



The Sierra Echo

Volume 58 ▲ Number I ▲ January-March 2014



Independence, CA

Photograph by Robert Campbell

Story on Page 22

Echoes from the Chair

By Eric Scheidemantle



It's that time of year again. It seems to come earlier every year. That's right, SPS Management Committee nominations! Several current board members are stepping down.

This means there are opportunities for those young bloods out there to bring fresh ideas to the SPS and its activities. Contact Eric at chair@sierrapeaks.org if you have someone to nominate, even if it is yourself.
– Eric Scheidemantle, Chair (chair@sierrapeaks.org)

Welcome New SPS Members!

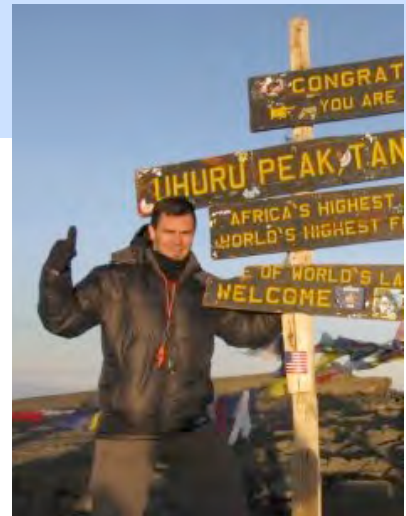
Jeremy Netka

Jeremy, a San Gabriel Valley 2006 WTC graduate, is very enthusiastic about joining the SPS. He is working toward his M Rock leader rating and after graduating from the Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP) he has returned to help with the course.



Justin Bruno

Nature lover and avid backpacker Justin Bruno has been a Sierra Club member since 2008 and is on the staff of the San Gabriel Valley WTC. He loves long distance through-hikes, world travel, and a good beer. When not hiking, he races in marathons and half-marathons.



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Cover photo by Robert Campbell - see page 22

2014 Sierra Peaks Section Annual Banquet

Sunday, January 26, 2013

Taix Restaurant

1911 W. Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90026 • (213) 484-1265

5:30 p.m. Happy Hour • 7:00 p.m. Dinner



Whether you're a long-time SPS member or just an avid climber, hiker or mountaineer, you don't want to miss this year's very special banquet. Get your tickets early, this event is likely to sell out.

GUEST SPEAKER



PETER CROFT

For most of his climbing career, Peter Croft has concentrated on big-rock routes. Peter is celebrated by his climbing and mountaineering peers for numerous achievements and daring adventures, perhaps none more so than his history-making free solo ascent of *Astroman* on Washington Column in Yosemite.

Peter began climbing in Canada, where he grew up, and inevitably gravitated to Yosemite Valley, where, after climbing the biggest cliffs there, he began to do link-ups of two or more big walls in a single day. He continues to break new ground by doing big traverses and link-ups in the High Sierra. Peter is arguably one of the most accomplished rock climbers North America has ever produced.

Peter is the author of the classic book *The Good, the Great, and the Awesome*, along with numerous guidebooks and books on climbing technique. He has also written about his adventures in a variety of climbing magazines.

SPECIAL GUEST



R.J. SECOR

If you've done any amount of hiking or climbing in the Sierras, you've probably bought, borrowed or stole a copy of the guidebook *The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, and Trails* by R.J. Secor. That "bible of the Sierras" has guided untold numbers to discover and explore the wonderful peaks and hidden gems of the high Sierra range.

At the banquet, R.J. will be receiving the national Sierra Club's Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award which honors an individual's contribution to the sport of mountaineering and enhancement of the Sierra Club's prestige in that field.

R.J. is a longtime member of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Peaks Section. He is one of only four people to complete the SPS list two times and one of only two who has achieved a third Master Emblem. R.J. is a lifelong mountaineer, adventurer and author. Besides *The High Sierra*, he has authored guidebooks on Denali, Aconcagua and Mexican volcanoes.

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

of tickets

@ \$40/each (before Dec. 1) =

@ \$45/each (after Dec. 1) =

@ \$50/each (after Jan. 1) =

Entree Choice

(please indicate total number of each)

TOTAL DUE

Beef

Chicken

Fish

Vegetarian

To order tickets, mail this form and payment to:

Alexander Smirnoff
1701 Paloma St.
Pasadena, CA 91104

alsmir1701@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to "Sierra Peaks Section."

To order tickets electronically:

—OR— Log onto

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/506101>

Note that a small service fee (approximately \$2.50) is charged for electronic purchase.

New Emblem Holders: Ron Eckelman & Tom Sakowych



SPS Secretary Lisa Miyake:

I have climbed the following peaks on the dates shown to qualify for the SPS Emblem.

Ten Emblem Peaks:

Mt. Whitney, 8-58
 Mt. Ritter, 7-2-67
 Mt. Lyell, 5-31-68
 Mt. Goddard, 7-6-68
 Olancho Peak, 5-31-69
 Matterhorn Peak, 9-14-69
 Mt. Williamson, 9-12-71
 Mt. Brewer, 7-3-72
 Mt. Humphreys, 8-7-77
 Split Mtn., 8-25-13

Fifteen Other Peaks:

Mt. Dade, 9-65
 University Peak, 5-30-70
 Dragon Peak, 7-18-70
 Arrow Peak, 7-4-71
 Mt. Winchell, 7-28-74
 Bear Creek Spire, 9-29-74
 Tehipite Dome, 5-27-79
 Mt. Clark, 7-1-79
 Mt. Starr King, 7-3-79
 Independence Peak, 6-30-01
 Mt. Morrison, 7-10-04
 Mt. Muir, 9-25-04
 Pt. Powell, 5-28-06
 East Vidette, 9-6-09
 Charybdis, 8-19-10

As you can see, I climbed my first peak, Mount Whitney, in 1958. Last August, fifty-five years later at age seventy-eight, I finally climbed my Emblem Peak, Split Mountain. Along the way I climbed 108 SPS peaks, but no emblem peaks after 1977 when a young but already experienced R. J. Secor led me up my ninth emblem peak, Mount Humphreys. Yes, it has taken me thirty-six years to get this last emblem peak. And, if I continue at this rate, I will not complete the list unless I can outlive Methuselah! However, it isn't necessary to complete the list to enjoy the Sierras, and no-one can show the way better than the SPS.

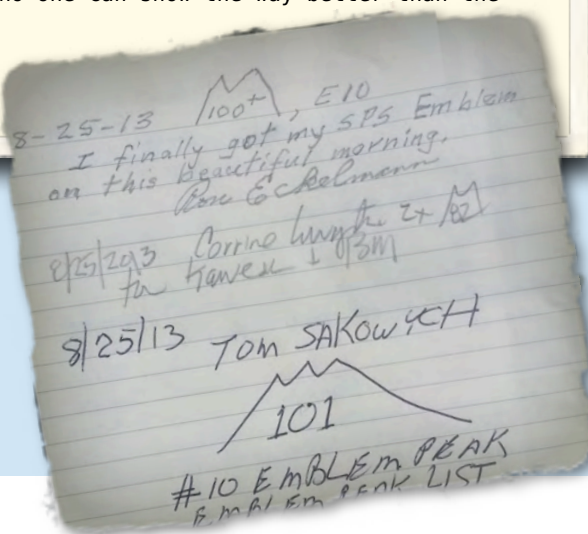
Ron Eckelmann
 SPS member since 1969.



Congratulations to Ron Eckelman and Tom Sakowych. Both earned their SPS emblems on Split Mountain on August 25th, 2013. We loved Ron's brief description of his journey to achieve the SPS emblem. We thought you'd find it quite interesting too. By the way, he soloed Split via Taboose Pass! -TB & BE

At left: Ron Eckelman on the way up Taboose Pass (Photo by Bob Davey)

Below: Tom Sakowych on Split Mtn. (Photo by Corinne Livingston)



For the Record?

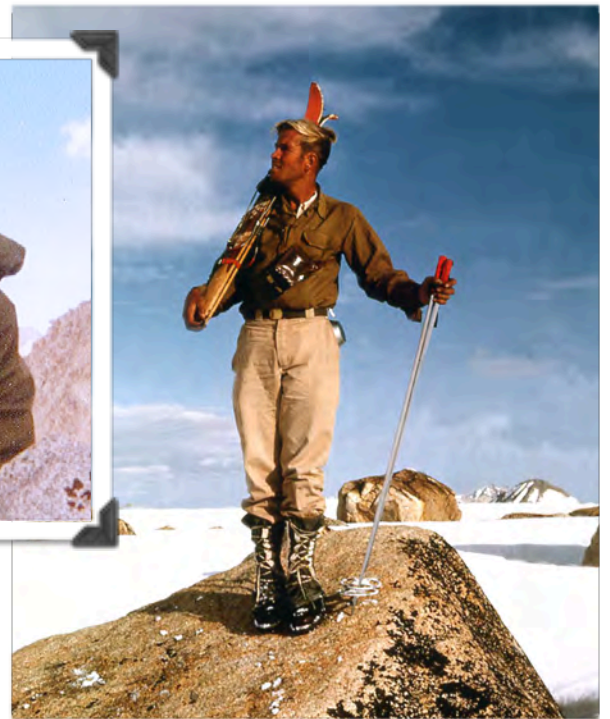
By Doug Mantle

Last August, perusing the register on Deerhorn with Nile Sorenson, we noted an earlier entry of mine "Doug Mantle 7X," followed by someone's rebuke, calling it "bragging."

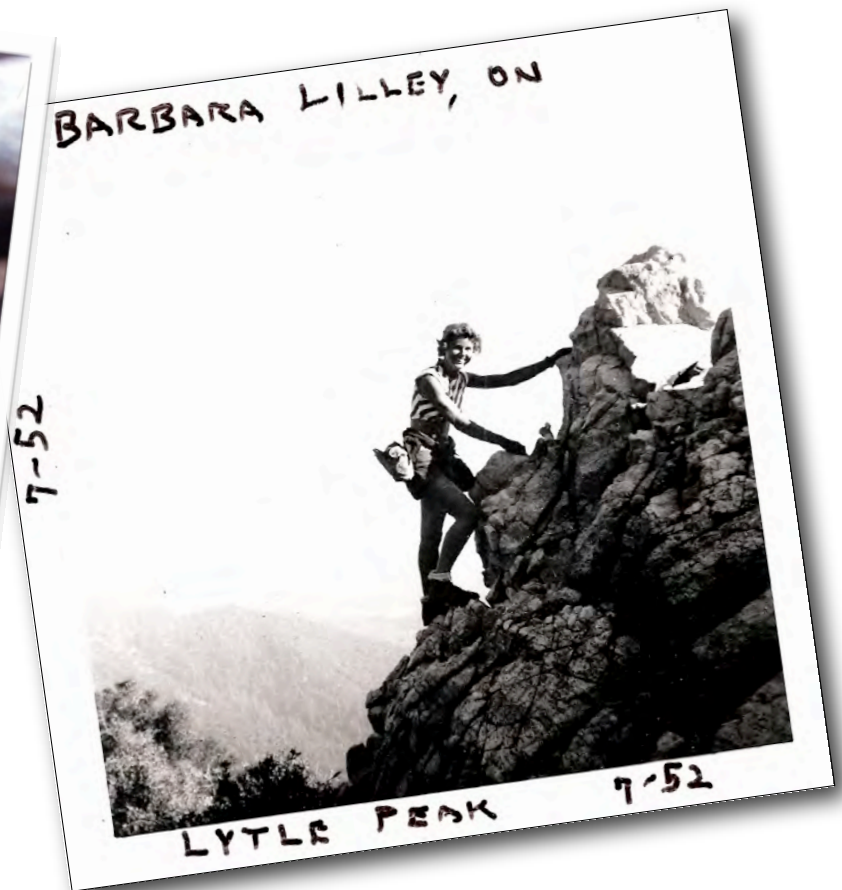
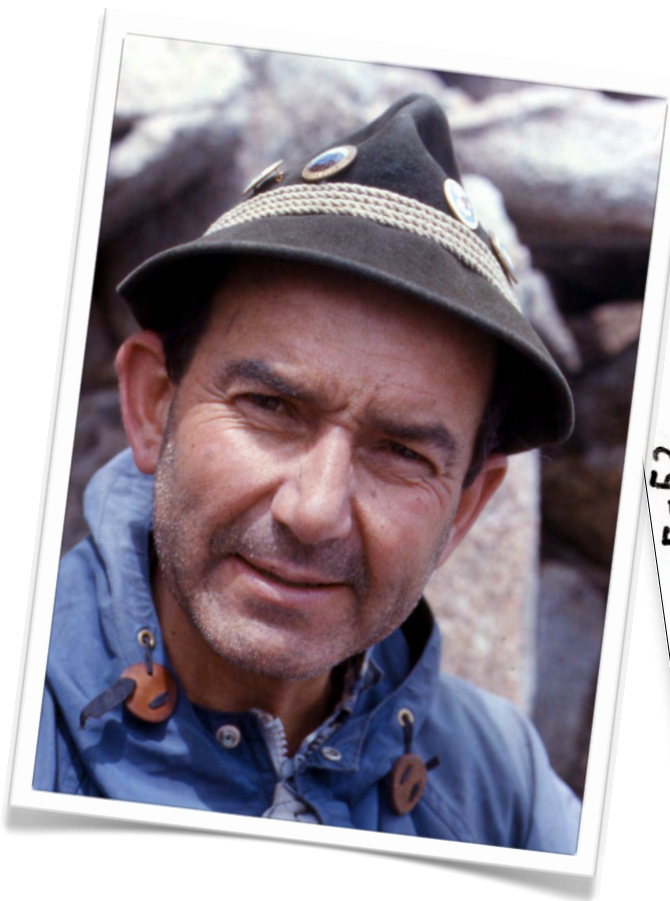
Bragging? You want bragging? At the risk then, apparently of offending everyone, let me review some other numbers.

Norman Clyde, I have read, made 1,150 Sierra climbs including the most spectacular first ascents of all, as well as 35X on North Pal and 50X on Mt. Whitney. (BTW, I'm told Bob Rockwell is well past 100X on Whitney.)

Andy Smatko, though, is the king of the numbers. His notes record over 1,800 climbs, including 150 repeats and hundreds of first-and first-recorded ascents. As a college kid I was lucky to join him and some of his buddies (Bill Schuyler, Tom Ross, Barbara



Above clockwise: Norman Clyde on 1953 DPS climb of Mt. Tom (Bressel collection). Andy Smatko, a photo titled "Happy Times" (SPS Archives). Tom Ross with skis at Piute Pass, 1963 (Sanborn collection). At right: DPS climb of Schwab Peak, Death Valley, Oct. 29, 1978, 6 triple list finishers (SPS/HPS/DPS) L to R: Roy Magnuson, Gordon MacLeod, Barbara Lilley, Barbara Magnuson, Andy Smatko and Jerry Keating (photographer)



Lilley) on a few of those. I continue to suggest that the new explorer award be named for him The SPS Management Committee didn't seem to know who he was, sadly.

Bill Schuyler topped over 1,500 climbs mainly with Dr. Andy, and Gordon MacLeod and the inimitable Bobby Lilley approach 1,000 Sierra climbs, but of course, the latter two have heaps of ascents in other venues too . . . and continuing.

In 1979 the irrepressible Cuno Ranschau posited he would be the first to do the SPS list twice. In my competitive response, I



Above left: Gordon MacLeod, on an SPS climb of Mt. Foerster, August 25, 1973 (photo by Jerry Keating) Above right: Barbara Lilley, 1952, from the Sanborn collection. Below left: near Lamarck Col on a private climb of Mt. Darwin, August 17, 1973. L to R: Delores Holladay, Roy Ward, Alice Hawkins, Cuno Ranschau (photo by Bob Cates).



found my own game: repeating the SPS List. Here are the numbers: 7X List (1,736), plus still more repeats (136) plus what for me are legitimate non-list climbs. That means I don't count incidental tops like Balcony or Gregorys Monument or most crummy bumps, well, except a few like Bunny Peak and Cloverleaf which Andy promised me were real first-recorded ascents. These total 126.

What the heck, I'll here mention this all includes 72 real winter climbs: no, not December 1st to May 1st, how absurd; winter means WINTER.

So, topping Indian Rock November 10th, I got number 1,998.

[And now he's up to 1,999, having climbed Starr King again on November 15th--TB]

Left: Doug Mantle (Photo by Greg Colley)

Bob Rockwell on Mt. Whitney and Beyond

Bob Rockwell has over 1900 ascents, 80–90% of those in the Sierra (his guess) but many around the world. Bob said, "Quite a few repeats, but about 600 different peaks. To date, 171 of Mt. Whitney, 89 of Thor, 35 of Muir . . ." He saw the flash of an A-Bomb test at dawn in the Nevada desert 125 miles away from the summit on his first climb of Mt. Whitney in 1952. From his home in Ridgecrest he has had a perfect base to serve for many years as a leader of the China Lake Search and Rescue Group, and now as a volunteer ranger on Mt. Whitney. — TB & BE



*Left: Bob Rockwell, volunteer ranger.
Right: Bob Rockwell on Mt. Carl Heller
(photos courtesy of Bob Rockwell)*

This continues 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. Dave Sholle stepped up for this issue 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

Black Diamond Ultra Distance Trekking Poles

By Dave Sholle

Barbara and I have been using trekking poles since the late 1990s and have found them very useful for rough terrain, long downhills, and stream/river crossings. On two backpacks to Alaska in 2010 and 2011, our trekking poles really helped in muskeg terrain and big river crossings. We have used many models of poles, but we are always on the lookout for new, lighter, and innovative technology. Our current favorite poles are Black Diamond Ultra Distance Trekking Poles. They are extremely lightweight (carbon fiber), fold very short (great for putting in a pack or for overseas travel), and seem really strong. At least I have not broken mine yet, and I am a big guy who has broken aluminum poles in the past. My guess is that if

you had the lower section of the BD poles get stuck between two rocks and

kept moving the upper section strongly forward, the pole would snap. A unique feature of these BD poles is that the length is not adjusted by

telescoping that are in place by rotation or by a cam lock, as in traditional poles. Instead, the poles are made like tent poles with an elastic cord in them. You unfold the poles, then pull up on the grip to pull the sections together until a small spring loaded button pops out and locks the grip in place. The advantage of this



system is that the poles are extremely easy to fold up or to open to full length and are very lightweight. The disadvantage is that the poles are a fixed length, although BD makes a heavier version with adjustable length in the upper



section. They are sold in four lengths: 100, 110, 120, and 130 cm. The poles shown in the photos are 51 inches (130 cm), and my pair of poles in that length weigh 10.2 oz (288 g). When the poles are in the included nylon bag along with the supplied carbide replacement tips, the total weight for the pair is 11.2 oz (317 g). The other length models would weigh slightly less. Folded, the poles in the bag are shorter than 18" long. These stats are for 2012 models. <http://blackdiamondequipment.com>

sections locked



Photos of trekking poles : Center, folded, with well-used tip, approx. 17" long; Right, extra carbide tips; Close-up: grip, strap and joint (photos by Dave Sholle)

Thunderbolt Peak (14,003'): A Grudge Peak?

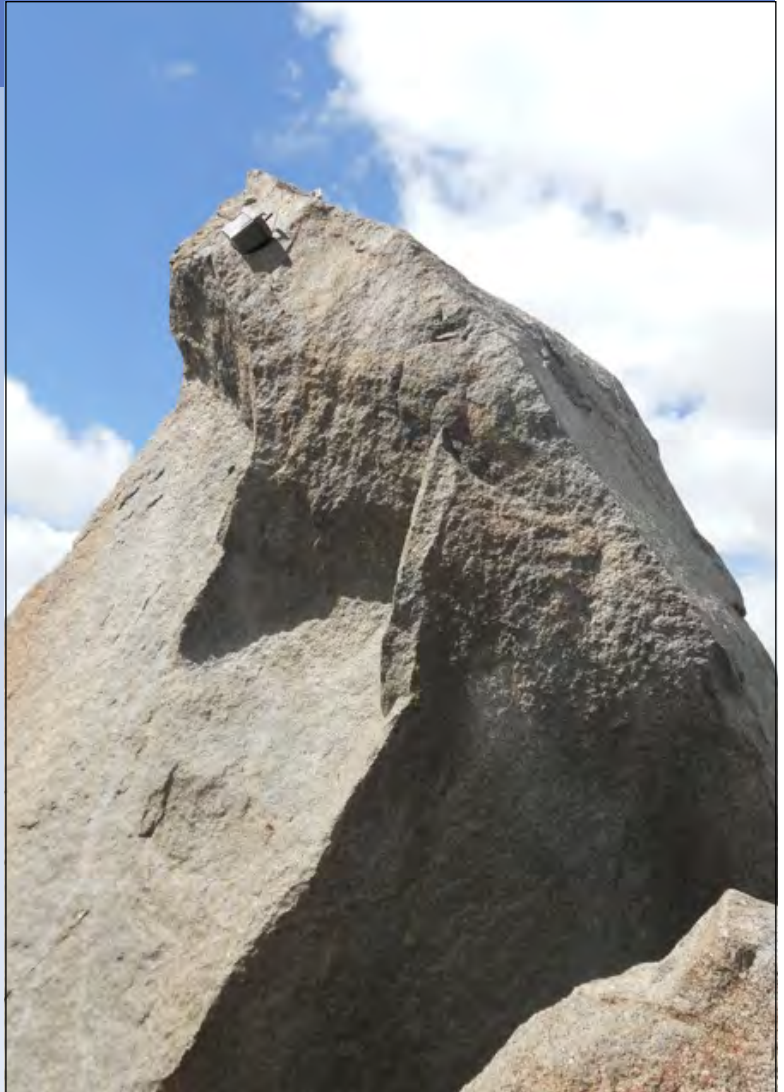
September 13–15,

By John Cheslick

We were a group of four (Tina Bowman, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Gary Schenk and me). This was a grudge peak for all of us. Tina had climbed it twice before but also soloed it twice but did not climb the summit block. Mary Jo and Gary had made it to the summit block but then needed to turn around due to a thunder and lightning storm. Mary Jo was climbing the summit block when they turned around. Go figure, thunder and lightning on Thunderbolt! I, on the other hand, had scheduled this trip in years past but always needed to cancel for one reason or another. So, this was a grudge peak for all of us, each for different reasons.

We got an early 6:50 start from South Lake. This year it really should be called South Pond because of so little water in the lake. The weather was a bit unstable. It had rained the night before, and we could still feel the moisture in the air. It never really got too sunny or hot, generally making for great hiking weather. The three and a half hours up to the pass were uneventful, and then we started towards Thunderbolt Pass. Even though it is about two miles to the pass, it always seems to take longer than it should due to the side hilling, talus, squiggle factor, and ups and downs. The section near the pass is especially tedious with rocks of all shapes and sizes making it slow going. We finally made it to our camp on the south side of the pass near the highest tarn after almost eight hours.

Saturday, we woke up early to climb Thunderbolt. Unfortunately, Mary Jo was not feeling well and decided to stay in camp. Tina, Gary, and I started up Southwest Chute #1 to attempt the easiest route up Thunderbolt. The chute was loose and steep but we stayed on the left hand side and made good progress. Once we reached the chock stone that blocked the chute, we looked right for the rock- and sand-covered three-foot-wide catwalk. Tina led and



*Thunderbolt summit block with bolted register.
(Photo by John Cheslick)*

was followed by Gary. I briefly decided not to continue because I just didn't like the looks of the downward sloping ledge, but peak fever must have gotten to me. Tina belayed me up the short tricky 3rd class section above the catwalk, and we were on our way.

This route is in the shade most of the morning. I wound up wearing four layers of clothing and never really felt warm the whole day. Also, clouds were in the morning sky, and Gary was concerned that he was going to get stopped by another storm. Beyond the chockstones the chute seemed to go faster than



arrived! In a matter of about fifteen minutes, at least four rock climbers came up to

Left: The catwalk which avoids the chockstone. Below: Tina Bowman at the notch between Lightning Rod and Thunderbolt, with Palisade glacier & Mt. Gayley below. Opposite (page 11): View of Mt. Goode from the Bishop Pass Trail. (Photos by John Cheslick).

the summit plateau. They climbed up from the glacier and were very comfortable on 4th and 5th class rock. Two guys offered to help and took our climbing rope. They each took half of the rope and tossed their coiled rope over the block. Success on the second try! While they were climbing the peak and setting up a belay, more climbers arrived. I believe there were nine people around the summit block while we were there. Finally getting our chance to climb the block, we started by going out on to the face on the right hand side of the block with tension on the rope and then climbed up the right hand side edge. It was slow going for Tina and me without climbing shoes, but finally we all made it to the summit. Note: The summit register is now in an ammo box tethered to the bolts on the summit.

below, and Tina led the way to the notch between Lightning Rod and Thunderbolt, where we finally got a little bit of sun and had a great view of the Palisade Glacier. We put on our harnesses here and Gary led the 4th class pitch to the summit area. We had some problems finding one bit of the route, but a picture from Shane Smith and a write-up from Gary Craig both confirmed we were going up the correct route. Tina had blanked out from her memory the sketchy move to the left.

We were now at the summit block. What an amazing view of the Palisades! Also, there were some significant drop offs around the summit block. The plan was either to lasso the peak or use a light cord tied to a bag of small rocks to get the rope around the summit block. Gary and Tina both tried, but we were getting frustrated and it was getting late. Help then

Once we climbed the summit block, it was time to get down quickly. It was almost 3:00pm, and the weather seemed to be getting worse. We rappelled down the 4th- class section to the notch and then headed down the chute. When we were almost down the chute, it started to rain and hail, and we still had to rappel down to the





catwalk. It took us a while to regroup and then thankfully it stopped hailing as we were setting up the rappel.

Having rappelled to the catwalk with two other climbers, we hiked down to our camp. We originally thought we would get back in around

eight hours; instead it took us twelve hours, mostly due to taking a long time to figure out the summit block and the 4th-class wall. In the end, however, we made it!

The next day, Tina stayed to climb Mt Sill while Mary Jo, Gary, and I hiked out.

Step up and Lead — Leader Training Seminar April 12th

Take the first step toward becoming an outings leader by attending a class offered by the chapter's Leadership Training Committee on Saturday, April 12, at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. The seminar covers all the basics of leadership: how to plan a trip, prevent problems on the trail, and make sure that everyone—including you—has a great time. Learn about good conservation and safety practices and gather tips for getting your “O” rating quickly and then, if you choose, pursuing more advanced ratings. Find out more about the advanced ratings and other leadership information on the LTC website: angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc

The all-day class costs \$25 and includes a copy of the Leader's Reference Book. The application is online at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers/ltp_application.pdf

Mail the application and check, payable to Sierra Club, to Steve Botan, LTC Registrar, 18816 Thornwood Circle, Huntington Beach 92646. You also can reach Botan by phone (714-321-1296) or e-mail (lcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org). Applications are due March 29th. Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Anne Marie Richardson (annemariesc@yahoo.com).



Black Crown

By Doug Mantle

Which is the best Sierra peak not on the List? Charlotte Dome? The Mitre? Another candidate, one I coveted for twenty years, is Black Crown.

When the current guidebook compiler copied the earlier books, to save space he omitted many peaks, having no clue about their quality . . . so Black Crown failed to make the cut.

The peak, 11,969' is 2+ miles east-southeast of Finger Peak. The Smatko and Roper books call it class 2 via the west ridge, "the best climb in the area," quoting first ascensionist, SPSer George Wallerstein.

Picture a chubby white granite pedestal perched over the Enchanted Gorge, topped with a massive black coffin wider than its base, a stark sentinel facing the Monarch Divide.

This September I wandered up some other non-list, non-guidebook summits including Windy Peak. Looking across the Middle Fork to Black Crown from there, I felt the old fire; I had to climb it.

How to get there? As with nearby Tunemah Peak, there are several long, discouraging options.

Nile Sorenson suggested (as did long ago, I recall, Larry Tidball) a route: near Wishon Reservoir begin at the Woodchuck TH, cross Crown Pass, ascend the North Fork of the Kings River past the trail to Portal Lake, cross a rise and descend to Crown Basin, 20+ miles, 7,000 ft gain. Tigers could push on to Hummingbird

Above: View south from Reinstein Pass into Goddard Creek, which drains into the Kings River. Black Crown is the high flat summit on the far dark ridge on the right side.

Haze in the air is from forest fires near the Kings River, August, 2001. Photo was taken by Reiner Stenzel during his loop trip in the area to climb Finger, Tunemah, Reinstein and Henry, published in the Echo and archived at: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/skimt/trips/tunemah01/tunemah01.htm#T3>

Lake, 10,400, an ideal base (stay well left/north of the lake's outlet stream to avoid cliffs).

From there go easily east to, well, Mantle Pass at 11,000' and down to the head of Blue Canyon. Traverse 2+ miles east under the crest of the White Divide, past the massive south ridge of Finger Peak. Then ascend an easy col just south of Blue Canyon Peak at 11,600'+, then south up and over peak 11,920'+ to gain the ridge leading easily toward the Black Crown. You could skip the extra peaklet by climbing directly to the col to its south, 11,680'+, but it's tricky 4th class as I discovered on my return.

Stroll east 3/4 mile almost to the gap west of the peak, where difficulties abruptly abound. Walk up and over gendarmes; then slither down a final ramp on the right side of the ridge to the bottom, the base of the big black blocks.

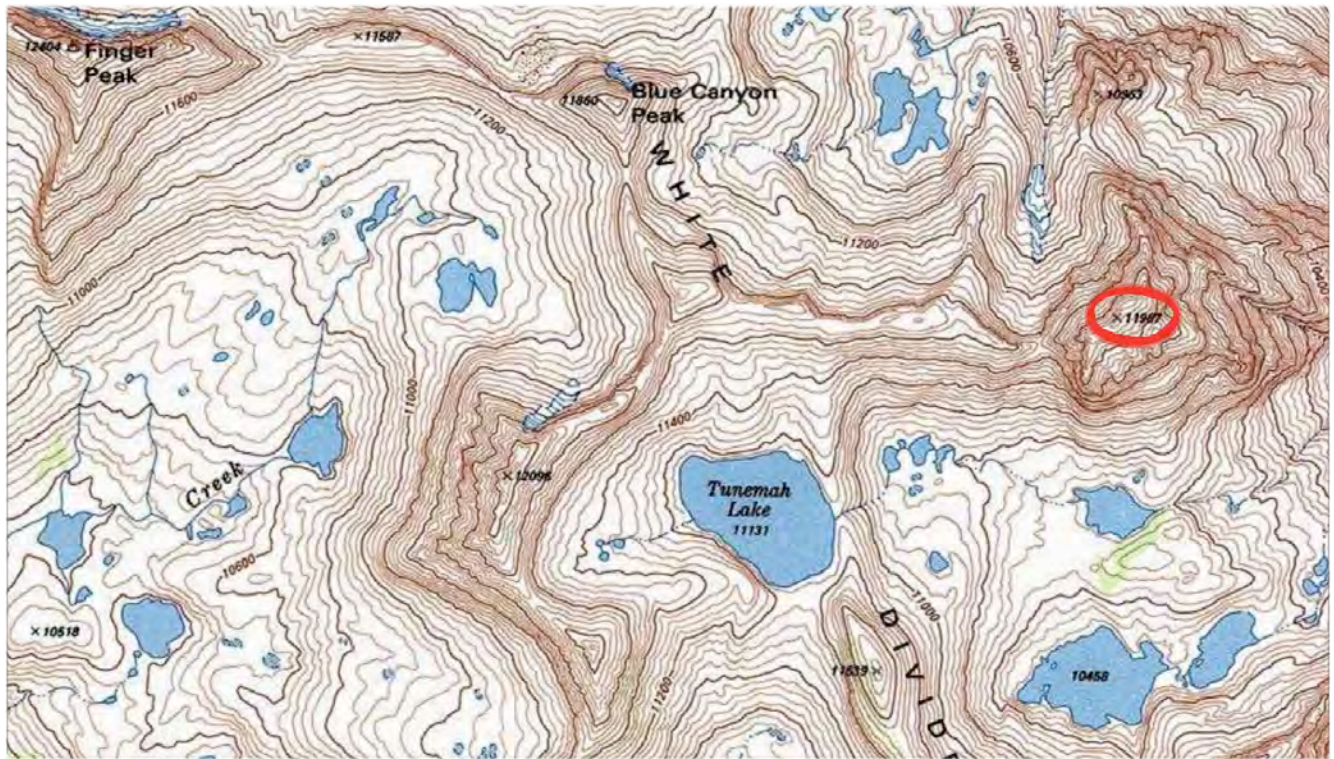
From there, climb the arete, 1500 feet of class 3-4 blocks, exposed, a bit loose, and way exhilarating, a lot like Clyde Minaret, to the summit plateau. An easier alternative is the class 3 chute to the right (south), my route down.

The register had ONLY familiar names, Reiner, and very few: Wallerstein, Smatko, Lilley and MacCleod, Fiddler, Bear, Libbey (first ascent, 1960).

So Where Is Black Crown?

Black Crown isn't named on the topo maps, so where is it? As Doug notes, it's elevation 11,969' on the 1948 Mt. Goddard 15 minute map, roughly 2.25 miles east-southeast of Finger Peak or a little more than a mile southeast of Blue Canyon Peak. Steve Roper mentions it on page 228 of *The Climber's Guide to the High Sierra* under this 11,969' elevation: "A class 3 route has been done on the west ridge, and it was reported to be the best climb in the area."

On the 7.5 minute 1983 Mt. Goddard quadrangle, Black Crown's elevation is 11,987'. R. J. Secor gives two routes in the third edition of his *The High Sierra: Peaks, Passes, Trails* on page 213 under "Black Crown," the west ridge route and adding a west ridge-northwest face route, which he rates as class 2-3 (Chris Libbey's route in 2002). As Doug notes, the first ascent was by George Wallerstein and Martial Thibaux on August 3, 1960.—TB



Summer Sojourn in the Alps

By Phil Bates



Nearly five years ago my wife, Tonyce, and I trekked roughly eighty miles through the central Swiss Alps via the famous Alpine Pass Route. Since that time, it has been a goal to do some more interesting glacier travel and mixed climbing in the Alps.

So this summer I planned a range of activities in the Mont Blanc region near Chamonix: a small group outing to the Italian Alps highpoint, Gran Paradiso (4060m); several days of rock climbing; and mixed climbs to the Aiguille Petit Verte and the very popular Cosmic Arete on the Aiguille du Midi. The latter activity was planned to be the most fun. I had made prior arrangements with a local guide service since I was solo, which I figured would also give me the chance to learn some new skills.

The small group outing to the Gran Paradiso also included a climb to a nearby satellite peak named La Tresenta (3610m). This entire outing was to take two and a half days. Once our group of five had done our gear checks and signed

away our lives, we headed for Italy. About ninety minutes from Chamonix, we came upon a small settlement, Pont Village, in the Gran Paradiso National Park. It was already noon by this time, so we grabbed a quick bite of food and then headed out to the Chabad Hut (2700m), about a thousand meter gain hike, where we spent the night. The trail climbed efficiently up the side of the valley. At about 2 pm, the rain hit, and we hiked in a downpour until reaching the hut. The hut system in the Alps is second to none, and good beer and hot drinks are nearly always to be had by all!

After an early dinner, the guides consulted with the cook and decided to have a 4am departure. Our route to the peak would traverse the Lavaciau glacier, the Gran Paradiso glacier, up to the Col de Becca di Moncorve (3875m), and then to the peak. Most of the climb was on a very easy slope (~25 deg), and the last half-mile was about 30–35 deg. We were of course roped once we got onto the first glacier (standard practice); however,



*Above top: Mont Blanc in the distance, from Vittorio Emanuele II hut.
Above: Looking to summit of Gran Paradiso from above the Col de Becca di Moncorve. (Photos by Phil Bates)*

the risk of falling into a crevasse was not high at that time. The snow surface conditions were most excellent the entire ascent!

We stopped just below the ridge and staked our packs but continued with our axes until we were upon the rocky ridge. The rock was mostly free of ice. We had to stay roped, but there was a good twenty feet between each climber so that we could move freely. While there were several areas of exposure, the holds were all good. The summit ridge was a lot of fun. We rappelled off the summit ridge and then traversed back to our packs.

From the summit, we continued down to Vittorio Emanuele II hut (2730m) where we spent the second night. We had some clouds, but overall good weather that day.

The next day, we got a bit of a break and departed for La Tresenta at 4:30am. Most of the ascent to La Tresenta was pleasant with good conditions and good views of the Gran Paradiso where we had climbed the prior day. The pyramidal summit had an exceptional panorama over the Italian Piedmont region with Mont-Viso in the background. The weather was terrific, actually a bit too warm.

The descent back to the Emanuele Hut was a bit warm on the reflective snow, but we made good time. Once back to Pont Village, we had awesome cappuccinos before heading back to Chamonix.

After the fun in the Italian Alps, it was time to explore some rock climbing around Chamonix. My guide recommended we climb the Aiguille L'Index (2700m). I did some quick research, and it seemed like it would be a fun 5.5-5.6 alpine climb with good views and a fun rappel.

Center: Class 3 summit ridge of Gran Paradiso. Top: La Tresenta. Bottom: Aiguille L'Index (Photos by Phil Bates)



The peak gets its name from a pointed summit block that looks like an index finger from the valley below. The plan was to climb the popular southeast ridge (Route Around Corner of Far Left Ridge), rappel off the backside and then descend down the L'Index Col. One of the nicest aspects is that most of the approach is via a chair lift, and then an easy quarter mile traverse to the base of the rock. We actually had to climb over and get behind a ten-foot-high pile of snow to start the climb.

Many bolted routes are on the SE ridge, and we basically did a mix of several routes, depending on the climbing traffic. We climbed five pitches on two half ropes. The rappel off the backside was long and fun. At the end of the climb, we enjoyed a great beer at the base of the mountain and talked



about what to climb the next day.

My guide suggested a peak on the backside of the famous Aiguille du Midi, which was the Roi de Siam: Lifting du Roi, a name that I could hardly pronounce, let alone spell without assistance. Anyway, the peak sounded great! It required a one- to two-hour trek up and over the



Above: View from half way to the summit of L'Aiguille L'Index. Left: Rappel off L'Aiguille L'Index. Below: View of the glacier from halfway to the summit of Roi de Siam: Lifting du Roi. (Photos by Phil Bates)

as nine pitches, but we were able to get it done in seven. The rock was terrific, with

the exception of a few loose small pieces here and there. We were not alone that day (good and bad); however, we climbed efficiently and got to the summit before the other parties. The rappel was equally as fun as the climb, but took a bit of time. The return hike was just as beautiful as the hike in and even more rewarding given our successful and safe climb that day. We had a great beer or two at the ski lodge and then headed down the mountain and back to Chamonix.

The next day my guide was not feeling well from something he ate, so I just explored some other parts of the Chamonix valley. The next goal was to climb the Aiguille Petit Verte (3512m) via

head of Geant glacier, a very substantial river of flowing ice in the Italian Alps.

So, early the next morning we once again drove to the Italian side of the Mont Blanc area. We took a two-stage chair lift and then exited onto a snow-covered cat track. After roping up once again, we headed out with all of our gear: axe, crampons, ropes, a few cams, a few nuts, and the usual ten essentials. The scenery was spectacular on the way to the crag with only one- to two-hundred meters of gain, and about the same amount of descent. The glacier was clearly populated with an array of snow bridges, which my guide carefully negotiated. At one point, some pretty serious rock fall gave way about a tenth of a mile from our path, and a twelve-inch diameter chunk of rock came to rest about a hundred yards from us. We were just about to run for cover, but the rock was slowed by the snow.

Once to the base of the crag, we negotiated a pretty cool 'schrund and then stowed our axes and crampons. The climb started at 3400m and topped out at 3600m. The normal route is listed



Right: The author on Petit Verte NW Ridge. Bottom: Cosmic Arete Aiguille du Midi (Photos by Phil Bates).

the Normal route along the northwest ridge, which is rated PD. The Verte is an excellent Alpine training climb.

We took two lifts up to the snow above the Col des Grand Montets, and then after gearing up, we climbed about three hundred meters to the base of the ridge. The 'schrund that is often present below the ridge had somewhat collapsed and presented no challenge.

Once on the ridge, we efficiently traversed the class 3 to class 4 route. We eventually stowed our crampons and ice axes once we were past the last standard rappel station. The rock and snow conditions were nice, but the route was busy, which is typical in good weather. We climbed efficiently, passing a few other parties. We chose to return the same route, versus rappelling off to a different descent point below. While a belay was not essential, it was comforting on some of the down climb moves wearing crampons. My guide had me put him on belay at a couple of points, which I was happy to do.

After the climb, we once again enjoyed a most wonderful beer or two before heading back to Chamonix.

The goal for the final day of mixed climbing was the Cosmic Arete on the Aiguille du Midi. The ascent begins at 3600m, tops out at 3840m, and is rated AD. Anne Marie Richardson had told me about her climbing experience there, and after hearing of her good times it was a must-go-to destination for me. The Arete is a famous mixed climb starting from the snow-filled valley just below the Aiguille du Midi tram station and is crazy popular, especially in good weather.

After gearing-up at the climber's exit of the tram station, my guide and I descended a narrow ridge to the valley below. The snow was nice, so the down climb was quite pleasant and the views were all around awesome. Once at the opposite end of the ridge from the tram, we did our final gear checks and began the climb. Parties from all around the world were on the ridge. Given that it was just my guide and me, we moved



efficiently past many groups while still having plenty of time to enjoy the scenery. The ridge is indeed classic, with many 3rd- and 4th-class moves, three rappels and the steep class 3 ascent to the final section of the ridge. Admittedly, it was pretty fun to climb over the fence at the observation deck amongst the tourists with our gear in tow. This is a must-climb ridge for any alpinist visiting the Chamonix region. I would do it again in a heartbeat!



An Alaska Mountaineering School Adventure

By Joseph Bell

Alaska gnawed away at me for a year before I was able to return, keeping me awake at night with a siren song of stunning scenery and pristine wilderness.

Cathy and I toured five Alaskan National Parks in the summer of 2012. We came away feeling that Denali was the park we'd experienced the least, gazing at the mountains from thirty miles away through the windows of a Park Service shuttle on the Denali Park Road. Even from this distance, Mount McKinley (20,320 ft.) dominates the view, towering over the foothills like a white giant in the sky.

The Alaska Range runs in a 400-mile east-west arc, comparable in size to the Sierras. The majority of climbers

concentrate on a relatively small area around McKinley, in the Central Alaska Range. Other parts of the range are seldom visited; the range is a vast sea of unnamed peaks and unclimbed lines. Air taxi is the only practical way to access the interior with all the equipment and supplies necessary for an extended stay.

My desire to explore this wilderness led me to sign up for a fifteen-day mountaineering course with Alaska Mountaineering School (AMS.) Based in the small town of Talkeetna—the staging point for expeditions flying into the Central Alaska Range—AMS is the

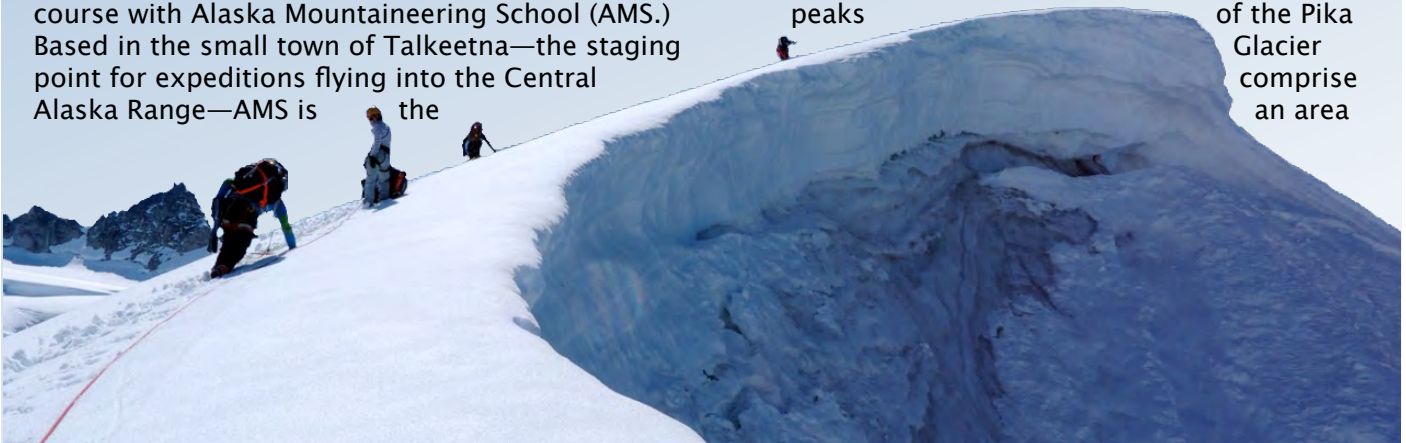
“local team,” guiding McKinley alongside the various international guide services. I chose AMS because they seemed serious about training students to return to the range without guides, but also because they offered an option I hadn't seen elsewhere: the chance to hike out rather than fly out.

After a busy morning prepping gear, packing food, and practicing fixed-line ascension at AMS HQ, our group of six students and two

guides piled into a pair of ski-equipped air taxis for the forty-minute flight into the park. Taking off over the mighty Susitna River, the planes carried us across forty miles of tundra dotted with small lakes, which eventually gave way to rolling foothills. Suddenly, ragged clouds

parted to reveal the rock spires of the Alaska Range on either side of us, a fortress-like wall separating the peaks and glaciers of the inner range from the foothills below. Cresting the rampart, our pilots deftly brought us in to land on the upper reaches of the Pika Glacier, the course location and our home for the next two weeks.

Thirty miles south of Mount McKinley, the peaks of the Pika Glacier comprise an area



called Little Switzerland, which is known for having some of the best rock in the Alaska Range. Despite their impressive scale, the buttresses of Little Switzerland are a more intimate landscape than their mighty cousins to the north. Peaks such as Middle Troll (6,900 ft.), The Throne (7,390 ft.) and Royal Tower (8,130 ft.) offer alpine rock climbers an array of “ultra-classic” multi-pitch routes in the 5.7–5.9 range, easily accessible from base camp on the glacier at 5,500 ft.

Our group spent the next two weeks on and around the Pika, practicing glacier travel in four-person rope teams and adapting to expedition life. Our guides expected the three students sharing each tent to cook for themselves, melt snow for water (despite the relatively low elevation, there was no running water on the glacier), and generally to operate independently as much as possible. We moved camp down the glacier, transporting equipment and supplies on



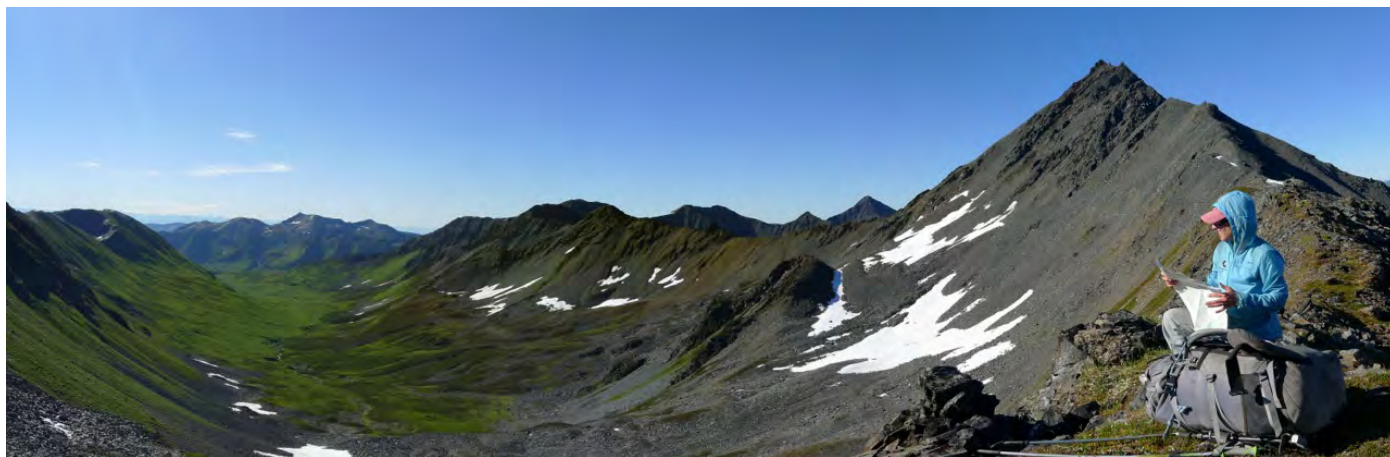
Alaska Mountaineering School

According to its mission statement, Alaska Mountaineering School (AMS), based in Talkeetna, “promotes excellence in responsible mountaineering and wilderness travel by educating and guiding others.” Certified by the National Park Service and one of only a few organizations authorized to guide within Denali National Park, AMS offers courses such as the one Joseph took and guided climbs in the Alaska Range, Talkeetna Mountains, and Chugach Mountains. The goal of their courses is to train

people so that they need not rely on guide services for safety. For more information, see their web site at <http://>



Opposite (page 18), center: Crevasse rescue training, Royal Towers in the background. Bottom: Climbing a spur overlooking the Kahiltna Glacier. Above and left: Our rope teams heading up the West Fork of Kahiltna Glacier (Photos by Joseph Bell)



Below: Author Joseph Bell descending from Big Aristopoles (a.k.a "The Munchkin"), one of the training climbs. Above: Looking down Wildhorse Canyon from Wildhorse Pass. Our hike ends at a remote backroad on the far side of the Dutch Hills, visible at the foot of the valley. (Photos by Joseph Bell)

and I loaded up our backpacks and made our way to the head of the Pika Glacier, where the rampart of the Alaska Range drops away dramatically to the Granite Glacier, 2,000 feet below. We spent the next six hours rappelling down a steep, icy chute from a notch on the ridge. Huddling together in the tight confines of the frozen gully and rappelling with our heavy backpacks was challenging but also rewarding; more than just a teaching scenario, this felt like "the real thing."

We spent the next two days traveling cross-country, down the Granite Glacier and over a pass into neighboring Wildhorse Canyon. This was bear country, and we called out every so often to avoid startling any nearby grizzlies. Unencumbered by roped travel for the first time on the trip, I felt joyful and free striding across the tundra. Behind us, the great wall of the inner range seemed so impressive it was hard to believe we'd come from the other side. Eventually, we picked up an abandoned mining track and followed it over another pass to a remote back road on the outskirts of the park, where our guide's husband and daughter picked us up in an AMS truck.

I came away from my course with AMS having had not one, but two unforgettable experiences. First, a taste of expedition life in a remote, glaciated mountain range, acquiring the skills and confidence to return with or without a guide. Second, the experience of traveling cross-country in the great Alaskan wilderness, being on the ground where the ice-shattered mountains give way to tundra and river valleys. I sleep better having been there--at least for now. It's only a matter of time before Alaska's siren song draws me back.

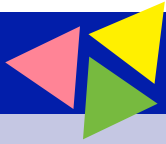


sleds, and practiced top-roped rock and ice climbing. The weather was unseasonably fine, with one warm, sunny day after another (July is generally a rainy month in the Alaska Range).

The highlight of the course was still to come. On the morning of the 12th day, the air taxis returned for five of our group members. The lead guide, one other student,

Don't forget!

It's time to renew your *Sierra Echo* subscription if you haven't done so already. The \$10 subscription is due by April 30th. For more information, see the back cover of this issue. Please make out checks to the Sierra Peaks Section and mail to the treasurer, Alexander Smirnoff, at 1701 Paloma St., Pasadena, CA 91104.



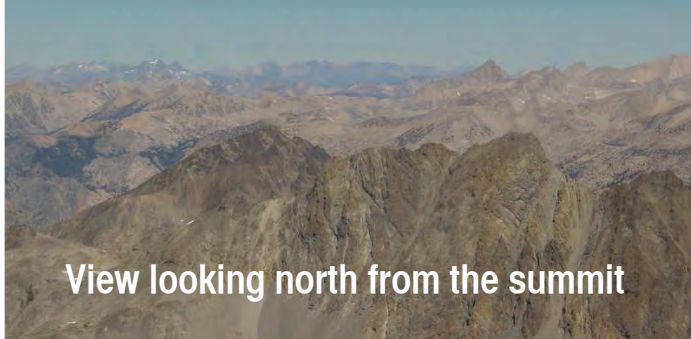
Mystery Peak Challenge!

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 puzzle to challenge *Echo* readers, please send it as well. Especially welcome are mountain images from popular culture—imagery used and abused in film and print.

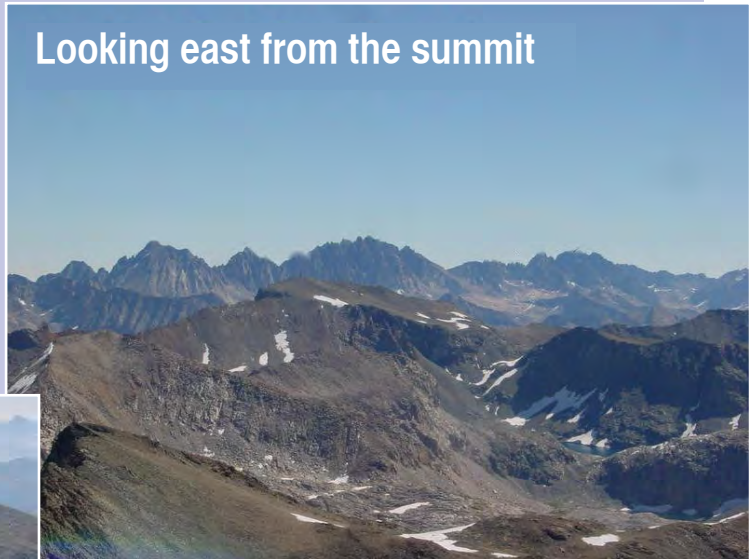
This issue's puzzle was supplied by Shane Smith.

The answer to the previous puzzle, also supplied by Shane Smith, can be found on page 30.

SPS Mystery Photos 1–4, all taken from the same SPS peak summit. Can you guess which one? Can you identify any peaks on the horizon?



View looking north from the summit



Looking east from the summit

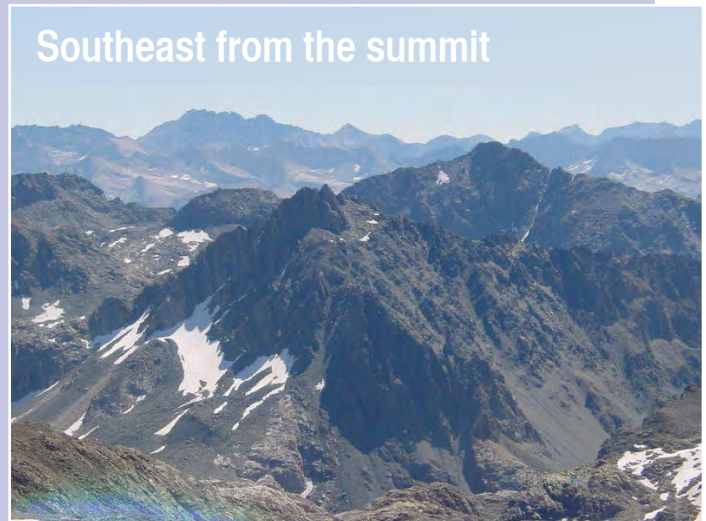


Photo courtesy of Bob Burd.

Puzzle by Shane Smith, Eastern Sierra Rep

View south of summit.

Next issue: peaks will be labeled to help with a guess. Hint: you're on an Emblem Peak!



Southeast from the summit

Check out the SPS web site if you have not visited in a while—the puzzle also appears there!

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



Robert Campbell was on his way to shoot Monument Valley for the Federal Home Loan Bank annual report in October of 1974. He made it a trip any of us would have loved: fly down the Owens Valley to shoot Mammoth and Bishop, fly across Death Valley and stop in Flagstaff. The skies were crystal clear, and over Independence, he took the photograph on our cover with the handheld camera he kept in the bag at his feet. He was struck by the continuity of the mountain forms—the rocky ridges sweeping down, curving, and multiplying into alluvial slopes and streams and finally desert. (From Flagstaff, Campbell flew down to Baja, shooting the Colorado River Delta along the way in images which appear on his website, finally landing "by candlelight ... at a funky fly-in resort called Alphonsinas".)—BE

Our Cover Photograph: "Independence, CA" Above the Mountains: Robert Campbell's Aerial Photography

An internationally known aerial photographer based in Sonoma, California, Robert Campbell specializes in artistic and artistic commercial aerial photography. In the 1930s Campbell's father, Douglas, an avid amateur photographer and filmmaker, piloted an airplane he had purchased from his friend, Charles Lindbergh. Stories of his father's experiences fascinated Robert as a youngster growing up in San Francisco in the 1950s, sparking a lifelong passion for both flying and photography.

A Piper Cub pilot gave Campbell his first taste of small plane adventure at age twelve. Young Robert rode along as the tiny two-seat aircraft landed and took off from levee roads in California's Sacramento Valley, patrolling hunt club property for poachers. Campbell's most vivid memory of that first flight was watching a V-formation of flying geese overtake and pass the slow moving Piper!

In 1967, he began studying photography at San Francisco State College with Don Worth and Jack Wellpott. A Yosemite summer workshop with Ansel Adams in 1968 led to an introduction by Ansel to Bill Garnett, the noted aerial

photographer, who inspired Campbell to explore patterns from the air with his Hasselblad and Leica cameras. Continuing photographic studies at SF



State for the next two years, Campbell focused on aerial photography, including many abstract compositions of the multicolored Cargill Salt Ponds at the south end of San Francisco Bay.

After nine years of flying freight at night, Campbell returned to photography with a job at San Francisco's largest commercial color lab. A year later he started his own lab and photography business, Robert Campbell

Photography, which provides aerial video and still photography services to a wide variety of clients. [The above information is taken from Campbell's web site.]

One of the many rewards of climbing a peak, especially a Sierra peak, is the view from the summit, a perspective so few in the world ever enjoy. Robert Campbell's aerial photographs are related to that perspective but lift our eyes to see with the soaring birds. SPSers will definitely want to have a look at the images of the Sierra by Campbell in his California series of photographs: <http://www.robertcampbellphotography.com/california.html> and also: <http://www.chamoismoon.com> Do check out his other photographs as well, often amazing abstracts of natural features.—TB



Independence Walking Tour

To go from Campbell's dramatic, comprehensive view of the small town of Independence, the Inyo County seat, to an up-close-and personal view, take the Independence Walking Tour. If time doesn't allow traipsing about town, you can do a virtual tour on-line.

The tour's web site has a map with color-coded pins and a list with some information for each of the locations. Check it out at <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=2120cceb4256464cb8d4eae348b480cb&webmap=ad79e2e67bd94a15aff640d6056b938a>

—TB

Wear 'em! Give 'em!

SPS TEES



Front: NORTH PAL
Back: FULL SPS LIST

By geographic area with Mountaineer & Emblem peaks highlighted

M, L & XL in Sand & Ash

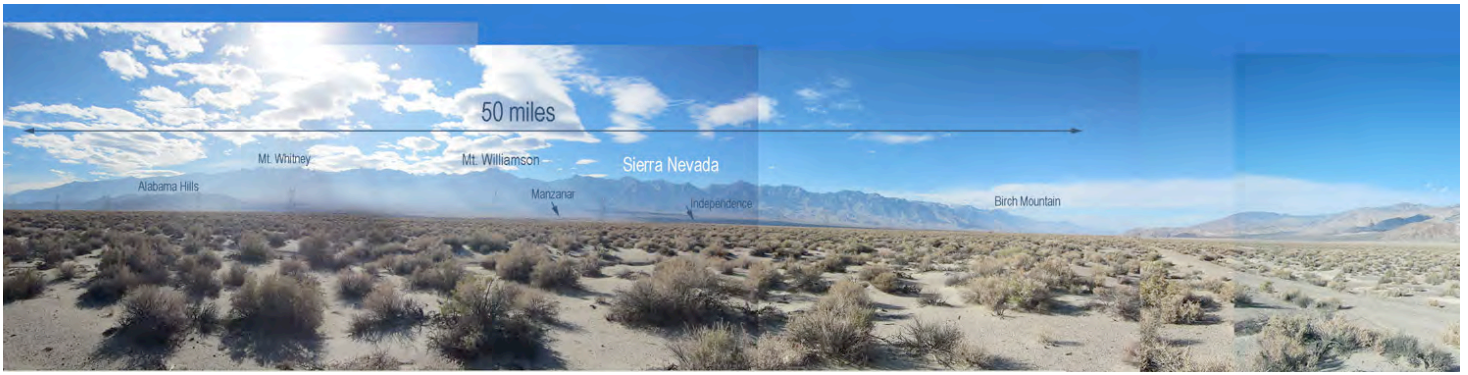
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The Proposed Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch

By Wynne Benti

The size of the City of West Hollywood, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP's) Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch will forever change the Eastern Sierra Nevada's landscape, and not for the better. Solar is good, just not this immense solar project in this particular location along the western base of the Inyo Mountains.

The LADWP proposes to build a 1–2 million panel mega-solar array on 1200 acres within the viewshed of Mount Whitney and the eastern scarp of the Sierra Nevada, Inyo Mountains, and Manzanar National Historic Site. The solar ranch would include a shop and other outbuildings as well as full exterior lighting at night and full security fencing. Destroying beautiful and unimpeded views, the project will have likely have significant effects on the riparian habitat along the Owens River (a major migratory bird corridor) and on valley wildlife and native plant communities.

On Saturday, November 16, at a public comment hearing at the LADWP's Los Angeles headquarters twenty-nine people—representing the National Park Service, several Southern California branches of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Manzanar Committee, representatives from the Fort Independence and Big Pine Paiute Bands, and residents of Independence and the Owens Valley—testified against the project. No public comments were made in favor of the project.

A collection of presentation materials at the meeting included no concept sketches, illustrations, or scale models that showed what the solar ranch would actually look like in its proposed setting. Taken from the parking lot at

Manzanar National Historic Site looking east across US 395 to the Inyo Mountains, a photograph of the solar ranch's proposed location had a thin black line drawn across the sky from left to right, indicating the southern and northern boundaries of the project, but there were no measurements to show height and length, the actual size to scale. It was nearly impossible to imagine what the huge panel solar array would look like with the shop, outbuildings, and fencing.

On October 1, 2010, the LADWP issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) that discussed two sites in Southern Owens Valley (not the current site) and held one scoping meeting in Lone Pine on October 28th that year. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) released on September 4, 2013, included a completely new location, not discussed in the 2010 NOP. Many of the original public comments were site specific. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that the NOP and EIR have a precise site location. The public was given only two months at first to submit comments (until November 4, 2013). That deadline was extended to November 26th and again to December 20, 2013.

The short review period provides little time for scientists to study the potential effects of the new location on undisturbed soils only a half-mile east of the Owens River, an important water resource for native wildlife and migratory birds. The project's southern boundary aligns with Manzanar Reward Road and is approximately one mile west of the Inyo Mountains on the valley floor between Winnedumah Monument and Mount Inyo, a 360-degree vista unimpeded by anything with the reflective power of the proposed solar ranch. Existing transmission lines are a key feature in making the site attractive to developers and power resellers. Of the power created here, 95% will be transmitted to Los Angeles.

The DEIR states that the proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, that the impact would be less than



Proposed Site of the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch

The series of photos above was taken on November 19, 2013, on the proposed site of the solar ranch at its southern boundary along Manzanar Road (where the Jeep is located) and the historic Carson and Colorado Railroad (operated 1880-1960). The solar ranch would cover the site of Owenyo. (Photographs and composite by Wynn Benti). (Map left from DWP DEIR).



miles due east of Manzanar historic site, where the existing landscape is an important component of the site's history. Portions of the Carson to Colorado railroad siding of Owenyo and the Quaker community founded there in 1900. We don't really know how it will affect migrating and native birds, from flocks of white-faced Ibis to singular blue herons.

Desert communities across the southwest are dealing with this issue—where to put wind farms and solar ranches. Because landscapes are an essential part of a tourist-based economy like that of the Owens Valley, careful thought must be given to these projects by county supervisors, developers, planners, and engineers. Solar and wind farm projects need to be tied to existing industrial or commercial zoning and infrastructure, not situated in places like this where visitors come to experience the beauty and solitude of the West's last open lands.

The LADWP has extended the comment period on the Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch until December 20, 2013. Time is running out, but you can send your comments via e-mail to Ms. Nadia Parker at nadia.parker@ladwp.com or to Charles Holloway at charles.holloway@ladwp.com or mailed:

Ms. Nadia Parker,
 Environmental Planning and Assessment
 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
 111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
 Los Angeles, California 90012-2607

significant, and that no mitigation is required. This statement by the LADWP is not true. This big project will industrialize the western landscape of the Owens Valley, which the LADWP has kept free of development for almost a century. The solar panels will be visible from mountain summits along the eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada from Lone Pine Peak to Birch Mountain above Big Pine and in the Inyo Mountains from Mount Inyo to Mazourka Peak. The project is approximately 4.5



Leadership Training Committee

Schedule of Activities January-December 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

Mar 29 DEADLINE to register for April 12th seminar
Apr 12 Seminar at Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Wilderness First Aid

May 16-18 Wilderness First Aid Course Steve Schuster
<http://wildernessfirstaidcourse.org>

Navigation Practices and Checkouts

Jan 11-12	Indian Cove Nav Noodle	Bob Myers
Feb 2	Mt Pinos Nav Practice on Snowshoes	Bob Myers
Apr 12	Nav Noodle in Mojave Natl Preserve	Bob Myers
Apr 26-27	Warren Point Nav Noodle	Bob Myers
Jun 7	Heart Bar Nav Practice	Bob Myers
Jun 8	Grinnell Ridge Nav Noodle	Bob Myers
Aug 3	Mt Pinos Nav Noodle	Bob Myers
Sep 21	Grinnell Ridge Nav Noodle	Bob Myers
Nov 15	Nav Workshop on 3 rd Class Terrain	Bob Myers
Nov 15-16	Nav Noodle at Indian Cove	Bob Myers
Dec 7	Warren Point Nav Noodle	Bob Myers

Rock Practices and Checkouts

Feb 8 Checkout at Sheep Pass, Joshua Tree Patrick

McKusky

Apr 23	Advanced Mountaineering Program–Safety	Dan Richter
Apr 26	AMP–Belaying	Dan Richter
May 3	AMP–Rappelling	Dan Richter
May 10-11	AMP–Climbing Techniques and Anchors	Dan Richter

Snow Practices and Checkouts

Feb 1	Local Snow Practice	Nile Sorenson
Apr 26-27	Sierra Snow Practice and Checkout	Nile Sorenson

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.

Jan 11-12 | Sat-Sun LTC
M/E/R: Rock: Indian Cove
Checkout, Joshua Tree National
Park: M and E level rock practice and checkout for LTC leadership candidates. Practice Saturday, checkout Sunday. Restricted to Sierra Club members with technical rock climbing experience. Climbing helmets and harnesses required. E-mail climbing resume to Ldr: Patrick McKusky, Asst: Dan Richter.

Jan 26 | Sun SPS
SPS Annual Banquet: Save the Date! The SPS Banquet will be held at Taix. Peter Croft is the featured speaker and R. J. Secor the honored guest.

Feb 1 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, HPS
M/E: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M and E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. E-mail SC#, climbing resume, e-mail address, phone # to Ldr: Nile Sorenson, Co-Ildr: Doug Mantle.

Feb 8-9 | Sat-Sun LTC
M/E/R: Rock: Sheep Pass
Checkout, Joshua Tree National
Park: M and E level rock practice and checkout for LTC leadership candidates. Practice Saturday, checkout Sunday. Restricted to Sierra Club members with technical rock climbing experience. Climbing helmets and harnesses required. E-mail climbing resume to Ldr: Patrick McKusky, Asst: Dan Richter.

Apr 23 | Wed LTC, SPS
Workshop: Advanced
Mountaineering Program (AMP9)--
Basic Safety System: First of four climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening

Outings



Photo by Hal Browder

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.

workshop of four 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 (dan@danrichter.com), Asst: Pat McKusky.

OUTINGS

Apr 26 | Sat LTC, SPS

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP9)--Belaying:

Second of four 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 (dan@danrichter.com), Asst: Pat McKusky.

Apr 26-27 | Sat-Sun LTC

M/E: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M and E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings and/or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, e-mail, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson, Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Michael Adams 562-987-0669 adamsfreerange@aol.com
Patrick Mckusky 626-794-7321 patrick.mckusky@lausd.net
Daniel Richter 818-970-6737 dan@danrichter.com
Stephanie Smith 310-376-7631 rbstephs@gmail.com
Nile Sorenson 714-203-1405 nsorenso@pacbell.net

May 3 | Sat LTC, SPS

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP9)—Rappelling:

Third of four 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 (dan@danrichter.com), Asst: Pat McKusky.

May 10-11 | Sat-Sun LTC, SPS

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP9)—Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors:

Fourth of four 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 (dan@danrichter.com), Asst: Pat McKusky.

May 31-Jun 1 | Sat-Sun WTC, SPS

MR: Mount Abbot (13,704'): Snow mountaineering outing for Sierra Club members only. Sat backpack from Mosquito Flat trailhead to camp by Mills Lake, 3.5 mi, 1,800' gain. Sun cross-country snow climb Mount Abbot from Mills

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

Lake, third-class via the Abbot glacier, 2 mi rt, 2000' gain, then pack out. Helmets, ice ax, crampons, medical form, and recent snow and 3rd class rock mountaineering experience required. Send an e-mail with SC#, resume of recent mountaineering experience and conditioning, H&W photos, and rideshare info to Ldr: Stephanie Smith, Co-Ldr: Mike Adams.

SPS Management Committee Contacts

Chair: Eric Scheidemantle chair@sierrapeaks.org
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
Outings: Gary Schenk gary@hbfun.org
Archives: Dan Richter dan@danrichter.com
Webmasters: Kathy Rich webmaster@sierrapeaks.org
Matt Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

Wilderness Permit Info

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>

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) 647-304

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

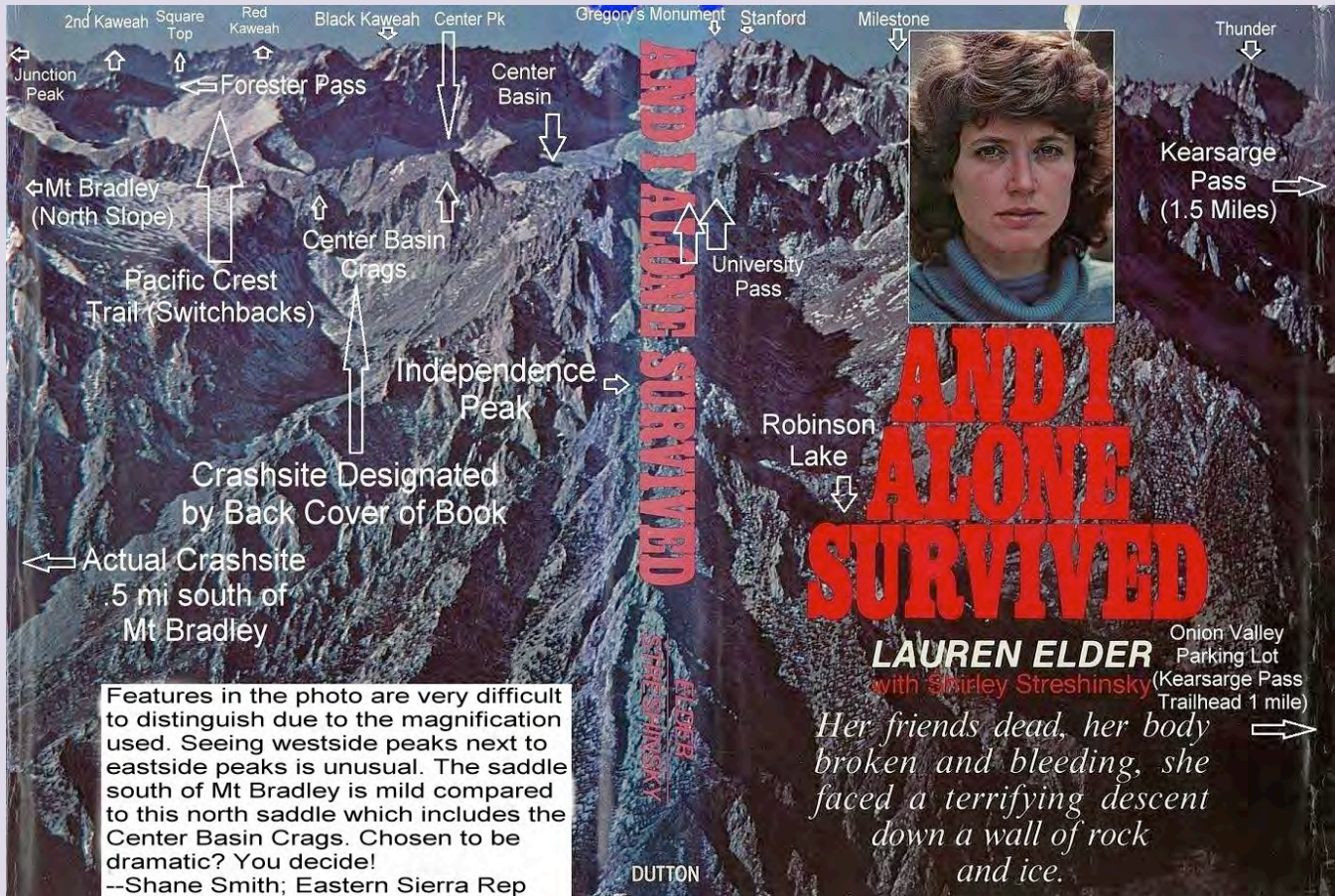
Web site: www.nps.gov/seki
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA. 93271-9599
Phone (559) 565-3766 for permit & trail info. Fax (559) 565-4239

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

The answer to last issue's puzzler. No winners, but we hope you might have been inspired to read Lauren Elder's memoir *And I Alone Survived* or watch the 1978 TV movie of the same title.



SPS Management Committee Meeting via Skype, October 23, 2013

- I. Call to order at 7:45PM, in attendance: Eric Scheidemantle, Regge Bulman, Greg Mason, Kathy Rich, Dan Richter, Lisa Miyake, Alexander Smirnoff
- II. Committee Reports
 - A. Chair
 - B. *Sierra Echo*—mailed out; we're good for the next three months.
 - C. Outings
 - i. Ron Campbell is looking for a beta-tester for converting paper incident reports to electronic ones. Committee approved this action.
 - ii. Greg will coordinate with Gary to send out the relevant details to leaders.
 - D. Treasurer—We have about \$9400 in the bank.
 - E. Banquet
 - i. Taix is set with a room for 90–200 people.
 - ii. Speaker will be Peter Croft.
 - iii. Bill Oliver is attending.
 - iv. Bill, Doug, and Dan will coordinate introducing and presenting RJ's award.
 - v. Committee approved motion covering the cost of banquet tickets for RJ plus one and Peter plus one.
 - vi. Greg and Regge will provide projectors and laptops for Peter.
 - vii. Committee will be sending invitations to the banquet to WTC, Caltech Alpine Club, AAC, CMC, and SCMA.
 - viii. Start times and ticket prices were discussed.
 - ix. Speaker fee for Peter is \$2000 and includes travel and expenses.
 - x. Last year's banquet was held at a loss, and this year's will probably be at a loss unless prices are raised significantly.

- xi. In addition to the traditional mail-in flyer, tickets will be available on-line from Brown Paper Tickets.
- xii. Regge presented the flyer.
- xiii. SMI is providing two gift certificates that will be raffled off.
- xiv. Outstanding actions:
 - a. Eric will coordinate with Patty Kline regarding the raffle.
 - b. Regge will contact North Face to see if they will contribute raffle prizes.
 - c. Dan will ask RJ if he will provide autographed copies of his book for sale or prize.
 - d. Eric will ask Peter if he wishes to provide autographed copies of his book for sale or prize.
 - e. Eric will find out how long Peter's presentation is.

F. Emblems

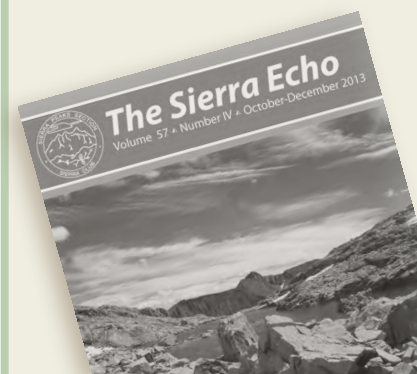
- i. Tom Sakowych and Neal Robbins applied.
- ii. Lisa will coordinate with Kathy and Dan.

III. New Business

- A. Don Croley suggested prior WFA certified leaders provide refreshers for O and I leaders; it cannot be applied to M and E; Eric will discuss with Anne Marie.
- B. Aysel Gezik suggested a Caltech Alpine Club and SPS joint presentation of Pamir and Tien Shan mountain ranges; Kathy will follow up.
- C. Committee debates more frequent cross-group presentations and events with CAC.
- D. Eric will contact Matt about the status of the dynamic, non-html SPS site.

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SPS Income Statement

	YTD 2013	YTD 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2016	YTD 2017	YTD 2018
INCOME						
Echo Subscriptions	1,030	420	260	30	20	0
Banquet Income	2,940	680	0	0	0	0
Donations	415	90	30	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	0
Total Income	4,385	1,190	290	30	20	0
EXPENSES						
Postage	0	0	0	0	0	0
Printing	637	0	0	0	0	0
Pins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raffle	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banquet Expenses	4,206	0	0	0	0	0
Bank Fees	3	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses	4,847	0	0	0	0	0
OVERALL TOTAL	(462)	1,190	290	30	20	0



The Sierra Echo

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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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