



The Sierra Echo

Volume 70 ▲ Number 2 ▲ April-June 2026

Coming Wednesday,
March 18, 2026, 7PM

Phil Bates hosts our third quarterly presentation:

Climbing Ecuador's Volcanoes

See Page 3 for details

Sunset view from Chimbarazo base camp, 17,500',
after a day of poor weather (Photo by Phil Bates).

Also In this issue: 2026 SPS Banquet, Mountain Mulligans



Echoes from the Chair

By Michael Chamoun

Well, wasn't that an excellent presentation by our guest speaker, Stan Robinson? I am so thrilled

that it went well and even more thrilled at the wonderful turnout for our banquet. So, thank you all for coming out and making that evening a great way to kick start our 72nd year. I hope you all had your book(s) signed!

After thoughts of an early start to the summer, winter came in full force, blanketing our mountains with snow we were wondering would ever show up. By the time you read this it will be spring but only a few months away from summer, when the climbing and peakbagging season can start in earnest.

Continue to keep an eye out for our quarterly presentations, our summer outings, new *Echo* articles, and other information on our social pages and regular emails. We had thirteen new members join in 2025, and I'm really hoping we can beat that mark in 2026. So, please spread the word about the SPS to your climbing partners, friends, and whoever may have an interest in keeping this section healthy, growing, and thriving. Thank you all and happy trails!

Results of The 2026 SPS Election

Tina Bowman for the Election Committee

With three mail-in and fifty-three electronic ballots cast, SPS members elected these men to serve on the 2026 management committee: Michael Chamoun, chair; John Sheehe, vice-chair/banquet; Phil S. Bates, treasurer; Daryn Dodge, secretary; and Dylan Kilby, fifth officer/outreach. Jason Pair stepped off the elected committee but will continue as the appointed membership chair.

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2026 Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee



Elected

Michael Chamoun	Chair nano.michael@gmail.com
John Sheehe	Vice-chair/banquet johnsheehe@gmail.com
Phil S. Bates	Treasurer sierrapeakstreasurer@gmail.com
Daryn Dodge	Secretary Daryn.Dodge@oehha.ca.gov
Dylan Kilby	Fifth officer/outreach dylanrkilby@gmail.com

Appointed

Archives	Romain Wacziarg Rwacziarg@gmail.com
Conservation Chair	Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net
<i>Echo</i> editors	Tina Bowman tina@bowmanchange.com , Beth Epstein
<i>Echo</i> mailer	Tina Bowman
Emblem Committee	Daryn Dodge, Kathy Rich, 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
Membership	Jason Pair jasonpair69@gmail.com
Mountain Records	Paul Garry pwgarry@gmail.com
Outings	Gary Schenk gary@hbfun.org
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



Our 2026 SPS Management Committee

Counter-clockwise from upper left: Michael Chamoun, chair; John Sheehe, vice-chair/banquet; Phil S. Bates, treasurer; Daryn Dodge, secretary; and Dylan Kilby, fifth officer/outreach. Contact information is listed on page 2 for elected and appointed Committee members.



Coming Wednesday, March 18, 2025, 7PM



SPS will be hosting its third quarterly presentation on March 18! These presentations are virtual slideshows by SPS members on their adventures in our mountains and beyond. They last roughly forty-five minutes and are followed by a Q&A.

This quarter, we are joined by longtime member Phil S. Bates. Phil will regale us with stories from when he climbed all three of Ecuador's highest volcanoes in one trip: Cayambe (18,996 ft), Cotopaxi (19,347 ft), and Chimborazo (20,549 ft). He will also discuss travel tips and training advice for those who want to undertake such high-altitude, endurance-centric mountaineering ventures.

Please join us and tell your friends! A Zoom link will be provided closer to the presentation date via Instagram, Facebook, and email. Please follow our Instagram and Facebook pages for the latest information as March 18 approaches.

Time to Renew!

Subscriptions to the Echo expire on December 31st. If you haven't renewed, please do so! You can download the renewal form from the SPS web site here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/membership>.



New Stock of SPS Tees!

Patty Kline, our merchandiser, has a new stock of SPS tee-shirts. These are made of a 50% cotton/50% polyester blend and are available in M, L, and XL; the color is ash (gray). The graphics are the same as in the past, with North Palisade on the front and the full SPS list on the back, ready for you to check off the peaks you've climbed. In addition, we still have some 100% cotton tee-shirts, which was our original fabric over the years, in sand (M and L) and ash (S and M).

New Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem Patch



The Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem patch, designed by member Donovan Pair, is now available for purchase. Why not add an SPS section patch also? Each is available from SPS merchandiser Patty Kline for \$10.00, which includes shipping. Send your order to Patty at 7409 Hermosa Ave., Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

... And SPS Patches for New Members



Starting in 2025, new SPS members will be given a beautiful SPS patch.

Treasurer's Statement Year to Date (1/1/26-2/28/26)		
Money In		\$5085.00
Donations		295.00
Interest		0.00
Membership		385.00
Banquet Income		4375.00
Merchandise Income		30
Office Income (Opening Deposit USBank)		0.00
Money Out		-\$2016.28
Banquet		-1816.25
Speaker Honorarium 2026		-1000.00
Speaker Expenses 2026		-521.09
Printing 2025		-126.85
Banquet Refund 2026		-170.00
Almanson Final Payment 2026		-125.16
Echo Expense		-126.85
Merchandise Expense		0.00
PayPal Expenses		-66.20
Taxes		-6.98
	Money In	\$5085.00
	Money Out	-\$2016.28
	Net Total:	\$3068.72
ASSETS		2/28/2026
Paypal		\$4801.94
USBank Checking		\$5278.29
NET WORTH		\$10,080.23



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

[Sasha DiGiulian climbs Platinum on El Capitan](#)

[Young hiker missing for months on Mt. Whitney](#) and [followup](#)

[From Beth Epstein, California shifts on mountain lions vs. Bighorn Sheep](#)

[Strangers need help near Mt. Whitney's summit](#)

[A history of pooping on El Capitan](#)

[The beauty in a burn scar in the Sierra](#)

[Three hikers bodies recovered from Mt. Baldy](#) and [calls for trails closure](#) and [more](#) and [more](#) and [here](#) and [here](#)

Romain Wacziarg wrote an obituary for Jeff Dozier in the 69.2 Echo in 2025; [here is a video of Jeff describing his work](#) (relevant portion starts around 7:15)

[Another death on Mt. Whitney](#)

[Park visitor accused of base jumping from Glacier Point claims posted video was AI](#)

[Mt. Baldy closed to climbers as storm nears](#)

[How to propose on a summit](#)

[Eight Dead and one missing backcountry skiers caught in Tahoe area avalanche](#) and [here](#)

From Beth Epstein, more on the Tahoe area avalanche [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#)

[Avy expert and guide discusses Tahoe avalanche with no finger pointing](#)

Other US

[Apple watch calls for help in Colorado](#)

[Seasoned hiker gets trapped in quicksand in Arches NP](#)

[Hubbard Glacier earthquake](#)

[Rescue workers' thoughts on two irresponsible hikers in New Hampshire](#)

[Eastern trails eschew switchbacks compared to western trails](#)

[National parks cancelling timed entry programs](#)

[How did a "normal" climbing fall lead to a thumb amputation?](#)

[Experienced hiker dies of hypothermia on Mount Marcy](#)

[Alaska's melting glaciers are revealing long lost frozen bodies](#)

Andes

[Erin Ton sets FKT on Aconcagua](#)

[Southeast ridge of Cerro Torre](#)

Alps and Europe

[How three women set a big wall climbing record](#)

[Austrian climber found guilty for leaving girlfriend to die during winter ascent](#) and [here](#) and [here](#)

[Hikers rescued on highest peak in England, then stiff rescuers for hotel bill](#)

around-the-web/ continued

High Asian Peaks

[How did the C.I.A. lose a nuclear device in the Himalayas?](#)

[Climb of Gasherbrum 3](#)

[What it is like to guide Everest](#)

[Nepal to scrap failed Mt. Everest waste scheme](#)

[Andrzej Bargiel climbs and skis the standard route on Mt. Everest without supplemental oxygen, all the way down through the icefall](#)

[Guide dies on Makalu and then his client vanishes](#)

[New proposed Nepalese law would increase requirements for climbing Mount Everest](#)

[World record for climbing Lhotse and Everest](#)

Other

[Training dogs for avalanche rescue work](#)

[How to take good climbing photos](#)

[Helicopter crash kills five on Mt. Kilimanjaro](#)

From Romain Wacziarg, [How the Gilbertson Brothers are re-measuring high peaks](#)

[Hikers struck by lightning on Colorado Fourteener](#)

[Researchers make 3D internal images of Popocatepetl volcano](#)

[Possible danger of using trekking poles](#)

[The climbers we lost in 2025](#)

[A snowflake for the record books](#)

[From Beth Epstein, Killian Jornet on what we can learn from pushing our bodies to the extreme](#)

[Dreams can go bonkers at high altitude](#)

[First ascent controversy of Mount Robson](#)

[Exercise and longevity](#)

[Four monster rock climb traverses](#)

[137 years of black climbing history](#)

[Epic ice climbing adventure in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario](#)

[Emma Cook-Clarke on her career as a mountain athlete](#)

[Recall of some Petzl ice climbing axes](#)

News from the California

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sierra Nevada Red Fox

For the first time, biologists with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife have been able to capture, put on a GPS radio collar, and release a Sierra Nevada red fox, a threatened species because of their rarity. Read more about the capture near Mammoth and the species here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/bulletins/409122c>.

In related news heard on the radio was a sighting of a young female gray wolf in the Castaic area, farther south than any other gray wolves (as far as we know) since their disappearance from California. She seems to have moved farther north in her search for a mate.



(Photo courtesy California Department of Fish and Wildlife).

Sierra Peaks Section Banquet 2026

By Gary Schenk

The SPS 71st Anniversary Annual Banquet was held February 1, 2026, at Almansor Court in San Gabriel. This year's guest speaker was author Kim Stanley Robinson.

Banquet Chair Jason Pair pulled out all the stops resulting in attendance of ninety, the best in years. Most promising was the influx of a younger generation. As Don Sparks remarked, "There are people



Above, left to right, during the social hour: Gilberto Gil, Michael Chamoun, Phil Bates, Cindy Manzer, Virginia Manzer. Below, foreground left, Dave Baldwin and Sandy Lara; center, Eric Lesser in conversation with Ron Hudson, Karen Andersen with Lisa Hazan. Mid ground, Tina Bowman, Gary Schenk, and Mary Jo Dungfelder; Jacob Berlow and Jonathan Mason in conversation with Keith Christiansen. In back, James Murphy, Henry Arnebold, Erik Siering in conversation with Dan Richter, Edith Liu and Eric Petersen, Anne Mullins (Photos by Dave Sholle).



under eighty here!" And, indeed, hair color other than gray was abundant.

After dinner, section Chair Michael Chamoun gave an overview of 2025 and introduced next year's management committee, followed by a moment of silence for SPSers who had passed in the last year: Gene Mauch, Bob Michael, Ron Jones, and Greg Vernon. All good partners who will be missed. On a more inspiring

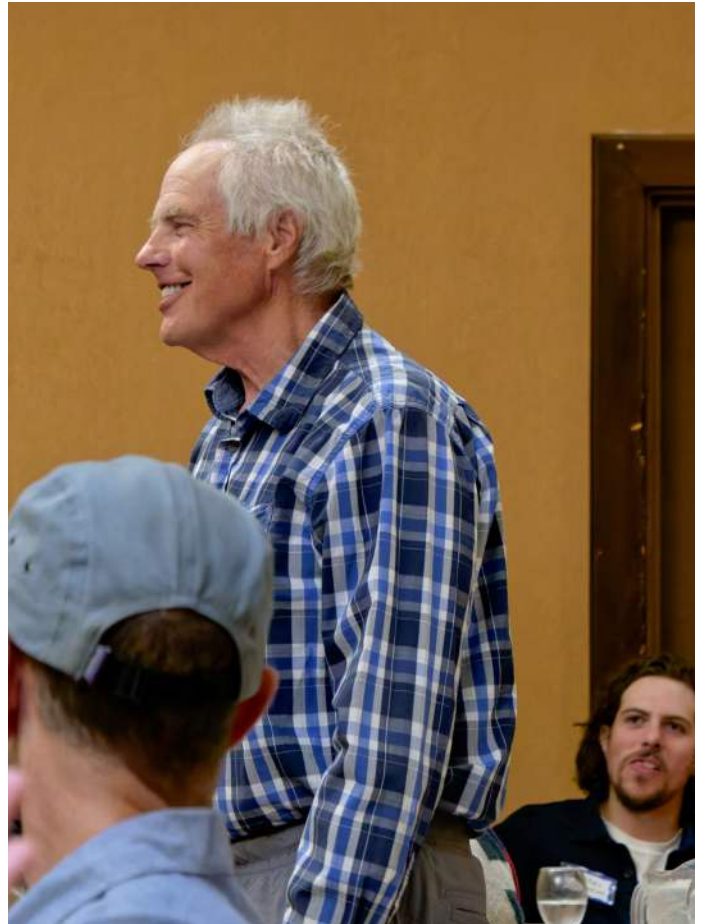
Clockwise from right: Tom Bowman and Don Sparks; Speaker Kim Stanley Robinson with Phil Bates and Michael Chamoun behind; Kim Stanley Robinson, Jacob Berlow and Jonathan Mason; Kim Stanley Robinson autographing his books (Photos by Dave Sholle).



note came a rousing standing ovation for legendary founding member Barbara Lilley.

Then came the traditional ritual. While Mary McMannes was not there with “Doug on a Stick” the real Doug Mantle, doing a remarkably realistic job as substitute, was The Last Person Standing. Tina Bowman was no slouch and gave Doug a run for his money as the Last Woman Standing.

Jason Pair then presented Exceptional Service Rewards to Dave Sholle and Joe Wankum, both more than worthy of the honor.



Above left during the list finisher standing ritual: Tina Bowman; above right, Doug Mantle; below, left to right: Kathy Rich, Erik Siering, Paul Garry (Photos by Dave Sholle).



Phil Bates then introduced guest speaker Kim Stanley Robinson. This was a well-received show revolving around two main points. One was evidence of a massive slide on the west side of Isosceles Peak that, while on the one hand taking out a few technical climbing routes, on the other hand opened up potential for new first ascent routes. Robinson also discussed the informal naming of Peak 12,691 as Mt. Thoreau. This seems appropriate as it is located across Piute Pass trail from Mt. Emerson.

Bottom line: it was a great banquet.



Top: Front, left to right, Barbara Sholle and Mirna Roach. Behind: Dave Baldwin, Ron Bartell and Greg Roach (Doug Mantle far right in back). Above left: Eric Lesser (left) and Paul Garry (right). Above right: Mark Goebel, with Sandy Lara behind. At right, left to right: Mary Jo Dungfelder, Gary Schenk, and Tina Bowman (Photos by Dave Sholle).



Exceptional Service Award

The 2025 management committee revised the Sierra Peaks Section Policies and Procedures document to add the Exceptional Service Award. Here's the description of the award from that document:

18.0 EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

From time to time the Management Committee may choose to honor a member for outstanding service to the SPS over many years. Such service may include serving in various elected or appointed positions on the Management Committee, contributing to the *Echo*, and inspiring others by their mountaineering accomplishments. Members may nominate a possible recipient by writing to the Management Committee and indicating why the person should be so honored. The Management Committee shall vote whether each nominee is to receive the award. More than one person may receive the award each year, but the award need not be given every year.

At the 2026 banquet, two members were given this award: Joe Wankum and Dave Sholle. Joe, who has been the SPS webmaster for many years, spent countless hours scanning and redacting old issues of *The Sierra Echo* that weren't available in digital form. (Laura Newman as well did a heroic amount of scanning.) He also carefully combed issues in digital form for personal information or material possibly under copyright protection. Not only are all issues available on the website, but Joe also indexed the *Echo* in a variety of ways. There's also the resource of the trip reports (links to the *Echo*) on the website.

The management committee also wished to recognize Dave Sholle for his work creating the DVD in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the section. The DVD includes numerous interviews with SPS members, which Dave spent countless hours editing and formatting into the very polished finished product. Among those interviewed are a number of founding and early members of the SPS, many of whom have since died. Not only is this DVD a priceless item for our archives but also a treasure trove of information for those interested in the history of the section and its many members.

Thank you, Joe and Dave!



At right, left to right: Dave Sholle receives his award from banquet chair Jason Pair (Photo courtesy Dave Sholle). Above: Joe Wankum, who now lives in Arkansas, was not at the banquet to receive his Exceptional Service Award. He wrote: "Although I am designated as SPS webmaster, that task has not been a solo effort as it has been in the past. The web

site has been a cooperative effort with the *Echo* newsletter and the *Echo*'s editors Beth and Tina. With their help along with Laura Newman and Dan Richter, all the past *Echos* are now available on the web site. And over the last several years, an index has been added to assist anyone interested in locating information in any of the past *Echos*. The web site has been running smoothly. The few problems I've encountered have been solved with technical help from Harry Lagenbacher or the Sierra Club's Drupal Help Desk. All of the above deserve recognition for their contribution to making the web site what it is." (Photo courtesy Joe Wankum).



Summit Register Condition Report

By Paul Garry, Pwgarry@EarthLink.net

Mountain Records Chair

As thoughts start turning to the summer climbing season in the Sierra, I am inventorying summit registers in the range. To that end I am compiling a list of peaks and the type of register on the summit. Using my own photo records, posts on our Facebook Page, and records from my esteemed predecessor as Mountain Records chair, Harry Langenbacher, and others, I have the bones of an inventory of containers and register books, but I need your help to fill out the missing information. I also encourage everyone to take photos of register books entries so we can create a repository of signatures that can outlive the books on the summits.

Whenever you climb an SPS peak or other major Sierra summit, could you please let us know what kind of container was there, whether there was a register, and what shape it was in. For that purpose, please answer as many of the questions below as you like.

You can copy the following text, then click on the link below, paste the text into the message, and edit it to answer the questions before sending (or just say it in your own words). We can use this to update our register needs, which is on the SPS website, but has not been updated in a few years.

If you need a register book to take to a peak with you, please contact me, and I'll get you a few register books to take with you on your next climb.

Thank you!

1. **Name of the peak** (and location if the name is ambiguous)?
2. **Type of container** (cylinder, box, ammo box, tin can...) and the container's condition? (full, needs repair, etc.)?
3. **Type of Register** (spiral, hardback, official SPS, etc.)?
4. **Register Condition** (how full, damage, age, etc.)?
5. **When** were you there (date)?
6. **Comments** (need pencil, wrong summit, any problems, etc.)?
7. **Who** are you?

Click to send me an E-mail by filling out [this form](#).

Peaks	Register needs
Sirretta Peak	Needs container
Vandever Mountain	Needs all
Sawtooth Peak (N)	Needs all
Needham Mountain	Needs all
Muah Mountain	Needs container—has jar/small note pad
Mount Langley	Needs book for ammo box
Mount Muir	Needs book
Thor Peak	Needs book for ammo box, up to 10" x 6.5"
Lone Pine Peak	Needs book
Mount Tyndall	Needs small book and pencil
Mount Williamson**	Needs book, old one is full
Alta Peak	Needs book up to 10"x6.5"
Eagle Scout Peak	Needs book
MOUNT KAWEAH**	Needs container
Mount Stanford (S)	Needs book and container
Black Mountain	Needs book
Pyramid Peak (S)	Needs container has book in baggie
Three Sisters	Needs book sized for ammo box, up to 10" x 6.5"
Mount Agassiz	Needs 30 caliber ammo box lid, or new container
Mount Haeckel	Needs container and book, retrieve existing ones
Mt. Emerson	Needs permanent container (has book in plastic box)
Four Gables	Needs ammo box on named summit, not 12,801
Merriam Peak	Needs book
Royce Peak	Needs all. Has small pill box.
Recess Peak	Needs container and book
Red and White Mountain	Needs container and maybe book (new book in bottle)
Mount Morrison*	Needs all
Clyde Minaret*	Needs small book
Mt. Starr King*	Needs better container or plastic bags to stop damage
Vogelsang Peak	Needs Book up to 10"x6.5" in ammo box.
Mount Lyell**	Needs book
Mount Dana	Needs book
Excelsior Peak	Needs permanent container (has book in plastic box)
Virginia Peak	Needs book and container
Twin Peaks	Needs book and container
Whorl Mountain*	Needs all (everything in wet zip lock)
Blackhawk Mountain	Needs all
Leavitt Peak	Needs container
Stanislaus Peak	Needs all
Disaster Peak	Needs all
Mokelumne Peak	Needs all
Round top	Needs book, getting pretty full
Mount Rose	Needs book and container
Mount Elwell	Book is full (climbed very often)



Mountain Mulligans

By Dylan Kilby

I don't believe in failed summits. The only "failure" is the climb you don't come back from. The primary goal of any saunter is to get home safely. Instead of an unsuccessful summit, I call a mulligan.

In golf terms, a "mulligan" is a stroke allowed when you make an exceptionally poor shot and want a redo without it counting on your scorecard. A proper sportsman calls mulligans sparingly; you don't want to go golfing with someone who calls one just because the ball is in the rough. Rather, a climbing mulligan gives me the grace to acknowledge when I'm in over my head, when the conditions are bad, or when it's simply not the day. It also allows me to interpret an ostensibly unsuccessful summit as no big deal. It's not a failure; it's just a mulligan. I'll be back later.

With that out of the way, let's talk mountain mulligans. I've returned to some of them for one over par, but others are still stuck in the sand traps. This list isn't all of my mulligans, just some of the more notable ones.

Freel Peak: June 6, 2020, and December 5, 2020.

Freel Peak is nominally an easy Class 1 trip up to one of the northern Sierra's highest points, but you must understand I was but a wee, unwildernessed lad back in 2020, having never been to California (much less the Sierra Nevada) until a work assignment that spring. My June hike up Freel Peak would have been my fourth-ever Sierra peak and by far one of the highest mountains I'd ever been up. (The others were Pyramid Peak and Ralston Peak, both that May.)

So, naturally, I got distracted by another mountain first. Those who have seen my Peakbagger GPX files won't be surprised at this—I've always been bad at squiggling. (No surprises from any of my friends that I was diagnosed with ADHD in 2022.) Starting from the High Meadows Trailhead, I traveled toward the Monument Pass Trail and noticed another little guy to my north: Monument Peak. For normal people, this is an easy summit that can be sent almost entirely by dirt roads and ski slopes, but of course I decided to scramble up the 1400 feet or so from the south "for

practice" (per my trip report). This was pretty fun and certainly a unique way to get this summit, but it wasn't Freel Peak.

I skedaddled down to the Tahoe Rim Trail and started on my way. Given the fairly large winter 2020 snowpack and my lack of experience in the range, I was surprised by, unaccustomed to, and exhausted by the snow drifts on Freel's west side. Upon getting within sight of the turnoff for the summit trail, I decided to pass and continued on my way toward Fountain Plain, in which the "use trail" on GaiaGPS did not exist whatsoever and I had a nice hour or so of bushwhacking down to the mountain biking trails. Fun!

My December mulligan was much less interesting. I'd been exploring the northern Sierra that winter and has previously sent Red Lake Peak, Round Top, and Fourth of July Peak earlier in November. Unfortunately, my enthusiasm did not surpass my lack of winter experience (nor my inability to wake up at a proper time in Folsom), so I started too late and turned back once again at the junction of the Tahoe Rim Trail.

I returned to and finally summited Freel Peak in June 2023, this time starting from Horse Meadow and tagging the Tahoe Triple Crown of Freel Peak, Jobs Sister, and Jobs Peak. My first Sierra mulligan ended up a double bogey, but that just means on to the next hole.

Cathedral Peak: August 31, 2023

Matt Cornell once told me that the Southeast Buttress is the best 5.6 climb in the world. I'm inclined to agree with him, though I'll have to go back to do it properly.

Above: Dylan Kilby taking a Mulligan on Red and White Mountain (Photo by Dylan Kilby).

In 2023, I spent five months cavorting around the Sierra after a long work assignment. I'd negotiated the time off with my employer (who was very understanding and supportive—shout out to Lee), and after working remotely through June in Lake Tahoe, I began my way south. I spent August in Yosemite National Park and its environs because why not, when else will I be able to say I lived in Yosemite for a month?

For the last part of that section, a friend of mine from the southeast USA joined me for some climbing. We explored and scrambled throughout the park together, from the Cathedral Range traverse with Mike Toffey to climbing runout slab on Puppy Dome and DAFF Dome. One goal of ours was Cathedral Peak, a Yosemite gem for the alpinist. I'd been fascinated by this peak ever since I learned about SPS, and my first time up became the definition of the word "epic."

We got to the base around 12PM with the intention of taking three-to-four hours. We should have turned around immediately, it being quite windy at the base. After some time slowly heading up the peak, the winds picked up even more (I was shivering while belaying the second pitch), and we were completely unprepared for their strength on the final summit push. After the buttress's chimney (amazing, by the way), we topped out below the summit block and were blasted by 35-40 mph sustained winds in the late afternoon. We were not prepared to deal with that.

We descended to the start of the final pitch and huddled in an alcove, stacking rocks in front of us to keep the wind from hitting too hard. Another party ahead of us was similarly stuck right at the start of the descent, and we later found that they called YOSAR (who also noticed and helped us descend as well). Our 12PM jaunt ended getting us off the mountain at 3AM.

What's the lesson here? Complacency is a force stronger than Einstein's compound interest. I'd had an excellent few months with minimal weather issues, and I just assumed that run would continue. Had I simply looked at the weather forecast ahead of time, I would've seen the wind and bailed for a different route and called a rest day. My original trip report on Peakbagger said "we did all the right things to get off the peak," but that's putting makeup on a turd. I made poor decisions to get into that position, which should be the focus. My friend and I had a harrowing fifteen hours, and I've yet to go back, though more for time spent elsewhere than lurking fear.

I have not made this mistake again. Every climb or summit—no matter the elevation or nominal technical ease—comes with a thorough check for wind and weather. I advise you to do the same. It's the easiest thing to forget.

Red and White Mountain: September 15, 2023

I love the Red and White Range, as I've come to call it. The roof pendants atop the Sierra Crest here create some of the most fascinating and beautiful geology in the entire range. The swirls of red, yellow, gray, white, and green throughout these peaks never cease to amaze me, and it's partially why the Mammoth Lakes region remains an all-time favorite for me long after I've exhausted the summits proper.



Dylan Kilby at the Convict Creek crossing below Mt. Baldwin (Photo by Dylan Kilby).

It wasn't always that way, though. Two thousand twenty-three was a hard year to be in the mountains (though amazing if you were a skier). The ever-present snow following that ridiculous winter was like hiking in high gravity well into fall, and the snow brought by Hurricane Hilary's freak passage over the alpine didn't help.

The mulligan on Red and White Mountain was more understandable than not. That day I'd tagged Red Slate Mountain, Mt. Izaak Walton, and Silver Divide Peak. Excitement might override exhaustion only to a point. One thing I've had to come to terms with over years of big traverses and long trips is to fight the feeling that not getting "one . . . more . . . peak" means I've come short on the day. Not at all: these were *huge* days, and I'm very glad I got one mountain, let alone three. The folly of youth; the wisdom of age.

Anyway, the east ridge was right out: too icy. I wasn't keen on testing Hopkins Pass. I made it to the col with Silver Divide Peak, looked at the thousand feet of rotten rock I'd have to negotiate, and decided "nah, I'm good," especially knowing I likely wouldn't be heading down the east ridge. Thankfully no accidents or

hard lessons here: simply late in the day after a long day. Can't be too upset about that.

I returned to Red and White Mountain in August 2025, a week after that year's Sierra Challenge. This time, my familiarity with the terrain came back strong: I trail ran up to McGee Lakes and sent the east ridge (great!) in seven hours, then got back in time for a latte at Stellar Brew and a bit of work. The mountain turned out not to be too chossy after all, and the paintbrush skyline made it all the more worthwhile.

Mt. Baldwin: September 17, 2023

Another casualty of winter 2023. While summit register logs showed people had in fact climbed this mountain, I certainly wasn't one of them. I attempted the standard route from Convict Lake up to Bright Dot Lake and the northwest ridge, but I quickly got stymied by the washed out bridge. For those who aren't familiar, the route crosses Convict Creek where there was an old bridge that was destroyed in a flood. Normally this is no problem; the creek is a trickle in late summer. In September 2023, it was a torrent.

I probably spent an hour looking for a good crossing point. I headed upstream for a half-mile until the canyon steepened and snow tunnels started closing over me. I saw a couple areas with less whitewater, but the rapids downstream would be a bad time were a fall to occur (excellent use of the passive voice, Kilby). Not today, Poseidon.

I returned to Mt. Baldwin in October 2024, during my honeymoon of all things. My wife and I were staying in Mammoth Lakes, and she could tell I was vibrating out of excitement to be surrounded by the Sierra Nevada in early fall. Sure enough, the Convict Creek crossing was a nothingburger—barely even a trickle compared to my memory's torrent (so it goes). The hike itself was a little more

“exciting” after some recent snowfall that obscured the otherwise Class 2 route. That'll be a good story next *Echo*.

Quandary Peak: January 22, 2023

Last one, and a quick one given it's not a Sierra peak. Quandary Peak is a 14er outside of Breckenridge, Colorado. My girlfriend and I were enjoying our four-year anniversary in Colorado Springs, and that weekend we drove up to hike Quandary together for a nice winter hike. We made it to around 12,500 feet and looked over the expansive Tenmile and Mosquito Ranges, looked down into the couloirs, and I asked if she'd like to turn “girlfriend” into “wife.” (My actual words were much smoother, but that's for us.) After saying “yes,” she immediately got hit with massive altitude sickness and we made a hasty descent. We celebrated our newfound engagement with ice cream in South Park.

I've since been up Quandary Peak a few times, and it'll always be a little special.

There you have it, just a few of the mountain mulligans of the past several years. I push myself hard, and I often have to fight the idea that because I haven't sent the peak or tacked on some other objective, I'm not a true alpinist. After all, a real one would always send, right? Not at all; it's good to know when to head home, even if it is always much harder in the moment.

I'm fully aware of the compulsive danger behind that thought, but it's hard to excise from my summit-obsessed brain. That's why the mulligan idea is so necessary for me: it reminds me to take a breath, be safe, and know that I'm not bad at this at all, I've just decided that stroke wasn't worth it yards. After all, hitting the water hazard once doesn't mean you've run out of balls forever. Or something like that. I don't play golf.

Dare to Lead!



Becoming a Sierra Club outings leader starts with curiosity and a love of the outdoors. What better way to step up and lead than by taking advantage of the training opportunities that the Angeles Chapter's Leadership Training Committee provides each year?

As home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's many groups, sections, and committees sponsor thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions. You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a five-hour class offered virtually via Zoom.

Virtual Leadership Training Seminars Sunday, April 19, and Saturday, May 16, 2026

The seminar covers all the basics of leadership. Experienced leaders will tell you how to plan a trip, prevent problems on the trail, and make sure that everyone—including you—has a great time. They'll also explain good conservation and safety practices. And they'll give you tips for getting your “O” rating quickly and, if you choose, then pursuing more advanced ratings. We will also have a Safety Management Plan exercise.

The class costs \$15. See more information about the seminar and link to the application here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-seminar>.

SPS Management Committee (MC) Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 7:00 pm Via Zoom

In attendance: Michael Chamoun (Chair), Jason Pair (Vice-Chair and Membership), Daryn Dodge (Secretary), Phil Bates (Treasurer), Dylan Kilby (Outreach), Joe Wankum (Webmaster), Tina Bowman (Keeper of the Lists, Assist. Webmaster, *Echo* Co-Editor), Kathy Rich (Emblem Committee).

Call to order by Michael at 7:02 pm.

Michael Chamoun (SPS Chair): Michael asked who the presenter for the next quarterly SPS presentation will be. Dylan responded that it may be Lindsey Jackson, a recent SPS list finisher. Lindsey is not an SPS member, but with Dylan's encouragement, she may become one.

Phil reported to Michael that 51 people had signed up for the Banquet so far, about double the number at this time last year. Total number of attendees for last year's banquet was about 70. Phil noted that we need about 100 banquet attendees to break even, although this depends on the presenter's expenses. Michael asked if there will be a formal book signing during the banquet. Phil suggested Happy Hour would be a good time for book signing.

Michael stated that discussion regarding the six-peak requirement for becoming an SPS member will occur at the next MC meeting.

Jason Pair (Vice-Chair and Membership): The contract for the banquet has been signed. A steady flow of SPS renewals has been coming in; Jason will soon send out reminders to those that have not renewed yet.

Daryn Dodge (Secretary): Nothing to report.

Phil Bates (Treasurer): Treasurer's report had been e-mailed to the MC. The SPS balances are looking better as renewals are coming in.

Phil noted that e-sign-ups for the banquet are generally going well, although from the data Phil is receiving, it appears some people have a little trouble with inputting information and with PayPal. There was also a question about whether some people did not receive a receipt once the banquet form was submitted. Micheal said he wanted to make sure attendees are receiving a receipt that includes responses to all questions asked on the banquet form. Kathy stated that she recently signed up and did receive a receipt. Phil noted that tabulation of all banquet selection inputs looks good so far and should simplify enumeration of all banquet selections that will be given to the Almansor restaurant.

Dylan Kilby (Outreach): Michael asked if there is a presenter for the 4th Quarterly presentation yet. Dylan responded none as of now.

Tina Bowman (Echo Co-Editor): Next deadline for *Echo* submissions is February 22nd. Tina will send out a reminder as the date nears.

Joe Wankum (Webmaster): The last *Echo* newsletters are in the process of being added to the SPS website.

New Business: Michael moved that the next MC meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th at 7 pm.

Michael adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Minutes prepared by Daryn Dodge, SPS Secretary

Get Featured on the SPS Instagram Account! *From Dylan Kilby*

The SPS Instagram account (@sierrapeakssection) wants to feature your climbing stories in our **Climber Spotlight** series! Got a cool set of climbing photos and a trip report from a recent outing? Do you have something unique and cool from historical climbs? We'd love to hear about it! The new series will focus on highlighting our climbers' peak accomplishments and accompanying stories, and that includes you! Climbers of all experience levels and emblem status are encouraged to send in their shots so we can brag about how cool you all are.

To submit something for a Climber Spotlight, send an email to dylanrkilby@gmail.com (make sure you get that "r" in between "dylan" and "kilby") with the following contents:

- Up to ten photos in an appropriate format—PNG, JPEG, or TIFF. (Please make sure they are as close to the original size as possible.)
- A brief write-up of the trip, photo, or venture (maximum 1500 characters, no minimum)
- Names of the photographers
- Any social media handle that you would like us to tag.

If you want to send photos and/or stories for more than one post, please email them **separately**. That will make it much easier to organize for posting.

Thanks, and climb on this 2026 season!



Outings

We've chosen the photo above taken by Mat Kelliher, showing climbers ascending Tower Peak 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.

Apr 11-12 | Sat-Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Mission Creek Preserve Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mission Creek Preserve to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, and homework. Sunday checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info (mailing address, phone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating 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 route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the *Leadership Reference Book* for more information.

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.

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>.

Apr 19 | Sun

LTC

LTC Seminar, Spring 2026 #1: The Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Committee is offering another "hybrid" seminar, all virtual. Learn about essential topics from Sierra Club Values, Conservation and Safety, to best leadership practices, group management, trip planning, steps to leadership and a First Aid overview, followed by our legendary scenarios. Because there's an online e-learning component and homework, you'll want to register enough in advance to guarantee your spot as space is limited. We also welcome leaders from other chapters. Later applications may be accepted on a space-available basis but are not guaranteed, so register early. Open to leaders refreshing their rating, but priority is given to leader candidates. Come learn all about the best leadership practices of our outings program. **Note:** Our *Leader's Reference Book (LRB)* was revised in 2022 just as National Sierra Club launched its online *Outings Leadership Training ("OLT")* for "local outings" (Chapters, Groups, Sections) leaders. The online OLT presents the latest training on Sierra Club values, commitments, equity and more. Angeles incorporates these trainings into our own. See <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00001WzoZelAJ&mapLinkHref=>

May 16 | Sat

LTC

LTC Seminar, Spring 2026 #2: The Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Committee is offering another "hybrid" seminar, all virtual. Learn about essential topics from Sierra Club Values, Conservation and Safety, to best leadership practices, group management, trip planning, steps to leadership and a First Aid overview, followed by our legendary scenarios. Because there's an online e-learning

OUTINGS

Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Tina Bowman tina@bowmanchange.com
Daryn Dodge daryn.dodge@oehha.ca.gov
Beth Epstein b.epstein@verizon.net
Tom McDonnell t.mcdonnell@sbcglobal.net
Robert Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com
Kathy Rich kathrynrich@gmail.com
Gary Schenk gary@hbfun.org

component and homework, you'll want to register enough in advance to guarantee your spot as space is limited. We also welcome leaders from other chapters. Later applications may be accepted on a space-available basis but are not guaranteed, so register early. Open to leaders refreshing their rating, but priority is given to leader candidates. Come learn all about the best leadership practices of our outings program. **Note:** Our *Leader's Reference Book (LRB)* was revised in 2022 just as National Sierra Club launched its online Outings Leadership Training ("OLT") for "local outings" (Chapters, Groups, Sections) leaders. The online OLT presents the latest training on Sierra Club values, commitments, equity and more. Angeles incorporates these trainings into our own. See <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00001WzoZeIAJ&mapLinkHref=>

Jun 6-7 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mt. Pinos to satisfy the basic (I/M) or advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, and homework. Sunday checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info (mailing address, phone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating 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

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>

preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the *Leadership Reference Book* for more information.

Jun 26-28 | Fri-Sun

SPS

M: Mt. Thoreau (12,691'), Keyhole Plateau High Point

(13,404'): Join us for an extended weekend to climb two non-SPS-listed peaks: Mt. Thoreau and Keyhole Plateau. A climb of Mt. Thoreau (also given the unofficial name Mt. George Davis by the first ascenders) was inspired by Kim Stanley Robinson's presentation at this year's SPS banquet. The high point of the Keyhole Plateau is on the list of Sierra Nevada 13ers. Our trip will start at the North Lake trailhead, where we'll hike the short trail to Lower Lamarck Lake. We will continue up use trail and trailless cross-country terrain to the largest of the Wonder Lakes where we'll look for a suitable camp spot. We will then climb the class 2 scree slope on the southeast side of Mt. Thoreau and head back to camp. On Saturday, we will ascend Keyhole Plateau by climbing a chute with some short sections of class 3 south of Wonder Lakes. This will get us on the east ridge of the Keyhole Plateau, where easy scree slopes then lead west up to the Plateau. We will then return to camp and stay one more night or possibly begin the hike out that afternoon. On Friday, expect to hike approximately 2 miles to Wonder Lakes for camp, then another 3 miles round trip to Mt. Thoreau. Total gain for Friday will be 3500-4000 feet. Total mileage and gain for Keyhole Plateau from camp on Saturday will be five miles and 3000 feet. Send request and climb resume, and any questions, to Ldr: Daryn Dodge. Co-ldrs: Gary Schenk, Kathy Rich.

Aug 3-7 | Mon-Fri

SPS

I: Mt. Goddard (13,568'): Join us on this five-day outing to climb an SPS emblem peak in the heart of the Sierra. Monday we'll backpack on the Bishop Pass Trail, over the pass, and down to LeConte Canyon the first day (12.8 mi, 2200' gain). Tuesday we will hike north on the John Muir Trail over Muir Pass and camp near Wanda Lk (c. 9.5 mi, 3200' gain). Wednesday we'll hike cross country to climb Mt. Goddard

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.

OUTINGS

either by cl 2 Starr's Route or cl 2 east slope and return to camp (c. 6.5-7 mi, 2400-2700' gain). Thursday and Friday we will hike south on the JMT and out the Bishop Pass Trail (c. 3750' gain). Trip totals c. 51 mi, 11,650' gain. Bear resistant food container and medical form required. Send recent conditioning and experience to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co-ldr: Tina Bowman.

Aug 14-16 | Fri-Sun

SPS, WTC

Recess Pk (12,813') I: Join us to climb Recess Peak via the class 2 variation of the southwest arete route. Friday we'll backpack up the Bear Ridge Trail, which starts near the Lake Thomas A Edison spillway at 7665', 5.7 miles to its end at the John Muir Trail at 9880'. We'll cross the JMT and hike x-c to camp west of Recess Peak (up to 2+ mi and up to c. 800' gain). Saturday we'll climb Recess, c.3 mi RT with squiggle factor and 2200' gain, then retrace our steps to camp. An option of adding Volcanic Knob (cl 2 summit) this day is possible (c. 2+ mi RT and 500' gain). Sunday we'll retrace our route to the trailhead. Bear can and Medical form required. Send conditioning to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-ldr: Beth Epstein.

Aug 26-30 | Wed-Sun

SPS

I: Mt. Kaweah (13,802'): Join us for this outing to climb an SPS emblem peak in the Great Western Divide area. Wed

we'll backpack from Mineral King on the Sawtooth Pass Trail and then use trails to Glacier Pass and down to Spring Lake (10,060') to camp (c 4.5 mi, 3300' gain). Thur we'll go xc to the Black Rock Pass Trail, over the pass (11,600'), and down to Big Arroyo to camp (c. 8 mi, 1600' gain). Fri we'll climb Mt Kaweah via the High Sierra Trail and the class 1 south slopes and return to camp (c. 10 mi, 4300' gain). Sat we'll backpack up over Black Rock Pass to camp at Spring Lake (c. 8 mi, 2200' gain). Sun hike out over Glacier Pass with the option of a side trip to Empire Mtn (11,550') from the pass (add 1.5 mi, 500' gain RT) (c. 4.5 mi, 1000' gain). Bear resistant food container and medical form required. Send recent conditioning and experience to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-ldr: Tom McDonnell

Sep 19 | Sat

LTC, WTC, HPS DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mt. Pinos to satisfy the basic (I/M) or advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Practice skills or checkoff. Send email with contact info (mailing address, telephone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating 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 route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the *Leadership Reference Book* for more information.

Nov 21-22 | Sat-Sun **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

I: Navigation: Mission Creek Preserve Navigation

Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mission Creek Preserve to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, and homework. Sunday checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info (mailing address, phone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating to Leader: Robert Myers. Assistant: Ann Shields. (This is a backcountry outing; a medical form will be

Wear 'em! Give 'em!

SPS TEES



Front: NORTH PAL
Back: FULL SPS LIST

By geographic area with Mountaineer & Emblem peaks highlighted

S, M, L, XL in Ash & M, L in Sand

\$20 includes shipping

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Patty Kline, 7409 Hermosa Ave
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

Make check payable to SPS

CST 2087766-40

OUTINGS

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

From the Outings Chair

Gary Schenk, *SPS Outings Chair*

SPS Leaders,

The Sierra Club National Office has issued a new safety policy that will impact leaders and participants alike. SPS outings are all backcountry outings: areas more than an hour from professional medical care. Among the major impacts to our trips are

Every participant on a backcountry outing must submit a medical form each time they go, and the leader must submit all medical forms from that outing to National;

One leader on each backcountry outing must be current in Wilderness First Aid;

Beginning January 1, 2027, every leader on every outing—frontcountry and backcountry alike—must be current in CPR;

There are changes to the current Medical Form Policy;

At least, one outings leader per trip will carry a reliable means of contacting emergency response and/or the Outings Emergency Line throughout their trip. If this is a cell phone, there needs to be strong, clear signal for the entire duration of your outing.

A summary of the changes may be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XjuYHZJSnRvBVw4R7NqfQVWpkLRBWF_yP9_bs2eqXQI/edit?tab=t.0.

The full document may be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KvOpgaFBejTJF3G1pOivBFNDRbgqW6G_6TC4oXsJYNg/edit?tab=t.0.

I suggest all leaders read this document carefully. Some particularly pertinent entries:

If the policies of the Club are not adhered to regarding these insurance restrictions, the individuals conducting the activity will be uninsured and may be held personally liable in the event of a claim. Please read and understand all related policies and procedures to protect yourself from unnecessary financial and personal losses. These outings require specific approval from Subcommittee Chair/Entity Chairs and Program Safety.

If a leader has not led an outing in the previous four years, then the leader will repeat the requirement of a provisional lead or demonstrate the requisite skills before leading an outing.

*Leaders will:
Require every participant (and all leaders on the outings) to complete the Medical Form pre-outing,
Review medical forms prior to the outing,
Carry all medical forms and keep forms and information accessible, secure, and private during the outing,
Both/all know the location of medical forms at all times,
At the end of the outing, these forms, along with waivers, must be digitally scanned (if not already e-forms in Campfire Events), and emailed to program.safety@sierraclub.org. These individuals will then put them in the designated Google Drive, limited access folder, where they will be retained for ten years. Or the forms may be mailed to the Sierra Club office. Address: 2101 Webster St, Ste 1300, Oakland, CA 94612.*

At least one outings leader per trip will carry a reliable means of contacting emergency response and/or the Outings Emergency Line throughout their trip. If this is a cell phone, there needs to be strong, clear signal for the entire duration of your outing.

SPS Outings will keep leaders and participants notified of any changes to these guidelines in future columns.

OUTINGS

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.

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 <https://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/backpacking.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.

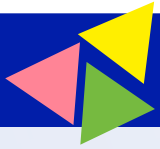
SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY

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>.



Mystery Peak Challenge Answer



Mystery photographer Tina Bowman took this photo of Mt. McAdie from Mallory. First to answer correctly that the photo of McAdie was taken from Mallory was outreach chair Dylan Kilby. Then Jeff Solomon correctly guessed McAdie but from Irvine. What we see beyond McAdie are Kern Pt between the two summits of McAdie and Picket Guard just left of the lower summit—and the Kaweahs left of it.

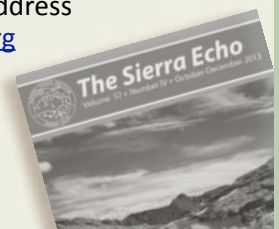
The Sierra Echo

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.



REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

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





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!

Katherine Park, a participant on an SPS outing, took this photo. Which SPS peak was she on? What lake is featured? Can you name other peaks in the photo?

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

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>. Please contact the chair if you have any questions.

We Need Your Stories!

We need YOU to submit reports of SPS and private climbs, Trail Tech articles, Mystery Peak challenges, and anything else you think would be of interest to *Echo* readers! Please send submissions to co-editor Tina Bowman at tina@bowmanchange.com.

Thanks!



The Sierra Echo

Volume 70 ▲ Number 2 ▲ April - June 2026

The Sierra Echo is published quarterly by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter.

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. 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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Subscriptions \$10 per year, due by January 1, delinquent after March 31. We welcome anyone to subscribe to the *Echo*, but SPS members must also be Sierra Club members and maintain their *Echo* subscription. A suggested donation to the section is \$25, which includes the \$10 subscription and a \$15 donation to the SPS operating fund. Thank you for your support of the SPS. For new subscriptions and renewals or to apply for membership, fill out the subscription and renewal form or new member form that can be found on the SPS website under “Membership Requirements” at the bottom of the page: <https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/new-members#mr>. Mail the form and your check to the SPS Membership Chair, 19630 Horace St., Chatsworth, CA 91311; make sure to include your Sierra Club number if you are applying for

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Address Changes Send to the membership chair via email jasonpair69@gmail.com.

Peaks List Copies of the SPS Peaks List can be downloaded from the website here: <http://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/sps-peaks-list>.

Missing Issues Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section mailer at: newsletter@sierrapeaks.org.

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