



The Sierra Echo

Volume 57 ▲ Number IV ▲ October-December 2013



**Mt. Davis from the
drainage SE of Rodgers**

Echoes from the Chair

By Eric Scheidemantle



Hello, SPSers!
This should be our year of expansion. Your management committee is trying out a lot of different avenues.

We'll be having quarterly "trip planning" potlucks at Regge's, Alexander's, and other committee members' homes. We'll be setting up discounts at local climbing gyms for SPS member nights. We want to introduce the "Peak of the Week" where you identify a picture of a peak and winners are entered into a drawing.

We're looking at changing membership rules to provide something like SCMA's Associate Member.

We're doing the 2013 Ketchum YMCA stair climb of the US Bank tower in downtown Los Angeles, and we have spots open on our SPS Team.

We'll be doing snow conditioning climbs next winter at Baldy, Jacinto, and Gorgonio.

Maybe we'll do pub crawls where the only mountaineering activity will be drinking and story telling.

In other words, I want us to step outside of the box and find new ways to build community and membership.

– Eric Scheidemantle, Chair (chair@sierrapeaks.org)

Save the Date! January 26!

The next annual banquet is just around the corner.

This year is a once-in-a-lifetime event so you'll want to hold the date. We will have Peter Croft as our featured speaker. We will be honoring RJ Secor with the Club's Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award. We will be raffling off two gift certificates from Sierra Mountaineering International that will entitle the winner to a free day of training in rock or snow. It's January 26th



and sure to be a blast.
– Eric

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Cover photo by Tina Bowman



New Emblem Holder

Congratulations to Neal Robbins, who earned his SPS Emblem on Split Mountain on July 28th on a trip he was leading. An E-rated leader and the leader of Group 3 for the Long Beach-South Bay Wilderness Travel Course, Neal leads primarily for the SPS and WTC.

Welcome back, Jeff!

Welcome back to renewing SPS member Jeff Koepke!

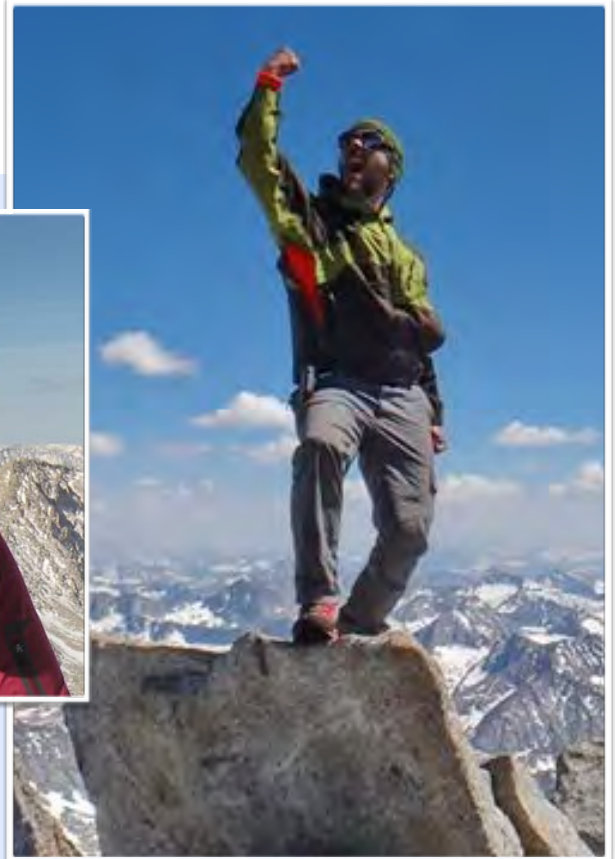


Our New SPS Outings Leaders

We're proud to announce that Matt Hengst has become the chapter's first E-Rock leader! And welcome to the ranks of M-rated leaders to Sandy Lara, Phil Bates, and Joseph Bell (M-Rock). The SPS is grateful for your mountaineering leadership!



Sandy Lara, M-rated leader



Matt Hengst, E-Rock leader



Joseph Bell, M-Rock leader (Photo by Eric Scheidmantle)



Phil Bates, M-rated leader

SPS Leadership, 2013

For **Appointed Positions**, we would like to welcome several new appointees: Beth Epstein and Tina Bowman are the new *Echo* Newsletter Editors; Gary Schenk is the new Outings Chair; Regge Bulman has taken over as *Echo* Mailer and Membership Development, and Shane Smith is the new Eastern Sierra Regional Representative.

An **Emblem Committee**—comprised of Lisa Miyake, Kathy Rich, and Daryn Dodge—has been appointed to assist with processing and evaluation of emblem submissions. Emblem submissions should be submitted to the Secretary, Lisa Miyake, at secretary@sierrapeaks.org.

We would like to thank Sara Danta (former *Echo* Editor), Larry and Barbee Tidball (former Outings Chairs), Beth Epstein (former *Echo* Mailer), Ron Hudson (former co-webmaster), and Rick Jali (Eastern Sierra Regional Representative) for their service.

Barbee Tidball has stepped down as Conservation Chair. If anyone is interested in this position, please let us know. —*Kathy Rich*

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Vice Chair: Greg Mason vicechair@sierrapeaks.org
Secretary: Lisa Miyake secretary@sierrapeaks.org
Treasurer: Alexander Smirnoff treasurer@sierrapeaks.org
Outreach: Regge Bulman outreach@sierrapeaks.org



Appointed Positions:

Emblem Committee:

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Echo Newsletter Editors:

[Beth Epstein](#) and [Tina Bowman](#)

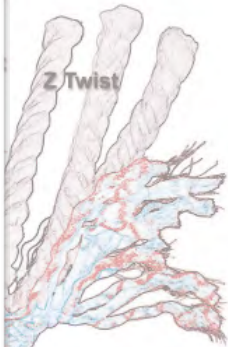


**Echo Mailer and
Membership
Development:**
Regge Bulman
r_bulman@fastmail.us

SPS Leadership, 2013



"Kern" n



"Mantle" means Sheath



Figure 1. Computers may be useful in the future, but no one knows for sure.

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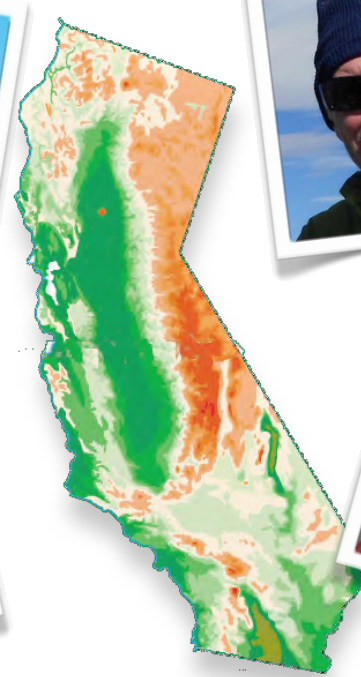
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What Is the SPS Archivist Anyway?

In January of 1994 I showed up for my first management meeting of the SPS as a newly elected officer and volunteered to be secretary. We were all sitting in the cafeteria of the Department of Water and Power on Hope Street, where we had our meetings in those days. Barbara Sholle was the outgoing secretary and the new chair of the section.

"What do I do?" I asked.

"You keep the minutes, write the membership reports, and people send you their qualifications when they join, get an emblem, or finish the list. Things like that," said Barbara. "And here—take this." She handed me some boxes and folders full of papers and assorted objects like registers, notebooks, pins, and a flag from the Mexican Alpine Club.

"What's all this stuff?"

"It's all our historical stuff; the secretary keeps it."

Over the next few months I began to look through the materials. There was the history of the SPS told in old *Echoes*, correspondence, registers, early lists, and numerous other papers, artifacts, and pictures. I was entranced as our history came to life in my mind. The old photos were wonderful. There was Barbara Lilley as a young woman, Frank Sanborn, Andy Smatko, John Robinson, my mentor Bill T. Russell, and so



Below: Participants lined up at start of Desert Peaks Section climb of Mt. Tom, September 19-20, 1953.

From left: Dick Kenyon, Frank Sanborn, Conrad (Connie) Jarabin, Millie Stewart, Virgil Sisson at center, bare-headed and wearing red shirt. Unidentified man in white t-shirt. Marjorie Jarabin. Dick Woodward (head only). Barbara Lilley second from right, John Wedberg at far right. Trip leaders were Freda Walbrecht and Virgil Sisson, both of whom later became SPS members. Sanborn, Lilley and Wedberg later became founding members of the SPS.

Above: Desert Peaks Section climb of Mount Tom, September 19-20, 1953.

Norman Clyde standing alone near camp wearing backpack. Photos by Frank Bressel, who became a founding member of the SPS. From the Frank Bressel Collection.



many others. And they were all having such a good time. You could feel the energy and happiness of those early years.

It started me thinking that these materials needed to be taken care of properly, so I asked the management committee to make me the SPS Archivist. About a year later Bill T., who was doing the same thing with the DPS Archives, became ill and knew he didn't have much time left. He contacted the folks at the Special Collections Department at UCLA, and we went over and arranged for them to be the repository for the archives of the climbing sections of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. We work over there with Genie Guerard, who is a wonderful person and a great help. I like to call it The Russell Collection in memory of Bill T. We can always go there to see the materials and make

copies. They even will arrange for us to have free parking. Most important is that the material is preserved, taken care of, and available to scholars or anyone else who wants to see it.

Over the years as I have received them, I have donated SPS archival materials and—working with Barbara Reber, the DPS Archivist—DPS materials as well. When we receive very old historical registers, we send those to the collection at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley.

Right now we are preparing materials and slides that were given to us by Frank Bressel from his collection to send to UCLA.

Do you have any old stuff we can add to the collection? I bet you just might.

Dan Richter, SPS Archivist

dan@danrichter.com

Summer Flash Floods



Flooding at Manzanar, 7/23/13 (NPS Photo)

Shepherd and Bairs Creeks overflowed their banks July 22–23, closing sections of Manzanar National Historic Site. Elsewhere, the same storm system, among other things, washed out the Taboose Creek trailhead, stranding four vehicles in mud; closed Westgard Pass; washed out part of the Saline Valley Road; left boulders and other debris on the Whitney Portal road; and sent mudslides across highway 395 south of Olancho, closing the highway. The next Sunday after several days of more rain, torrential rain again caused flooding on 395 between Coso Junction and Little Lake, closing the highway again for some hours and stranding some motorists. A number of county roads and several state highways were affected by the series of storms as well. —TB

NEW!

TrailTech

This is the first in what we hope will be a series of brief articles contributed by SPS members who would like to share information about their favorite pieces of trail technology. We corralled Eric into being the first to tell us about a piece of technical equipment that makes his life better in the mountains. How about you? Send your proposal or article to Tina at tina@bowmandesigngroup.com

The Camera Capture Clip System

By Eric Scheidemantle

Being the next Galen Rowell is an ambitious goal. While I don't pretend to match Galen's climbing or artistic skills, I do want to carry a full suite of gear into the back country. My gear? At the least my Nikon D700 and two lenses: 24mm and 105mm.

How to carry, though? Starting in 2006 and ending in 2012 I used a chest-mounted camera bag similar to Click Elite's ProBody SLR Chest Carrier. This was great for hiking and backpacking and even some third-class scrambling. It got awkward, however, when I had to press against the rock to go around an exposed corner or do other tight moves. When it came to leading fifth class it was impossible; following was only slightly more possible. Oh, and how does one self-arrest with a big, boxy bag strapped to your chest?

I looked everywhere for a solution: Cotton Carrier, Spider Holster, and Black Rapid. A chest-mounted solution was a non-starter because of

my rack. A hip-mounted setup would be awkward with a climbing harness. A sling system does not provide stability. Plus in all three cases the camera would get in the way of climbing.

Then I stumbled upon a Kickstarter campaign for Camera Capture Clip System by Peak Designs. It was pricy but would let me carry the camera on any pack, belt or harness, depending on my needs. I figured a camera mounted high on the shoulder is as well protected and unobtrusive as I could hope.

I was right. I can easily climb into the 5.6 range, leading, with my DSLR mounted high in my backpack's shoulder straps. I can even mount it on my harness if I must, though there is a much greater risk of it getting knocked around. I'm tempted to buy a second one so I can swap the camera between shoulder and hip as I climb and conditions change.

This little device has accompanied me climbing the U-Notch of North Palisade, Mt. Emerson, Mt. Harrington; doing Via Ferrata in Andorra; snowshoeing up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek, and roaming the streets of Barcelona.

Product website:

https://peakdesignltd.com/store/index.php?route=product/product&path=60&product_id=51



Eric Scheidemantle (wearing the Camera Capture system) and Joseph Bell on Mt. Darwin. (Photo by Regge Bulman)

PASSAGES



Robert Hicks 1925 – 2013

By Doug Mantle

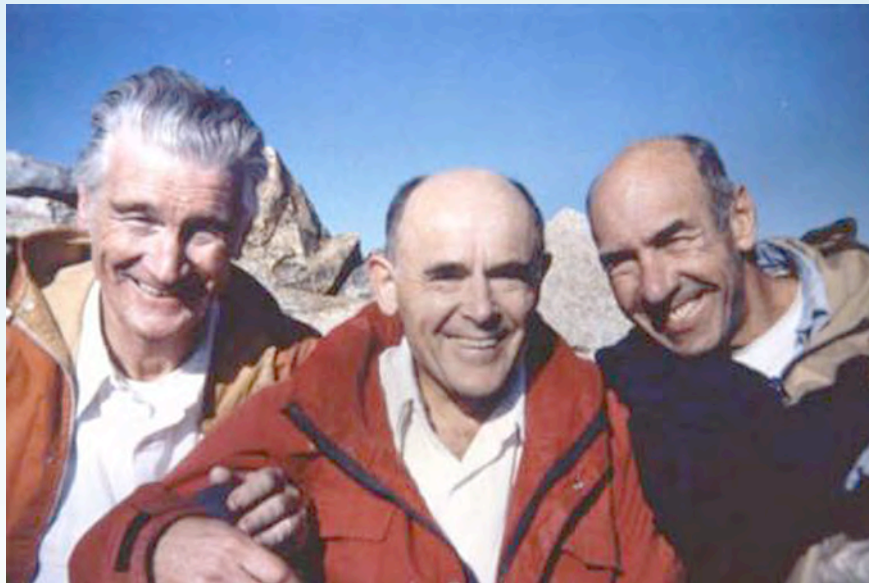
The last of the SPS Patriarchs has moved on:
Bob Hicks passed away at 87.

He was a remarkable fellow.

In WWII, Master Sergeant Hicks earned a
bronze star clearing two German machine gun

nests to protect his unit. He was shot twice in the
progress. He was a hero who never spoke about
it.

After the war, true blue as only his generation
could be, Bob married our wonderful friend Katie.



*The Older Boys Trips. Top, from left, Duane McRuer, Bob Hicks, Bill T. Russell. (Photo courtesy Cina Hicks & Mary McMannes).
Bottom: Duane McRuer, Bill T. Russell and Bob Hicks (Photo courtesy of Jerry Keating).*

Together more than 50 years, they have five children, adopted and natural, who all cherish a heritage of love and service.

Relatively late in life, Bob took up running; he completed sixteen marathons and many more 10k races, despite having the biggest, flattest feet you ever saw (4F eligible).

His Sierra exploits began with family backpacks, then BMTC, then entered warp speed when he was befriended by Co-Patriarchs Duane McRuer and Bill T. Russell. Their fourteen Annual OBTs (Older Boys Trips) propelled each of them to SPS List Finishes, Bob's in a 1990, a co-finish with me on Clouds Rest. And, yes, he did the DPS List and HPS List and Kilimanjaro and Fuji, and trekked in Tasmania and New Zealand, and much more.

If Bob said, "I like your style," you knew you had arrived.

His Sierra Club service list is long: perennial Chapter Safety Chair and SPS Chair for starters. In aggregate it warranted the Chapter's rare Lifetime Achievement Award.

If ever an SPSer earned "beloved" status, it was Bob, always cheerful, earnest, understanding. Bob was the best fellow traveler—and friend—imaginable.



Above: Bob Hicks at list finish



The Older Boys Trips. Left, Bob Hicks, Bill T. Russell, Duane McRuer. Right: Bill T. Russell, Duane McRuer, and Bob Hicks (Photos courtesy Cina Hicks & Mary McMannes)





Third Time's a Charm

Rodgers, Electra, and Foerster

By Tina Bowman

Two years ago Rudy Fleck planned an August trip to Rodgers, Electra, and Foerster as an I-level provisional, heading up to the headwaters of the North Fork of the San Joaquin River. Raging streams nixed that plan, and the trip was led to Foerster only by a somewhat different route.

Last year, Rudy and I attempted to lead Rodgers, Electra, and Davis via North Glacier Pass near Banner and Ritter. Heavy rain (so much for 30% chance of precipitation!) when we were part way down from the pass changed those plans, and we climbed Davis only.

So in 2013 Rudy and I went back to his plan one—and had success! We planned on four days, August 15–18, advertised as forty-five miles and 15,000+’ gain, but hadn’t worked out an exact plan for climbing the peaks, maybe Rodgers one day, Electra another, and possibly Foerster if time allowed. With that trip announcement and the reality of what we were up against in terms of exertion, there were unexpected cancellations. The upshot was that Michael Gosnell, the lone

participant, was sandwiched most of the time between the leaders.

Rudy and I carpoled to the Isberg Trailhead, which is south of southeastern Yosemite. Having stopped for pizza in North Fork, we continued another fifty-two miles mostly on Forest road 81 to the Clover Meadow Ranger Station, where we left some snack food in a bear box before tackling the dirt road to the trailhead. My Prius handled it until just beyond the trail and perhaps fifty yards from the parking area. A parking spot just below the trail had our name on it, and we settled in for the night. Michael drove past about 11:00.

Off we headed up the forested trail at about 6:40 Thursday morning with packs weighing forty-four pounds (Rudy’s), thirty-nine (mine), and twenty-eight (Michael’s—how did he do that?), taking our first break at the junction with the trail to the Chetwood Cabin and Isberg Pass. Our trail continued up and

Above: The view from Rodgers Peak toward Banner and Ritter and the watershed we had just traversed (Photo by Rudy Fleck).



we found a gravelly area at the northwest end of the lake perfect for camping. Behind the guys a bit all day, I settled on a tent site at 4:45. We were fairly well toasted by the long haul in. The trail on the map ended east of the lakes at fourteen miles from the cars, but we continued what seemed like another mile but was less to get to our campsite.

Friday we started up the canyon about 6:20, following the infant river to higher lakes. I had suggested to Rudy that we could do Rodgers and Electra

Above: The North Fork of the San Joaquin River at Hemlock Crossing (Photo by Tina Bowman) Below: The northern Twin Island Lake with our campsite on its north end (Photo by Rudy Fleck)

then dropped steeply way down to Hemlock Crossing on the North Fork, where there's a fine bridge and a splendid pool and waterfall. We arrived

in one day because I had done the two peaks plus Davis, though that was way back in 1992 and from a camp farther up the canyon and closer to Rodgers. Rather than get on the east ridge of Rodgers from the north, which was my approach in '92, we gained that ridge from the south. From the canyon we went up scree and small talus on the northern end of the wall below the hanging valley southeast of Rodgers. We contoured to a ramp angling right above a dark cliff band and

there at 11:20 and enjoyed a half hour for lunch. According to the National Geographic SE Yosemite map, we'd already gone 8.8 miles. We'd seen two young women on their way out from the cabin and a group at the bridge. We saw no one else that day.

On we went up the canyon, through Stevenson Meadow, to the confluence of Bench Creek and the river, eventually to use trail and ducks. We were east of Twin Island Lakes, but the best plan was to go north, around the ridge separating us from the lakes, and then southwest to the northern and lower Twin Island Lake. Here



gained the ridge not far from the summit. Enjoying fine views, including some smoke from the Aspen Fire to the south, we were on our first summit at 10:30.

After twenty-five minutes on top, we started down, this time coming down a chute just east of the ramp we went up. We made our way down the talus to the lake below a saddle that would lead us to the drainage north of Electra, up to the saddle, and along easy talus to the lake northeast of Electra. A chute led to the east

ridge of Electra just a little below the summit, which we reached at about 2:00. I had come down that ridge in '92 and worked down benches to the east and on to Davis. Somehow I had gotten on the north ridge of Electra from the lake before; this time we didn't see a feasible route to that ridge. I left a register in the SRC aluminum box; only several pieces of paper were in it.

After about half an hour on top, we started our trek back to camp. A bit of miscommunication led to our going along the east ridge, hoping to drop into the drainage north of the ridge via a scree chute about a mile from the summit. From the drainage it looked good. From the summit, a bump in the ridge looked pretty cliffy on the south side, making me wonder how easily we could get to the saddle at the top of the chute. The miscommunication was that the guys thought I had come down that way before, but I hadn't, just said it looked like a good way as we were on our way to Electra.

Indeed, it was cliffy, but we worked down and then at last—after miles of talus—had easy walking in the drainage southeast of Electra and up to the ridge above Twin Island Lakes. Rudy led us down through some cliff bands with a bit of angling right to our camp, where we arrived at 5:35. The guys headed to the boys beach, and I rinsed off a bit at the girls beach. During happy hour a peregrine falcon perched on a boulder not far from us for a few minutes.

Some clouds in the morning never became cause for concern, and we had another mild night.



Above: Banner and Ritter from Electra (Photo by Tina Bowman)

Off we went Saturday morning just after 6:00 for a

long hike to Foerster. Ron Hudson had described a chute leading from the middle of the southern Twin Island Lake to the ridge west of the lake, so we went on a quest for that chute. Unlike Ron's group, however, we went around the northern lake on the west side, avoiding the outlet stream and a lot of up and down from what we could see. As we approached the middle of the west shore of the southern lake, we saw starts of two chutes. The first one looked like it was the correct one with talus, grass and other plants, and eventually more talus and scree at the top where we found some small trees.

From this gap we could see part of Bench Canyon and part of our route to Foerster. We worked down to a lake and a bit lower before angling up onto the rounded ridge, where we contoured toward upper Bench Canyon. Partway through our contouring we were quite surprised to find a young German woman, Sabine, resting on a rock. She'd come over Foerster Pass, camped the night before in Bench Canyon, and was on her way to Thousand Island Lake via North Glacier Pass. Wow! We chatted briefly and continued on our contouring, taking a break where we picked up some use trail that dropped us into Bench Canyon and back onto wonderful walking terrain after the talus.

Rudy led us up to Blue Lake, where we took a twenty-minute break before the final climb to the



Above: Michael Gosnell, Rudy Fleck and Tina Bowman on the summit of Rodgers Peak. Below: The curious lake we descended to from Foerster.

summit of Foerster, which we reached at 11:15. We managed to find a bit of space in the full register to sign in. I noted that Doug Mantle had signed in in '96, having come from Marie Lakes, northeast of Rodgers. Good grief! We eyed Mt. Ansel Adams, but since it was an I-level outing, we didn't do anything more than look from afar. After twenty minutes we started for camp, mostly retracing our steps at first towards Blue Lake but then angling down toward another lake north of it that looked rather like terraced rice paddies. We continued angling



along Bench Canyon over easy terrain, stopping for a bite of lunch under a massive lodgepole pine, then up to the rib where the contouring began again, eventually to the ridge above the southern Twin Island Lake, down, and back to camp before 4:30. Though clouds had built up during the day, we had no rain and were mostly in sunshine.

Sunday morning we started for home just after 6:15. Once we were on the other side of the ridge east of the lakes we saw people camped in two spots. We followed ducks and use trail, eventually getting on real trail. In a forested area off Stevenson Meadow, we saw a messy camp with a smoldering campfire and no people. Fires this year were illegal because of the high fire danger, explaining why they probably vamoosed when they heard us coming. We braced ourselves for the climb up from Hemlock Crossing with a nice break there beside the river. A thin layer of cloud and intermittent breeze eased our toils a bit up the slope, but it still was quite a grind because the grade is steeper than that of most trails for a gain of a thousand feet before easing off. Keeping an eye on the clouds coming our way and then on bear prints on the trail, on we trudged with minimal breaks. A few minutes from the cars, which we reached about 2:45, we had a few drops of rain after some peals of distant thunder, a few more as we prepared for the drive home, and on the drive back to Clover Meadow, where we stopped to get the food from the bear box and tell the volunteer ranger about the untended campfire.

We had dinner at the Buckhorn in North Fork with ice cream at the Pizza Factory before saying goodbye to Michael and heading our separate ways for home. Michael ran our route on Topo! And came up with forty-five miles, 15,995' gain, quite close to what we had advertised. While I drifted along a little ways behind, Rudy led the whole way and led superbly. Thanks, guys, for a great, ambitious, exhausting, very memorable, and highly successful trip. And, dear readers, check out Rudy's videos of the outing at <http://www.youtube.com/user/rfleck3?feature=csp-in-feed>

Southern Sierra Sojourn

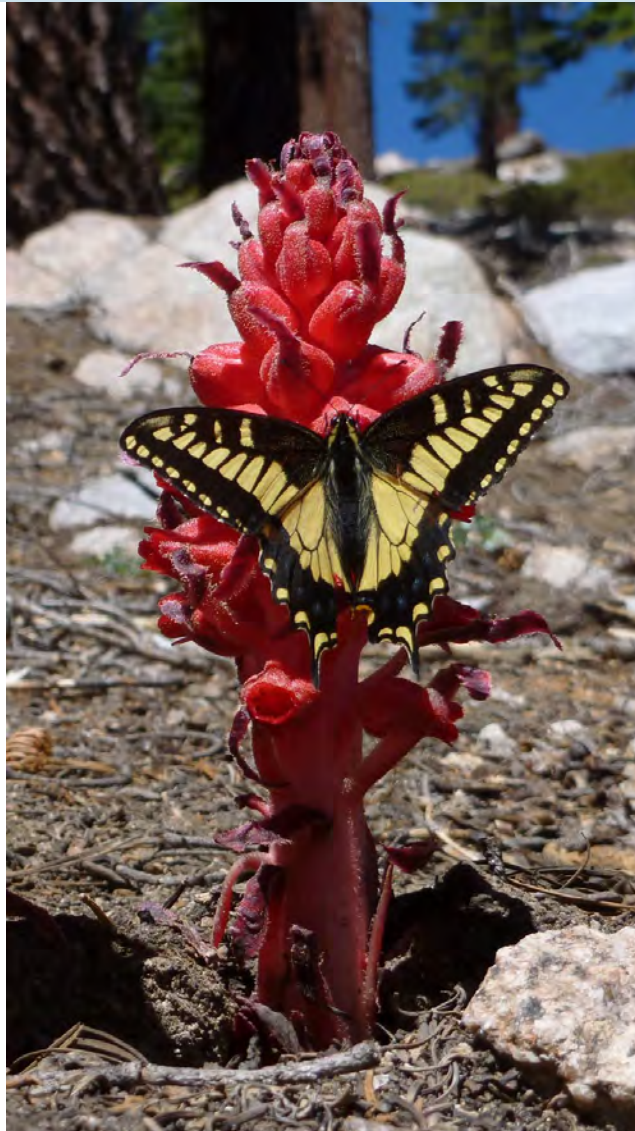
June 21-23, 2013

By Jerry Keating

Heeding SPS history and the availability of explorer peaks, twenty persons gathered on the Kern Plateau at the start of summer for two days of leisurely hiking and two nights of extended campfire interaction. Included in the group were two founding members of the section and seven list finishers.

This was the ninth annual trip in a series started during the section's 50th anniversary and geared to accommodate both old timers and newcomers. Co-led by Larry and Barbee Tidball, the trip was based at the Troy Meadow Campground and climbed Sherman Peak (9909'), Bald Mtn. (9382'), and Blackrock Mtn. (9606').

Once on the SPS qualifying list, Sherman is now reached by a 2½-mile trail from Sherman Pass (9200'), the high point on a paved forest highway that didn't exist when the SPS was founded in October 1955. Founding member Frank Bressel and wife Joanna reminded the group of this when they recalled a two-day, March 1956 backpack on which they reached the summit. The backpack started at el. 3500' on the main fork of the Kern River and encountered snow as deep at twelve feet near the summit. Then, a lookout tower was on the summit. Now, the lookout has been replaced by high-tech electronic equipment and a small wooden storage hut.



This year, the trip occurred at the start of summer, and no snow appeared anywhere nearby. In fact, 2013 is a drought year throughout the Sierra, and our views northward to the Whitney and Great Western Divide areas revealed only scant evidence of snow. More rewarding was our look downward into the massive trench that carries the main fork

of the Kern River. Nineteen members of the group drove to Sherman Pass Saturday morning, 17 started the hike, and 15 reached the summit. Saturday afternoon, six persons drove directly back to camp to prepare for campfire time, two headed for an independent look at Lookout Mtn., and eleven others headed for Bald Mtn. The latter objective involved a drive 10½ miles back on the forest highway toward camp and a two-mile graded side road that's gated close to the summit of Bald Mtn. Ten persons hiked the remaining distance to the summit and took turns visiting the staffed lookout.

The view included the imposing granite prominences of the Domeland Wilderness to the southeast.

After a second night of extended campfire libations and conversations, the group was ready for Blackrock Mtn., which involved a drive first past the

Anise Swallowtail butterfly on Snow Plant (Photos by Barbee Tidball)



other views of the plateau on leisurely drives home. Some of those drives home were as distant as Concord and Shaver Lake in Northern California, Santa Barbara/Nipomo, and San Diego. Worth noting is that the Kern Plateau is recovering from two destructive forest fires: the 74,439-acre Manter Fire of 2000 and the 150,700-acre McNally Fire of 2002. The plateau is isolated from the rest of the Sierra

Blackrock Ranger Station and then

On the summit of Blackrock Mtn. Standing from l-r Ralph Wright, Richard Carey, Asher Waxman (yellow cap), Dick Drosendahl, Gene Mauk, Mike O'Brien, Mei Kwan, Mary Motheral, Gail Hanna and Barbara Lilley. Kneeling: Larry Tidball

up the paved forest road some eight miles to Blackrock Gap, the roadhead most SPSers will recognize as the normal starting point for Kern Peak in the Golden Trout Wilderness. For our group, however, the roadhead was the starting point for the cross-country climb up the forested slope to Blackrock Mtn. Sixteen persons started and twelve reached the top, while two others remained back at the cars. The summit is on flat terrain, and the group first stopped at what a GPS indicated was the summit. No register was

found there, so a small rock cairn was added to the existing circle of rocks and a two-can register was left. Then, the group moved southeastward across the plateau and encountered a rocky outcropping with a register left on a 2003 SPS trip led by Gordon MacLeod. Everyone signed this "older" register but believed this outcropping wasn't the true summit. Views from both of these locations are limited by forest cover, so it's not possible visually to identify the highest point.

By noon, the official trip ended at the roadhead, allowing participants to remain in the area for additional but independent climbs or to experience

and can be entered by car from only two directions: from the east via Nine Mile Canyon over the crest and down to Kennedy Meadows before crossing the south fork of the Kern River and then gaining elevation and from the west via the main fork of the Kern above Kernville and then up to Sherman Pass. Both of these approaches (or exits) were used by at least four members of our group.

Besides the Tidballs and the Bressels, the group included founding member Barbara Lilley, Gordon MacLeod, Richard Carey, Gail Hanna, Ron Hudson, Jerry and Nancy Keating, Gene Mauk, Mary Sue Miller, Mary Motheral, Asher Waxman and Ralph Wright, all with SPS ties; plus Karen Andersen, Dick Drosendahl, Mei Kwan, and Mike O'Brien.



Spanish Mountain and Three Sisters

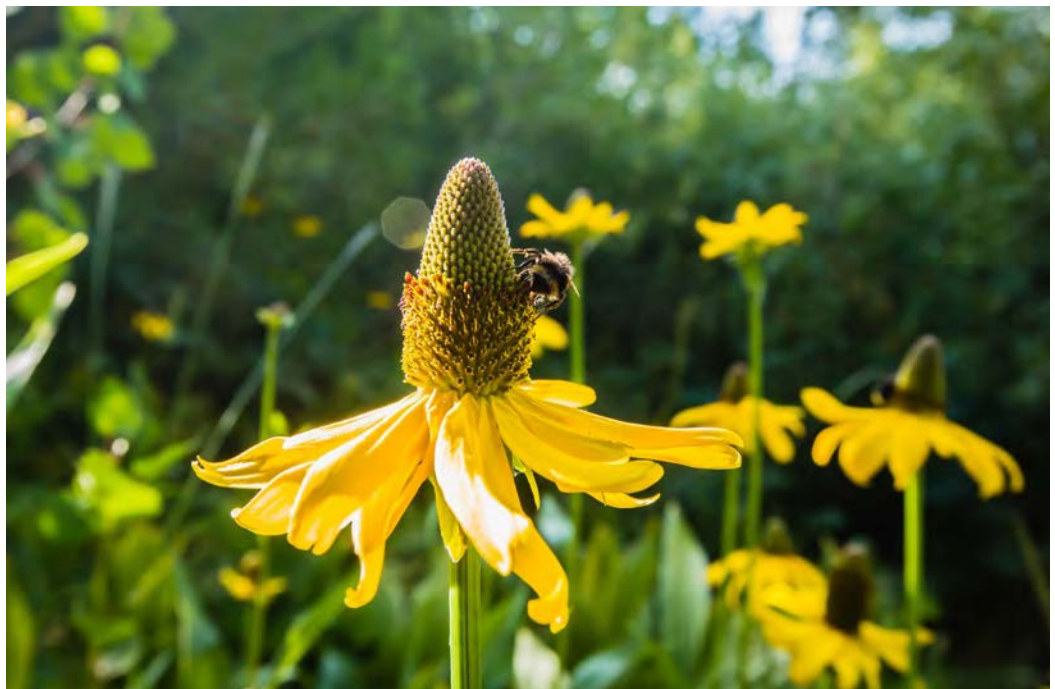
July 20-21, 2013

By Tina Bowman

A group of seven—Robert Amaral, Chuck Ernst, Eric Lesser, Ron Meyer, Mumtaz Shamsee, and leaders Jim Fleming and me—met at the Crown Valley trailhead not far from Wishon Reservoir. Most of us had camped at the trailhead, which features a large dirt parking area and bear boxes, but no outhouse. The original plan had been to hike up and down Spanish Mountain via the 4WD road, but we decided to make a loop out of it and started on the Crown Valley trail at 6:15. After a mile we headed off on the trail to Statum Meadow (curiously it's Statum on the old 15 minute map and trail signs, but Statham on the newer 7.5 minute and Sierra National Forest maps).

All went well to the meadow with lots of wildflowers along the way, where we saw one person and some mules on the private in-holding. Robert had been there last year and knew that the trail towards Spanish Lake and Little Spanish Lake headed up to the ridge north of the meadow (as RJ also notes in his book), but footprints and use trails all over added some confusion. Up we went and hit on the proper trail, which went along fairly well for a ways. Cattle trails, however, soon were all over, but we found occasional ducks and blazes and figured if worse came to worst we'd just head south cross-country and gain Rodgers Ridge. Off and on we found the trail to Little Spanish Lake, where we took our second break before heading cross-country up to the ridge and on out to the summit, reaching the top at 11:35.

We enjoyed the views with Goddard looming darkly to the north and the Obelisk prominent above the gorge of the Middle Fork of the Kings River. According to Walter A. Starr, Jr., "Here [from the summit of Spanish Mountain] one looks down over 8,000 feet to the river from the highest canyon wall in America." We could see the Palisades, the Kaweahs, and so many individual SPS peaks. We had a leisurely lunch and started



down at 12:20 with Jim taking over the lead.

We followed the ridge to Garlic Meadow, and Jim then led us over to the end of the 4WD road, where we saw several jeeps, people, dogs, and an outhouse. The road that at one time went down to Spanish and Little Spanish Lakes is now closed to vehicles, and we saw no evidence of it earlier in our hike. The road is very dusty and sometimes steep, but we could mindlessly hike along. We blessed the clouds that came up now and then since it was a warm day, but we still had plenty of

En route to Spanish Mtn. - Bumblebee and California Coneflower (Photo by Mumtaz Shamsee).

sun as we trudged down the road. The problem with this loop is that the dirt road ends .6 mile from where we were parked. We were back to the cars at 4:30 after about seventeen miles and 4000 feet of gain. Robert and Chuck said goodbye and started on their way home.

We had a great happy hour—Jim’s quesadillas and Ron’s bruschetta really standing out. Not long after happy hour we had a few showers and listened to the rumble of thunder approaching. Ralph Wright joined us during one of the showers after a leisurely drive from his home in Walnut Creek.

Sunday morning we left the Crown Valley trailhead area at 6:00 and caravanned eighteen miles

*At right: Jim Fleming on summit of Three Sisters.
Below: Looking south along summit ridge of Three Sisters
(Photos by Mumtaz Shamsee)*

As in the previous issue, we wish we had room for more of the fine photos taken by Mumtaz Shamsee. They may be viewed online here: <http://stumblebum.smugmug.com/Mountains/Ascents/i-nvdDPk7>



to the Cliff Lake trailhead at Courtright Reservoir. Both Wishon and Courtright were quite low.

At 7:01 we started for Cliff Lake, where we took our second break. Not surprisingly, we saw a number of groups on their way out. Having left the lake at 9:35, we went cross-country fairly directly up to the high point of Three Sisters—or Tres Hermanas, as Jim said, continuing our Spanish theme. We reached the top at 10:44 and started down again at 11:11. We now had a different view of Goddard and could make out Banner and Ritter, Humphreys, Darwin, Goddard, as well as Spanish and the Obelisk.

As before, I led up, and Jim led down. We were back to Cliff Lake for lunch at 12:09 and on our way again in half an hour. Part way along the trail we had a nice shower, but it didn't last long. We stopped for one break after leaving the lake and reached the cars about 2:50. We went about



eleven miles for the day, and my Avocet showed 2755' gain.

Thanks to a great group for another fine weekend in the Sierra, especially to Jim for leading with me. As a final note, all roads are paved to both trailheads, though the parking areas are dirt.



Above: On the summit of Three Sisters, L to R: Ron Meyer, Raph Wright, Eric Lesser, Jim Fleming, Mumtaz Shamsee (Photo by Tina Bowman). Left: Ralph Wright at Cliff Lake (Photo by Mumtaz Shamsee)



Leadership Training Committee

Schedule of Activities, September 2013-May 2014

The LTC web site also has a calendar of events: www.angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/ Please check this site for more information about the listed events and for added events.

Leadership Training Program Seminar

Sept 21 DEADLINE to register for October 5th seminar
Oct 5 Seminar at Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center

Wilderness First Aid

Nov 8-10 Wilderness First Aid Course Steve Schuster
<http://wildernessfirstaidcourse.org>

Navigation Practices and Checkouts

Sep 22 Grinnell Ridge Nav Noodle Bob Myers
Nov 16 Nav workshop on 3rd Class Terrain Bob Myers
Nov 16-17 Indian Cove Nav Noodle Bob Myers
Dec 8 Warren Point Nav Noodle Bob Myers

Rock Practices and Checkouts

Oct 2 Advanced Mountaineering Program–Safety Dan Richter
Oct 5 AMP–Belaying Dan Richter
Oct 12 AMP–Rappelling Dan Richter
Oct 19-20 AMP–Climbing Techniques and Anchors Dan Richter
Apr 24, 2014 Advanced Mountaineering Program–Safety Dan Richter
Apr 26 AMP–Belaying Dan Richter
May 3 AMP–Rappelling Dan Richter
May 10-11 AMP–Anchors Dan Richter

Various dates–Vertical Adventures (This is not a Sierra Club activity but can prepare candidates for rock checkouts.) <http://www.verticaladventures.com/>

Environmental Awareness

See Natural Science Section’s web site (<http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/nss/outings.htm>) for the Nature Knowledge Workshop and other outings that satisfy the environmental awareness prerequisite. Other ways to fulfill this requirement are possible; check with the LTC Administrative Chair, Bob Draney.

Soldier Lake Loop and Mt Pickering

By Sarah Schuh Quist

Homer Tom and I wanted to plan a four-day loop hike over the Fourth of July, which would meet one of the graduation hike requirements for daring Wilderness Travel Course (WTC) students and introduce them to the Sierra Peaks Section hiking world. Homer suggested the Soldier Lake Loop leaving from the Cottonwood Pass trailhead and circling Cirque Peak. I convinced him to add some mileage and take a run at Mt. Pickering and Joe Devel Peak. The trip was set.

Wednesday, July 3, 2013, I left lunch at noon to drive to the Inter-Agency Visitor Center and obtain the permit, dragging my dad and Alex along. We learned a few days earlier that one cannot request a permit be placed at the late-night check-in box if the trip crosses into Sequoia National Park, as our trip intended to do. Traffic added almost

no time to the trip by taking the 210 out of Los Angeles. We picked up the permit by 4:00pm, stopped in Lone Pine for some vittles, and had our camp set up at the Horseshoe Meadow campgrounds at 10,000' in time for dinner. Where else can you find a fire rings, picnic tables, potable water, vault toilets, and bear lockers for just \$6? What a steal.

As we ate dinner, a cheerful lady approached and asked if we were with Sierra Club. She identified us by our gear and the small size of our tents. She had read about the trip and wanted to join. Since we had two openings on the permit due to last minute cancellations, we quizzed her about experience and gear, she passed, and she became the newest member of the expedition. As we sat

around the campfire, everyone else arrived.

Thursday, July 4, we awoke at 6:30am to prepare for the 8am departure goal. The potable water wasn't working at our camp or the trailhead so we appreciated the participants who prepared ahead with an extra gallon or two of water in their trunk. We departed at about 8:30am with smiles on our faces and nine people in the group-me as lead (WLA), Homer Tom as co-lead (SGV), and a host of WTC leaders (Tiffani and Justin Bruno [SGV]), students (Peter Johnston [WLA], Amy Davis [SGV], Alex Prieto [SGV Grad], Kristen Lindbergh

Group with Langley behind: L to R, Gary Schuh, Alex Prieto, Peter Johnston, Kristen Lindburgh, Sarah Schuh Quist, Justin Bruno, Tiffany Bruno, Sheila Szmanski, Amy Davis, Homer Tom (Photo by Gary Schuh)





lightning crouching stance among the trees, and stayed away from the metal in our packs. We grew cold and decided we had to hike on. We hiked out of the rainy conditions, keeping extra distance between ourselves on the mixed hail-strewn, slushy-muddy trail with temps in the upper 30s.

As the rain subsided, we were able again to enjoy the views of the Siberian Outpost to

*Above: Sunset over Lower Soldier Lake.
Below: Miter Basin from Mt. Pickering
(Photos by Gary Schuh)*

[LB]), and friends (Gary Schuh, visiting from Wisconsin, and Sheila Szymanski, new camp friend).

We walked three hours and five miles in sun and some intense heat, taking plenty of breaks to get over the Cottonwood Pass comfortably. We lunched at Chicken Spring Lake. Just as we packed up to

hike on, the sky opened on us with rain, lightning, thunder, and hail. That's what 40% chance of rain looks like. With about thirty minutes of huddling under a tree under our belts, we found some moments of reprieve to book it over the next pass and back into treeline just in time for the hail to start again. For nearly an hour we counted the seconds between lighting and thunder (five seconds, eight seconds, fourteen seconds, six seconds . . .), practiced our

our South. We had reached a high point of about 11,500' for the day and then back down to 10,800' and camped at Lower Soldier Lake in Sequoia National Park. We logged eleven miles on trail and nearly six hours of hiking on Day One. Views at the lake made all the hail worthwhile as we enjoyed a hot meal and dried off. I passed around the Beth Epstein SPS write-up of Mount Pickering, Joe Devel Peak, and Mount Guyot from September 2000 to help students get a sense of



what awaited on Mt. Pickering. We dreamt of matching this feat.

Friday, July 5, we rose with the goal of reaching Mt. Pickering (13,474') and possibly Joe Devel (13,327'). Instead of backtracking to the mouth of Rock Creek, students helped lead us with map and compass along a use trail on the northwest side of Lower Soldier Lake and over the ridge. We met Rock Creek there and stayed to the



eastern side high on the rocks as long as possible, passing Major General (12,300') and walking through luscious green meadows toward the Miter Basin. We turned, following the creek and a short scramble to the north up to Sky Blue Lake (11,555'). The three-mile trek to the lake earned us a long break, long enough for all to take Facebook profile pictures with the lake. A day ending at the lake would have satisfied many of us. But the peak called. We made our way around the north side of the lake up the creek flow. We followed the creek and around some now dry lakes. At the base of Mt. Pickering we looked up at the thousand feet of second class scrambling ahead. We navigated around the last bit of snow and slowly made our way up. Perhaps it was early jitters, but the group was most tentative at the start when we had some dislodged rocks almost immediately. From there the climbing was slow but steady. Stable rocks made for better climbing than loose rock. Some participants took the

same route as those in front while others took different ways up—it seemed best to let them choose the route they felt most comfortable with. Finally, reaching the saddle below and northeast of Pickering offered a few minutes to gobble some calories before pushing on for the five hundred foot scramble to the peak; the group had high spirits. This last push took only about twenty minutes more. Not visible from the saddle, the summit and register are on the west end of the summit block. Winds blew fiercely on the peak, and we quickly took in the views. Seeing clouds coming from the south, we signed the register, took a group photo, and headed back down to rejoin a few cohorts who did not summit and waited there. Descending the scree east of the summit went fast as many of the group trotted down the open field. We saluted Joe Devel and decided to save him for another day because our ascent had taken too long to leave time to make the ridge to Joe Devel. Instead we descended

At Cottonwood Lakes: Alex Prieto, Homer Tom, Gary Schuh, Amy Davis, Peter Johnston, Kristen Lindburgh (Photo by Gary Schuh)

the long ridge toward Erin Lake and the steep scree field which Beth Epstein described in her up climb (first pinnacle, the little closed contour on the 7.5 min map [UTM 854417]). We slid down the long scree field to Erin Lake, calling “Rock! Rock! Rock!” numerous times. Being the sweep, Homer channeled his downhill skier and took this section running and jump turning. From Erin Lake we walked back to Rock Creek but cut around the creek to stay at the general elevation of the ridge over to camp at Lower Soldier Lake. A six-point buck crossed our path and seemed to lead the way home. The day totaled ten miles of cross-country travel, with nine hours of travel. Students commented that they knew the trip would be strenuous but that this really wiped the group out. We rallied for happy hour though—sharing cheese and

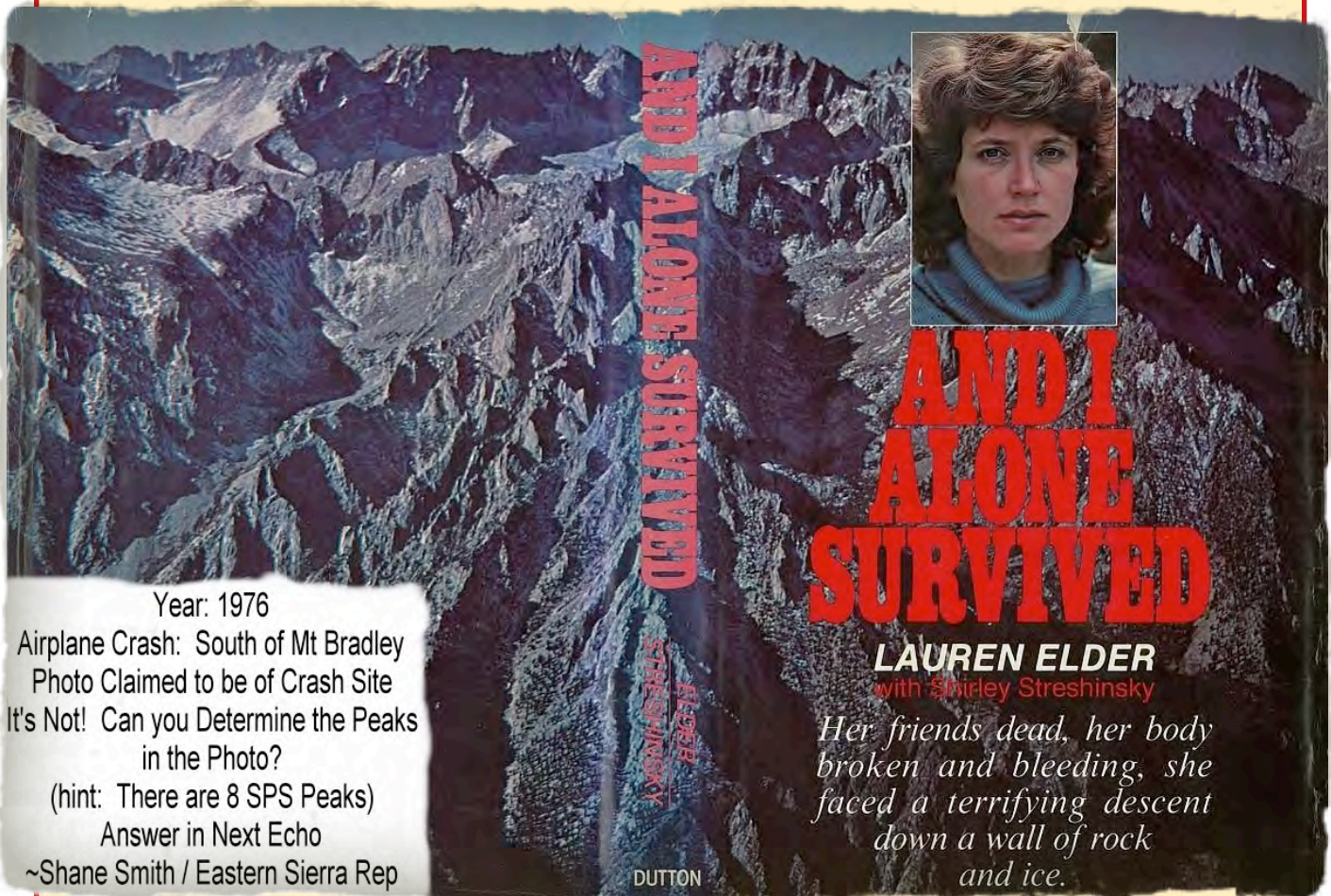
NEW!

Mystery Peak Challenge!

Welcome to the Mystery Peak Challenge!

This occasional just-for-fun puzzle is for you to figure out which Sierra peak or peaks are featured in the photo. Send your answer to Tina at tina@bowmandesigngroup.com If you have a fine mystery peak photo to challenge Echo readers, please send it as well. At this stage, we're imagining the puzzle to focus on mountain imagery from popular culture—imagery used and abused in film and print.

In this instance, Shane Smith, who suggested the Mystery Peak Challenge, has given you plenty of information to help you find your way to an answer. You may be inspired to read Lauren Elder's book *And I Alone Survived* or watch the 1978 TV movie of the same title, inspired by Elder's amazing survival.



Year: 1976

Airplane Crash: South of Mt Bradley
Photo Claimed to be of Crash Site
It's Not! Can you Determine the Peaks
in the Photo?

(hint: There are 8 SPS Peaks)

Answer in Next Echo

~Shane Smith / Eastern Sierra Rep

LAUREN ELDER

with Shirley Streshinsky

*Her friends dead, her body
broken and bleeding, she
faced a terrifying descent
down a wall of rock
and ice.*

avocado quesadillas, rice krispie bars, naan, snap pea crisps, curry chick-peas, lentil soup, and chips with salsa.

Saturday, July 6, we travelled via New Army Pass to Long Lake, relieved to be on trail after a tough day Friday.

Climbing out of Rock Creek above the treeline was a tough slog. We made camp near the inlet of Long Lake and had a welcome swim, enjoying the warm afternoon. Some napped while others took a leisurely walk around the Cottonwood

Lakes. Sunday, July 7, the crew packed up camp and hiked the five miles to the cars in record pace, only slowing for mule packs. Next trip I'd wake up even earlier to reach Joe Devel and Pickering, and possibly Guyot.

In the year of 1860,

the California State Legislature established the California Geological Survey, and Josiah D. Whitney was named the State Geologist. Whitney chose William H. Brewer as his first assistant. Brewer's role was to lead the field parties, and during the first four years he traveled up and down the state, recording measurements and observations along the way. Members of these parties included at times as many as six and as few as three. Today their names grace many Sierra Peaks—Whitney, Brewer,

Gardiner, Gabb, Hoffman, King, and Cotter. It was not until 1863 that the Survey challenged the High Sierra.

June 8, 1864, Brewer and the survey party left the San Joaquin Valley to explore the upper reaches of the Sierra. It was there they hoped to identify “the top of the range” and fill in those blank portions of their maps. They indeed were walking off the map into the upper reaches of the Kern, the Kings, and the San Joaquin Rivers, which were explored and mapped. At one of their camps, they stayed at the base of a fine, tall conical peak. Thinking that this fine peak may be the high point of the Sierra, they labored to the summit. On top they found a view wilder than they had ever seen before. Brewer exclaimed, “Such a Landscape!” They were



Clarence King: **In Search of Mt. Whitney**

by Hal Browder

surprised to see a hundred peaks in sight rising over 13,000' and many canyons and cliffs in every direction. The peak they were on they named Mt. Brewer. That night at camp, they informed Clarence King that they had sighted the tallest peaks of the Sierra off to the east. The following day King begged Brewer to allow him and the packer Cotter to seek out the “Top of California.” Brewer consented! After six days the pair returned and informed Brewer they had climbed to a summit over 14,000' that they had named Mt. Tyndall. Their epic journey was published in King's book, *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada* (1872). The adjectives used in his account embellished his trip, but the language in his “Geology Report” more

realistically states that “the summit was reached without serious difficulties after some risky climbing.” They did do the trek with meager equipment by today's standards and no maps. This also was the first recorded use of a rope on a climb in the Sierra.

From Tyndall, King and Cotter noted that they were not on the highest peak. Two nearby peaks stood higher: “What looked highest of all was a cleanly cut helmet of granite lying about six miles to the south.” They named it Mt. Whitney in honor of their chief, Josiah D. Whitney. Also, for those of us who have been on Tyndall, we would be aware of the nearby massive bulk of Mt. Williamson!

View from Mt. Langley (Photo by Hal Browder)

In June of 1871, King once again was in the Whitney region and climbed a peak he thought was Mt. Whitney. He took in the view from the summit and stated, "The rocky tower of Mt. Tyndall, thrusts up through rolling billows and sank into darkness and mist." Ironically, the peak was not Tyndall that he saw but the true Mt. Whitney! Then came a shock to King when a paper read at a meeting of the Academy of Sciences stated that "This peak was not Mt. Whitney" that King had climbed! It probably was Mt. Langley, the southern-most 14,000'er.

When Clarence King received the news, he rushed to California. At eleven in the morning, he stood finally on the

true summit of Mt. Whitney. On top, he found a monument and the records of two preceding parties. Alas, he was too late for a first ascent! The question was then, who made the summit first? Much bickering ensued, but finally the credit went to a group of Lone Pine residents who named the peak "Fisherman's Peak." King's ascent was the fourth ascent! Although John Muir made the third ascent (the Mountaineer's Route), he left no record of his climb but did describe items placed by previous parties.

The name of the high point also became a point of controversy. Professor Whitney was a disliked figure in many circles, and the name Mt. Whitney was not popular. This

was very much the prevailing view in Owens Valley. Fisherman's Peak and Dome of Inyo were some proposed, but finally, Mt. Whitney was the name that stuck and was made official on the maps.

Today, many ascend to the summit by many different routes for many different reasons. I hope visitors will take the time to delve into the history of this wonderful place.

Further readings on this subject can be found in *History of the Sierra Nevada* by Francis Farquhar, *Such a Landscape!* William Henry Brewer by William Alsup, and *Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada* by Clarence King.

Wear 'em! Give 'em!

SPS TEES



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Outings

Sep 21 | Sat LTC

Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar:

Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC. Register for October 5 seminar to be held in Costa Mesa. See LTC web site (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>) for registration information. No registration after this date or at the door. Next seminar: Spring 2014.

Sept 21-22 | Sat-Sun WTC, SPS

M: Moses Mtn (9331'), N Maggie Mtn (10,234')

Join us for an M-rated trip into the west side of the Golden Trout Wilderness, Southern Sierra. Perfect M-level WTC experience trip for students wanting to get back out on the rocks. Sat we'll hike in (3 miles, 1000') to set up camp and head for North Maggie Mountain (5 miles, 3000'). Sun we'll do a 3rd class scramble up Moses Mtn (5 mi, 2000') before returning to camp to pack up. Helmets and comfort on 3rd class rock required. Send recent experience, conditioning, and contact and carpool info to Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS, Co-Ldr: STEPHANIE SMITH.

Oct 2 | Wed LTC, SPS

M/E-R: Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP8)-Basic Safety System:

First of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening workshop of 4 hours reviewing ropes, knots, harnesses, helmets, and basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. As space is limited, priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER, Asst: PAT McKUSKY.

Check out the SPS web site for an even more up-to-date listing of upcoming trips at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps>

Also, please check at summitregister.org whether a peak needs a register book or pencil before you go on a climb.



Photo by Hal Browder

Oct 5 | Sat LTC

Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Seminar at the Costa Mesa Community Center. For information, see the LTC website (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>) Deadline for receipt of application is September 21. No registration after this date or at the door. Next seminar: Spring 2014.

Oct 5 | Sat LTC, SPS

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP8)-Belaying: 2nd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on belaying and principles of anchor building. As space is limited, priority will be given to participants who commit to all four

OUTINGS

workshops. Send e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER, Asst: PAT MCKUSKY.

Oct 12 | Sat LTC, SPS
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP8)-Rappelling: 3rd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. As space is limited, priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER, Asst: PAT MCKUSKY.

Oct 19-20 | Sat-Sun LTC, SPS
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP8)-Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors: 4th of 4 climbing workshops open to

Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Steve Botan 714-321-1296 ltcregistrat@hundredpeaks.org
Patrick McKusky 626-794-7321 patrick.mckusky@lausd.net
Dan Richter 818-970-6737 dan@danrichter.com
Neal Robbins 310-540-5089 Neal.Robbins@L-3Com.com
Stephanie Smith 310-376-7631 rbstephs@gmail.com

SC members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. As space is limited, priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER, Asst: PAT MCKUSKY.

Apr 23, 2014 | Wed LTC, SPS
M/E-R: Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP8)-Basic Safety System: First of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening workshop of 4 hours reviewing ropes, knots, harnesses, helmets, and basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. As space is limited, priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER, Asst: PAT MCKUSKY.

Apr 26, 2014 | Sat LTC, SPS
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP9)-Belaying: 2nd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on belaying and principles of anchor building. As space is limited, priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER, Asst: PAT MCKUSKY.

The Sierra Echo



is a quarterly publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. For more information, see the back of this newsletter. All questions, copy, and photo submissions should be directed to **Tina Bowman, Editor, The Sierra Echo**, preferably via e-mail at tina@bowmandesigngroup.com. Refer to the SPS Roster for mailing address. The *Echo* will also be available as a PDF download at the SPS web site and via a link sent to all SPS members opting for this method.

Save the Date!

The annual SPS Banquet will be January 26, 2014, featuring Peter Croft, good friends, and great raffles!

OUTINGS

May 3, 2014 | Sat LTC, SPS

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP9)-Rappelling: 3rd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER, Asst: PAT MCKUSKY.

May 10-11 | Sat-Sun LTC, SPS

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP9)-Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors: 4th of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. As space

is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER, Asst: PAT MCKUSKY.

NEW!

FYI! In addition to the permit information described below, most reservations for the Inyo National Forest and the Desolation Wilderness up to 48 hours in advance of entry can be handled at

<http://recreation.gov>

Wilderness Permit Info

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Web site: www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo
Pick up permit closest to departure trailhead.

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center, Lone Pine, CA
(760) 876-6200

White Mountain Ranger Station, Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 873-2500

Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 924-5500

Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center, Lee Vining, CA 93541
(760) 647-3044

KERN PLATEAU

Web site: www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia

Cannell Meadow Ranger District
105 Whitney Road
P.O. Box 9
Kernville, CA 93238
Phone: 760/376-3781 fax:
760/376-3795

Tule River Ranger District
32588 Highway 190
Springville, CA 93265
Phone: (559) 539-2607

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Web site: www.nps.gov/yose
Reservation requests for summer trips (mid-May through September) are accepted from 2 weeks to 24 weeks in advance on-line or by writing to
Yosemite Association
PO Box 545
Yosemite, CA 95389

By phone: reservations for summer trips are accepted by calling (209) 372-0740.

Obtain your free permit from the Wilderness Permit Station nearest your departure trailhead. Call (209) 372-0200 for permit station locations.

If entering park from Cherry Lake in the Stanislaus National Forest to Kibbie Lake and Lake Eleanor in Yosemite, you must get your permit from the Stanislaus National Forest

Ranger Station on Highway 120 in Groveland. Call (209) 962-7825. If entering the park from Chiquito Pass in Sierra National Forest, permits for the whole trip must be obtained from the forest Service in North Fork. Call (559) 877-2218

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NP

Web site: www.nps.gov/seki
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA. 93271-9599
Phone (559) 565-3766 for permit & trail info. Fax (559) 565-4239

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY

Web site: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra
Ansel Adams Wilderness-North Bass Lake Ranger District
57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643
Phone: (559) 887-2218

Ansel Adams Wilderness-South John Muir, Kaiser and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses
Pineridge/Kings River Ranger District
29688 Auberry Road
Prather, CA 93651
Phone: (559) 855-5355

Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee Meeting

June 12, 2013

At the Home of Eric Scheidemantle and Skype

Minutes Submitted by Lisa Miyake

1. Call to Order at 7:45
2. Committee Reports
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 - b. Chair
 - i. Letter from Chair in *Echo* was about what makes SPS special
 - ii. Open invitation to say "Why am I in SPS?"
 - c. Sierra *Echo*
 - i. Regge spoke with printer. We'll have to pay postage.
 - ii. Who is printing the *Echo*? Regge will talk to Beth about this.
 - d. Outings
 - i. OARS is already on SPS site
 - ii. Matt and Greg are looking at trying to build a database for everything, which will automatically populate from the web page
 - iii. Problem is that SPS website is made out of old Dreamweaver software
 - iv. Matt can probably link Google list and other lists in Google drive
 - v. Roster—Alexander is keeping the roster up to date; the latest one he sent us should be on Google Drive.
 - vi. Eric will ask Gary for an update about Outings.
 - e. Treasurer
 - i. Alexander discovered that Wells Fargo has been transferring money from SPS to SCMA
 - ii. \$150 automatic transfers to money market had to happen to get cheap checking account.
 - iii. We have to do automatic transfers.
 - iv. Alexander has to talk to the bank about this. The bank doesn't know what's happened. They can't transfer the money back.
 - v. After the correction, we have \$9,539.99 in the account at the end of May.
 - vi. Income statement; we covered banquet expenses last time.
 - vii. Banquet income \$2800; expenses were \$3216.
 - viii. Dues were due in April. He has to see who hasn't paid their dues.
 - ix. If you have questions, e-mail Alexander.
 - f. Banquet
 - i. Barbara Louis suggested Kurt Wedberg
 - ii. Regge wants to talk to Yosemite Search & Rescue to see if there's anyone from their group.
 - iii. Any of the SAR groups might be interesting.
 - iv. We need a banquet chair—this was supposed to be done in April.
 - v. Regge and Eric make up the temporary banquet committee; Eric is banquet chair.
 - vi. Bernie Fox—get him to join SPS and then help with banquet committee.
 - vii. Greg suggested sending out an email to request suggestions from people for the banquet; give an e-mail/phone number to contact with the information.
 - viii. Eric will start contacting SAR—ideally Yosemite or Inyo.
 - ix. Alexander also has a contact; maybe we can give a donation to the group (Sierra Madre SAR).
 - i. Usually the speaker gets paid \$300.
 - g. Emblems
 - i. No updates
 - ii. Eric always got e-mails or letters (address will come out from leader list).
 - h. Archivist
 - i. No one has heard from Dan recently.
 - i. Mountain Records
 - i. On Brewer—register box was removed.
 - ii. How do we come up with new register boxes? How do we keep them from being removed?
 - iii. In the next *Echo*, we should publish what's going on with the register. Harry has a web site.
 - iv. No one has heard from Harry lately.
 - v. Greg will reach out to Harry. Greg will find out if he still wants to do that. If not, then we'll try to keep it updated on our Google site. We're losing registers left and right.
 - vi. Greg will look out for a new Mountain Records person. Eric has been involved with SPS for three years, and hasn't heard much from Harry Langenbacher.
 - vii. Harry's website. <http://langenbacher.org/summitregister/index.html>
3. New Business
 - a. A Peakbagger-like app and/or social media SPS-specific app
 - i. Peakbagger has pretty much the same thing.
 - ii. Mountain Project has an app.
 - iii. We can put the same content on the web site.
 - iv. Greg: Maybe a better and easier project is having a mobile version of the web site.
 - i. If we do this through Google Sites, this might be built-in? Probably still easier than starting from scratch.
 - ii. Greg will ask Matt. Matt helped get OARS on the web site.
 - b. Schedule some outreach events
 - i. Events at bars and other casual events
 - ii. Going out to all the rock climbing gyms; SPS night at the rock gym. Make sure some SPS folks will be there.
 - iii. Facebook is a good way to get people together at events.
 - iv. Trip planning party. First 20 people to respond; plan trips together.
 1. DPS got big doing something like this.
 2. We should get Gary involved.
 3. Instead of DPS potlucks, we have SPS trip planning
 - a. Probably a Sunday night (6PM) activity
 - b. Regge will hold the first one—August.
 - c. Eric could probably hold one—October.
 - d. Alexander (beginning of February) and Greg (April) can also hold one
 - e. Lisa and Eric will talk about a common message for upcoming e-mails (e-mail about banquet, Facebook, and SPS trip planning).
 - f. Do these meetings once every two months
 4. Review Thomas Sakowych's SPS-led trip ideas (May 21st email)
 5. Have SPS-specific conditioning hikes
 6. Do a San Geronio snow climb, etc. Warm-up hikes.
 7. If it's training or skills training (co-sponsored with LTC)—that might be a better way to do it.
 - a. Greg recommends listing it as SPS and LTC, or SPS and AMP. Do an extension of training—do a trip.
 8. Do a strong conditioning hike locally—and lead as SPS.
 6. Do a San Geronio snow climb, etc. Warm-up hikes.
 7. If it's training or skills training (co-sponsored with LTC)—that might be a better way to do it.
 - a. Greg recommends listing it as SPS and LTC, or SPS and AMP. Do an extension of training—do a trip.
 8. Do a strong conditioning hike locally—and lead as SPS.
 - c. New web site framework: Drupal, Google sites, etc.
 - d. Demo SPS Facebook site, how to use it for active outreach, post non-climbing events, like trip planning parties, pub crawls, etc.
 - i. Facebook—post pictures of trips.
 - ii. Post trips; invite friends who are SPSers.

- iii. Send an e-mail to SPS member group—SPSlist 2013; send it out to the group list; spsmembers@sierrapeaks.org
- e. Discuss P&P regarding Management Committee’s approval of all trips before publication (Gary Schenk’s email).
 - i. Kathy: P&P is already changed. Proposed trip writeups 5.3—if there are any concerns, SPS Outings Chair can send it to the Committee if he wants to.
- f. Nomination of RJ Secor for the Francis Farquhar Award.
 - i. RJ is being nominated by the MOC, primarily for his book *Sierra Peaks and Passes*.
 - ii. Bill Oliver asks that we support this.
 - iii. SPS Committee—we’ve passed the deadline.
 - iv. Dan Richter and Bill Oliver wrote the letter for Sierra Club.
 - v. RJ probably couldn’t go to SF for the award, but we can hold a gathering here for him. And if that’s the case, we can probably be involved in that.
- g. Associate member before full member
 - i. Just send in check; young people can get in and involved.
 - ii. AMP and WTC graduates—are interested but don’t have enough to be a member yet.
 - iii. Change the terminology of “subscriber to Echo” to “Associate Member.”
 - iv. How much do we care about active members vs. inactive members?
 - v. Eric will look into simplifying membership—like “Associate Member” and “Member.”
- vi. Committee can make changes to P&P as they see fit.
- vii. Maybe do an SPS event at the WTC/AMP graduation weekend.
- viii. Maybe sponsor SPS/AMP demo climbing day. Or co-sponsor WTC/SPS hike.
- h. “Fun” contest
 - i. Craziest hike award, etc. Thematic contests. We can do submissions/competition. Announce at the banquet.
- i. Incentives
 - i. SPS can help cover permit fees.
 - ii. Maybe top 3 leaders can get gift cards—something else to give out at the banquet
 - iii. Do something with the \$9500 to extend the longevity of the club; the money should be put toward that
 - iv. Long weekend—dayhike peak schedule—we pay for the group campground and refreshments.
 1. We can easily do this in Southern Sierra (i.e., Kennedy Meadows—good in early May). From Kern side, there’s Taylor, Rockhouse, Sirretta. Good in Southern Sierra, because there’s no permitting.
 2. This is a good project for the trip planning party.
 3. Maybe we can do something in Yosemite.
 4. We can have non-peak trips too.
- 4. Old Business
- 5. Greg motion to end the meeting

SPS Income Statement		Through July 31, 2013 Submitted by Alexander Smirnoff, Treasurer					
	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
INCOME							
Echo Subscriptions	1,850	980	410	260	30	20	0
Banquet Income	2,800	2,940	0	0	0	0	0
Donations	325	360	75	30	0	0	0
Merchandise	39	15	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income	5,014	4,295	485	290	30	20	0
EXPENSES							
Postage	609	0	0	0	0	0	0
Printing	578	343	0	0	0	0	0
Pins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raffle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banquet Expenses	3,216	4,206	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Fees	18	(0)	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable contributions	400	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	4,821	4,549	0	0	0	0	0
OVERALL TOTAL	193	(254)	485	290	30	20	0

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Check out the SPS web site if you have not been there in a while!

<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/>



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Publication dates are Mar 15, Jun 15, Sept 15, and Dec 15. All text submissions for publication, including trip reports, articles, etc., can be submitted in electronic format such as MS Word (preferred), WordPerfect, e-mail (electronic format is preferable), or through regular U.S. mail. Photos may be submitted as electronic files (jpeg, tiff or Photoshop in a resolution high enough for print media) or submitted as prints or slides. If submissions are to be returned to you, please include a return envelope with sufficient postage. **All submissions should be sent to Tina Bowman or e-mailed to tina@bowmandesigngroup.com**

Deadline for all submissions is three (3) weeks prior to the publication date, i.e., Feb 22, May 25, Aug 25, and Nov 24.

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