfield starts out level here, but soon steepens appreciably. To the left is the crevasse-strewn Newton-Clark Glacier. To the right are the ice-cliffs above the Eliot Glacier. As I ascended the Spur, there were several wicked booming sounds. These were huge seracs smashing together down on the Eliot, no doubt weakened by the early morning sun.

The snow was fine for cramponing, though by 10,000' the slope angle was 45-50 degrees. This required great caution, for an uncontrolled slide would land a person in deep trouble on either side of the Spur. Soon I was near **The Chimney**, a narrow snow chute between rock bands. Usually one can crampon up this, but by now (mid-morning) bits of debris and rock were falling down it. I quickly crossed under it and reached the security of a small rock band.

The rock on Mt. Hood is the very loose crumbly volcanic variety. This first short 3rd class stretch I quickly climbed, and then was on another short steep snowfield to the right of **The Chimney**. This led to a very exposed fourth class rock stretch of about 200'. (The crampons came off for that pitch!) Completing this, the summit was now visible only hundreds of feet above.

Minor snow spurs led the rest of the way up, though the angle stayed around 50-55 degrees. The last bit to the top looked to be the trick. There was an authentic overhanging cornice above. This did not fill my heart with joy. But as I followed some old footprints, the solution became evident. Previous climbers had mauled the cornice to a pulp, and there was one small spot where it appeared only vertical instead of overhanging. This last 20 feet I can only describe as 80(?) degrees or "near vertical". But the snow was still solid enough to climb, and it went.

It was around 11:30 AM when this business was complete. Time for some views and some lunch. I had expected hoards of people on top, but there were only two. They left a few minutes after my arrival, worried that the south route bergschrund-snowbridge would be too soft to cross. Hope they made it. The view was superb. To the south, **Mt. Jefferson**, **The Three Sisters**, and **Mt. Shasta** were visible. To the north, **Mt. St. Helens**, **Mt. Ranier**, and **Mt. Adams** were the objects of choice. Unfortunately, the view also revealed hundreds of clearcuts. It was obvious just how devastated the Northwest forest regions are.

I stayed on top only 15 minutes, and then reversed the ascent route almost exactly. The snow was now becoming quite mushy and totally undesirable for climbing (or descending). Every other step seemed to slide out from under me on those treacherously steep slopes. The self-belay must have held me hundreds of times... Ah, the joys of a pathetically out-of-shape route!

Below the rock bands the slopes were worse. There were little rivers of melted snow running down all over the older snow - visions of wet snow avalanches were sloshing around in my mind. As the angled eased I was able to plunge-step and increase my pace. Above, rocks were falling down onto the slope, but only to sink like wrecked ships in the soft snow. Soon the slope angle was safe for glissading. Minutes later at Tie-In Rock, several hikers were telling me how they "just love watching people glissade".

I took the hiker's trail down and was back at the car by 3:30 PM. Bailed to the city of Hood River, Oregon. If you're ever there check out **The Hood River Inn**. Sits on the **Columbia River**, and has several of the local brews on tap at their bar. They have their own private beach, too. But you can't see Mt. Hood from there.

For those interested in climbing Mt. Hood, two good books are available: *Summit Guide to the Cascade Volcanos*, by Jeff Smoot, and *Oregon High: A Climbing Guide*, by Jeff Thomas. The 7.5 maps needed for this are Mount Hood North and Mount Hood South, and can be ordered from the Pasadena Map Company. The maps are also available at the REI in Portland, Oregon.

One final footnote. A survey of Mt. Hood was done over the summer using the latest altitude measurement devices. Their conclusion: Mt. Hood is 11,240', not the 11,239' height stated on the Mount Hood South 7.5, nor the 11,235' height stated on the official state map.

Bob Sumner

**MT. KAWEAH (13,802'), BLACK KAWEAH(13,720+), RED KAWEAH(13,720+)
and EAGLE SCOUT PEAK(12,000+)**

(A private trip August 13-17, 1993)

Greg & Mirna Roach, Dan Richter, Charlie Knapke, Erik Siering, and Asher Waxman

We emerged from hiding in the woods and the backs of our trucks to convene at the ranger station in Mineral King at 7:00 a.m. for the bear and back country procedures talk which was given by a very pleasant and earnest young ranger named Emma. With Emma's warnings of precocious bears and fearless lions lying across the trails, we set off in good humor and with five days of food weighing down our packs on the long trek to the Big Arroyo. Taking the old unmaintained trail to Monarch Lake we found the going straightforward and made Glacier Pass by noon. There was about a hundred or so feet of snow on the other side of the crest of the pass which had softened enough to offer us little trouble climbing down. We had a jovial lunch at Spring Lake then set out for Black Rock Pass. On the way up we met Ranger Lo from Little Five Lakes who was almost as fast as Erik and informed us that the new SPS bear box for the Big Arroyo hadn't been put in yet. We topped the pass around 2:30 p.m. and sat gazing in wonder at the Kaweahs spread out before us in the afternoon sun. Black Kaweah looked unassailable, jagged, precipitous and almost cruel. Over 5,000 feet of gain was behind us but now we had the long descent into the Big Arroyo. We were at the cabin in the Big Arroyo by five.

Starting at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning we elected to get the big bland emblem out of the way and took the High Sierra trail to the dry lake below Big Kaweah from which you can see the peak. A boring and uneventful slog up the scree and talus had us all on top for lunch. For the sake of variety and to save some time we traversed toward camp as we descended finding lovely meadows and tarns along the long bench that runs above the High Sierra trail. Greg and Mirna stayed high to below Red Kaweah and found a lovely sun-warmed tarn to swim in. The rest of us swam back at camp at a little water hole by the old cabin.

Sunday we were off again at 7:00 a.m. for the real climb of the trip, Black Kaweah. Charlie had the flu and had to stay in camp. We climbed directly up to the high lakes directly at the base of the peak and moving to the right of the lakes we were soon at the base of the right hand chute with the prominent black stain on the wall a few hundred feet up it. Before we reached the stain we found the steep prominent crumbling ledge that would take us up and left into the main chute. I entered the main chute a little early and encountered some high third class rock that the others avoided by ascending as much as possible before entering it. Once into the main chute we headed directly up it towards the summit encountering mostly high second class with some intermittent solid third class climbing. Great care should be taken to avoid knocking rocks loose onto climbers below. About 3/4 of the way up the chute it forks with one branch going prominently off to the left and up. Greg took us up the right fork and soon he was leading us on to the summit. Shaking Greg's hand and looking at the summit register brought tears to my eyes which were soon supplanted with joy and laughter. We had a delightful snack and looked out at the amazing vistas falling away from us on all sides. The descent was uneventful except for that crumbling ledge between the chute. I was leading at the top of it and just as I remarked to Erik behind me, "I like this solid looking rock over here", it all came loose under me. As I perched as best I could literally tons of rock broke loose from under me and tumbled down ledge into the chute below with a terrible roar. Back in camp Charlie was feeling better and the swimming hole was waiting.

Monday we climbed Red Kaweah, except for Asher who soloed Eagle Scout Peak. Everything was very straightforward. We went high in the cirque between Red and Black and went directly up the loose talus to the summit. We encountered a little bit of some very flaky and rotten third class rock just before the summit that Mirna adroitly led us through.

Tuesday we left for Mineral King at 7:00 a.m. We retraced our route coming in over Black Rock and Glacier passes and were out between 2:30 and 4:00 p.m.

Dx

BALDWIN & BLOODY, SEPTEMBER 18-19, 1993

Leaders: Jim Adler, Paul Cooley

A geographically diverse group met Saturday at the Convict Lake trailhead and started hiking to our camp at Mildred Lake. The group included Steve Thaw (Moraga), Eddie Sydol (San Francisco), and John Sarna (Sacramento), from the north, Terry Flood (Carlsbad), and Mark Adrian (San Diego) from the south, and Paul Cooley, Kathy Price, and myself from the West L.A. area. We arrived at Mildred Lake and set up camp.

After a brief rest and lunch break, we headed for Baldwin, heading upstream (south), and then turning east at a stream in a gully. There is a use trail the entire way, however we did not find it immediately. (It goes up next to the gully on the far (south) side.) The climb up Baldwin is a pleasant climb over generally solid terrain. On the way up we stopped at an old mine site which was covered with large and small quartz like crystals which someone named the "crystal cathedral". There was a great view from the summit. We returned to camp in good time for dinner.

The next morning all of us except John headed for Bloody. John slept in and then hiked out, explaining that Baldwin was enough to qualify him for section membership and also giving the long drive to Sacramento as an excuse. We took the trail to the east ridge, climbed that up to the summit ridge, and followed that to the summit. There was another great view from the summit, including the Minarets and Ritter and Banner and much more. On the way down we went straight down steeply from the summit. This was good for those adept and comfortable at running large uneven scree ("scud"?) but not so good for those favoring weak knees.

All eight climbers got Baldwin and all seven who started got Bloody. It was a good trip with great participants. — Jim Adler

SPS SCHEDULED TRIP

SMITH MTN., LAMONT PK., SEPT. 25-26, 1993

What better way to welcome fall than to experience a 24-degree Friday night on the Kern Plateau? Well, that chilly greeting at Troy Meadows gave way to milder conditions for the balance of a weekend outing to three Southern Sierra attractions.

Smith Mtn. (9515') was climbed by four participants Saturday morning via the peak's easy north ridge. The group next motored to Bald Mtn. to visit a unique biological and geological island and to savor a spectacular view of Dome Land from the lookout tower atop the 9430' peak.

The 440-acre preserve at the summit is made up of precretaceous metasedimentary rocks, while the surrounding area for miles is mesozoic granitic rock. Botanists have identified more than 100 species of plants in the preserve, and these include a potentilla believed to occur nowhere else.

As was the case Saturday, Sunday's weather was mild and cloudless. Lamont Pk. (7430') was climbed by six participants in two hours via the use trail on its west ridge, and the group then headed home via Walker Pass.

Ten individuals signed up for this trip, but four withdrew during departure week. The six who participated were Dee Harcourt, George Thomas, John Dodds, Dan Fazio, and leaders Jerry and Nancy Keating.

—JK

SPS LEISURE TRIP -- NORTH, EXCELSIOR AND DUNDERBERG
1-3 October 1993 -- Rick Jali and Fred Camphausen, Leaders

Superb weather, which held throughout the weekend, greeted the all-time record group of climbers who showed up for this SPS Leisure trip. Eight climbers: locals Rick Jali (myself), Campy and Ski Camphausen; Aileen Dear from Los Angeles; and Tom McNicholas, Mike Udkow, Debbie Hagen and Burt Rodgers, all from the Bay Area, met at the dam at the south end of Saddlebag Lake on Friday morning 1 October.

From there we got started about 9:00 A.M. (this is a leisure trip, remember?) and went around the west side of the lake and into the Conness Lakes basin. Good trails helped a lot. We then scrambled up to the saddle between North and Conness, and on to the summit of North (12242') for lunch around 1:00 P.M. Great views all about from Yosemite north to the Matterhorn; the north side of Conness was especially impressive. But that is another trip.

We returned to our cars, and drove down. A few of us stopped for an early dinner at the Tioga Pass Lodge, while the rest went directly to Trumbull Lakes Campground in the Virginia Lakes area, where we all spent the night.

The next morning, a bit earlier, seven of us set out along the Virginia Lakes trail, passing many very beautiful lakes, until we reached a saddle around 11200'. From there we traversed south, along obvious scree ridges (easy, but tedious) until the summit (12446') was reached; again, in time for lunch and great views while dozing in the sun. The only item spoiling this lovely afternoon was the huge, ominous, cruddy bulk of Dunderberg which we were to do the next day.

The last morning, 3 October, we had to pack up as the campground was closing for the season. We went back down the road past the Pack Station to a junction of two USFS roads, 021 and 020. A bit north of this junction we drove west as far as we could, and then headed west up a draw partially filled with trees. This long and uniform (and boring) slope of crud eventually led to a sub-peak at about 11700'. From there it is up more of the same crud over the east false summit and on to the true summit (12374'), which now is marked by a 20' flagpole put up in late 1992. Of the six who set out, five made the top. Again, we enjoyed the views and our lunches, while trying not to think of the slog back down.

But, reality intruded, and we went down the same way we went up (except for Rick, who accidentally discovered the slopes just to the west, directly down from the east false summit, were equally easy though tedious). We were all at the cars by 2:30 P.M. with plenty of time to enjoy the fall colors before driving home.

Thus ended a very successful weekend; with most of the people getting all of the peaks and the only casualty being a finger which was slammed in a campground toilet door!

Emigrant Wilderness Backpackers!

We need your help!

The US Forest Service has started a 1-year public planning process for future management of the **Emigrant Wilderness**, on the northern border of Yosemite National Park.

Many different interest groups are giving **THEIR** input into decisions that will directly affect your enjoyment of this pristine High Sierra wilderness. Groups such as hunters, cattle-grazing companies and commercial horse-pack trains are strongly represented in the Forest Service panel.

But **BACKPACKERS** are **80%** of the users of the Emigrant Wilderness!

PLEASE GIVE YOUR INPUT!

MAINTAIN THE HIGH SIERRA FOR FUTURE LOW-IMPACT RECREATION!

What are **YOUR** opinions concerning the following Emigrant Wilderness issues?

- commercial cattle-grazing
- water quality
- fences
- stream-flow maintenance dams on lakes
- equestrian use
- hunting
- group size
- sanitation issues
- wood fires
- trail maintenance
- foot-traffic-only trails
- signing
- trailhead quotas
- presence of back country cabins and mining machinery

Please help us to help the Forest Service decide the future of the Emigrant Wilderness!

Contact:

Ben Schifrin

USFS Emigrant Wilderness Backpackers Working Group

19168 Superior Drive

Twain Harte, CA 95383

1994 Wilderness Permit Information:

Larry Tidball, Vice Chair Outings

Please note that a number of changes have taken place since last year. You must use the correct form or your application will be rejected. Also note date change for Yosemite. Do not mail applications before the date indicated, but be sure to get it postmarked on that date to have the best chance of getting your first choice. If your trip crosses from a National Park to the National Forest or vice versa send your permit application to your starting point. Make sure you mail your application to the correct office for your trailhead.

Yosemite: Use any form or just write a letter including: Dates of Entry & Exit, Trailhead for Start & Finish, Number of People & Pack Animals, Destination or camp locations. Give First, Second & Third Choices for Trails & Dates and include a daytime phone number. Earliest Date to Mail is March 1st. Day of issue permits are available the day prior to the entry day. Mail to: Wilderness Office, P.O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389. A fee may be required. Call before sending for permits (209) 372-0310. Maximum group size for off-trail hiking or peak climbing is 8 people.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon Park: Postmark application no earlier than March 1st. Mail application to Wilderness Permit Reservations, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park, Three Rivers, CA 93271. See application below for required information. See special restrictions for camping and fires. Still no permit fee required.

At the trailhead

Whether you have a reservation or not, you must get a permit at the ranger station nearest your trailhead. Reserved permits must be picked up by 10:00 a.m. on the day of departure (by 8:00 a.m. on Inyo National Forest).

If you are delayed, call the ranger station by 10:00 a.m. or you may forfeit your permit. Reserved permits may be picked up the day before the trip. First-come, first-served permits can only be issued on the day of departure. Starting in 1994, these permits may be picked up the day before departure. Permits will not be written late in the afternoon since minimum distances must be reached before camping is allowed; check with the issuing station for your trailhead before planning a late arrival.

If the entry limit for your first-choice trail has been reached, you will need to take an alternate route, or delay your entry until the next day.

Many backcountry users plan a late evening arrival to begin hiking early the next morning. Camping in the 'frontcountry' of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is permitted only in established campgrounds. Camping or sleeping in vehicles is not allowed in parking lots, pull-outs, picnic areas, or trailheads. Generally, overnight use in the backcountry is not permitted within three miles of the trailhead. Except for holiday weekends, campsites are normally available at Grant Grove and Cedar Grove. Reservations can be made at Lodgepole Campground in the summer. 800-365-2267. Camping is also available in surrounding Forest Service campgrounds and elsewhere outside the parks.

Special Restrictions:

- Bullfrog Lake** (Kearsarge area): Closed to all camping
- Eagle Lake:** No camping between the trail and the lake
- Hamilton Lakes:** Two-night camp limit
- Hockett Meadow:** No camping between the trail and Whitman Creek
- Kearsarge Lakes:** One-night camp limit

Little Claire Lake: No camping within 100' of the lake

Mosquito Lake #1: No camping

Mt. Whitney: Gas stoves only from Whitney Portal to the summit. Camping prohibited at Mirror Lake and Trailside Meadow in Inyo National Forest

Paradise Valley: Camp in designated campsites only. If none is available when you arrive, you will have to move on.

Fear Lake, Emerald Lake: Camp in designated campsites only. If none is available when you arrive, you will have to move on.

Rae Lakes: One-night camp limit per lake

Timberline Lake: Closed to all camping

Wood fires ARE permitted only in:

Kaweah River drainage below 9,000' (except fires are prohibited at Hamilton Lakes and in the Mineral King Basin)

Kings and San Joaquin River drainages below 10,000' (except fires are prohibited in Granite Basin and Redwood Canyon. Fires are permitted above 10,000' only at the lowest State Lake (10,250') between 100' and 300' from the lake)

Kern River drainage below 11,200' (except fires are prohibited at:

- Little Claire Lake within 1200' of the lake
- Little Five Lakes above 10,400' (fires permitted at the Ranger Station Lake)
- Lower Soldier Lake within 1200' of the lake
- Milestone Basin and Kern Headwaters (north of Milestone trail junction) above 10,400'
- Miter Basin above 10,600'
- New Army Pass trail above 10,600' (fires permitted at the camp at the junction of New Army Pass and Rock Creek trails)
- Nine Lakes Basin and upper Big Arroyo above 10,000'
- Tyndall Creek crossing of John Muir Trail within 1200' of the crossing.
- Tyndall Creek frog ponds within 1200' of the ponds
- Wallace and Wright creek drainages above 10,800' (fires permitted on Wallace Creek up to Waterfall Meadow at 10,800')

APPLICATION FOR WILDERNESS PERMIT
(Supply all information requested)

Entry Date _____ Exit Date _____

Trail Entry _____

Trail Exit _____

Method of Travel: _____
(Day Hike, Backpack, etc.)

Number of People in Group _____

Number of Pack and Saddle Stock _____

Overnight Camp Areas <small>(best choice)</small>	# Nights at Camp
1 _____	_____
2 _____	_____
3 _____	_____
4 _____	_____
5 _____	_____
6 _____	_____
7 _____	_____
8 _____	_____
9 _____	_____
10 _____	_____

Organization/Group Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Send to: Wilderness Permit Reservations
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
Three Rivers, CA 93271

BACKCOUNTRY TRAILS OF SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS



PARK TRAILHEADS

PERMITS ISSUED AT	TRAIL (Trailhead)	DESTINATION (Elevation gain)	FIRST CAMPSITE (Distance)	GENERAL DESCRIPTION & NOTES	ENTRY LIMIT	GROUP SIZE MAX**
Foothills Visitor Ctr.	Middle Fork (Buckeye CG)	Bearpaw Meadow (3300 to 7800)	Panther Creek (3.5 miles)	Begins with slight grade along Middle Fork of Kaweah River. Oak to pines, rivers & vistas. Early & late season access. Watch for ticks & poison oak.	25	25
South Fork Ranger Stn (Summer only)	Lady Bug (South Fork)	South Fork Grove (3600 to 5200)	Lady Bug Camp (1.7 miles)	Short & steep, dead end, south-facing trail. Watch for ticks, poison oak.	15	15
Mineral King Ranger Station (No fires outside campgrounds in Mineral King Valley)	Garfield Grove (South Fork)	Hockett Meadow (3600 to 5200)	Garfield Grove (4 miles)	Steady climb. Good early season trail. Giant sequoias then on to Hockett Meadow. Watch for ticks & poison oak. Popular horse-party trail.	15	15
	Abwell/Hockett (Arwell Mill)	Hockett Meadow (6600 to 8500)	Clover Creek (6 miles)	Easy to moderate climb. Giant sequoia grove meadows. 10 miles to Hockett Meadow. Popular horse-party trail.	25	25
	Tar Gap (Cold Springs)	Hockett Meadow (6300 to 8500)	Deer Creek (4 miles)	Moderate climb. Lakes, forests, alpine vistas. 12 miles to Hockett Meadow. Access to trails beyond. Popular horse-party trail.	25	25
	Mosquito/Mineral (Eagle/Mosquito)	Mosquito Lakes (7800 to 9300)	Mosquito Lake #2 (4 miles)	Moderately strenuous climb. Lakes & spectacular vistas. No campfires. Cross-country to upper lakes.	25	25
	Eagle Lake (Eagle/Mosquito)	Eagle Lake (7800 to 10,000)	Eagle Lake (3.4 miles)	Steady, moderately steep climb. Lake & alpine vistas. No campfires.	20	15
Lodgepole Visitor Center	White Chief (Eagle/Mosquito)	White Chief Bowl (7800 to 9200)	White Chief Bowl (4 miles)	Moderately strenuous climb. Lakes & spectacular vistas. No campfires.	25	25
	Farewell Gap (Franklin Pass)	Sequoia Nat. Forest (7800 to 10,600)	Franklin/Farewell Jet (4 miles)	Steep & strenuous climb. Lakes, vistas, access to Glacier Pass, Big & Little Five Lakes. No campfires.	-	-
	Franklin Pass (Franklin Pass)	Franklin Lakes (7800 to 11,800)	Franklin/Farewell Jet (4 miles)	Moderately strenuous climb. Lake & alpine vistas. No campfires. Popular horse-party trail.	30	25
	Sawtooth (Sawtooth)	Monarch Lakes (7800 to 11,600)	Groundhog Meadow (1 mile)	Steep, strenuous climb. Rough, unmaintained trail beyond Monarch Lakes, vistas, access to Glacier Pass, Big & Little Five Lakes. No campfires.	20	15
	Timber Gap (Sawtooth)	Timber Gap (7800 to 9400)	Timber Gap (2.2 miles, no water)	Moderately steep climb. Forest, lakes. Access to many trails. No campfires. Popular horse-party trail.	25	25
	Paradise Ridge (Arwell Mill)	Arwell Grove (6500 to 8400)	Paradise Ridge (3 miles, no water)	Steep climb, hot & dry. Sequoia grove & vistas. 9 miles to Redwood Meadow.	15	15
	Twin Lakes (Lodgepole CG)	Twin Lakes/Silliman (6700 to 10,160)	Cahoon Meadow (3 miles)	Moderately steep climb. Forests, meadows & lakes. No campfires at Twin Lakes. 7 miles to Twin Lakes, 8 miles to Silliman Pass, 10 to Kanger Lake.	30	15
	Pear Lake (Wolverton)	Lake basins (7200 to 9500)	Emerald Lake (5 miles)	Moderate climb. No campfires here or in the Tablelands beyond. Camp only at numbered sites at Emerald & Pear Lakes. 6.1 miles to Pear Lake.	25	15
	Wolverton/Alta (Wolverton)	Alta Peak (7200 to 11,200)	Panther Gap (3 miles, no water)	Steady climb to Alta Peak. Fires OK only at Panther Gap & Mehton Meadow. Connects with High Sierra Trail via 7-mile trail.	25	15
	High Sierra Trail (Crescent Mdw)	Mount Whitney (6700 to 14,494)	Panther Creek (3 miles)	11 miles to Bearpaw Meadow, steady climb to passes and lake beyond. Canyons, vistas. 60+ miles to Mt. Whitney.	30	15

Backcountry Trails Continued

PERMITS ISSUED AT	TRAIL (Trailhead)	DESTINATION (Elevation gain)	FIRST CAMPSITE (Distance)	GENERAL DESCRIPTION & NOTES	ENTRY LIMIT	GROUP SIZE MAX
Grant Grove Visitor Center	Redwood Canyon (Redwood Saddle)	Redwood Canyon (6200 to 7000)	Redwood Creek (1 mile)	Mostly easy hiking. 2 easy 6-mile loops through sequoia groves. No campfires. 2-night limit.	15	10
Cedar Grove Roads End or Visitor Center	L.O. Pass (Sunset Meadow)	Twin Lakes (7800 to 9400)	Rowell Meadow (2 miles)	Moderate hike, first 2 miles hardest. Forests, lakes. 5.5 miles to Jenny Lake, 9 miles to Twin Lakes.	15	15
	Belle Canyon (Sunset Meadow)	Seville Lake (7800 to 9200)	Rowell Meadow (2 miles)	Moderate hike, first 2 miles hardest. Forests, lakes & vistas. 6 miles to Seville Lake, 8 miles to Lost Lake.	25	25
	Sugarloaf (Sunset Meadow)	Sugarloaf/Roaring R. (7800 to 9400)	Rowell Meadow (2 miles)	Moderate hike. Spectacular glaciated canyons.	25	25
Cedar Grove Roads End or Visitor Center	Bubbs Creek (Roads End)	Rae Lakes Loop (5000 to 12,000) (counter-clockwise)	Sphinx Creek (4 miles)	Steep then steady grade. Access to John Muir/Taft/Crest Trails (JMT/PCT). Limit 1 night per camp area on JMT from Woods Creek to Glen Pass & in some neighboring areas. No campfires above 10,000. See Woods Creek below.	25	15
	Woods Creek (Roads End)	Rae Lakes Loop (5000 to 12,000) (clockwise)	Paradise Valley (6.5 miles)	Steady moderate climb. Very busy trail. Vistas, rivers & high lakes. Access to JMT/PCT. 4.5-mile loop. See "Bubbs Creek" above. Bubbs & Woods creeks are popular horse-party trails.	25	15
	Copper Creek (Roads End)	Granite Basin & Pass (5000 to 10,700)	Lower Tent Meadow (4 miles)	Hot, steep climb, leave early in day. Forests, vistas, alpine lakes. Access to Middle Fork of Kings River. No campfires in Granite Basin or above 10,000.	20	15
	Lewis Creek (Lewis Creek)	Frypan Meadow (4000 to 10,000)	Frypan Meadow (5.5 miles)	Hot, steep, dusty climb. Forest, lakes & vistas. No campfires above 10,000.	25	15



Inyo National Forest: Mt. Whitney Ranger District: Quotas are in effect from the last Friday in June until September 15 (except Mt. Whitney Trail is May 22 to Oct. 15.) Use new special application form only. \$3.00 per person permit fee. March 1st Postmark. Read the Directions carefully. Mail application to: Wilderness Reservations, Mount Whitney Ranger District, P.O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA 93545.

A wilderness permit is required for all overnight trips in all wilderness areas on the Inyo National Forest, except the South Sierra Wilderness. Permits are not required for wilderness day hikes.

QUOTA SYSTEM: During heavy use periods all popular trails have entry quotas in effect. The number of people entering the wilderness is limited each day between the last Friday in June through September 15. These quotas are in effect to protect the wilderness resource and to provide a quality back-country experience to the visitor.

RESERVATION: Except for the Mt. Whitney trail, approximately one-half of the daily quota is available by advance reservation. Requests are only accepted by mail with POSTMARK dates of March 1 through May 31. Applications postmarked prior to March 1 or after May 31 will be returned unprocessed. Requests are drawn and processed in order of postmark date. **NO PREFERENCE IS GIVEN TO EXPRESS MAIL, TELEGRAMS, OR PERSONALLY SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS.** Due to the enormous amount of requests, please allow six weeks for a written response.

MT. WHITNEY TRAIL: Due to its popularity, the quota period for the Mt. Whitney Trail is May 22 though October 15. The entire daily quota is reservable in advance and day-of-hike cancellations are difficult to obtain. The Whitney Portal area is not part of the wilderness and contains developed campgrounds, a store, a fishing pond, and picnic area. Overnight stays in this area are NOT covered by your permit. A fee is charged for camping at Whitney Portal.

RESERVATION FEE: A \$3.00 per person fee is charged for a confirmed wilderness permit reservation. This fee is necessary to defray some of the costs of the reservation system. If you are requesting more than one permit, you must submit SEPARATE checks. Do not submit duplicate requests. They will be returned.

CANCELLATIONS & PARTY SIZE REDUCTIONS: For

cancellations or party size reductions, please notify the Ranger District office as soon as possible. This will help other wilderness visitors obtain an overnight permit.

PERMIT PICK-UP: Your reservation confirmation letter is not a permit. Reserved permits must be picked up in person at the location listed on the reservation confirmation letter. Unless prior arrangements are made, any reserved permits not picked up by 8 a.m. are cancelled and made available to others on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserved permits may be claimed up to 24 hours in advance, but entry into the wilderness is allowed ONLY on the entry date stated on the permit. When offices are closed, reserved permits for the following day are placed in an outside pick-up box.

LARGE GROUPS: There are maximum group sizes on all trails listed on the reverse side of this paper. Certain organized groups and educational institutions may also require an Outfitter/ Guide Special Use Permit. Please contact the Ranger Station for more information.

REMINDERS AND SUGGESTIONS WHEN APPLYING:

1. Mail a printed or typed application with detailed information to the Ranger District managing the trail you wish to use. Incomplete applications are returned without processing.
2. List at least 3 alternate trails and/or starting dates in order of preference. Chances of obtaining a reservation are greater if party size is kept small and starting days are not Fridays, Saturdays or holiday weekends.
3. Self-issue permits are available outside the quota period at all Inyo National Forest Ranger Districts. These are available on a 24-hour basis from Oct. 16 though May 21 at the Mt. Whitney Ranger District office in Lone Pine.



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest
Service

Mt. Whitney
Ranger
District

TRAIL NAME	QUOTA PERIOD	MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE	CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS	DAILY QUOTA
Mt. Whitney Trail	5/22 - 10/15	15	YES	50 people
Taboose Pass		10	NO	15
Sawmill Pass*		10	NO	15
Baxter Pass*	Last Friday	10	NO	15
Golden Trout Lks.	in June through	10	YES	25
Kearsarge Pass	September 15	15	YES	60
Shepherd Pass*		10	YES	15
North Fork Lone Pine Creek		10	YES	15
Meysan Lake		10	YES	15
Cottonwood Lakes		15	YES	60
Cottonwood Pass		15	YES	40
Trail Pass	No Quota	15	NO	--
Mulkey Pass	No Quota	15	NO	--
Sage Flat	No Quota	15	NO	--
Robinson Lake	No Quota	15	YES	--
Blackrock Saddle	No Quota	15	NO	--
George Creek	12/15-1/1 & 4/15-5/15	6	NO	6

* These trails pass through the California Bighorn Sheep Zoological Area. DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED. Cross-country travel is restricted. Please call or write the Ranger Station for more information.

OBTAINING PERMITS WITHOUT A RESERVATION:

Permits may be obtained on a first-come, first-served basis on the date of entry. Demand for permits is high on Fridays, Saturdays and holidays. Please have alternate trips in mind and try to keep party size less than six people. The Mt. Whitney Trail has only cancellations available on the date of entry, competition for those openings is intense.

WILDERNESS TRAVEL TIPS

1. Help protect the wilderness resource by camping and burying human waste at least 100 ft. away from water and meadows.

2. Trails are usually snow-free from early July through mid-October. BE PREPARED FOR RAIN, HAIL OR SNOW ON ALL HIKES, EVEN DAY HIKES. Afternoon thunderstorms are common in the summer, these often have lightning.

3. Raingear, good boots, warm clothes and a first aid kit are essential.

4. All water in the Sierra Nevada should be treated for Giardiasis, a water-borne cyst that causes severe intestinal

disorders. Boil or filter all water.

5. Campfires are prohibited in many areas in the eastern Sierra due to scarcity of fuelwood or other factors. Generally, campfires are discouraged in the wilderness. Where campfires are permitted, use only DEAD AND DOWNED wood, keep fires small and make sure fires are out with water, not dirt.

LEAVE NO TRACE. Pack out what you pack in, plus some more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please write to the Mt. Whitney Ranger District, P.O.Box 8, Lone Pine, CA 93545 or call (619) 876-6200.

TO APPLY FOR 1994 WILDERNESS APPLICATIONS

Due to the increased number of applicants, please follow these rules when applying for a 1994 wilderness reservation. **REMEMBER, only one large group is allowed on the trail per day. Seven or more is considered a large group!!**

No pack or saddle stock allowed on the Whitney, North Fork or Meysan Lake trails.

1. Applications will only be accepted on the enclosed form. No substitutes or previous forms will be accepted for the drawing
2. A check for the reservation fee must be enclosed with the application. Checks will be returned if you do not get a reservation.
3. The address on the check must be the same as the address requesting the permit. Please do not use business addresses. They often have too long an address to fit into our computer program.
4. The check must be for the correct amount or the request will not be put in the drawing. Returned checks result in cancellation of the reservation.
5. Applications are drawn by postmark date, NOT by how fast they get here. March 1st is the earliest postmark accepted. May 31st the latest. Next day mail does not get your application into the drawing any earlier than the postmark date.
6. You are limited in date selections to the spaces available on the form. Remember - weekends fill up first.
7. Only one person per party should send in an application. Duplicate applications, even from different names in the party, cause a tremendous amount of extra work for the staff, and may result in ALL your applications being refused.
8. Separate trips must be on separate applications with a check for each application.
9. Be sure you have the correct trail name on your application. There are many trails on the District and an incorrect name may result in your application being returned or you getting the wrong trail.
10. Write the name of the trail you are applying for on the bottom left hand corner of the envelope.
11. Address the envelope to: "Wilderness Reservations"
Mt. Whitney Ranger District
P.O. Box 8
Lone Pine, CA 93545

REMEMBER. IT CAN'T BE POSTMARKED BEFORE MARCH 1ST!! We will notify you of the status of your request as soon as possible. Because of the large number of requests in the drawing, it may take up to 6 weeks from the day we receive your form.

If you have any questions, please call us at 619-876-6200. Thank you, and good luck!!

Mt. Whitney Ranger District, Visitor Information Staff

THE United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-3681 (voice) or (202) 720-7805 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

Reservation Application

APPLICATION FOR WILDERNESS VISITOR PERMIT

HOW TO APPLY: Reservation applications are accepted by mail only with **POSTMARK DATES OF MARCH 1 THROUGH MAY 31**. Applications received with postmark dates prior to March 1 or after May 31 will be returned unprocessed. Registered or next day mail does not increase your chances. We go strictly by postmark. On March 15 we begin drawing from March 1 postmarks. It will take around six weeks to get a reply due to the tremendous number of requests we process.

Please print clearly or type in all necessary information. Incomplete or illegible applications cannot be processed. Please be concise—our computer program only has entries for the information requested.

NAME (FIRST) _____ (LAST) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE(COUNTRY) _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER (Optional): _____

RESERVATION FEE: NO. OF PEOPLE X \$3.00 = \$ _____ CASH CANNOT BE ACCEPTED PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO USDA FOREST SERVICE. FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE IF RESERVATION IS CONFIRMED

FIRST CHOICE ENTRY DATE _____ EXIT DATE _____

ENTRY TRAIL NAME (REQUIRED) _____

EXIT TRAIL NAME (REQUIRED) _____

FIRST OVERNIGHT LOCATION _____

NUMBER OF PACK/SADDLE STOCK _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY _____

SECOND CHOICE ENTRY DATE _____ EXIT DATE _____

ENTRY TRAIL NAME (REQUIRED) _____

EXIT TRAIL NAME (REQUIRED) _____

FIRST OVERNIGHT LOCATION _____

NUMBER OF PACK/SADDLE STOCK _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY _____



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest
Service

Mt. Whitney
Ranger
District

THIRD CHOICE ENTRY DATE _____ EXIT DATE _____

ENTRY TRAIL NAME (REQUIRED) _____

EXIT TRAIL NAME (REQUIRED) _____

FIRST OVERNIGHT LOCATION _____

NUMBER OF PACK/SADDLE STOCK _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY _____

FOURTH CHOICE ENTRY DATE _____ EXIT DATE _____

ENTRY TRAIL NAME (REQUIRED) _____

EXIT TRAIL NAME (REQUIRED) _____

FIRST OVERNIGHT LOCATION _____

NUMBER OF PACK/SADDLE STOCK _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY _____

For questions or further information, contact the Mt. Whitney Ranger District, P.O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA 93545 or call 619-876-6200. Completed applications should be sent to this address attention Wilderness Reservations.

Inyo National Forest: White Mountain Ranger District: Quotas are in effect from the last Friday in June until September 15. \$3.00 per person permit fee. March 1st Postmark. Use the Mt. Whitney form or an old form. Mail application to: White Mountain Ranger District, 798 North main Street, Bishop, CA 93514.

Advance reservations can be made for quota trails **BY MAIL** from March 1 through May 31. Half of the quota space is available by reservation; the balance on a first-come, first-served basis the day of the hike. **PLEASE NOTE!! TO BE FAIR TO EVERYONE, ADVANCE RESERVATION LETTERS POSTMARKED BEFORE MARCH 1 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** For example, all letters arriving with a March 1 postmark are filed together over a ten-day period, then all are processed at random. Due to the heavy volume of mail received please allow three weeks for a reply. When sending your reservation letter be sure to include the required non-refundable \$3.00 per person fee. Make checks payable to: **USDA FOREST SERVICE.**

LIMITS FOR LARGE GROUPS AND SADDLE STOCK

Maximum group size is 15 on all Inyo National Forest trails. Campsites use is limited to a maximum of 15 persons per camp per night. Limits apply to both reserved and day-of-hike permits. Groups that have reserved the maximum allowable may not apply for additional spaces on the day of the hike. Maximum number of pack and saddle stock is limited to 25 head. Note: 1992 will be a phase-in period. See attachment for details.

WHITE MOUNTAIN RANGER DISTRICT TRAILS AND QUOTAS

TRAIL NAME	AVG. # PERMITS PER DAY	SPACES RESERVED BY MAIL	1ST-COME 1ST-SERVED DAY OF HIKE	MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE	CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS?
MC GEE CREEK	6	12	12	15 ^b	YES ^a
HILTON LKS. & CRK.	5	10	10	8	NO
MONO PASS	6	12	12	10	YES ^a
LITTLE LAKES VLY.	6	12	12	11	YES ^a
TAMARACK LAKES	4	NONE	22 ^c	10	NO
PINE CREEK	5	10	10	10	NO
GABLE LAKES	4	NONE	8 ^c	6	NO
HORTON LAKES	4	NONE	20 ^c	10	NO
PIUTE PASS	8	16	16	13	YES ^a
LAMARCK LAKES	4	8	8	8	YES ^a
SABRINA BASIN	7	14	14	12	YES ^a
TYEE/GEORGE	4	NONE	15 ^c	10	YES ^a
TREASURE LAKES	3	6	6	6	YES ^a
BISHOP PASS	9	18	18	13	YES ^a
BIG PINE, NO. FRK.	6	12	12	10	YES ^a
BIG PINE, SO. FRK.	3	6	6	6	NO
BAKER CREEK	-	NONE	NO QUOTA	15 ^b	NO
BIRCH LAKE (4x)	-	NONE	NO QUOTA	15 ^b	NO
RED LAKE (4x)	-	NONE	NO QUOTA	15 ^b	NO

Symbols Legend

- a = For specific restrictions see wilderness permit or contact ranger station.
- b = Maximum group size reduced to 15.
- c = Quotas for the 4th of July and Labor Day holiday periods only.
No advance reservations. Maximum non-quota trails: 15.
- 4x = 4-wheel drive vehicle needed to reach trailhead.

WHERE AND WHEN TO GET DAY-OF-THE-HIKE PERMITS

If you have not reserved a permit in advance, you may get a permit the day of your hike at specific entrance stations in the district. Permit issuing stations and hours are listed below.

BIG PINE AREA ISSUED AT UPPER SAGE FLAT CAMPGROUND for:
No. Fork and So. Fork of Big Pine Canyon, and non-quota trails. Permits issued
by campground host from 7:00 to 7:30 am & 11:00 to 11:30 am the last Friday in
June - Sept. 15. Campground is 8 miles from Big Pine; turn west on Crocker Rd.

BISHOP CREEK AREA ISSUED AT BISHOP CREEK ENTRANCE STATION for:
Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Sabrina Basin, Lamarck Lakes, Piute Pass, plus
non-quota trails. Permits issued at entrance station 9 miles west of Bishop on
Hwy. 168. Hours: 6:00 am to 9:00 pm daily from the last Friday in June through
Labor Day Monday.

ROCK CREEK AREA ISSUED AT ROCK CREEK ENTRANCE STATION for:
Little Lakes Valley, Mono Pass, Hilton Lakes, McGee Lakes, Pine Creek, plus
non-quota trails. Pine Creek is issued for backpackers driving south on Hwy.
395 from Central California. Permits issued at entrance station 25 miles north
of Bishop, near Tom's Place. Hours: Daily 6:00 am to 9:00 pm from the last
Friday in June through Labor Day Monday.

PINE CREEK AREA ISSUED AT WHITE MTN. RANGER STATION, BISHOP for:
Pine Creek, plus non-quota trails. Summer hours: 7:00 am - 4:30 pm daily.

White Mountain Ranger District

APPLICATION FOR WILDERNESS VISITOR PERMIT

Please type or print clearly.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE #(OPTIONAL) _____

Reservation Fee: # of people X \$3.00=\$ _____
(Check/Money order to USDA Forest Service)

ENTRY DATE _____ EXIT DATE _____

ENTRY TRAIL NAME _____

EXIT TRAIL NAME _____

METHOD OF TRAVEL _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY _____

NUMBER OF PACK OR SADDLE STOCK _____

OVERNIGHT CAMP LOCATIONS: *Best Estimate*

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

SECOND CHOICE

ENTRY DATE _____ EXIT DATE _____

ENTRY TRAIL NAME _____

EXIT TRAIL NAME _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY _____

OVERNIGHT CAMP LOCATIONS:

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

THIRD CHOICE

ENTRY DATE _____ EXIT DATE _____

ENTRY TRAIL NAME _____

EXIT TRAIL NAME _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PARTY _____

OVERNIGHT CAMP LOCATIONS:

1. _____ 4. _____

2. _____ 5. _____

3. _____ 6. _____

Inyo National Forest: Mammoth Ranger District: Quotas are in effect from the last Friday in June until September 15. \$3.00 per person permit fee. March 1st Postmark. Mail application to: Mammoth Ranger District, P.O. Box 148, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

Additional Permit Locations: All have a \$3.00 per person permit fee, and a March 1st postmark date.

Sierra National Forest:

Wilderness Reservations
Pineridge Ranger District
P.O. Box 300
Shaver Lake, CA 93664

Wilderness Reservations
Minarets Ranger District
North Fork, CA 93643

Wilderness Reservations
Mariposa Ranger District
41969 State Highway 41
Oakhurst, CA 93664

Toiyabe National Forest:

Bridgeport Ranger District
P.O. Box 595
Bridgeport, CA 93517

1994 SPS ECHO SUBSCRIPTION & RENEWAL FORM

**SECTION I
MEMBER INFO**

To continue your ECHO subscription and renew your membership for 1994, fill out this section. Your renewal for 1994 is confirmed by the "94" digits appearing on you mailing label. RENEWAL DEADLINE IS MARCH 31st.

NAME _____ DATE _____
 ADDRESS _____ S.C.# _____
 CITY _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____
 DAY PHONE _____ EVENING PHONE _____

Mark this box for address or phone change or correction

IMPORTANT REMINDER: EVERYONE MUST FILL IN THEIR CURRENT SIERRA CLUB MEMBERSHIP NUMBER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE ON MOUNTAINEERING TRIPS

**SECTION II
MEMBER TYPE**

I am renewing my SPS membership as an 'active' member. My section activity this past year was _____ (e.g., climb, program). Only 'active' members may vote in the section elections held in October.

Other SPS members residing at the above address are listed below. (Fill in this section if you wish to receive just 1 ECHO; otherwise fill out a separate application for each ECHO subscription desired).

NAME _____ S.C.# _____ ACTIVITY _____
 NAME _____ S.C.# _____ ACTIVITY _____

I am renewing my SPS membership as an 'inactive' member.

I wish only to subscribe to the ECHO; I am not an SPS member.

After March 31st or a lapse in membership, I wish to be reinstated as an active member. My last year as an SPS member was _____. I have done the following activities to qualify me for reinstatement:

I hereby apply for membership in the SPS. The six peaks that qualify me for membership and the dates climbed are listed below. At least two of the peaks climbed were with the SPS. My Sierra Club membership number is listed above.

Peak Name	Date Climbed	With SPS?	If yes, Leader Name

**SECTION III
SUBSCRIPTION
CLASS**

Regular ECHO subscription: \$12.00 annual rate.

Sustaining ECHO subscription: \$25.00 annual rate. Sustaining subscriptions include first class postage for the ECHO and a donation to the SPS operating fund.

Make checks payable to SIERRA PEAKS SECTION. Mail this form and a check for \$12.00 or \$25.00 to the section Treasurer:

Patty Kline
 20362 Callon Dr.
 Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290

Published six times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter.

- EDITOR:** Wayne Norman, 436 Flower St., Costa Mesa CA, 92627, (714) 646-8588. ECHO copy deadlines are the third Saturday of odd numbered months. Priority is given to legible, typed, single spaced copy. Laser-printed or other high quality copy is preferred. Floppy Disks (IBM/MS-DOS format) are especially appreciated. Use letter quality setting on dot matrix printers. If you would like your submission returned to you, please enclose a SASE.
- SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$12.00 per year, due by March 31st. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Sustaining membership is \$25.00 per year, and includes first class postage. Submit new subscription applications and renewals to the section Treasurer: Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr, Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290, and include your Sierra Club membership number. New applications received after October 1 are credited for the subsequent year. Only one ECHO subscription is necessary for multiple members of a family residing at one address. Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club or the SPS are not tax-deductible.
- ADVERTISEMENT:** Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the following rates. Private trip announcements: \$1.00 for the first 4 lines and \$1.00 for each additional line. Other announcements and product/service advertisements: \$1.00 per line or \$25.00 for a half page space. Reach out to our climbing constituency and place an ad today! Send copy and check to the Editor.
- ADDRESS CHANGES:** Send address changes to the section Secretary: Dan Richter, 808 4th Street #107, Santa Monica, CA 90403. 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.
- MISSING ISSUES:** Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Dan Richter, 808 4th Street #107, Santa Monica, CA 90403. 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. Prospective new members: for a one time complimentary copy of the ECHO, send 52 cents in stamps to the Mailer
- AWARDS:** All prices include sales tax. Emblem pins (\$16.50), senior emblem pins (\$12.00), list finisher pins (\$15.00), and section patches (\$2.00) are available from the Section Treasurer: Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr, Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290. Make all Checks Payable to the SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
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