



# Echoes from the Chair

By Jim S. Fleming

Hello, fellow Sierra climbing and exploring enthusiasts! Hope all is well with you and yours. In this difficult time, we must persevere and remember to listen to those in

authority who direct our activities. The national office of the Sierra Club has taken a conservative approach to the coronavirus pandemic and cancelled all activities that involve groups of people getting together. This includes all outings, in-person meetings, banquets, etc. Our local Angeles Chapter has also followed this approach, asking all of its groups and outings sections not to schedule hikes, camp-outs, etc. through at least August of this year. This, of course, affects the outings that the Sierra Peaks Section has planned for the summer. The trips that were cancelled or will be cancelled cannot be done as a private outing either. There is too much at stake for individuals, as well as our section and the Club as a whole. In addition, the organizations such as Inyo County Search and Rescue

In this issue: Chair's Column 2 Member News Around the Web Scrambler System Arrow NE Ridge 8-10 **Exiting The Sierra** 11-12 Outings 13-18 SPS Treasurer's Report 17 Climbing Seven Volcanoes Review 19-21 Wilderness Permits 21 22-25 Dawson Biography Review Minutes 25 Passages: Shane Smith 26-31 Passages: Gary Craig 29 29 Passages: Cal French Mystery Peak Challenge 30-31

and Inyo County Sheriff ask folks to refrain from visiting the mountains, and potentially endangering the first responders who work for them. The Sierra Peaks Management Committee is in agreement with these groups—so please, don't go into the mountains until the authorities have given their approval to do so! We must do our part to make sure that we aren't the reason for someone to contract this horrible illness. We'll get through this, and the mountain peaks and valleys that we love will be there when the time comes. Stay safe and be well, my friends!

Jim

chair@sierrapeaks.org

## **Call for Nominations**

It's that time of year when we're looking for members to run for the SPS management committee and to serve on the nominating and election committees. Are you interested? Know someone who might be willing to serve? Please contact Jim Fleming, chair, to make suggestions. His email is <a href="mailto:jimf333@att.net">jimf333@att.net</a>.

## 2020 Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee



#### **Elected**

Jim Fleming Chair chair@sierrapeaks.org

Paul Garry Vice-chair/banquet vicechair@sierrapeaks.org

Alexander Smirnoff Treasurer <u>treasurer@sierrapeaks.org</u>

Jason Seieroe Fifth officer/outreach <u>outreach@sierrapeaks.org</u>

Tina Bowman Secretary <u>tina@bowmanchange.com</u>

#### **Appointed**

Archives <u>Dan Richter dan@danrichter.com</u>
Conservation Chair Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net
Echo editors Tina Bowman tina@bowmanchange.com,

Beth Epstein

Echo mailer Tina Bowman

Emblem Committee Tina Bowman, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge,

Ron Bartell

IT Support Greg Mason <u>admin@sierrapeaks.org</u>,

Matt Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

Keeper of the List Tina Bowman

Merchandise Patty Kline <u>patriciakline@aol.com</u>

Mountain Records Harry Langenbacher register@langenbacher.org

Outings Phil Bates philipabates@gmail.com

Safety Chair Doug Mantle

Webmaster Joe Wankum jbwankum@aol.com

Asst. Webmaster Harry Lagenbacher register@summitregister.org

#### **Regional Representatives**

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

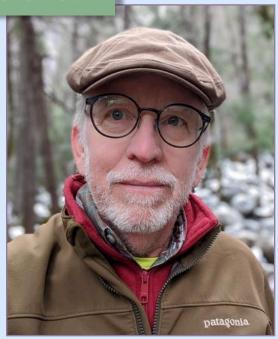
# Welcome New Members!

## **Ross Doering**

A Californian now living in Orange County, Ross was introduced to the Sierra by his parents on family camping trips. His first SPS peak was Mt. Whitney, which he climbed in 1975 with some cousins the summer after high school. He took WTC in 2010 and served as a WTC instructor for six years. Leading a trip to Mt. Pickering was one of his two provisionals to become an I-rated leader in the Angeles Chapter. He's climbed fourteen SPS peaks so far.

# 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 <a href="http://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/new-members#mr">http://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/new-members#mr</a>. Please contact the chair if you have any questions.



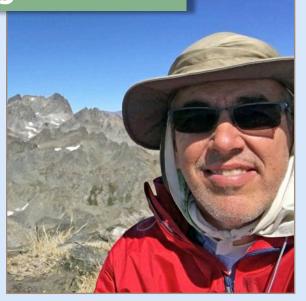
## Welcome Back Returning Members!

### **Jeff Gomillion**

Jeff first became an SPS member in about 1984 or 85 following BMTC, but his first SPS peak was Matterhorn in 1983. Despite raising kids, he still climbed at least one Sierra peak every year with another peak or two, and now that that the children are grown and out of the house he looks forward to climbing his last two emblem peaks, Clarence King and Darwin, and completing his senior emblem. He looks forward to reconnecting with the group.

## Save The Date!

The 2021 annual banquet will be held on Sunday, January 31st, at Almansor court, Alhambra. Member Paul Garry will give a presentation on his climb of Vincent Massif in Antarctica. Be there or be square!





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 think would interest other members, please send it to Dave at <a href="mailto:dsholle@verizon.net">dsholle@verizon.net</a>.

For those of you looking for another peak list, check this out: <a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52155378">https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52155378</a>.

Rock and Ice has released a variety of older stories about climbers that may be of interest if you are currently doing more reading than climbing: a Jeff Long story about Fritz Stammberger, https://rockandice.com/snowball/searching-for-superman-ascent-2016/; a dinner with Anderl Heckmair,; the tragic death of Patrick Edlinger, https://rockandice.com/snowball/lone-wolf-the-tragedy-of-patrick-edlinger/; Steve House writing about Reinhold Messner: https://rockandice.com/features/the-making-of-reinhold-messner/.

Here's someone who is an expert at social distancing in the mountains: https://www.npr.org/2020/04/01/824001085/tips-from-someone-with-50-years-of-social-distancing-experience.

British climber Joe Brown died at 89: <a href="https://www.climbing.com/news/legendary-british-climber-joe-brown-dies-at-age-89/">https://www.climbing.com/news/legendary-british-climber-joe-brown-dies-at-age-89/</a>.

You may want to watch the full film *Mountain of Storms* about a 1968 road trip from California to surf and ski and to climb Mount Fitzroy in Patagonia: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxM2cOvq6s8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxM2cOvq6s8</a>.

Traveling in the mountains can be dangerous not only to participants, but also to others, especially during a pandemic. Here are two stories about a recent human (snowboarder) triggered avalanche in the Piute Crags. Fortunately, search and rescue did not have to come out and deal with the situation: <a href="https://medium.com/@monicaprelle/large-avalanche-ignites-conversation-about-eastern-sierra-backcountry-recreation-during-a-pandemic-d4faa6174d3d">https://www.esavalanche.org/content/large-human-triggered-avalanche-piute-crags</a>.

Here is another skiing story from Colorado in which search and rescue were involved: https://www.outsideonline.com/2411094/backcountry-accidents-coronavirus-colorado

The *LA Times* ran a story about PCT hikers and the coronavirus: <a href="https://www.latimes.com/travel/story/2020-03-25/pacific-crest-trail-hikers-against-advice">https://www.latimes.com/travel/story/2020-03-25/pacific-crest-trail-hikers-against-advice</a>.

Three films of interest are on Amazon Prime. The first is about a New Zealand guide leaving a client to die on the Tibet side of Everest in 1994. Since part of *Into Thin Air* was about NZ guide Rob Hall not leaving his client in 1996 on the Nepalese side of Everest, therefore leading to both of them dying, it is surprising that Jon Krakauer didn't mention this earlier death in the book, assuming that he was aware of it. Certainly NZ guide Rob Hall must have been aware of it, potentially playing into the fateful decision that he made in 1996: <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Fatal-Game-Mark-Whetu/dp/B00217Z7CO">https://www.amazon.com/Fatal-Game-Mark-Whetu/dp/B00217Z7CO</a>.

Second, many members of the SPS will remember that after JFK's assassination, Canada named a peak in the St. Elias range for JFK, and that Jim Whittaker and Robert Kennedy climbed it in 1965. This is a touching documentary about the sons of Whittaker and Kennedy following in their fathers' footsteps: <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Return-Mount-Kennedy-Bob-Whittaker/dp/B07ZWX653Q">https://www.amazon.com/Return-Mount-Kennedy-Bob-Whittaker/dp/B07ZWX653Q</a>.

And third, Catherine Destivelle does two alpine rock climbs and one snow/ice climb in the Mont Blanc region with people important in her life. This 53 minute version is available on Amazon Prime, but there appears to be a 1 hr 13 min version which is not available on Amazon: <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Summits-Remy-Tezier/dp/B07J24KGDP">https://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Summits-Remy-Tezier/dp/B07J24KGDP</a>.

Here's a fascinating story about living items found on some glaciers that appear to move together: <a href="https://www.npr.org/">https://www.npr.org/</a>
2020/05/22/858800112/herd-like-movement-offuzzy-green-glacier-mice-baffles-scientists.

Beth Epstein, who has known two people who have had Valley Fever (one dying from it), shared a special on the disease from *Science Friday*: <a href="https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/valley-fever/">https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/valley-fever/</a>.

Beth also submitted links to two amazing feats in the Andes. The first is about trail runner Sunny Stroeer's circumnavigation and summiting of Aconcagua in one push: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/features/athletes/trail-runner-first-woman-complete-full-360-route-aconcagua-argentina/. The second is about Yosemite climber Jim Reynolds' free solo climb and down climb of Fitzroy in Patagonia: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/2019/03/climber-jim-reynolds-free-solos-fitz-roy/.

#### around-the-web / continued

This is a short film about Dee Molinaar, including a description of how and why the film was made and a link to his obituary: <a href="https://www.dpreview.com/videos/9244273795/watch-my-friends-were-mountaineers-a-film-about-photographer-dee-molenaar">https://www.dpreview.com/videos/9244273795/watch-my-friends-were-mountaineers-a-film-about-photographer-dee-molenaar</a>.

This is a link to a story about an avalanche and rescue near Independence Peak: <a href="https://">https://</a>

www.sierrawave.net/inyo-county-sar-rescues-two-onion-valley-avalanche-rock-climbers/. See also https://www.esavalanche.org/content/avalanche-independence-peak-onion-valley.

Finally, here's an interesting story about rock climber Beth Rodden and body image: <a href="https://www.outsideonline.com/2411201/beth-rodden-climbing-body-image">https://www.outsideonline.com/2411201/beth-rodden-climbing-body-image</a>.

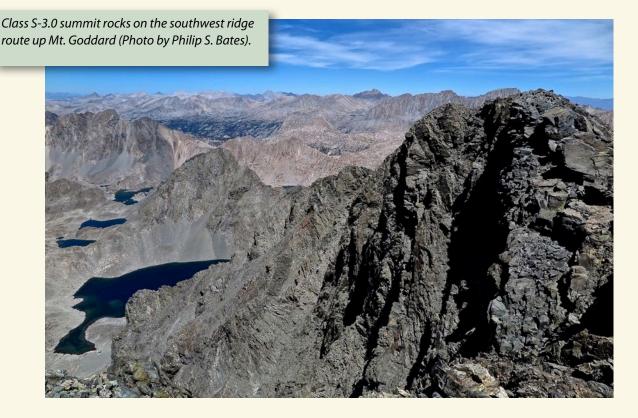
## **Expanded Coverage for Scrambler Ratings**

By Philip S. Bates

Reflecting contributions from SPS members and other climbers, the recently completed updating of the SPS web page "Ratings for Scramblers" (https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/ratings-for-scramblers) has increased the coverage of routes and mountains by about 50 percent. The web page tables for Scrambler Ratings now cover 466 non-technical routes up 375 mountains in the Sierra Nevada, including the entire SPS Peaks List. In addition, the updating process resulted in revisions to a half dozen of the initial ratings and some refinements to Scrambler Ratings

definitions. New and revised ratings on the web page are highlighted in red text. Readers are encouraged to check out the updated web page and offer input for the project. As warranted by future contributions of new and alternative route ratings, we plan to make periodic updates of the Scrambler Ratings web page to enhance ratings coverage and consistency.

The SPS web page on Ratings for Scramblers was first posted in November 2019 and updated in May 2020. The web page contains two tables of Scrambler Ratings with





abbreviated route descriptions and the comparable Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) ratings. The first table, "Scrambler Ratings for SPS Peaks List" (https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/sierra-peaks-section/files/Scrambler-ratings-SPS-peaks-2020-04.pdf), covers all 247 mountains on the list and provides ratings for 326 non-technical scrambling routes. The second table, "Scrambler Ratings for Non-SPS High Sierra Peaks" (https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/sierra-peaks-section/files/

Class S-3.0 summit rocks on the south slope route up Mount Gould (Photo by Philip S. Bates).

Scrambler-ratings-non-SPS-peaks-2020-04.pdf), includes 128 mountains and 140 non-technical routes. In addition to the tables, the SPS web page describes the new framework's underlying criteria for rating the difficulty of non-technical mountain scrambles, the relationship of Scrambler Ratings to the longstanding YDS ratings, and the definition of each rating category. Scrambler Ratings were introduced in

the April-June 2019 issue of *The Sierra Echo*. The proposal was motivated by a desire to improve the comparative information available on the difficulty of non-technical mountain climbs. The broad nature of the non-technical YDS rating categories (i.e., Class 1, 2, 3, and 4) creates the potential for climbers to underestimate the challenges posed by a hike or scramble up a mountain. YDS ratings only address the difficulty of the hardest segment of a climbing route, but the length and stability of such segments can vary

greatly, with significant implications for the skills, experience, commitment, and time requirements of the climber. To address the differences in climbing difficulty better, Scrambler Ratings divide each of the four non-technical YDS categories into three parts with each Scrambler Rating preceded by an "S" notation for "Scrambler" to distinguish it from the closely related but not



Class S-3.1 northeast slope and ridge route up Spanish Needle (Photo by Philip S. Bates).

Class S-3.2 north couloir route on Mount Abbott (Photo by Philip S. Bates).

identical YDS rating. For example, YDS Class 3 is split into the Scrambler Rating categories of S-3.0, S-3.1, and S-3.2. The partition of the relevant YDS category is based on differences in the length of the most challenging segment(s) of the route, the stability of the most difficult terrain,



and the risks posed by any other obstacles.

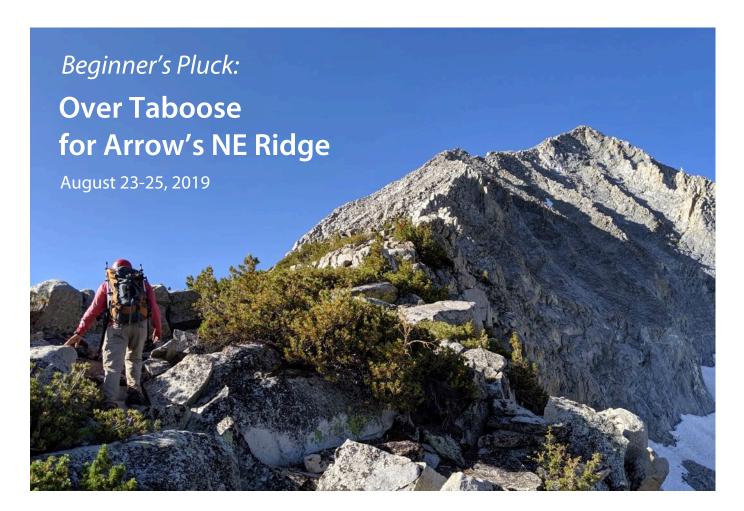
In no case does the Scrambling Ratings system indicate that a non-technical route is less difficult than implied by the relevant YDS rating. Routes rated in one of the four nontechnical YDS categories are always rated in one of the three corresponding Scrambling Ratings categories (i.e., routes rated YDS Class 2 are rated S-2.0, S-2.1 or S-2.2, etc.). Accordingly, there should be no cases of less prudential ratings under the Scrambling Ratings system than implied by the YDS rating. For example, there should be no instances where a YDS Class 4 is rated S-3.2 or a YDS 3 is rated S-2.2. However, there will be cases where the Scrambling Ratings provide a more accurate and conservative opinion of the challenges posed by a route. For example, two routes may each be rated YDS Class 3, but under the Scrambler Ratings system the one route with ten vertical feet of stable, steep angle rock will be rated S-3.0 while the other route with one hundred vertical feet of unstable, steep angle rock will be rated S-3.2.

The goal of the SPS web page on Scrambler Ratings is steadily to improve the usefulness of the new ratings system for Sierra Nevada climbers by broadening the coverage of High Sierra routes and peaks. The objective is to provide Scrambler Ratings for all of the more commonly used non-technical routes for SPS Peaks and to ensure the accuracy and consistency of these ratings. For the non-SPS High Sierra Peaks, our desire is to expand coverage to all

significant Sierra Nevada summits with non-technical routes. The achievement of the above goals depends on continued contributions from SPS members and other Sierra climbers. Readers are encouraged to contribute comments, ratings of additional routes, and alternative rating opinions. The frequency of future updates will depend on the volume of contributions received.

Please contact Phil at <a href="mailto:philsbates54@gmail.com">philsbates54@gmail.com</a> with questions, comments, suggestions, additions, and changes to the tables and rating definitions. Any and all contributions are much appreciated.





#### By Iona Brockie

In July 2019 Beth Epstein and Alexander Smirnoff reached out to WTC San Gabriel Valley Group 5 about their upcoming trip, a three-day climb over Taboose Pass to Arrow Peak and Pyramid Peak with some class 3 involved, that they described as "strenuous." This was a little outside my comfort zone, but because I had been looking for more mountaineering experience, I joined the trip.

The other two participants—Peter Carter, Vivake Asnani—and I carpooled from Pasadena to Lone Pine on Thursday, August 24. We bonded throughout the drive, sharing our nervousness about the hike and comparing strategies for cutting down pack weight. We met Alexander and Beth at The Grill in Lone Pine for dinner, then set up camp at the Taboose Creek Campground. As I lay in my tent, I was nervous enough to contemplate bailing, but it was a beautiful, clear night with a ton of stars. I woke in the morning feeling ready and excited.

#### Day One

We had to take a car over a very bumpy, rocky dirt road to get to the trailhead. The trail starts on the valley floor, and even at 6:45am it was warm. We trekked on reasonably flat

ground through low shrubbery, with what looked like a wall of mountains in front of us.

It wasn't too long before the trail steepened noticeably, but by an hour in I was actually feeling good. It was still getting warmer, but since the trail was well graded, I wasn't struggling as much as I had worried I would. It kept getting harder—warmer, steeper, and higher—but still manageable. Among the five of us, we were dealing with a host of minor aches and pains, so we were all content to take it slow and steady.

As we hiked up to the pass the canyon became progressively greener the higher we were, from leafier shrubbery to pine trees. We spent most of our time next to an energetic creek, and later that morning we crossed it. Because this was my first stream crossing ever, I was a little nervous, but Alexander led the way and made it look easy. I had really been dreading hiking in wet shoes, but the warm day had the benefit of drying us off pretty quickly, and I was wearing well-loved trail runners so had no blisters. Around

noon we crossed our second stream and stopped for lunch, taking off shoes and socks to dry them on

Alexander Smirnoff leading Arrow Peak's NE Ridge (Photo by Iona Brockie). the warm rocks by the creek.

After lunch we definitely moved slower, being tired and higher but making good progress. The green gave away to granite, and we started to see patches of snow. During a break around 2:30, I was getting something out of my pack when I suddenly realized the unthinkable . . . my tent was gone. I had attached it to the outside bottom of my pack in the morning, and when I set it down at the break, I noticed the straps were unbuckled and just hanging. I knew the mosquitos had been notoriously bad this season, and I would have to spend the next two nights next to a lake without a tent!

That realization made the last part of the climb a little tougher, especially when combined with a number of hills that looked like the top of the pass but weren't. Snow covering the trail in at least four places was an exciting and welcomed distraction. We were all glad to have our hiking poles. Having made it to the pass at 4:30, we were excited to hike downhill and amazed at the beautiful alpine meadows stretching out below us.

The hike from the pass down to the lake was about four miles long through the meadows and then trees, with the downside of the mosquitoes finally showing up. Having arrived at Bench Lake, we set up camp on some large granite slabs. Everyone's one-person tent was on the smaller side, so rather than my squeezing in with anyone, we set up a sort of lean-to using Alexander's rain fly and the side of Peter's tent. I was very grateful for the help, if nervous about the number of large carpenter ants crawling around. The rain fly stopped the condensation from forming on my

#### **Day Two**

I made it through the night and woke up dry and warm and rested. Because everyone was sore from day one, the two other trip participants decided to stay closer to camp for the day, and Beth and Alexander decided that we would probably climb only Arrow and not venture to Pyramid.

sleeping bag and was very effective.

The climb started with a trek through the woods and a stream crossing, both full of mosquitos. After

> At Taboose Pass, left to right: Iona Brockie, Beth Epstein, Alexander Smirnoff, Vivake Asnani, and Peter Carter (Photo by Iona Brockie)

that it was time for helmets, as the way forward took a pretty sharp turn up. I was surprised and excited to have our boulder scrambling start so quickly. Beth and Alexander are both fast and talented route finders, and it was educational to watch them choose our next steps.

Although the altitude started making me dizzy, I was enjoying the climb. I've definitely felt the effects of altitude on previous Sierra peaks, but I didn't expect them to feel so much more pronounced while climbing than just walking along a trail. There were a couple of real 3rd class moves and some moments of serious exposure, so feeling dizzy at those times was scary.

Even that scariness, however, couldn't take away from how plain cool the climb was. We were making our way up the northeast spur of the mountain, staying close to the ridge that ran straight from the ground near camp to the summit. Arrow has a classic elementary-schooler-draws-amountain shape, a triangle sticking up from the surrounding land. Between that and the constant boulder scrambling, it felt like what you imagine mountain climbing to be when you're a little kid. Adding in the other rocky peaks visible in every direction, every second of the climb was breathtaking.

We summited around 2:30. When I did the last move and saw the summit marker, Alexander said, "I wish I could have gotten a photo of that massive smile." The views from the top were incredible. I love the difference in isolation when you hike a full day in before a summit attempt.

The way back was challenging, including some serious boulder hopping, a fun shuffle down the edge of a snow-



filled gully that was a little too steep for glissading, and some of the clearest, coldest water I have ever gotten to drink.

Exhausted when we made it back to camp at 7:30, I think I was asleep within forty-five minutes.

#### **Day Three**

We were up at sunrise for a quick breakfast, packed up our slightly damp camp, and started to hike back to the trailhead. The climb up to Taboose Pass was even really



Clockwise from left: Alexander Smirnoff, Beth Epstein and Iona Brockie on the summit; Beth Epstein, on the ridge with Bench Lake behind; descending the gully (Photos by Iona Brockie).



challenging in the opposite direction, especially on tired legs and feet, but it was satisfying to look back at the intimidating silhouette of Arrow Peak.

I always find that the hike down from a peak is longer than I remember, and this was no exception. To add to the difficulty, by noon it was very hot, and we still had another three hours before reaching the trailhead. I was so excited to see the cars, and even more excited to find my tent in the trunk! It had just gotten unbuckled while reshuffling packs to fit everyone in on the way to the trailhead.

All in all, I left with three solid lessons learned:

- Always look over the outside of your pack before you leave the car;
- Altitude plays a bigger impact when the climbing gets harder;
  - I really love class 3 peaks!





"Damn, Charlie," I say, rummaging through my sleepfogged brain for a suitably caustic comment. "Do you always have to get up while it's still pitch-dark?" It's weak, I realize, but at 5:30 a.m. on our sixth morning out it's hard to be creative.

Charlie, already outside firing the stove, ignores me. Jim is still snug in his sleeping bag but beginning to show signs of life. I pull on my clothes, lace up my boots, and stumble off to relieve myself. And as I stand there, shivering against the early morning cold, I study the dark, jagged silhouette of the ridge to the east. Behind it, a glow like a wind-blown ember begins to brighten the horizon. Overhead, morning stars still gleam with a dying luster.

We breakfast in the half-light, and then, in silence, begin to break camp. Air mattresses are rolled, sleeping bags are stuffed, the tent is struck. We gather our gear and load our packs. At 6:15, our campsite, lying beside a quiet tarn at 12,000', is so clean that, except for a few boot prints, it's hard to tell we've been here.

It takes us ten minutes to climb out of the rocky basin, and while Jim and Charlie hike on, I stop to look back at the two peaks we climbed yesterday.\* The taller of the two with its knife-edged summit ridge was the prize of our trip. To think that less than twenty-four hours ago we were easing over its weathered granite spires; inching spread-eagled against its sun-warmed rock faces; crawling along a narrow ledge, a two-thousand foot fall off below. This morning the peak is only a dark charcoal shadow; yesterday's adrenalin flow, a fading memory.

We descend the rocky slope and head south toward a shallow valley below. As the incline moderates, boulders give way to grasses and wildflowers. Here, seeps of water converge to form a bog, which overflows into a small stream, which flows slowly through a long meadow. Walking along the top of a berm in this open expanse, I grow conscious of my increasingly good mood.

Maybe it's the rising sun, still low in the east, throwing our marching shadows across the green meadow; stretching them out a hundred feet long. Maybe it's the morning sunlight, pure gold, illuminating the panorama of east-facing ridges as far as I can see. Maybe it's the feeling of accomplishment that comes at the end of a successful climbing trip, the pleasure of day-dreaming of ascents to be made during the sweet summers of the future, the promise of returning home to a loving wife and family. Whatever it is, it's tinged with the sweet-sad nostalgia in the realization that our long-planned trip is over, that the climbing season is finished.

We stop to shed the extra layers of clothing that protected us against the early morning chill, to smear sun block on our faces, to don our sun glasses.

"I could hardly sleep last night with all your snoring, Falk," Charlie says. "A couple of times I woke up thinking we were in the middle of an avalanche."

"Oh, yeah," I retort. "Well, I needed plenty of air.
With all the gas you two were cutting loose I could barely

Above: Mt. Tyndall (Photo by Tina Bowman).

breathe. Good thing nobody lit a match. We would have been blown to smithereens."

We've been friends for years. We rarely hesitate to needle each other about our many frailties.

I pass out my few remaining pieces of hard candy, we rehoist our packs, and we're off again. The sun is higher now, and our shadows aren't quite as long. I bring up the rear, my favorite spot, where in the peace and quiet of my failing hearing I can contemplate my good fortune.

The sky on this morning in late August is light blue and cloudless. The air is mild and wonderfully clear, crystal clear, in fact, exhilarating, vibrant. As we turn away from the meadow and head east, cross-countrying over a rolling expanse, I savor the line of peaks before me. I've climbed them all, and this morning they stand proudly like children under a loving parent's gaze.\*\* To the south I can see, stretched out like a giant scour on the earth's surface, the remarkably straight, glacially-cut canyon of the Kern River. Dark swarms of pines clamber up its steep walls, only to be turned back at the exposed higher elevations. Winter's icy wrath cuts them down, batters them back into more sheltered positions.

Fifty miles downstream the canyon fades away in a low-land haze. I think about the small steam in the meadow we just left behind. How long will it take for its clear, cold waters to make their passage to agricultural California far below? How many hours before it quenches the thirst of acres of oranges and grapes and cotton?

My footsteps set a pleasant rhythm as I stride over rocks and wild grasses, all glorious under the bright morning sun. A marmot whistles and scampers for his hole, and I wonder if I could be the first person ever to walk over this remote section of the Sierra. The more I think about it the more I realize that would mean nothing. The mountains, like me, will wear down and erode away. Everything will change; nothing is permanent.

The sun rises higher. Sweat soaks my shirt. And as we settle into the task of the day—twelve more miles and 7,000' of elevation loss before we get to our car—the sweet delight of the morning becomes one more pleasant mountain memory.

\*Mt. Stanford, South, Cal Tech Peak

\*\*Junction Peak, Mt. Tyndall, Mt. Williamson



# **Dare to Lead!**Fall Leadership Training Seminar Set for October 2020

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 class offered in October (COVID-19 willing).

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 then, if you choose, pursuing more advanced ratings.

The all-day class costs \$25. The application is on-line with other information at <a href="https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/leadership-training-seminar">https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/leadership-training-seminar</a>. At this site, <a href="https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/angeles-chapter-leadership-training-program">https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/angeles-chapter-leadership-training-program</a>, you can learn more about the Leadership Training Program and view the LTC's upcoming offerings, which are also on the Schedule of Activities page. Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Anne Marie Richardson AMLeadership@gmail.com



We've chosen the photo at left 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@bowmancha nge.com or via USPS to Tina Bowman.

Ascending Mt. Emerson on August 27, 2017 (Photo by Mat Kelliher).

**PLEASE NOTE** As we went to press outings through August 31 have been cancelled by the National Sierra Club because of COVID-19. Please check Campfire for the most recent information.

Jul 17-19 | Fri-Sun WTC, SPS

I: Kern Pk (11,480'): Join us for this moderately strenuous trip at a relaxed pace up into the beautifully scenic Golden Trout Wilderness in the Sierra Nevada to climb this gorgeous SPS peak high atop the Toowa Range in the Inyo National Forest. Fri we'll pack in out of Blackrock Campground on trail to our campsite in the shadow of Indian Head near Red Mdws for a total of 8.25 mi with 1,800' feet gain. Fri night we'll enjoy a Festive Happy Hour under starry night skies

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 essentially unlit by the late-rising waning crescent moon. Sat we'll set out early and ascend mostly XC up forested slopes to the remnants of the old lookout on the summit and enjoy exquisite views of the Whitney area, Mineral King, the Southern Sierra, and the Domelands. Returning the way we came up, we'll arrive back at camp with a day's total of about 9.0 mi with 3,000' gain, ready for another Festive Happy Hour under that nearly moonless night sky. Sun we'll head back out the way we came in for a day's total of about 8.25 mi with 2,000' gain. Satisfies WTC experience trip requirements. Wilderness permit limits group size. Email leader with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details. Ldrs: Mat Kelliher, Stephen McDonnell.

Jul 31-Aug 2 | Fri-Sun WTC, SPS

MR: Twin Pks (12,323') and Virginia Pk (12,001'): Join us for a moderately strenuous early summer loop-trip out into

Visit the SPS website for an even more up-todate listing of upcoming trips at <a href="http://www.sierraclub.org/sps">http://www.sierraclub.org/sps</a>

northeastern Yosemite NP for a fun and rocky ridge traverse to these two gorgeous peaks in the Sierra Nevada near Bridgeport. Fri morning we'll start out from Virginia Lks (9,852') and pack in on trail into the Yosemite Wilderness and set up camp alongside a gorgeous alpine lake at 10,250'. Expect a day's total of about 8.2 mi with 2,600' gain. Sat morning we'll rise at first light to ascend a steep and sometimes loose Class 2 gully to the sometimes Class 3 ridge that connects Twin Pks and Virginia Pk; once atop that ridge we'll make our way to the north to the summit of Twin Pks, then retrace our steps for a bit to travel south along the ridge on our way to the summit of Virginia Pk, before making our way back to camp. Expect about 4.5 mi for the day with 3,000' gain and 2,700' loss. Sun morning we'll pack up and head out over Virginia Pass (10,550') and then down Glines Cyn and Green Crk to the Green Lks trailhead (8,120') for a day's total of about 5.5 mi and 1,100' gain (3,200' loss). Festive Happy Hour Fri and Sat evenings under nearly full moon-lit, summer night skies! This is a Restricted Mountaineering outing; participants must be current Sierra Club members and must submit a Sierra Club Medical Form to join us. Absolute comfort on talus and exposed Class 3 terrain required. Helmet, harness, belay device, and experience with their use is required. Email leader with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details. Ldr: Mat Kelliher. Co-ldr: Jeremy Netka.

Aug 8-10 | Sat-Mon

WTC, SPS

I: Mt Davis (12,303'): Join us for this strenuous but amazingly scenic trip up into the Thousand Island Lk region of the Ansel Adams Wilderness to climb this oftenoverlooked peak in the Ritter Range. Sat we'll pack in out of Agnew Mdws via the River Trail along the scenic Middle Fk of the San Joaquin River about 8.75 mi (2,500' gain) and set up camp at Thousand Island Lk. That night we'll enjoy a festive Happy Hour under the waning gibbous-lit summer

#### Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Lisa Barboza lisa.barboza@gmail.com

Phil Bates <a href="mailto:philipabates@gmail.com">philipabates@gmail.com</a>

Megan Birdsill mbirdsill@gmail.com

Richard Boardman 310-374-4371

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Justin Bruno justinbruno@hotmail.com

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Paul Garry <a href="mailto:pwgarry@earthlink.net">pwgarry@earthlink.net</a>

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Jeremy Netka <u>jnetka@gmail.com</u>

Kathy Rich <u>kathrynarich@gmail.com</u>

Dan Richter dan@danrichter.com

Ann Shields 818-637-2542 apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

night skies. Sun we'll set out at first light for the summit of Mt Davis over steep, sometimes loose, always rugged, cross-country terrain. We'll enjoy phenomenal views up top and then return to camp the way we came up for a day's total of about 6.5 RT miles and 2,600' gain. Another festive Happy Hour that night, and then Mon morning we'll pack up and head back out to Agnew Mdws via the High Trail. Satisfies WTC Experience trip requirements. Permit limits group size and permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among the group. Email leader with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details. Ldr: Mat Kelliher. Coldr: Stephen McDonnell.

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#### Sep 5-6 | Sat-Sun WTC, SPS

I: Sawtooth Pk (N) (12,343'): Join us for a Labor Day weekend in the Sequoia National Forest out of Mineral King to ascend an amazingly scenic peak with outstanding views in all directions. Sat morning we'll pack in on trail at a relaxed pace and set up camp at Lower Monarch Lk for a day's total of 3.4 mi with 2,800' gain. Sat night we'll celebrate with a Festive Happy Hour under nearly full moonlit night skies. Sun plan to set out at first light on trail and later cross country to the summit of Sawtooth Pk for a total of 2.2 mi and 2,400' of gain. After savoring the views up top, we'll return to camp, pack up, and head out. Permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among the group. Email leader with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details. Ldr: Mat Kelliher. Co-ldrs: Tiffany Bruno, Justin Bruno.

#### Sep 17-20 | Thur-Sun SPS

I: Mt Kaweah (13,802'): Join us for this outing to climb an SPS emblem peak, starting from Mineral King. Thur we will backpack on the Sawtooth Pass trail and use trail to Glacier Pass and Spring Lk, then go x-c to join the Black Rock Pass trail, over the pass and down to camp at Little Five Lks (c 10 mi, 4000' gain). Fri we'll continue on trail down to Big Arroyo (2.9 mi, 900' loss), set up camp, hike on the High Sierra Trail, and then go x-c to the summit of Mt Kaweah (c. 5 mi, 4300' gain), retracing our steps to camp. Sat we'll move camp back to Spring Lk (c. 8 mi, 2200' gain), and Sun return over Glacier Pass to Mineral King (c. 5 mi, 1800' gain), optionally hiking up class 2 Empire Mtn from the pass along the way (add c. 1.5 mi, 500' gain RT). Send conditioning to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-ldr: Jim Fleming.

# You too can join the select ranks

of those who have placed registers on behalf of the SPS! Check at summitregister.org to find out if you are needed to carry a register book, pencil, or container (personally crafted or not!) before you go on a climb. Michael Chamoun is seen here with his handiwork before hauling it up to Olancha's summit.

Thanks, Michael!



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#### Sep 18-20 | Fri-Sun

**SPS** 

I: Mt Gilbert (13,106'): Join us on our last trip of the summer to climb this scenic SPS peak in the North Palisades area near Bishop. Fri we'll pack in on trail at a moderate pace from our trailhead at South Lk (9,800') about 3.0 mi with 1,800' gain to our camp at one of the Treasure Lks (11,175'). After setting up camp, we'll spend a leisurely afternoon around the lakes and enjoy a Festive Happy Hour that night under moonless night skies. Sat we'll set out with our daypacks for the summit of Mt Gilbert; after enjoying expansive views up top,

we'll head back down to camp for a day's total of about 4.0 mi with 2,200' gain. We'll enjoy another Happy Hour that night under starry skies, and in the morning we'll pack up and head out the same way we came in. Comfort on steep, sometimes sandy, sometimes talus-choked, slopes required. Very small permit-quota severely limits group size. Permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among group. Email leader with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details. Ldr: Mat Kelliher. Co-ldr: Jeremy Netka.

# From the Outings Chair

By Phil Bates

Hello SPSers!

I believe that we can all agree that we live in interesting times. With the low snow pack in the Sierra—approximately 12% of normal at this time—no doubt many of you are itching to get out and tick-off more peaks on your lists. It appears that the most current info on Inyo Wilderness Permits can be found here: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/inyonf/">https://www.facebook.com/inyonf/</a> (or by calling the Wilderness Permit Office in Bishop). To quote for those that despise Facebook:

Inyo National Forest Provides Wilderness
Permits Virtually, Effective June 1, except Mt.
Whitney. Starting on June 1, the Inyo National
Forest will be providing wilderness permits
through a virtual process. People who have
reserved permits can call up to 14 days in
advance to have their permit emailed or printed
and left in a drop box at the selected visitor
center. The remaining "walk up" permits will be
reserved through <a href="https://www.recreation.gov">www.recreation.gov</a> starting
up to 14 days in advance of the date of a
wilderness trip. . . . Visitors who reserve a

permit will need to check by phone to receive their permit and the wilderness orientation, which will include:

Food storage/ bear can use,
Campfire restrictions
Human waste disposal
Campsite selection
Pack it in, pack it out/ Leave No Trace.

I suspect that Mono County Wilderness Permits through <u>Recreation.gov</u> will follow the same process.

This implies that permits can be used as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, although I have seen that no campgrounds, BLM or otherwise, will be open by June 1<sup>st</sup>. This may not be an issue for most SPSers as we can usually tuck away and sleep just about anywhere and be happy.

We hope everyone has a chance to get out, hike, climb, backpack, and more this season. We hope that everyone uses best practices to minimize the chance of contracting or passing along the COVID-19 virus. It would be great if many of you can post your experiences to our SPS Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/366711653441263/) so we can be more informed or enjoy your adventures.

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Sep 18-20 | Fri-Sun

WTC, SPS

I: Iron Mtn (11,184'): We are on a three-day adventure in the Ansel Adams Wilderness in search of the vistas of the Ritter Range from atop Iron Mountain with the bonus of visiting at least three lakes. Total stats: 19 mi & 5300' gain. Fri morning we begin near Devils Postpile on the Beck Lk

trail, leave it to go cross country to visit Gertrude Lk and finally make camp near Anona Lk (8 mi, 2600' gain). Sat morning we rise before daybreak to summit Iron and return to our camp for a celebratory Happy Hour (6 mi, 2700' gain). Sun pack out via Fern Lk trail (5mi) to complete our ambitious loop. Ldrs: Megan Birdsill, Dave Jahng

SPS Income	Stat	eme	nt	05-26-2	2020							
	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	YTD	YTD
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
INCOME												
Echo Subscriptions	1,320	750	430	210	1,835	1,360	1,560	1,560	1,630	1,580	1,710	1,710
Banquet Income	3,025				2,800	2,905	4,645	4,110	3,760	2,795	2,650	3,165
Donations	611	295	120	60	340	440	560	666	888	655	798	911
Merchandise Sales	286				39	27	276	395	262	112	157	112
Total Income	5,242	1,045	- 550	- 270	- 5,014	- 4,732	- 7,041	- 6,731	6,540	- 5,142	5,315	5,898
EXPENSES												
Postage	133				609	-4	14	938	522	314	292	364
Printing	148				578	898	640	706	433	418	315	364
Merchandise	285						196	234	130		17	687
Raffle							250					
Banquet Expenses	3,834				3,216	4,206	5,640	4,772	4,710	3,553	3,715	4,252
Bank Fees	-80				18	2	10	6	18	12	-87	31
Website							268	36	84	96	20	
Charitable contributions					400			200	200	200	200	200
Outreach								899	254	82		
Membership meetings/activities								1,257	174		101	
Register Related									57			
Other	-45											
Total Expenses	4,275				4,821	5,102	7,018	9,048	6,582	4,675	4,573	5,898
OVERALL TOTAL	967	1,045	550	270	193	-370	23	-2,317	-42	467	742	
Cash In Bank	9,331.69											

#### Sep 26 | Sat SPS

**I: Cloudripper (13,525'):** Please join in the fun as Corrine Livingston finishes the SPS list for a second time on this class 2 peak! We'll start from the area of Parcher's Camp on the road to South Lk from Bishop. Expect about 11 mi and 5000' gain for the day and a great celebration on the summit. Contact leader with your conditioning. Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-ldrs: Daryn Dodge, Kathy Rich, Lisa Barboza, Paul Garry, Phil Bates.

Sep 27 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mt Pinos to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Practice skills or checkoff. Send email with contact info (mailing address, phone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Ann Shields. 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.

#### Oct 17 | Sat LTC

**I:** Navigation: Beginning Clinic: Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome, and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club), refunded at trailhead to Leader: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

#### Oct 30-Nov 1 | Fri-Sun LTC

C: Wilderness First Aid Course at Harwood Lodge: The course runs from 7:30 am Fri to 5:00 pm Sun. Fee includes instruction, lodging, and meals. Proof of CPR within previous 4 yrs required to enroll. Fee \$325 (full refund until 9/25/20). For sign-up, see instructions and application at <a href="https://www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org">www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org</a>.

#### Nov 7-8 | Sat-Sun LTC

M/E-R: Indian Cove Rock Checkoff and Practice: M- and E-level rock checkoff and practice for LTC leadership candidates wishing to pursue a rating or practice skills. Also open to Advanced Mountaineering Program students wanting to solidify what they learned in the course. Practice Sat and optionally checkoff Sun. Restricted to active Sierra Club members with previous rock climbing experience. Climbing helmets and harnesses required. Email climbing resume to leader to apply. Ldr: Patrick McKusky. Assts: Dan Richter, Matt Hengst.

#### Nov 14-15 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Mission Crk Preserve Navigation Noodle:

Navigation noodle at Mission Crk Preserve to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info (mailing address, phone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Ann Shields. 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.

#### Dec 6 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Warren Pt Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Warren Pt to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Practice skills or checkoff. Send email with contact info (mailing address, phone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Ann Shields. 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.

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## Climbing the Seven Volcanoes: A Search for Strength

by Sophie Cairns

288 pages July, 2020

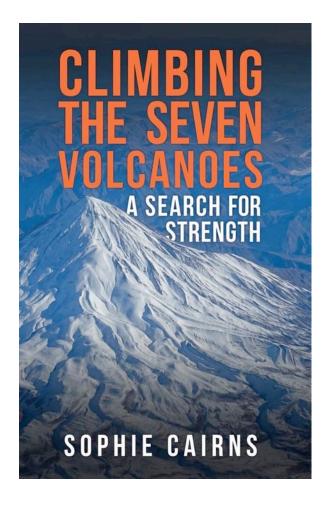
ISBN: 978-1398100329 Amberly Publishing

#### Reviewed by Burton A. Falk

"I have a problem with failure," Sophie Cairns notes. "The harder something is, the more I want to do it." Indeed, just days after she failed to climb 22,615' Ojos del Salado, the highest volcano in South America, Sophie was on a plane heading for Papua New Guinea, site of Mt. Giluwe, the tallest volcano in Australasia. And time was running out. Would she be able to complete her long-planned project of climbing the seven continents' highest volcanoes in four months?

Sophie Cairns, born and raised in Hong Kong, was working as a journalist for Reuters in Shanghai in 2009, when she received word that her beloved English father was dying in Normandy. Arriving at his bedside two hours after his death, however, she missed her chance to say goodbye to the man she adored. To assuage her guilt and to comfort her Chinese mother, Sophie then moved to France, where, starting to feel down herself, she decided "to do something big, something difficult, to wake myself up." And, even though she had been plagued with asthma since she was a child, she was soon climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, where she discovered that bagging a peak offered her emotional relief.

During the following five years, Sophie climbed or attempted to climb other notable peaks, including Mount Elbrus, Aconcagua, Mont Blanc, and also Denali, where she met and partnered with the Sierra Peak Section's own Tina Bowman. Realizing that she



could combine her new passion for climbing with raising funds for cancer research in memory of her father, Sophie then decided to do something record-setting. Aware that the seven continental volcanic high points had previously been climbed, she also knew that, so far, the record shortest time period for doing so was eighteen months. By carefully scheduling her ascents on the seven widely scattered peaks, she realized she had a chance to set a Guinness Record by finishing the list in a mere four months.

And so, in December 2013, Sophie was on her way to bag her first summit, 14,058' Mount Sidley, the tallest volcano in Antarctica. First flying from Punta Arenas, Chile, to the Union Glacier Camp in Antarctica in a giant Ilyushin-76, followed by a 600-mile flight in a Twin Otter into the very crater of Mount Sidley, she, in the company of a guide and three Russian adventurers, was successful in climbing the icy continent's highest peak.

A week after leaving Antarctica, Sophie was standing in front of central Mexico's 18,491' Pico de Orizaba, North America's tallest

volcano. "It was gigantic," she thought. "It could have been the relative flatness of the surrounding landscape, or the fact that there were few neighboring landmarks. The volcano dwarfed everything around it. . . . My chest clenched in excitement and trepidation." Once again, she was joined by her Denali climbing partner, Tina Bowman, who Sophie describes



Top: Sophie Cairns on the summit of Mt. Sidley, Antartica.

Bottom: Sophie and Tina Bowman on the summit of Mt. Elbrus.

as, "made of steel, but so modest that most people didn't realize her strength until they were on the mountain, about to collapse from exhaustion and watching Tina leave them in the dust." Sophie and Tina bagged Orizaba with little problem. Five peaks to go.

Ojos del Salado, "the most intimidating of the Volcanic Seven . . . not only the highest volcano in Latin America, but the highest volcano on the planet at nearly 23,000 feet," was Sophie's next challenge and also her first failure. Because her climbing partner became ill, and because of their guide's poor planning, their attempt was a washout. Twenty-four hours later, Sophie was in Great Britain with her husband, Douglas, wondering how she was going to salvage her project.

But she did. On March 1, 2014, despite her apprehension about hiking among possible cannibals in Papua New Guinea, Sophie successfully summited on 14,327' Mt. Giluwe, where "There was absolutely no view, we were so smothered in cloud." And only days later, "after

starting to get whiplash from changing country and climate every few days," Sophie was back in Chile's Atacama Desert, this time along with her husband, about to begin a second, successful attempt at Ojos del Salado.

Continuing at a frantic pace, during the following month and a half, Sophie did, indeed, summit on her three remaining volcanoes: Africa's 19,341' Mount Kilimanjaro, Asia's 18,403' Mount Damavand, and Europe's 18,510'

Mount Elbrus. But did she set a Guinness world record or not? So sorry, you'll have to read her book to find out.

Climbing the Seven Volcanoes is one of the best mountaineering/travel volumes I have read in many years. Sophie Cairns is an able journalist who describes her climbing adventures the way she approaches life—in an always resolute, uncompromising style. Cairns' volume will be available in the United States this summer.

## Wilderness Permit Info

In addition to the permit information described below, most reservations for the Inyo National Forest and the Desolation Wilderness up to 48 hours in advance of entry can be handled at: http://recreation.gov

#### **INYO NATIONAL FOREST**

Web site:

www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/home Pick up permit closest to departure trailhead.

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

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

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

Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center, Lee Vining, CA 93541 (760) 647-304

#### **KERN PLATEAU**

Web site: www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia

Cannell Meadow Ranger District 105 Whitney Road P.O. Box 9 Kernville, CA 93238 Phone: 760/376-3781 fax: 760/376-3795 Tule River Ranger District 32588 Highway 190 Springville, CA 93265 Phone: (559) 539-2607

Permits are required in Sequoia National Forest only for overnight stays in the Golden Trout Wilderness. For entry to the Golden Trout Wilderness via the Inyo NF or Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks see the links provided for those areas.

#### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Web site: <a href="www.nps.gov/yose">www.nps.gov/yose</a> Reservation requests for summer trips (mid-May through September) are accepted from 2 weeks to 24 weeks in advance on-line or by writing to

Yosemite Association PO Box 545 Yosemite, CA 95389

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

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

If entering park from Cherry Lake in the Stanislaus National Forest to Kibbie Lake and Lake Eleanor in Yosemite, you must get your permit from the Stanislaus National Forest Ranger Station on Highway 120 in Groveland. Call (209) 962-7825. If entering the park from Chiquito Pass in Sierra National Forest, permits for the whole trip must be obtained from the Forest Service in North Fork. Call (559) 877-2218

## SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NP

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

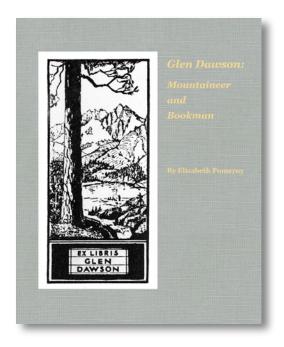
For general information go to www.nps.gov/seki. For wilderness permits go to www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness\_permits.htm.

## 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 9365 I Phone: (559) 855-5355



## Glen Dawson: Mountaineer and Bookman

by Elizabeth Pomeroy 192 pages 2019 ISBN: 978-1949587012 Sagest Publishing

#### Reviewed by Bill Oliver

I imagine some of our readers are aware that Liz Pomeroy published her remarkable 192-page biography of Glen Dawson last year. However, unless they have read it, they would likely have no idea what an amazing story of this man's full life is revealed and so beautifully told. Liz is such a gifted author, and several years of extensive research and interviews make this a comprehensive and endearing story. I initially expected to read closely only the third of the book focused on Glen's climbing career as a youth, especially on the 1930s Sierra Club High Trips. However, I was soon caught up in the saga of this remarkable

man's story—a life fully lived, which has impacted and enriched all who knew him.

Even while romping the Sierra as a teenager with Jules Eichorn and his boyhood friend Dick Jones, Glen was eagerly being groomed to join his father Ernest in running Dawson's Book Shop, a renowned staple in downtown Los Angeles since 1905. In 1968 the shop's final home would be in the Larchmont district west of the Civic Center, which I visited many times in the 1990s to browse its mountaineering stacks. (Both Ernest and Glen would serve on the Sierra Club board of directors, the former also as president, 1935-37.) Upon completion of his history degree at UCLA in June 1935, Glen embarked on what would be a fourteen-month globe-encircling tour. It was spent largely in England and Germany, then also some time in Russia and Japan. The trip was focused on advancing his book business training, but he made sure to include impressive climbs in several countries, especially in parts of the Alps. Glen had the opportunity to see Hitler at the Winter Olympics in Germany and also Mussolini in Rome. In the ensuing World War, he would be back in Italy serving in the renowned Tenth Mountain Division, in which theatre he earned a Bronze Star.

In 1937 he became a full partner with Ernest in the book shop. The following year Glen met Mary Helen Johnson at a Sierra Club ice skating event. They married in 1940 and raised three kids: Keith, Karen, and Susie. Although the couple remained somewhat involved with the Club's Rock Climbing and Ski Mountaineering Sections into the late '40s, Glen pretty much gave up serious climbing earlier in the decade.

Ernest Dawson died in 1947, the same year that Glen's brother Muir, nine years younger, became a full partner with Glen in the shop. Over time many other family members were involved in the business, including both their wives, Mary Helen and Agnes, and some of their children. Quoting from Liz's book: "In the hands of Glen and Muir, Dawson's Book Shop would become like a bibliophile seminar writ large, an intellectual hub, a global crossroads for books and those who write, print, buy and collect them—and who read them." It would take several paragraphs for me to elaborate on Glen's illustrious career in the antiquarian book world in which he was nationally and internationally known and revered. He was awarded numerous high honors and recognitions, many from notable bodies he helped found. My friend, read the book!

I'll note that each brother had his area of special interest and expertise. For Glen this included Western Americana, Californiana, mountaineering, and also miniature books, generally smaller than three inches by three inches. Ninety-two of these little gems were published, then a few more after Glen's retirement. Muir was more focused on fine press books and Japanese art. The brothers purchased large book collections (e.g., Ulysses S. Grant and Francis P. Farquhar) and helped build the collections of individuals and institutions. The shop was famous for its printed catalogues, of which there were 550. They also published 345 limited-edition books, usually 200-300 copies. Among them were



two fifty-volume series: Early California Travels and Baja California Travels. The latter includes a volume on Norman Clyde's ascents of El Picacho del Diablo (10,155') from both the west, in 1932 with Glen, and the east, in 1937. Liz notes in the book that "Glen wryly declared that publishing is a very pleasant way to make very little money." Of course, many of these publications are highly sought today.

The famous Sierra Club High Trips did not fully resume after the war but resolved into much smaller events, including week-long Base Camp trips in the Sierra. As mentioned in the book, the Dawson family joined a trip in the summer of 1954 (guided by Oliver Kehrlein). Glen led his son Keith, then eleven, and nephew David

Shochat up Mt. Hilgard (13,361'). I suspect this was Glen's last climb of a SPS peak. Per Keith, the family did a second Base Camp trip the next summer in the Minarets area. Glen led David up what was later named Pridham Minaret (10,960), likely his last Sierra

Above: Atop Mt. Whitney after first ascent of the East Face, 8/16/31. L-R: Glen Dawson, Robert Underhill, Jules Eichorn and Norman Clyde. Glen and Jules were nineteen (Taken by Francis Farquhar, Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives). Right: Glen and Mary Helen Dawson, c. 1940 (Glen Dawson Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).

summit. In his twilight years Glen made many appearances before climbing audiences, commonly introducing himself as "a historical curiosity—a living fossil." His remarkable recall, wry humor, and self-deprecating manner endeared him to all.

Glen was fully retired from the book shop by 1995. It continued under the ownership of Muir and Muir's son Michael, who then took over management in 1998. The book shop's one-hundredth anniversary celebration was held in 2005, though, sadly, Muir passed away at eightythree a few months before the event. Unable to survive in the internet world, the shop closed in 2010. Michael continues some operations from his home and online. Sustained by the remarkable talents of three generations, Dawson's Book Shop lasted as a brick-and-mortar business for 105 years, easily the longest-lasting such enterprise in southern California.

Two years after his wife's death in 2002, Glen published a miniature book in her memory, *Sayings of Mary Helen Dawson*. I have a copy, and I would





love to share a couple of her sayings: "Help me not to worry, Lord. It makes me feel like a fool when things turn out all right" and "Glen, I don't believe in divorce; I have never ever thought of divorce, but I have considered murder." In their sixty-two years of marriage, I imagine there could possibly have been a few murder plots, though apparently none were successful!

Let me cite two other centennial celebrations that Glen attended: the Angeles Chapter's picnic in 2011 and Glen's birthday in 2012. Several SPSers attended the latter grand event. Glen left us on March 22, 2016, at age 103, having outlived all his siblings and climbing partners. However, Glen's enduring legacy of pioneering mountain exploits, a long and fruitful career as a revered bookman, and a deep devotion to God

and family outlives him. We were all gifted to have had this gentle, humble man with us for so long.

I cannot end without a shout-out to Charles Allen and his publishing team at Sagest in Pasadena (www.sagest.com). Certainly, in the tradition of books produced by the Dawsons and seldom

Above: Dawson's Book Shop, 4/20/90. L-R: Glen Dawson, Muir Dawson, Bill Oliver, and Jules Eichorn (Bill Oliver Collection). Right: Angeles Chapter Centennial Picnic, 7/16/11. L-R: Royal Robbins, Mary McMannes, and Glen Dawson (Photo Courtesy Mary McMannes). seen today, this book is a magnificent example of fine graphic design, image management, and printing production. The book is lavishly illustrated and has seven appendices, including a listing of Glen's first ascents. You just feel good holding it and knowing that it will solidly endure for generations (more info here: https://sagest.com/glendawson/). The book is available from the publisher and Amazon. For the benefit of our readers, the Angeles Chapter, a major sponsor of the book, has extended its special offer: \$49 includes tax and shipping (https://angeles.sierraclub.org/ order books calendars). I invite the reader to view my online photo albums (all events were in Pasadena): Glen's 100th Birthday Celebration, June 2, 2012 (https://bit.ly/Glen-Dawsons-100th-2012); Celebration of Life Service for



#### **DAWSON BOOK REVIEW, continued**

Glen, June 18, 2016 (https://bit.ly/Glen-Dawson-Life-Celebration-2016); Elizabeth Pomeroy's book launch party, March 16, 2019 (http://bit.ly/Glen-Dawson-book-launch-2019).

My six-part series in the *Sierra Echo*, "A Tribute to the Honorary Members of the SPS—Norman Clyde, Glen Dawson,

and Jules Eichorn," tracks their mountaineering exploits. At their passings there were subsequent *Echo* "Final Tributes" to Jules (in 2000 at age eighty-eight) and Glen (in 2016 at 103). All are available here: <a href="https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/tribute-series">https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/tribute-series</a>.

# SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, April 13, 2020 7:00 pm via Zoom

- Call to order at 7:05. Present were Jim Fleming, chair; Paul Garry, vice-chair/banquet; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Tina Bowman, secretary; Joe Wankum, web master; Dan Richter, archivist.
- 2. Standard business and reports.
  - a. Approval of minutes (February 2020). Done via e-mail.
  - b. Chair—see below. Many emails have been sent by national and the chapter re COVID-19.
  - c. Vice Chair-banquet date/venue for 2021? Paul will contact Almansor Court re reserving a room for January 31, 2021. Alexander noted that we brought in \$2900 and paid out \$3800 for the banquet with \$300 still to be paid (honorarium). The check from Brown Paper Tickets for \$990 bounced. They intend to cover that and the \$10 fee for the return of the check.
  - d. Outings—no report (no outings to be held for the foreseeable future because of COVID-19).
  - e. Treasurer's report—Current balance is \$8,345, which should go up to \$9345 with new check from Brown paper Tickets. Alexander will make up a list of those who haven't renewed their *Echo* subscriptions so that we may remind them.
  - f. Emblem Committee Report—no news.
  - g. Outreach—no report.
  - h. Archives—Dan would like to go to Independence with Bob Cates when that is possible to look over the Tom Ross photographs and other materials. Those not useful for the chapter's or our archives could be donated to the Eastern California Museum in Independence.
  - i. Echo
    - i. Deadline for nextissue—May 25 for July-October issue
    - ii. Hand over more issues to be scanned and uploaded to the website? Laura is the one who knows what else she needs for scanning. Joe noted that not many of the recently uploaded older issues can be accessed by the list on the web site under "Newsletters" but the links do

- work in the index of the newsletters. Joe was waiting to see whether Laura or Harry addressed this but will do it himself.
- iii. Move to HTML version (update)?—no report.
- j. Mountain Records—no report.
- k. IT-no report.
- I. Website
- m. Conservation
- n. Safety Chair
- 3. Old business
  - a. Scrambling Ratings proposal (update)—Tina explained that changes to the description of the ratings and information for the home page has all changes in red, easy to find (with earlier language shown with strike-through). The added routes on the lists are in red also.
- 4. New business
  - a. Revision to Peaks List (ratings for Red Kaweah & Bolton Brown)
    - i. Red Kaweah—our list and Secor both say class 2, but there's some class 3 that Tina recalls (confirmed by Daryn Dodge) just below the summit), so she's suggesting we change the rating to 2s3 to reflect that.
    - ii. Bolton Brown—our list has class 2, but Secor has class 3 for all routes. Tina has done the north slope route but always in snow so doesn't know whether there's class 3. Daryn also did it as a snow climb. Paul didn't remember 3rd class from climbing it with Kathy Rich, but Greg Gerlach reports some high 3<sup>rd</sup> on that route. Maybe someone else does? Tina will check with Kathy, Keith Christensen, and others.
  - b. Next meeting date was set for Monday, June 8, 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted. Tina Bowman Secretary



## **Shane Smith**

October 4, 1969 - February 14, 2019

Late Valentine's Day evening, a police officer came to our door to tell us that our beloved son, Shane Stephen Smith, was no longer with us. He died in a tragic car accident on Highway 99 near Stockton. Born in Sacramento on October 4, 1969, Shane expressed the wisdom of many lifetimes while with us during his 50 years. Our wonderful son, family and community leader, the man that the doctors called the healthiest fifty-yearold they had seen, was gone. Shane was a lover of life and of all living things. He was a healthy living enthusiast, a lifelong learner, a musician, a teacher, a philosopher and comedian. He was a mountaineer extraordinaire, adventurer, mathematician, athlete, coach, wordsmith and a vegan chef. He had just met several of his career goals and was reaching higher with his personal goals. Then, just like that, he became one of the stars he reached for and now flickers in the night. [A celebration of his life has been postponed because of coronavirus.]

Lovingly submitted by Susan Jane Smith, (mother) [this article's author], Richard "Steve" Smith (father) and Shane's many family and friends.

Published in The News Review, Ridgecrest, California

#### A Remembrance from Daryn Dodge

I first met Shane Smith in the mid-2000s. He easily fit in with our small group of dedicated peakbaggers looking to finish the SPS list. Over the next ten years we climbed numerous Sierra peaks, many of which were the most difficult on the list. I always found Shane to be a joy to climb with. He was very courteous, making sure he didn't drop any rocks on anyone, and was amazingly good at navigation. He was well known for carrying a very lightweight backpack; in fact, some people he ran into on the trail thought he was simply dayhiking when he was actually on a multi-day backpack trip! Shane enjoyed showing off his tiny baggie of 10 essentials that could not have weighed more than a few ounces. And yet he was one of the best and safest climbers in the Sierra.

One particular trip I'll never forget is the three-day trip to Disappointment Peak in September 2013. It was Shane's penultimate peak to finish the list. We chose to take the McMurray trail going by Birch Lake and over Birch Lake Pass. In September, this route, although rather long, avoided any snow and glaciers (Shane did not like snow!). He led the first day, making sure our group of eight took a break with every thousand feet of gain and also exchanged carrying the rope at every break. This system worked well. We climbed Disappointment Peak the next day in good form, getting all eight climbers on the summit—and without ever using the rope! It helped we chose the "easiest" route on the peak (although no route on this peak is easy). It was probably the most climbers on Disappointment Peak in a single day.

Shane saved Tehipite Dome for his list finish. Late season forest fires delayed the finish for a few years, but Shane was not in a hurry as he was determined for it to be a late summer trip. Finally in September 2016, he assembled a group of twenty-two or more climbers for the three-day trip with Dan Richter joining us as rope master. It was another excellent trip on which Tehipite Dome probably saw a record number of climbers on its summit in a single day. After this trip Shane mostly "retired" from climbing Sierra peaks, and I did not see a lot of him. Shane did promise to join me on my second

list finish (if I ever get there) if I chose Smith Mountain as my final peak. I'm still saving that peak, and if I ever get back to it, I'll dedicate the climb in his name.

#### Memories of Shane From Kathy Rich

I first remember meeting Shane on a trip to climb Clyde Minaret in September 2010. On that trip I was introduced to the guy who was famous for his minimalist approach to backpacking, including a sawnoff toothbrush and no stove. However, the most memorable trip for me was when I joined him to climb Ruskin and Marion in August 2013. Shane was getting down to his last remaining peaks and was looking for company on these two. His idea was to climb them both

Above: SPS List finishers atop Tehipite Dome at Shane's list finish, September 24, 2016, left to right: Lisa Barboza, Daryn Dodge, Shane Smith, Corinne Livingston, and Greg Gerlach. Right: Shane celebrating with his list finish celebrants (Photos by Kathy Rich).

in one day from Cartridge Pass, which sounded good to me as Marion is a long way from anywhere!

After a very enjoyable climb of Ruskin, we set off to run the ridge towards Marion. It was quite a long way, but we got to the summit about an hour before dusk. Shane was pretty confident that he could find our way back to camp in the dark, using his mini GPS device. It felt great to get both peaks done, and we were in good spirits when we headed down. By the time we got down to the Kings River it was pretty dark, and things got interesting as it was all cross county travel. However, by following the river upstream we figured we would be heading in the right direction towards our camp along the JMT below Mather Pass. At times we were thrashing through thick stretches of aspen trees. My shins became very, very sore from banging against them. After a while the terrain got a little easier and we stopped for a break. I remember Shane offering me some pieces of freeze dried eggs from a Mountain House meal that he had with him (Shane was legendary for his ability to eat uncooked freeze-dried meals—for a long time he didn't even carry a stove on his backpack trips). Surprisingly the eggs didn't taste too bad!



#### A Message from Shane

A few of Shane's friends—Corrine Livingston, Kathy Rich, Lisa Barboza, and Daryn Dodge—wanted to share a message that Shane sent to those who were on his list finish climb of Tehipite Dome on September 24, 2016, because, as Corrine put it, "[it] brings him back to us." Thanks to Kathy for providing it.

Tehipite Climbers,

What a nice list finish climb! It was very enjoyable and the weather turned out to be excellent.

A link to a short video clip (below) of the trip and a few photos are attached for your viewing. I have also included photos (within the video) of the nice summit card signed by all and the summit register so you can pause the video and read them if you like. Interestingly, I think we were so caught up in the

moment we didn't get a group photo—The summit photo I attached with the group is the best I could find here. If you happen to have one, please forward it if you can. Video Link: <a href="https://website-for-the-smith.smugmug.com/Video-Galleries/2106-Family-Video/2016-Family-Video/i-zbzLXxK/A">https://website-for-the-smith.smugmug.com/Video-Galleries/2106-Family-Video/2016-Family-Video/i-zbzLXxK/A</a>.

A big thank you to Daryn Dodge for the trip lead—just one of his many great leads that enabled me to summit some of the toughest peaks on the list. Thank you to Kathy for co-leading and for the list finisher pin and great summit card signed by all. Thank you to Dan Richter for co-leading & his excellent rope work & assist on the climb, and also to Paul Garry, Anne Mullins, Lisa Barboza & Steve Smith for co-leading . . . and for all participants—so much fun! Can't wait to climb more with you! See you soon! ~Shane

Our trek alongside the Kings in the dark seemed endless. Soon it was nearly midnight, but Shane assured me we were getting close to camp. By now I was pretty tired and felt weak from lack of food. Again, Shane came to the rescue and offered me some beef jerky flavored with black pepper. I think it might have been the first time I had ever tried jerky, and boy did it taste delicious! It also perked me up and gave me the energy to make it back to camp, arriving there around 1 a.m. Another new



Kathy Rich and Shane Smith on the summit of Mt. Ruskin (Photo by Kathy Rich).

experience awaited me due to a mix-up with another hiking partner: I had no tent to sleep in. Shane kindly offered to let me squeeze into his minimalist teepee tent, which is held up by hiking poles. Next morning, we took a leisurely start before making our way back over Taboose Pass. It was a memorable trip, and I was very impressed by Shane's navigation skills and backcountry preparedness.

#### My Tribute to Shane by Corinne Livingston

Hi Shane,

I sure do miss you and thought I would drop you a note just in case you are up there somewhere and have a chance to read it. I often think of you and remember all our fun adventures in the Sierra. Remember the first time we met in 2003? That was one of the first peak climbing trips you were on with a group. It was the trip to the Big Arroyo with Patty Rambert, Ron Hudson, Randall Danta, my husband Bill, and me. We were off to a good start until the first morning when we woke up somewhere below Needham and it was raining. We donned our jackets and quickly packed up our tents to hit the trail. There you stood away from the group, looking back toward the trailhead instead of toward our destination in Blue Canyon. Your bright blue eyes turned a bit misty when you told us you were going back because you didn't like the rain.

Sadly, we let you go back—guess we all learned right away you liked to hike under clear skies.

You and I soon became climbing partners and went on many more trips together. I was always amazed how you could point out all the distant peaks while we were on the summits. It didn't matter from which angle, you knew the peaks and helped the rest of us see them too. And you were such an excellent navigator in the Sierra. You could easily negotiate around any snow field to avoid it (even if it meant an hour longer hike) and be safer. I remember when we hiked to Pyramid Peak from Bench Lake and we circumvented a snow-filled bowl taking us quite a bit longer. It was such a long hike that I dragged myself back

to the tent after Pyramid while you scampered up Arrow. You had all the stamina needed to finish the SPS list rapidly, but you were in no hurry—you just enjoyed the moment.

You and I seemed to have the same comfort level on exposed terrain—we knew our "scary limit." I remember huddling together while we watched Daryn Dodge and others stroll across the traverse to Disappointment. I think we were shaking in our boots for a bit but got our courage up and decided it was a piece of cake after all. I was also very impressed with your confidence and skill when we climbed Devil's Crag—much higher than mine. Remember?

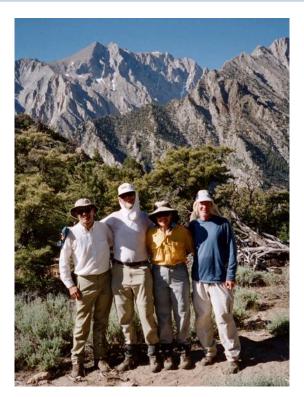
You were always in good (Continued on page 30)



## **Cal French**

January 1937 - March 2020

Long-time Sierra Club volunteer leader and one of the founding fathers of Sierra Club California, Cal French died March 17th after a battle with cancer. Many of us first met Cal while attending a wilderness first aid class organized by his wife Letty. And a few of us enjoyed their company on a climb of Russell (around 1982) or other SPS peaks. You can read a fine obituary of Cal in *Words of the Wild*, the newsletter of the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee here: <a href="https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/WOW-April-2020-3.pdf">https://www.sierraclub.org/files/WOW-April-2020-3.pdf</a> (page 10). *Above: Cal French, 2011, during his trek across California on public lands*.



## **Gary Craig**

November 1959 - March 2020

Sue Holloway wrote a lovely tribute to Gary Craig, SPS Emblem holder #565, for *The Desert Sage*: https://desertpeaks.org/adobepdffiles/Sage387.pdf (pp. 9-10). With Gary (R) on his climb of Mt. Williamson for the emblem in July 2003 were, left to right above, Don Sparks, Dave Sholle (photographer), and Barbara Sholle.



## Mystery Peak Challenge Answer

Last issue's Mystery Peak photo was taken by member James Bias in the Northern Sierra from a saddle of Highland Peak. Roundtop is in the distance and Raymond Peak, which isn't on our list. The Mokulumne Wilderness is pictured also. Gary Schenk answered that the photo was from Tower. Then Lance Dixon chimed in that it was taken from Castle Peak with Mt Lola in the background; he tried again with Sierra Buttes as the peak the photo was taken from and Mt Elwell in the



distance, then Little Round Top as the peak the photo was shot from. Sorry, guys!

**Editors' note:** As Kathy Rich reminded us, Shane Smith submitted the first Mystery Peak puzzle and was the one who suggested the puzzle for the *Echo*. We loved and embraced the idea.

#### Corinne Livingston tribute to Shane Smith, cont.

spirits and happy to be hiking in the Sierra. Remember when we went across Scimitar Pass to hike the easy way up Norman Clyde? We swam in the cold tarns every chance we got. I wish I had a nickel for each time I saw you eat cold freeze-dried eggs as you wanted to go light and not carry a stove. (BTW, you turned me onto Trader Joe's freeze-dried mangoes, so I will forever think of you when I carry them on a trip.) After the breakfast of cold eggs, we started out for the peak early. Everyone was not totally awake yet but you and Sam Olson started singing a duet—it was really quite the entertainment and set the stage for a very happy and successful day.

I think you taught us all a lot about being safe in the Sierra. Remember when you and I decided to go for Mt Humphreys on our own and climb the 4<sup>th</sup> class route? That may have been the first time we climbed a class 4 summit by ourselves. You triple checked all the climbing gear, and we were both quite pleased with how smoothly it went. Remember what a beautiful sunset and night sky we watched in Humphreys Basin?

Besides hiking and climbing in the Sierra, I remember our times together in Bill's and my house in Independence. Several times you brought your guitar and sang (Eagles hits were my favorites) while I was cooking dinner. Those were the best of times, and I was so

impressed with your ease in playing and singing, wishing I had half your musical ability. I truly miss all our great conversations about life, family, relationships, work, music, and even politics!

There are so many other memories of our adventures together, but the rest will be held for the two of us. You were taken from us much too soon. We

## 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. Refer to the SPS Roster for mailing address. 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.



# 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 <a href="mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com">tina@bowmanchange.com</a>. We welcome any mountain images, including those from popular culture—imagery used and abused in film and print!

Ron Bartell sent us the new puzzle photo. How many SPS peaks can you identify? Unlisted peaks? Bonus points to anyone who knows where Ron was when he took the photo.

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

#### Corinne Livingston tribute to Shane Smith, cont.

had a trip planned to hike from the desert floor to Mt. Jacinto this past February but that will have to wait for another time. Don't worry—we won't forget you. Your spirit will stay with all of us and one of these days we'll somehow climb together again in that Range of Light.

Your climbing buddy, Corrine

P.S. I made some of those lemon shortbread cookies the other day—the ones you loved so much, even though you said you never ate sugary stuff! Remember?

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

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

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Awards Send notification to Secretary Tina Bowman: email <a href="mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com">tina@bowmanchange.com</a>. Awards merchandise is available through Patty Kline at 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga, CA 90290, and include emblem pins (\$20) and SPS section patches (\$5). Make checks payable to SPS. All prices include sales tax.

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