



The Sierra Echo

Volume 68 ▲ Number 1 ▲ January-March 2024

A photograph of a rugged mountain range under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The mountains are illuminated by warm, golden light, highlighting their rocky textures and sharp peaks. Patches of snow are visible in the mountain's crevices and along the ridges. In the foreground, a dark, calm lake reflects the scene.

Bear Creek Spire behind Julius Caesar and Lake Italy

Story on page 9 (Photo by Romain Wacziarg).

Echoes from the Chair

What a year I have been lucky enough to preside over. With a record-breaking winter in 2023, I was curious what kind of impact the circumstances had on the SPS peak bagging community with respect to the number of peaks climbed (relative to 2022). There was no doubt that the shorter peak bagging season, the delayed road openings throughout the Sierra, the permanent road closures in a few areas, the more difficult access into the deep Sierra, and the random Tropical System (Hillary) made for a decline in the number of summits.

The question was how to quantify this. The only place I could get hard numbers was Peakbagger.com. Obviously, not everyone who bags SPS peaks is on Peakbagger, but at least year to year the same enthusiastic list chasers are logging their Sierra exploits faithfully, so I could at least see some trends. What I found was to be expected and I thought this might be



interesting information for those who think way too much about the Sierra, like I do.

Overall, there was a 43% decrease in the number of SPS peaks logged into Peakbagger (2,559 in 2022 and 1,457 in 2023). The regions with the LEAST change were the Southern Sierra (-3%), Clark Range and Vicinity (-22%) and the Northern Sierra (-24%). Clark Range because people were still getting after Half Dome and Clouds Rest, and the Southern and Northern Sierra because of lower elevations and easy access. The regions with the MOST change were Western Mid-Sierra (-83%), Whitney to Williamson (-81%) and Ritter Range and Vicinity (-78%).

In 2022 there were sixteen peaks with no recorded summits on Peakbagger, while there were thirty-nine in 2023. Fifty-three of the 247 peaks actually saw an increase in the number of summits from 2022 to 2023.

When I looked at the Sierra Nevada 14,000 feet peaks, there was a decrease of 57% in the number of summits. Mt. Tyndall had no recorded summits in 2023 and Williamson had only two. Mt. Muir (+15%) and North Pal (+113%) saw an increase in summits in 2023.

When looking at the EMBLEM peaks, there was a decrease of 51% in the number of summits. Mt. Brewer and Kaweah had no recorded summits, and Ritter and Lyell each had a single summit.

What does all of this mean? Absolutely nothing really—it was just a distraction for me from the voices in my head on a rainy day. Let's hope for another strong winter, that maybe ends a bit earlier in the spring and is less destructive to all the roads and trails we love.

Jason Pair

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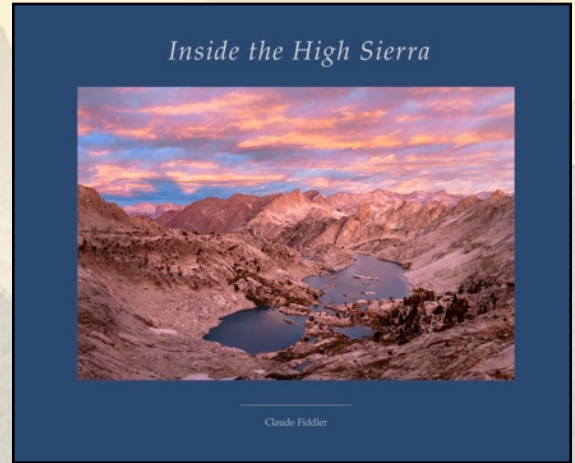


2024 Sierra Peaks Section Annual BANQUET



Climber, Photographer—Claude Fiddler, aka Norman Claude: A Sierra Classic

The dean of Sierra rock, Claude Fiddler has been dubbed “Norman Claude.” He has partnered with all the legends, from Galen Rowell to Peter Croft, befriending and/or absorbing the legacies of Charles Michael, David Brower, and Norman Clyde. Among his many first ascents are traverses of the Minarets, Sawtooth Ridge, Rock Creek, the Kaweahs, and the Ericsson Crag. Fusing his intimate knowledge of the Range of Light with a keen expertise in photography, he continues to publish jaw-dropping photo books. Join Claude as he recounts scenes from his life as a climber and photographer. (Copies of his new book *Inside the High Sierra* will be available discounted at \$65).



Sunday, January 28, 2024

Almanson Court ▲ 700 S. Almanson St. ▲ Alhambra 91801 ▲ 626-570-4600
5:00 Social Hour, 6:30 Dinner

Dinner ▲ Drinks ▲ Discussion ▲ Good Cheer

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Phone _____

Entree choice:

(Please indicate total number of each)

Number of tickets:

@ \$65/each if postmarked by January 19.

Salmon

TOTAL DUE =

Ticket price increases to \$70 each thereafter.

Vegetarian Pasta

Prime Rib

Make checks payable to “Sierra Peaks Section”

To order tickets by mail, send this form and payment to:

Paul Garry
2304 11th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90405-2527

— OR —

You may order tickets electronically.

Log on to:

paypal.me/SierraPeaksSection

Please note that it is for banquet tickets, the number of tickets, and your entree choice.

Zelle: sierrapeakstreasurer@gmail.com

Supporting the Angeles Chapter

The Angeles Chapter ran a Fall 2023 campaign to have 250 monthly donors giving directly to the chapter; there were forty-seven monthly donors last August. At the start of the campaign, the reliable revenue from our monthly donors was around \$1050 per month. If the chapter secured two hundred new monthly donors giving at least \$15/month, the income would go from \$12,600 to \$48,600 per year. Monthly donors are the backbone of budgeting. These are the best indicators of our capacity to plan, grow, and sustain the incredibly important work of the Angeles Chapter. The goal for 2024 will be bigger. Please consider becoming a monthly donor (any amount is appreciated). See https://act.sierraclub.org/donate/rc_connect_campaign_designform?id=70131000008oS2AAI&dm=true&gl=1*1lp1mc*_ga*MTgxMzUwNzg1Ny4xNjcwMzUwNzA1*_ga_41DQ5KQCWV*MTY5NTkzNTI5NC40MDUuMS4xNjk1OTM5MzkyLjAuMC4w for more information.

FREE

First Year's Membership or Echo Subscription

New subscribers and members can receive their first year's subscription for free! Download the Membership Application Form at <http://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/new-members#mr>. Please contact the chair if you have any questions.



2023 Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee

Elected

Jason Pair Chair jasonpair69@gmail.com
 Paul Garry Vice-chair/banquet vicechair@sierrapeaks.org
 Laura Newman Treasurer sierrapeakstreasurer@gmail.com
 Phil S. Bates Secretary philsbates54@gmail.com
 Phil A. Bates Fifth officer/outings philipabates@gmail.com

Appointed

Archives Dan Richter dan@danrichter.com
 Conservation Chair Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net
 Echo editors Tina Bowman tina@bowmanchange.com,
 Beth Epstein
 Echo mailer Tina Bowman
 Emblem Committee Phil S. Bates, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge,
 Ron Bartell, Bob Pickering
 IT Support Greg Mason admin@sierrapeaks.org,
 Harry Lagenbacher admin2@sierrapeaks.org
 Keeper of the List Tina Bowman
 Merchandise Patty Kline patriciakline@aol.com
 Mountain Records Harry Langenbacher register@langenbacher.org
 Outings Phil A. Bates philipabates@gmail.com
 Safety Chair Doug Mantle sierradoug@icloud.com
 Webmaster Joe Wankum jbwankum@aol.com
 Asst. Webmasters Harry Lagenbacher register@summitregister.org,
 Tina Bowman tina@bowmanchange.com,

Regional Representatives

San Diego Joe White
 Central California Daryn Dodge
 Northern California Lisa Barboza

Treasurer's Statement Year to Date (1/1/2023–12/01/2023)

Money In		\$5812.56
Donations		750
Interest		2.56
Membership		1465
Banquet Income		3595
Money Out		-\$6374.43
Banquet		-5494.63
Banquet (other)		-4994.63
Speaker Honoraria		-500.00
Echo Expense		--712.28
Postage		-265.68
Printing		--441.60
Other		-5-00
Office Expenses		-99.00
PayPal Fees		-68.52
	Money In	\$5812.56
	Money Out	-\$6374.43
	Net Total:	-\$561.87
ASSETS		
Paypal		\$2638.59
Checking		\$5487.74
Savings		\$3567.52
NET WORTH		\$8695.45

Welcome New Members!

Christian McIntosh

Born and raised in Northern California (with a father who volunteered as a ski patroller and Jr. National ski coach), Christian has spent most of his life visiting, exploring, and adventuring in the Northern Sierra. Introduced to the Eastern Sierra by a close friend over a decade ago, Christian now looks to get over the crest as much as his schedule allows! In his free time, Christian works in the spirits business and volunteers for the Marin County Search and Rescue team.



Congratulations!



Tom McDonnell, seen above on Kern Peak, earned his emblem on Mt. Humphreys on October 2, 2011.



Bob Pickering, above, earned his sixth Andy Smatko Award on Brown Rock on September 13th.

Conservation Notes

By Sharon Moore, Conservation Chair

Your Input Needed!

From DesertUSA: Both the National Park Service and the Forest Service are seeking public input on proposed guidance for managing climbing (“including rock climbing, snow and ice climbing, mountaineering, canyoneering, and caving”) while protecting natural and cultural resources in wilderness areas. The comment period is open through January 16, 2024. Let your voice be heard!

NPS Draft Guidance and Comment links: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=132387>
Forest Service Proposal and Comment Form: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?project=ORMS-3524>

Full article: <https://www.desertusa.com/dusablog/nps-and-usda-forest-service-seek-public-input-on-proposed-guidance-for-managing-climbing-protecting-natural-and-cultural-resources-in-wilderness-areas/>

Have You Seen Me?

There has been good news lately about Sierra Nevada wildlife, with confirmed sightings of wolverines, the Sierra Nevada red fox, and most recently, gray wolves. But the battle to save the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep has been ongoing. Strategies such as closing areas to entry during breeding season, limiting or eliminating domestic sheep grazing, and relocating animals to help re-establish the Sierra bighorn in its historic range have all brought this majestic animal back from the brink of extinction. However, it remains endangered. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife would like your help. If you spot any bighorn during your Sierra climbs, please report it to asksnbs@wildlife.ca.gov or (760) 873-3260. For additional information, visit <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Mammals/Bighorn-Sheep/Sierra-Nevada/Recovery-Program>





around-the-web/

By Dave Sholle

Editors' note: Dave Sholle is our correspondent for this column, sharing web links that SPS members may find interesting. If you see something you would like to share with other members, please send it to Dave at dsholle@verizon.net.

Some of these links may be behind paywalls.

Sierra and California

[From Beth Epstein, Air France pilot dies on Mountaineers route on Mt. Whitney](#)

[New 5.10 crack appears overnight in Yosemite](#)

[Hikers struck by lightning on Half Dome](#)

[Tragedy and Triumph in Split Couloir](#)

[Trash found on Half Dome Cleanup](#)

[A blind woman's journey up Mt. Langley](#)

[Rebuilding the Historic Mount Wilson Trail](#)

[A history of the Stonemasters by John Long](#)

High Asian Peaks

[Climbing Everest gets more expensive](#)

[Why K2 is more deadly than Everest](#)

[Ang Rita Sherpa](#)

[Andrzej Bargiel climbs and skis all four Karakoram 8,000 meter peaks without supplemental oxygen](#)

[Guinness revokes Reinhold Messner's 8000er record](#)

[Four die on Shishapangma](#)

[Ed Viesturs on guided 8000 m speed records](#)

The Alps

[High altitude heist shocks Switzerland](#)

[Heat wave causes increased Mont Blanc risk](#)

[Artist captures 150 years of climate crisis on Mont Blanc](#)

[Mont Blanc is shrinking](#)

Other

[Norovirus outbreak on the PCT](#)

[Hand sanitizer not enough to prevent Norovirus](#)

[Juliana Garcia, female mountain guide in Latin America](#)

[Bobbi Gibb, Boston marathon pioneer](#)

[30 year old record toppled on Pikes Peak](#)

[Kilian Jornet summits 177 peaks in eight days](#)

[Accident and rescue in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison](#)

[Mosquitoes use smell to "see" their hosts](#)

[Experienced backcountry couple and dog killed by grizzly in Banff](#)

[Another report of the grizzly bear killing in Banff](#)

[iPhone SOS button saves injured climber](#)

[Climbers ski epic line in Patagonia](#)

[92 year old hikes Grand Canyon Rim to Rim](#)

[Max Vertical October challenge](#)

[A hiker and his dog climb a peak, and dog comes home 72 days later](#)

[Heart problems among elite cyclists](#)

News from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery

You may have stopped to check out the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery on Oak Creek on one of your trips through the Owens Valley on your way to an eastern Sierra trailhead. The hatchery, other buildings, and a total of more than forty acres will be transferred from CDFW to the Fort Independence Indian Community. Read more about the transfer and the history of the fish hatchery here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/bulletins/37d73e7>.



(Photo courtesy California Department of Fish and Wildlife).

A Name for the New California Wolf Pack

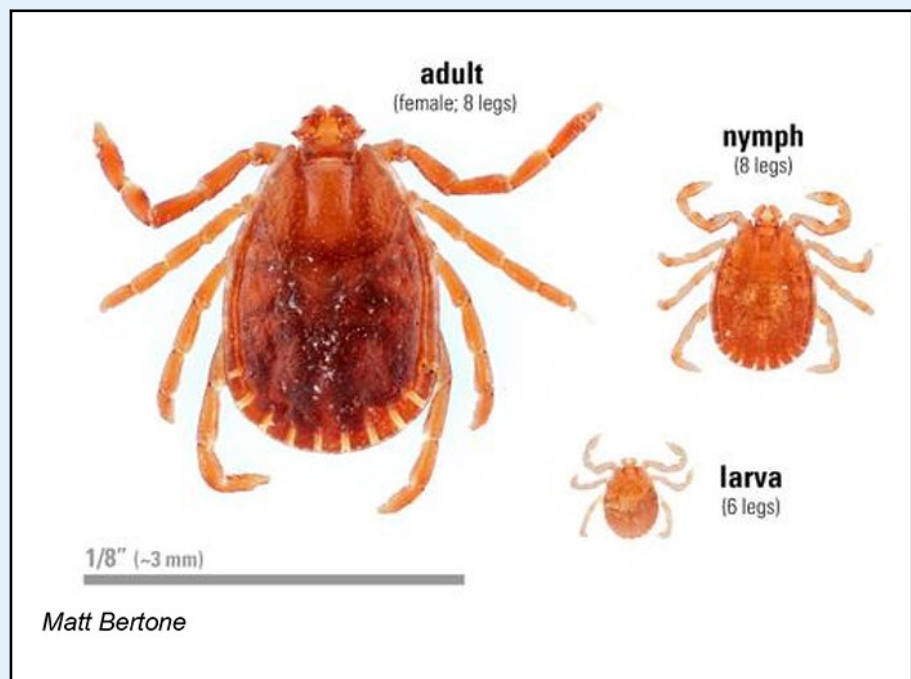
In the previous issue of *The Echo* (page 9), we shared news from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) about a new pack of gray wolves in Sequoia National Forest. The pack now has a name: the Yowlumni Pack. The CDFW partnered with the Tule River Tribe, on whose reservation and ancestral land the pack was discovered, in the naming. The name comes from the Yowlumni band of the Tule River Yokuts. For more information, see <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/bulletins/380179f>.

Ticks!

From Joe Wankum

Something else to be on the lookout for: there is a new type of tick that is quickly spreading across the U.S. After three cows were found dead in Ohio (likely from loss of blood), researchers gathered close to 10,000 ticks in ninety minutes in the farmer's field. The ticks have spread to sixteen states and could be across the country by next summer. Eight percent of those tested were infected with anaplasma phagocytophilum.

Recommendations I've heard: tuck pants legs in socks, use spray, remove ticks from skin as soon as possible. For more info, google "asian longhorned tick usda."



(Photo by Matt Bertone courtesy of NC State Extension)

Recess Peak/Mount Gabb

By Romain Wacziarg



A backpacking trip with Claire Wacziarg, circumnavigating the Mono Recesses, with ascents of Recess Peak (Southwest Arête, class 3) and Mount Gabb (South Slope, class 3), September 10-15, 2023.

Photo Album https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipM9FK89iffF12fJPDUrFRpXqAQaN8sU9R7r_qxYZSwLNAyNsKcPaxe4XS9B2mvf1zg?key=Y1VTZDg5VFdua0EwekdpbFVvRUdnU1phWjRxU2dR

September 10, 2023. From Mosquito Flat, over Mono Pass. We left the trailhead at Mosquito Flat at 12:33 after eating lunch there. We were planning on a relatively short day, but it was to be even shorter than planned due to weather. Shortly before reaching Mono Pass, it started to rain. We quickly pitched the tent right on the trail in an effort to stay dry. In a lull, we continued on to the pass, and just before reaching Summit Lake, it started raining again, around 3:00. We set up the tent again. This time, the rain lasted several hours, and it wasn't until 7:00 that we were able to start hiking again. We wanted to leave this exposed area, so we hiked down by headlamp to the Trail Lakes, near the start of the Fourth Recess. There was another party there, but we found a nice campsite between the two lakes. We had dinner and went to sleep. (A 7:24 hour day, 3:15 hours moving, 5.58 miles, 1,848 feet of elevation gain)



September 11, 2023. Down Mono Creek to Quail Meadows. We left camp at 9:05 and hiked down along Mono Creek to Quail Meadows. It was a

Top: Hiking up the Little Lakes Valley. Above: Pitching the tent for a rainy spell at Mono Pass (Photos by Romain Wacziarg).



beautiful day, and an uneventful hike. We reached Quail Meadows around 4:00 and briefly toyed with the idea of continuing on along the JMT to get closer to Recess Peak, but we decided to call it a day. We spent a restful evening in camp. (A 6:54 hour day, 6:18 hours moving, 12.74 miles, 622 feet of elevation gain)

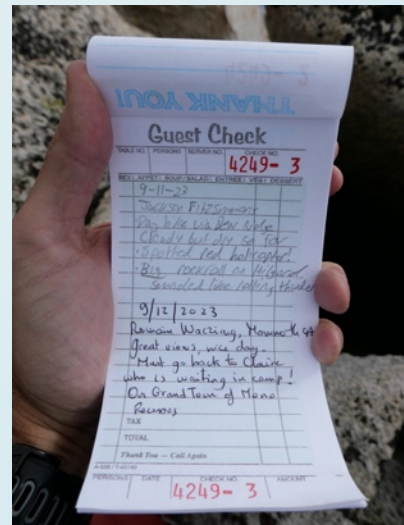


September 12, 2023. Ascent of Recess Peak. I had big plans for this day: to hike to the basin west of Recess Peak and to climb that peak in the afternoon. We left camp at 8:11 and hiked south along the JMT to its junction with the Bear Ridge trail. There, we set out east over easy cross-country terrain to a nice campsite at 10,450 feet, due west of Recess Peak. We set up camp, had lunch, and I set out to climb Recess Peak at 1:00. To approach the Southwest Arête of this peak, I followed the descent route used by Bob

From Top: First Recess. Middle: SW Arête approach to Recess Peak. Below: View NW from Recess toward Ritter and Banner (Photos by Romain Wacziarg).



Burd and his companions during a [2005 ascent](#) of the peak. This had some remaining snow in places, so it was a bit harder than the advertised class 2, but it got me to the crest of the Southwest Arête. From there, some class 2-3 scrambling (the crux being to avoid some pesky pine trees on the south side of the ridge) brought me to a steeper sand/talus slope, and I reached the summit of Recess Peak at 3:26. Thick clouds had gathered, but there was no significant precipitation and no thunder. I took numerous pictures of the outstanding views in all directions and retraced my steps. On the descent, I followed the more conventional route all the way to the northwestern toe of the arête, leading to some lakes. I took a water break there and continued on down to camp, where I arrived at 5:35. I went to clean up in the nearby stream, and then we had dinner, played cards, and enjoyed a quiet evening in camp. (A 9:23 hour day, 7:56 hours moving, 9.97 miles, 5,322 feet of elevation gain)



September 13, 2023. Down the JMT to Bear Creek and up the Hilgard Branch to Lake Italy. This was a fantastic day of mixed trail and cross-country travel through gorgeous terrain. We left camp at 9:50 after a leisurely morning. We returned to the JMT and hiked down to Bear Creek, following it for a while to the junction with the Hilgard Branch, where we had lunch. From there, we hiked east on a good trail, through beautiful meadows with views of lofty cliffs and peaks. The trail continued through the canyon of the Hilgard Branch, though it disappeared for a time through some talus and wet meadows, causing us to have to bushwhack a little bit. We caught up with two female hikers who were also headed to Lake Italy and chatted a bit. After about three miles from the Bear Creek



From Top: Recess Peak summit register. Middle: Claire hiking up Hilgard Branch. Bottom: Claire in a wide section of Hilgard Branch (Photos by Romaine Wacziarg).

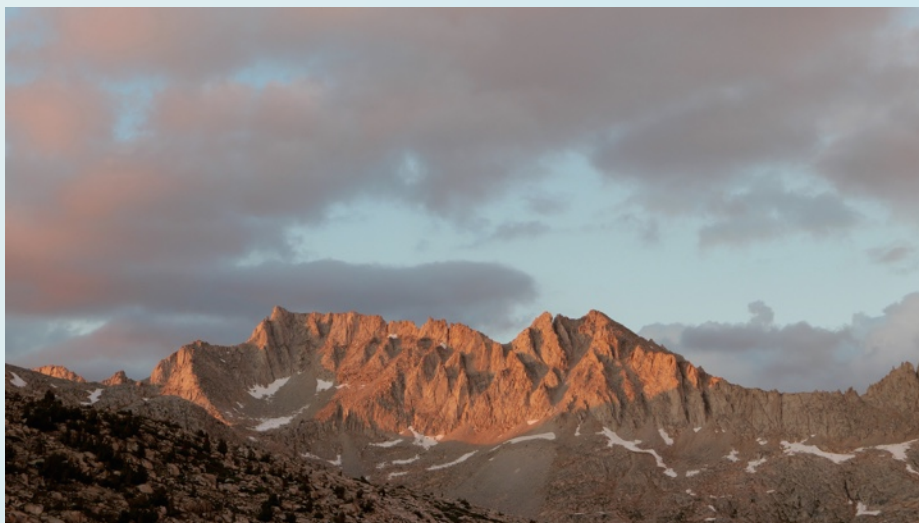


From Top: Claire on slabs in Hilgard Branch, Mt. Gabb behind. Middle: Claire crossing the snow field above Lake Italy. Bottom: Mt. Abbott and Mt. Dade above Lake Italy in the alpenglow (Photos by Romain Wacziarg).

junction, the trail left the canyon floor and started ascending toward a narrow gorge. At this point the trail disappeared and was replaced by an intermittent line of cairns. The scenery became varied and beautiful as we made our way slowly through the upper reaches of the Hilgard Branch drainage over meadows and granite slabs. As we approached the Brown Bear Lake drainage to our right, we crossed the Hilgard Branch and caught a good use trail toward Lake Italy. At the lake, a lone camper warned us about some snowfields ahead, along the southern shore of the lake.



Indeed, two snowfields blocked the way, and they proved challenging to cross for Claire, as we lacked snow gear. I went first, kicking good steps through the steep snow that we had to flank, Claire followed my steps as well as she could, and we soon reached a good campsite not far from the stream that drains Jumble Lake. In the evening, the



surrounding peaks were crowned with some of the most impressive alpenglow I have ever witnessed. (A 8:45 hour day, 7:19 hours moving, 12.52 miles, 2,677 feet of elevation gain)

September 14, 2023. Ascent of Mount Gabb. The alarm went off at 5:15, and I tried not to wake up Claire as I left the tent. After a breakfast of coffee and shortbread, I left camp at 6:22, at daybreak, to climb Mount

Gabb. I first skirted the eastern side of Lake Italy, avoiding some snow by hiking up steep talus. I made quick time across the slabby slopes above Toe Lake and headed straight for the South Slope of Mount Gabb. I went pretty much through the center of the face, through a blocky chute and then left above a lingering snowfield. I was on the summit at 9:37. I stayed there for a while, taking in the views, and headed down the Southwest Ridge, along easy sandy slopes. On the way down I met a lone hiker heading to Gabbot Pass but did not linger much. I was soon back at Toe Lake, then over talus on the south shore of Lake Italy and back to camp at 11:46. Claire had gotten up late and was enjoying the morning. We had lunch, I rested a bit in the shade of a rock, and we contemplated our next move. The weather was taking a turn for the worse, with clouds gathering as they had most afternoons on this trip. Finally, at 2:39 we left camp and headed up to Jumble Lake. But we did not get very far: as we reached the nice campsite

at the northeastern end of the lake, near a stream, it started to rain. We set up camp, and the rain never abated sufficiently to allow us to hop over Italy Pass that afternoon. So we just spent the night in this spectacular location, at 11,700 feet. (A 8:10 hour day, 6:17 hours moving, 5.91 miles, 3,227 feet of elevation gain)



September 15, 2023. Over Italy Pass to Pine Creek Trailhead. We left camp at 7:42 and made quick work of the short remaining distance to Italy Pass. We then descended through beautiful

From Top: Sunlight on Mt. Hilgard. Middle: High on the ascent of Mt. Gabb, with Gemini and Seven Gables in view. Bottom: Mt. Gabb (Photos by Romain Wacziarg).

At right: Romain Wacziarg on Mt. Gabb summit. Middle: Mt. Humphreys, Mt. Darwin, Royce Peak, Feather Peak, Mt. Goddard, and Gemini seen looking SSE from the summit of Gabb. Bottom: Romain Wacziarg and daughter Claire at Lake Italy camp. (Photos by Romain Wacziarg).



Granite Park, taking numerous photos. At Honeymoon Lake, we started seeing other hikers, and asked them if they could drive us from Pine Creek back to our car at Mosquito Flat, but we had no takers (we had discovered that the trail from Pine Creek to Morgan Pass was impassable, due to a rockslide that occurred as a result of the record snowfall that



past winter: this would cut short our plan for a complete circumnavigation of the Mono Divide). On we went, with a short lunch break at Pine Lake, till we reached the Pine Creek trailhead at 2:25. There were many cars parked there, but no one willing to drive us north toward our starting point. So



Claire went to chat with the packers in the nearby pack station and managed to convince one of them to drive us! This was a young cowboy, named CW, from Colorado, who happened to be of the same age as Claire. CW had a Chevy C/K truck from the mid-1970s that was not in great shape, but ran just fine nonetheless. On the way to Rock Creek, CW regaled us with his tales of the life of a packer in the American West. In short order we were back at our car, and soon



enough, back in Mammoth. (A 6:42 hour day, 5:43 hours moving, 10.08 miles, 934 feet of elevation gain)

Trip Totals: 47:19 total hours, 35:46 moving hours, 56.8 miles, 14,630 feet of elevation gain.



From top: Claire Wacziarg descending through Granite Park. Middle: Feather Peak seen during descent through Granite Park. Bottom: Pine Lake. (Photos by Romain Wacziarg).

A Few Days in the Whitney Zone and More

By Jeff Temple

It got dark but didn't stay that way for long. An hour or so after sunset, a distant flash in the night sky got my attention. A few minutes went by, then there was another. The more the wheels turned, the more frequent and bright the flashes became. Near Owens Lake, the flashes evolved into a continuous rolling boil of hovering white light for the last hour of the drive to Lone Pine.

The next day was dry and mostly clear when I started hiking on one of the most popular trails in America. In the afternoon I found a smooth level surface between a tree and some snow to set up my tent. It was peaceful at 10,400', with a few sounds layered atop one another. A gentle growl of rockfall, whispers of birdsong, the sprint of continuously cascading water. Sitting under the tree, I could feel a coolness radiating from the adjacent field of snow. As the afternoon crumbled away, thin white clouds approaching from the west were pushed out of the way by thick grey ones, muffling the contrast of high elevation light. More clouds, less sun, another layer, and over to the cold creek to filter water. There was no wind, no mosquitoes. Eight liters later I returned with water for dinner, breakfast, and the next day's attempt on Mount Muir. I changed clothes, made a pillow using my down jacket, and went to sleep early under a bright sky five days before the summer solstice.

The next day, June 17, a Saturday, my watch woke me up at 1:00 a.m. I made a late night snack of creamer-less coffee and a half a packet of instant oatmeal and convinced myself that I looked forward to wayfinding in the dark by myself. At 2:05 a.m. with my overstuffed backpack and the beam of my headlamp, I started out. The moonless sky was clear and filled with stars that disappeared into the black profiles of the infinitely variable ridge lines that obscured the horizon. The first hour was full of going uphill in the snow, in the dark, partially through avalanche debris, heading the wrong way. After



En route to Mt. Muir (Photo by Jeff Temple).

**You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting, so...get on your way!**
—Dr. Seuss, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*



finding a cliff and spotting footprints in the snow below me, I backtracked, checked my map and started up in a new direction.

Continuing in the dark, I put crampons on at some point, took them off, then put them on again, and kept them on until Trail Crest. The snow was very firm but took steel points well. By headlamp, I crossed smooth snow for a couple of hours until about 4:45 a.m. when I approached Trail Camp and a frozen Consultation Lake. The sun was rising, it was clear, noticeably colder, with some wind. It was very slow going. The snow, the gear, the uncertainty. I had seen the peak listed as both third class and fourth class, which meant uncertainty for me, by myself, in mountain boots. I kicked steps and self-belayed with my ice axe most of the way to Trail Crest. Someone passed me in running shoes.

I took a break at Trail Crest, behind the shelter of some rocks. I had a snack, took off and stowed the crampons, put the ice axe away, and kept going. On the trail, on the west side of the ridge, the air was moving quicker, and it carried a cooler temperature. To the west, the morning light across Mt. Hitchcock and the rest of the snowy peaks continuously drew my attention, but there was ice on the trail underfoot, so up and down I looked and walked. I continued for a few minutes and checked my map a couple of times along the way, stopping where I thought I should go off trail to the peak. The patches of snow hugging the mountain between the rocks above had me focusing on way finding.

Leaving the trail, I was looking for any sign that I was in the right location. I saw a couple of single cairns above, as well as a few sandy spots, which I took as encouraging signs of life. I left my pack about half-way up, took a pencil for the register, and my inReach. Continuing up, I contoured to the south,

Approaching Mt. Muir (Photo by Jeff Temple).

where I was drawn by spectacular views and easier climbing. I found the final scramble to the top to be in three sections, each of which had a couple of options that I explored for exposure and comfort with the moves to get over them.

One of the final explorations was of a nicely balanced rock with air below it. I went to have a closer look, around to the north side, as finding a route this way would have eliminated some exposed moves. After investigating the gap, it turned out to be too narrow to squeeze through. Back on the west side, I spent time finding good foot holds for boot lugs, and made it up to the summit at 9:30 a.m. The scramble was not particularly difficult, and I enjoyed my time figuring out a minor puzzle at fourteen thousand feet.

The register was pinned in a wide crack between two granite blocks, likely weighing thousands of tons. The last entry was Thanksgiving Day 2022, seven very snowy months before. After signing the register, I spent a few minutes admiring the morning light illuminating the winter snow across the range and had a great view of people heading up the snow chute to Trail Crest.

I then scrambled off the top, down to my pack, changed into running shoes, and walked down with a leisurely pace until I was back in the snow, where on my glissade I made a surprising 8.79 mph. Back on my feet, the going was slow in soft snow, and I was back in camp about 1:00 p.m. There was a rock in the snow near my tent that was big enough to lay out some wet gear in the sun, which I did for a couple of hours before packing up and heading down to the trailhead.

A couple of weeks later, the last weekend in June, Sheri and I were some of the season's first guests at Vermillion Valley Resort. On the drive in, feet of snow paralleled the road up at Kaiser Pass, and the trees along the banks of the South Fork of the San Joaquin River were submerged, struggling against the strong current. I ended up not hiking to any of the area peaks due to snow, and we spent some time admiring the incredibly full Florence Lake, where water was overtopping, and cascading down, the spillway.

Over Independence Day weekend, I made an attempt at Mt. Humphreys via Piute Pass. That morning was beautiful, but even with a 4:00 a.m. departure, it was clear by sunrise that I had the wrong footwear for any attempt that day. Snow began around 10,000' and was nearly continuous after Piute Lake. Once at the pass, I found deep sun cups extended in every direction, really slowing progress and enthusiasm.

July 22nd I was back in the Whitney Zone with a day hike permit for the next day. In an ordinary year, peaks further afield may have been options. But with all the snow, and my recent experience at Piute Pass, a less lengthy



Sun cups below Piute Pass (Photo by Jeff Temple).

day hike was planned—the God of Thunder and Lightning.

After a reasonable eight hours of sleep, I was up at 4:00 a.m. and made breakfast in the parking lot. From the Portal, I started up the old Whitney Trail at 5:25 a.m. Once at the main trail, I crossed the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek to the north side, managing to keep one foot dry. Before long, the use trail was criss-crossed by fallen trees, pushed over by winter avalanches. The creek was high, and the first creek crossing was loud and wet. There were plenty of downed branches to hold on to while crossing on submerged logs and rocks. Traversing the south side of the creek went quickly, and the crossing back to the north side below the Ebersbacher Ledges turned out to be surprisingly straightforward. The

waterfall was not as big as I thought it might be. Shortly after the Ledges, there was a wet seep that the flowering plants really liked, which was the first color of the day.

It was about this time that I kept looking over my shoulder at the advancing sun, hoping to capture the orange hue of sunrise across the nearby peaks. Turned out that there was not much alpenglow visible from deep in the North Fork canyon that morning.

Higher up, Thor Peak, my objective, became visible. Before crossing the outlet of Lower Boy Scout Lake, I surveyed the slope I was planning to climb, looking for a reasonable route. There were patches of snow lower down that I wanted to avoid, while most of the approach higher up was snow free.

I felt no need to rush, and took a break at the lake, just past an abandoned snowboard. Starting again, I approached the slope, traversed left, zig zagged for a bit in the talus, then through the scree to the base of a solid rock buttress. I used the firm seam between the rock and the scree as my ascent route up the slope, trying to stay out of the scree, which seemed to work. It was about forty-five minutes later that I was on the upper ridge and another forty-five minutes to the top, which I reached just after 9:00 a.m.

Thor is situated in the middle of the Whitney Zone, with sweeping views from Lone Pine Peak to the south, to Gamblers Special to the north. That morning, there were a few clouds in the sky, and the sun cast moving shadows across the landscape in a really dramatic fashion. I was the only one there. The way down offered some fun scree skiing and some slightly less fun “class two” bushwhacking. With wet feet, I was back at the car at about 11:30 a.m., having completed my nineteenth peak on the list, with many more to look forward to.



Whitney crest from Thor (Photo by Jeff Temple).

Mt. Warren Dayhike

August 26, 2023

By Daryn Dodge

Participants: Daryn Dodge (leader), Kathy Rich and Tina Bowman (co-leaders), Jeff Fisher, Arun Majahan, Scott Kreider, Damon Vincent, Ken Toyama, Philippe Golle, James Bias, Toinette Hartshorne, Lisa Zavala, Leslie Thomas, Yogi Jolly

Our group began to assemble at 7:30 am in the parking lot next to the altitude 9000 feet sign off Highway 120. The trailhead for the south-side approach of Mt. Warren is just on the other side of Hwy 120. This parking lot is outside of Yosemite National Park but was signed as "Day Use Only" last year, but luckily (for some) the signs were gone this year. Following the SPS trailhead-talk, we were off following the trail along Warren Creek. We

passed the old campground and proceeded through some swampy spots and up the trail for about one mile.

After a clothing break I took the group off-trail more directly north up towards the peak. It was a little brushy at first, but soon it became open forest for easier cross-country travel. The trees and soft ground gave way to granite rocks and boulders at about 10,600' as we angled into a gully. The next section up to a notch in the cliff band was the steepest, and all were encouraged to be careful of loose rocks and small boulders. When we reached the south slope of Mt. Warren at around 11,700', however, the cross-country terrain was much more enjoyable with wide-open views of the Yosemite high



Approaching Mt. Warren (Photo by Daryn Dodge).



The group on the summit of Warren. Front row, L to right: Damon Vincent, Lisa Zavala, James Bias, Tina Bowman. Second row: Daryn Dodge, Kathy Rich, Jeff Fisher, and Toinette Hartshorne. Last row: Yogi Jolly, Ken Toyama, Leslie Thomas, Scott Kreider, Phillipe Golle (Photo courtesy of Tina Bowman).

country. This slope led to the southeast ridge of Mt. Warren, which we then followed to the summit.

Our route was class 2 and was short enough to allow for a relaxed pace with several breaks and re-groupings along the way and still get back to the cars well before dark. The participants were a rather chatty group, and there were quite a few interesting conversations going

on to make the 3,000+ feet of gain feel like it went by quickly.

At the summit, many of us honored Eddie Sudol, who passed away from brain cancer in December 2022. He was twelve peaks short of finishing the SPS list, and Mt. Warren was to be his list finish peak. Several of us also remembered Shane Smith, a 2016 SPS finisher who

You can visit the SPS website for an up-to-date listing of outings at <http://www.sierraclub.org/sps> .



Mt. Warren register (Photo by Kathy Rich).

tragically died in a car accident in February 2020. One of Shane’s co-workers, Lisa Zavala, was with us on the climb and had brought mementos of Shane from his mother. Eddie and Shane were the inspiration to make this SPS dayhike happen.

We spent about forty-five minutes on the summit on a gorgeous summer day, then returned the way we ascended, except for a small

Wear 'em! Give 'em!

SPS TEES



Front: NORTH PAL
Back: FULL SPS LIST

By geographic area with Mountaineer & Emblem peaks highlighted

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Memorials celebrating Shane Smith and Eddie Sudol (Photo by Kathy Rich).



diversion to remain in the gully a little longer so as to enjoy some flowers and the green meadows lower down. Back at the cars we had a short potluck dinner, with most everyone needing to return home that evening (many of the participants live in the San Francisco Bay Area). Many thanks to all the participants for making this dayhike such an enjoyable climb.

Dare to Lead! Virtual Leadership Training Spring Seminars 2024

Interested in starting on your path to become an Angeles Chapter outings leader? The first step is to take the Leadership Training Seminar offered virtually this spring, probably in April and May. The five-hour class costs \$25. Get more information and the application here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-seminar>. At <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/angeles-chapter-leadership-training-program>, you can learn more about the Leadership Training Program.





We've chosen the photo at right taken by Mat Kelliher, showing climbers ascending Mt. Emerson on an SPS trip, to represent the outings section. Do you have a photo you would like to see here? If so, please send your submission as an email attachment to tina@bowmanchange.com or via USPS to Tina Bowman.

Note: Please check the bottom of the SPS home page (<https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks>) or Leadership Training Committee home page (<https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings>) for more training and other outings, which should be posted soon.

Jan 13 | Sat **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

I: Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle in Warren Point Area to satisfy the basic (I/M) or advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Practice skills or checkoff. Send email with contact info (mailing address,

SPS outings can always be viewed online on the electronic Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities:

<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/activities>
<https://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/outings-schedule>

telephone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: Robert Myers. Assistant: Ann Shields. (This is a backcountry outing; a medical form will be required.) Note: Early (at least two weeks prior to the event) sign-up for all navigation checkoffs and practices is recommended. These outings require substantial pre-outing preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a

Please note: Currently the Sierra Club requires all participants on an outing more than an hour from help to complete a medical form, and leaders for such outings must complete a safety management plan. Both are fairly simple forms, which are available at the LTC web site here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/forms-resources>.

OUTINGS

From the Outings Chair

Hello SPSers!

Well, another summer climbing season is in the bag! We here in the SPS section hope that each of you was able to meet your SPS peakbagging goals in spite of some of the obstacles we all know about.

From an SPS outings leadership perspective, we would like to set our collective sites on having more SPS and Club sponsored outings to SPS Peaks, which is very important to the long-term health of the section. Many SPS Peaks on the list are not visited frequently, and many listed peaks are quite suitable for SPS newcomers.

As some of you may know, many fun and beautiful peaks can be done in the snow! They offer the added benefits of having less talus and scree travel, no permit requirements, low crowds, and the beauty of snow-draped scenery.

Last, remember to mark your calendars with target dates to get permits 120 days in advance on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Please also let me know if you need support on leadership or ratings advancement as well as suggestions for fun climbs.

Again, it would be great if many of you can post your experiences to our SPS Facebook page ([https:// www.facebook.com/groups/366711653441263/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/366711653441263/)) so we can be more informed and enjoy your adventures.

Cheers,

Phil Bates

route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the *Leadership Reference Book* for more information.

May 4-5 | Sat-Sun

LTC

C: Wilderness First Aid Course: This Wilderness First Aid (WFA) is offered only twice a year. The course runs from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday in Fullerton plus four hours of video lectures (on-demand) during the following week. Review of course notes and completion of pretest (est. 4 to 8 hours) is required prior to course. This course meets the 24-hour WFA requirement for I/M/E leader ratings. Fee includes instruction, pdf of course notes, and two laminated cards with response protocols.

Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Robert Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi Shields apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

COVID precautions include distancing when possible and masks. Proof of CPR within previous 5 years, signed release of liability, and proof of COVID vaccination status are required to enroll. Fee \$180 (full refund until 4/6/24). For sign-up, see instructions and application at <http://wildernessfirstaidcourse.org>.

Thinking of leading a trip or looking for info on a trip you've already decided on?

SPS Safety Chair Doug Mantle invites you to e-chat about it, get his input, flesh out your ideas—sierradoug@icloud.com.

OUTINGS

SPS safety chair Doug Mantle notes that the INYOSAR (Inyo Search and Rescue) site on Instagram is a useful tool for determining the latest safety risks in the Sierra with related stories.

Wilderness Permit Info

Most wilderness permit reservations are now made through <http://recreation.gov>. For day use permits for Desolation Wilderness, get a free permit from a local Forest Service office any time of year or at the trailhead in summer. For overnight permits year round, go to recreation.gov.

INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Web site: www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/home

All wilderness permits are reserved through <http://recreation.gov>. Follow instructions regarding permit pick up. This includes the “walk-up” permits (and you now have to pay for them!).

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.fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Wilderness permits are required only for overnight stays in the Golden

Trout Wilderness. For trips departing from a Sequoia National Forest trailhead, permits are free via email using the application you’ll find at https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/sequoia/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3_059517. For entry into the Golden Trout Wilderness from Inyo NF or Sequoia/Kings Canyon NPS, make your reservation through <http://recreation.gov>.

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

Yosemite wilderness permit reservations become available by lottery twenty-four weeks in advance through <http://recreation.gov>. Any remaining reservations become available on a first-come, first-served basis after the lottery process is complete for that week’s reservations up until seven days in advance. May-October walk-up unreserved permits (40% of the trailhead quota) are available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the day before the intended date at permit issuing stations. Reservations aren’t needed from November through April, but permits are required. Trailhead quotas are in effect in winter. See <https://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wildpermits.htm>.

If your starting trailhead is outside Yosemite NP, obtain your permit from the land agency that manages that trailhead.

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NP

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA. 93271-9599
Phone (559) 565-3766 for permit & trail info. Fax (559) 565-4239

For general information go to www.nps.gov/seki. For wilderness permits go to www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness_permits.htm.

Up to six months in advance of your trip, permits may be reserved at <http://recreation.gov>. Permits may be self-issued outside the quota period, from roughly mid-September to mid-May.

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY

Web site: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/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

See https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/sierra/passes-permits/?cid=fsbdev7_018115 for wilderness permit information; reservations are made at <http://recreation.gov>.

PASSAGES



Peter H. Yamagata

Pete Yamagata died September 6, 2023, at home in Reno, Nevada. He lived much of his life in Sacramento. His career included a twelve-year service with the California Water Resources Board. He is survived by his sister, Sara Ward, and two brothers, Dana and John.

Pete earned his SPS senior emblem on Mt. Clarence King on August 20, 1988; he was the eighty-eighth person to qualify for the award. Passionate about mountaineering, he wrote *Northern Sierra Peaks Guide*, documenting his 1,731 ascents (764 different peaks). He was a fervent advocate for trail creation and forest conservation.

To see some of Pete's photos, trip reports, and more, see his website <https://www.petesthousandpeaks.com>.

If you wish to make a donation in memory of Pete, please donate to forest preservation.

Correction from the Last Issue

As it turns out, the photo of Jeff Koepke that appeared on page 37 in our last issue's Passages was taken by Ron Bartell on a private trip to Big Picacho on the way out of Cañon Diablo on April 21, 1984. The man on the right was Norm Rohn, not Gene Gail, and the woman is Kathy Bowman. A DPS group—including Doug Mantle, Vic and Sue Henney, Don Weiss, Owen Maloy, Terry Rivera, and Jim Hinkley—was a day behind Ron's group.



SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, September 18, 2023

1. Call to Order at 7pm: Present—Jason Pair, Chair; Paul Garry, Vice Chair; Phil S. Bates, Secretary; Phil A. Bates, Outings; Doug Mantle, Safety Chair; Patty Kline, Merchandise; Dan Richter, Archivist; and Joe Wankum, Webmaster.
2. Standard business and reports
 - a. Approval of minutes (July 10, 2023)—Previously approved via email roll call for inclusion in October-December 2023 issue of *The Sierra Echo*.
 - b. Chair (Jason Pair)—Nothing new to report.
 - c. Vice Chair (Paul Garry)—Paul suggested Claude Fiddler, a highly accomplished Sierra mountaineer and photographer, as a possible speaker for the 2024 SPS Banquet, but indicated that he had no personal contacts with Mr. Fiddler. Several MC members voiced strong interest in contacting Mr. Fiddler, and Doug Mantle volunteered to make an initial approach to him. Paul plans to begin making inquiries to secure a venue for the next banquet, scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024. Phil S. indicated that Kim Stanley Robinson has conditionally agreed to speak at the 2025 SPS Banquet, provided the dates offered by the SPS do not conflict with his possible Antarctic cruise in early 2025. Mr. Robinson also mentioned a Swedish filmmaker, Emanuel Rohss, as a possible future banquet speaker. Mr. Rohss is currently working on a mountaineering film with a large segment related to a traverse of the Palisade Crest.
 - d. Secretary and Chair of the Emblem Committee (Phil S. Bates)—An SPS Emblem was awarded to Jon Hershman and a sixth Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem was awarded to Bob Pickering. Dan Richter indicated he needed to be copied on Emblem Committee awards in order to update the SPS archives. Also, Phil S. mentioned that he and Bob Pickering had initiated some preliminary discussion of possible small refinements to the Smatko rules to facilitate the speed and clarity of reviewing submissions for Smatko Emblems.
 - e. Outings (Phil A. Bates)—Phil A. mentioned that another snow travel training class should be organized to follow-up on the class this past May. Dan Richter noted the possibility of accessing Sierra Club national training funds to pay for a snow travel course. Someone mentioned Mel MacInnis as a contact point. Joe Wankum indicated that he thought MacInnis had left Sierra Club employment, which was confirmed by subsequent communication. Phil A. clarified inquiries about possible SPS policy issues for two recent outings led by Sunny Yi, noting that they were not SPS outings.
 - f. Treasurer (Laura Newman)—Laura was not present, but has forwarded monthly financial reports to MC members over the past two months. There were no comments or questions on the latest reports.
 - g. Outreach—no report.
 - h. Archives (Dan Richter)—Dan recently emailed his new UCLA contact concerning the school's intentions with regard to storage of the SPS archives, but to date he is still awaiting a response. Another approach is planned, and the MC will be updated at our next meeting in November.
 - i. *Echo* (Tina Bowman)—Tina was unable to join the meeting due to technical difficulties, but she informed the MC by email that the October-December 2023 issue of *The Sierra Echo* would be distributed by the end of September and the deadline for the January-March 2024 issue is November 24.
 - j. Mountain Records (Harry Langenbacher)—Not present
 - k. IT (Greg Mason)—Not present.
 - l. Website (Joe Wankum)—Joe indicated that the website software is back to normal.
 - m. Conservation (Sharon Moore)—Not present.
 - n. Safety Chair (Doug Mantle)—Doug mentioned plans for another safety article in an upcoming issue of *The Sierra Echo* to follow up on his stream crossings article in the April-June 2023 issue. Doug noted the INYOSAR website as an excellent source for reports on Sierra accidents and rescues.
3. Old Business
 - a. Continued communications with Kim Stanley Robinson were noted above.
2. New Business
 - a. Next meeting of the MC is scheduled for 7pm on Monday, November 6.

(Continued on page 29)

(September Minutes, continued)

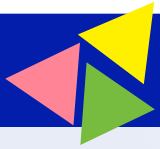
- b. In response to an inquiry by Guy Dahms, the MC discussed the desirability of adding a section to *The Sierra Echo* concerning backcountry road and trailhead conditions. Given the quarterly nature of *The Sierra Echo*, the MC viewed the *Echo* to be an inappropriate site for such information. MC members noted

the availability of several timely, internet sources for such information, including the Inyo County Road Open/Closed Status website and several others. Also, members could be encouraged to post information on the SPS Facebook page, which has a thousand members.

SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, November 6, 2023

1. Call to Order at 7pm PST: Present—Jason Pair, chair; Phil S. Bates, secretary; Laura Newman, treasurer; Patty Kline, merchandise; Tina Bowman, *Echo* co-editor; and, Joe Wankum, webmaster.
2. Standard business and reports
 - a. Approval of minutes (September 18, 2023)—The MC voted to approve the minutes after making corrections noted by Joe Wankum.
 - b. Chair (Jason Pair)—Nothing new to report.
 - c. Vice Chair (Paul Garry)—Not present. Doug Mantle helped to secure Claude Fiddler, a highly accomplished Sierra mountaineer and photographer, as the speaker for the 2024 SPS Banquet, which will be held at the Almonzor Court in Alhambra on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Kim Stanley Robinson has conditionally agreed to speak at the 2025 SPS Banquet, provided the dates offered by the SPS do not conflict with his possible Antarctic cruise in early 2025. He should be able to inform us about his availability by June.
 - d. Secretary and Chair of the Emblem Committee (Phil S. Bates)—No new emblems were awarded during the past two months. The Emblem Committee is reviewing eleven “special case” peaks for qualification as Andy Smatko Explorer Emblems as part of the current updating of the Scrambler Ratings lists on the SPS Web Site. The current Scrambler Ratings update is expected to be completed by year-end and will include approximately 100 new peaks and 150 new routes.
 - e. Outings (Phil A. Bates)—Not present. Joe noted some corrections to the September 18 minutes related to funding and instructors for a future snow travel course. Tina indicated that there were three official SPS outings during the past year, which was higher than the number during the pandemic years but much lower than the historical average for annual outings. One constraint is the availability of certified leaders for such outings.
 - f. Treasurer (Laura Newman)—Laura noted that SPS finances were in good shape and did not pose constraints for the upcoming banquet or any future training courses. There was a discussion about coverage of honorariums and travel expenses for banquet speakers.
 - g. Outreach—no report.
 - h. Merchandise (Patty Kline)—Patty reported three sales of T-shirts and said the inventory of T-shirts remained ample for small, medium, and large sizes (sold out of X-large). Jason suggested the remaining inventory should be brought to the banquet to encourage sales.
 - i. Archives (Dan Richter)—Dan was not present, but indicated via email that there have been no further discussions with his contacts at UCLA concerning the storage of the SPS archives.
 - j. *Echo* (Tina Bowman)—The deadline for the January-March 2024 issue is November 24. She will need the following: Echoes from the Chair, outings chair column, treasurer’s report, MC minutes for September 18 and November 6 meetings and any achievements approved by the Emblem Committee.
 - k. Mountain Records (Harry Langenbacher)—Not present.
 - l. IT (Greg Mason)—Not present.
 - m. Website (Joe Wankum)—The LEADERS database will be replaced by a new Leaders Management database around the end of the year. Some MC members (at least the outings chair) may have received info on the database change from the

(Continued on page 30)



Mystery Peak Challenge Answer

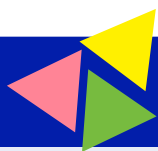
George Christiansen took the photo of Dunderberg from Kavanaugh Ridge at 11,000'. Jason Pair answered first with the only correct answer. Ron Bartell and then Greg Gerlach also played the game.



(November minutes continued from page 29)

Angeles Chapter. If not, you will receive such info in the near future. Data currently in LEADERS will be migrated over to Leaders Management at the time it is implemented. The new database will be fully integrated with other Sierra Club databases. Concerning the SPS Web Site, due to size considerations, the Newsletter Index web page is being split into several separate pages: Climbing Reports, Photos, Passages (i.e., deaths) and other articles. The Photos and Passages pages now cover 1970 to 2023. Other pages will follow in a week or two as soon as they are properly sorted and formatted. The Climbing Reports and Photos of peaks are arranged in the Peaks List Order so

- that reports on peaks can be more easily found for outings (or photos), including multiple peaks.
- n. Conservation (Sharon Moore)—Not present.
 - o. Safety Chair (Doug Mantle)—Not present.
3. Old Business
 - d. No old business.
 4. New Business
 - a. Next meeting of the MC is scheduled for 7pm PST on Monday, January 8.
 - b. There was a discussion of the upcoming elections of the SPS Board. Jason, Laura, and Phil S. each indicated a willingness to run for re-election. Jason indicated he would contact Paul and Phil A. about their interest in running for re-election. There was a discussion of possible new candidates for the board.



Mystery Peak Challenge

This occasional just-for-fun puzzle is for you to figure out which Sierra peak or peaks are featured in the image. If you have a fine mystery peak puzzle to challenge *Echo* readers, please send it to tina@bowmanchange.com. We welcome any mountain images, including those from popular culture—imagery used and abused in film and print!

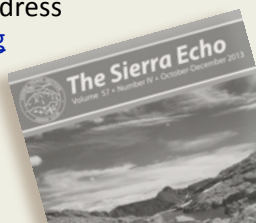
This photo was taken by Julie Coleman (not a member . . . yet) on an SPS outing. What SPS peak was she on to take this picture? Which SPS peaks can you identify? Any peaks not on the list? Good luck!

Send your answer to Tina Bowman at tina@bowmanchange.com.



REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE *ECHO*

Please contact this email address newsletter@sierrapeaks.org for any problems with distribution of hardcopy or email versions.



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 email at tina@bowmanchange.com. The *Echo* will be available as a PDF download at the SPS website and via a link sent to all SPS members and *Echo* subscribers.





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), Pages, email, or through regular U.S. mail (electronic format is preferable). 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 emailed to tina@bowmanchange.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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**Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter
Sierra Peaks Section
3250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1106
Los Angeles, CA 90010**

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