2001 SPS BANQUET
FEATURING
DVD VIDEO
PRESENTATION of
EAST AFRICAN
CLIMBS and SAFARIS.
SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

SPS meetings are held in the Los Angeles room behind the cafeteria at the DWP, 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. Department of Water & Power, 111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles. Free parking (please inform parking attendants that you are attending a SC meeting).

December 12 - Wednesday - Denali climbers Nile Sorenson, Matthew Richardson, Maria Roa and Joe White, A meeting to congratulate the successful SPS members on their climb of Denali. Come and see slides from the June 2001 trip. (See story page 13)

January 9 - Wednesday - ANNUAL SPS AWARDS BANQUET. Travel to Kilimanjaro (Uhuru Peak) with speaker and video production director Dave Sholle. (Supporting cast/ fellow climbers include Barb Sholle, Tina & Tom Bowman and Jack Miller). Join your climbing friends at the SPS banquet. Location - Greek Cultural Center, Long Beach, CA. Tickets $28.00. See story page 26. Send check (SPS) and SASE to Barbee Tidball, 3826 Weston Pl., Long Beach, CA 90807.

February 13 - Wednesday - SPS, HPS, DPS 7th Annual Joint Climbing Sections Meeting. Doug Mantle will present a program on his climb to the classic obelisk peak, Ama Dablam. The peak at a height of 22,496' is located in the Kumbu region of the Himalayas in Nepal.

Front Cover
ZEBRAS
PHOTO BY
TOM BOWMAN

Editor's note:
Corrections July-September Echo.
Peak List included Mt. Pickering & Joe Devel which are actually in this issue.
Pages 18 and 19. Photo captions were reversed. North Palisade appears with the lake in the foreground and Mt. Sill with the snow slope.
See past editions of *The Sierra Echo* for detailed write-ups of trips without full write-ups. Trips previously described are listed without detailed write-ups in subsequent publications. Note all trips listed as MR or ER are restricted trips open to Sierra Club members only with the appropriate rock or snow skills. For all trips remember to send a SASE, Sierra Club #, experience and conditioning resume (if you are not known to the leaders), H & W phone #’s, e-mail address optional, and rideshare information.

**JANUARY continued**

**O:** Jan. 12 SAT Natural Science Section Winter Butterfly Observing. Observe over-wintering Monarch butterflies near Goleta and then drive to Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens to observe other butterflies and plants. Bring water, lunch and entrance fee for Gardens. Short walk from cars to see Monarchs. Serious rain cancels. Meet 8 a.m. at Woodland Hills carpool point. Ldr. Keith Martin, Asst. Jim Murphy

**FEBRUARY**

**M/E:** Feb 2 Sat LTC/SPS/DPS Local Baldy Snow Practice: We will review all aspects of snow climbing, rope travel, use of the ice axe and snow anchors. For aspiring M & E candidates, and those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC mburs. w/ prior basic training. Lack of snow may cancel. Send 2 SASE or 1 SASE w/ e-mail address, SC#, resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson, Co-ldr: Tina Bowman.

**M/E:** Feb 16 Sat LTC/SPS/DPS Local Baldy Snow Practice: See Feb. 2 description of trip. Send 2 SASE or 1 SASE w/ e-mail address, SC#, resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson, Co-ldr: Dani Richter.

Feb 23 Sat Sierra Club Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony: Francis P. Farquhar Award presentation to Andy Smatko. SPS members Steve Eckert & Ann Kramer are organizing a group to attend. Tickets $45.00, Gene Coan, Sierra Club, 85 2nd St., San Francisco 94015, reservationist. This is not an official SPS trip, but it will be fun if members get together at the banquet to celebrate Andy’s achievement. Make your own travel arrangements. Let Ann and Steve know if you are going.

MARCH


APRIL

Apr 6 Sat LTC Seminar March 23 sign up deadline

Apr 7 Sun LTC Basic Leadership Training Clinic Ldrs: Prinzmetal, Richter, McRuer, Courtney

TI: Apr 13-14 Sat-Sun SMS & SPS Mammoth Mtn, Mt. Wood Ski one day on the lifts, one day in the backcountry. Metal-edged skis, skins req’d for backcountry. E-Mail exper, address & h/w phones to Co-ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, Erik Siering

M: Apr 19-21 LTC Mountaineering Leadership Course. Harwood Lodge, Reservationist: Campbell

I: Apr 21-22 Sat-Sun LTC Indian Cove Navigation Ldrs: Freimanis, Bradshaw

M: Apr 26-28 Fri-Mon M: Mt Barnard (13,990'), Trojan Pk (13,950'): Fri stren. bckpck 5.5 mi 5000' gain classic bushwhack up George Ck. Sat xc snow clb to peaks 5 mi 3800' gain. Sun hike out. Restricted to SC members w/ice axe/crampon exper. Prefer resumes w/detailed snow climb exper. & LTC training. Send sase, resume, H&W phones, email, recent cond/exp, to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co Ldr: Nile Sorensen

TMR: Apr 27 - May 4 Sat- Sat, SMS & SPS Trans-Sierra Ski Tour. From Taboose to Cedar Grove along the Cirque Crest, trans-Sierra or loop tour depending on road/snow conditions. Op. climb of State Pk included. Restricted to SC members w/suitable mtn. exper. Metal edged skis, skins, beacons, ice axe, crampons, strong skiing abilities and stamina req’d. E-Mail exper., address, h/w phones & SC# to co-ldrs Reiner Stenzel, R.J. Secor.

RM/E: Apr 27-28 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Snow Checkout Ldrs: Doug Mantle and Tina Bowman

RM: Apr 27-28 Sat-Sun, SMS & SPS, Mt Rixford (12,887'): Sat hike/ski over Kearsarge Pass depending on snow cond., 3000'+ gain from Onion Valley. Drop over pass to camp Bullfrog Lake area. Climb Rixford up cl 1 south slope from lake. Ski down if cond. permit. Restricted to SC members crosscountry skiing, ice axe and crampon exper. Mail SASE w/detailed snow ski & climbing experience, H&W phones, email, recent cond/exp, rideshare info to Ldr: Scot Jamison. Co Ldr: Larry Tidball

MAY

RM/E: May 4 Sat LTC/SPS Horse Flats Rock Workshop/Checkoff Ldrs: Virgil Shields and Darell Lee

O: May 5 Sun LTC Beginning Nav Clinic Ldr: D. Dunbar, Creighton

TI: May 18-19 Sat-Sun SMS & SPS Dunderberg & Excelsior. Climb/ski two fine SPS peaks in two day trips with Sat car camp. Metal edged skis, skins req’d for backcountry skiers, exper. snowshoers and boarders ok. E-mail exper., address, h/w phones & SC# to co-ldrs Reiner Stenzel, Randall Danta.

RM: May 18-19 Sat-Sun, Mt Gilbert (13,106') and op. Mt. Johnson (12,871): Leaders grudge peak. Begin hike as close to South Lk as snow cond. permit. Camp Treasure Lakes area. Climb Gilbert 2400' from gain from camp. Possible climb of Mt. Johnson. Restricted to SC mem. w/ice axe and crampon exper. Mail SASE w/detailed snow climbing expe, H&W phones, email, recent cond/exp, to Ldr: Barbee. Tidball Co Ldr: Scot Jamison

May 18 Sat LTC Beginning Nav Class Ldr: Prinzmetal, Freimanis, Courtney, Creighton

I: May 20 LTC Grinnell Ridge Navigation Ldr: Freimanis, Bradshaw

TM: May 24-27 Fri-Mon SMS & SPS Mt. Brewer Climb and ski an SPS emblem peak over Memorial Day wknd Cedar Grove to basecamp at Sphinx Lks, day tours to climb/ski Brewer’s south face, the North Guard-Brewer cirque and/or slopes of South Guard. 30mi rt, 9,000’ gain to summit, cl 3 climbing, black-diamond backcountry skiing. Restricted to SC members w/adv. skiing/snow travel ability. Ice axe & crampons req’d. Send exper. phones, e-mail address to Co-ldrs: Reiner Stenzel, Alvin Walter.

I: May 31 - Jun 1 Fri - Sat LTC Route Finding & Outing Ldrship Clinic Ldrs: Prinzmetal, Courtney, Beach

JUNE

RM/E: Jun 1-2 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff Ldrs: Nile Sorensen and Dan Richter

M: June 1-2 Sat-Sun. Mt Baxter (13,125'): SPS/WTC Sat stren. bckpck via Baxter Pass trail and x-c to camp. Sun climb southeast slope to summit and out. 7000’+ elev. gain for the weekend. Snow exper., ice axe and crampons required for this restricted trip. Send sase/e-mail with SC#, experience and conditioning, H&W phones, carpool info to: Ldr: Patty Rambert, Asst: R. J. Secor.

continued page 11
ECHONES FROM THE CHAIR

Oct 20, 2001

That was a blast! Rounding off the SPS List last month with Clouds Rest was fun and memorable, thanks to all that came for the party. See the trip report in this newsletter. Now send more peaks... and parties.

Sure, summits are memorable, but sharing the climbs is the real payoff. Some of my compadres have been together on a lot of the adventures. Dan Richter, who was rash enough to propel me to snow and rock climbs. Asher Waxman, who's demeanor brightened many times. Bob Sumner, who has been game for epics. Good buds all.

On with the business. I am excited by an effort that should come to fruition soon: archiving and distributing The Sierra Echo and SPS material on electronic media. DPS is taking the lead, by peaks webmaster Charlie Knapke and past Chair Dean Acheson, in getting the Sage newsletters captured on CD or DVD-ROM. SPS will gain from their experience. Text or image scanning can make our legacy of past articles, and hopefully photographs, available to members at a nominal cost. Several of us have a complete hardcopy set of the old newsletters. Perusing them when researching a route is a treat.

This is the final Echo for 2001 (next issue Dec 2001 - Jan 2002). Our management committee's goals were accomplished this term in keeping the section healthy and vibrant as it gets on with climbing. We have updated the peaks list, prepared a joint promotional flyer, scheduled fine programs, and maintained the newsletter quality. The SPS has a strong membership and financial basis for next year. Let me thank co-officers Ron Hudson, Vice-Chair & Outings; Maria Roa, Membership & Treasurer; Matthew Richardson, Secretary; and Matthias Selke, Fifth Officer. It has been my pleasure to work with them and the appointed volunteers. I hope to see most of the membership at both the Annual Banquet and the Joint Meeting in the upcoming months. Looking forward to skiing and climbing the Sierra in 2002!

Cheers, Erik Siering/SPS Chair 2001
Sierra Peaks Section
Meeting Minutes

Minutes taken by Matthew Richardson
(There was no management committee meeting in June)

General Meeting
The meeting began at 7:35 p.m.
Eight newcomers were welcomed by Erik.
Ron Hudson discussed past and upcoming outings.
Garnet Roehm gave a very detailed and interesting slide show of his traverse of Denali.
The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

July 11, 2001
Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown L.A.
Minutes taken by Matthew Richardson

Management Committee Meeting
Attended by: Erik Siering, Ron Hudson, Matthew Richardson, Matthias Selke, Ann Kramer and Duane McRuer.
The meeting began at 6:50 P.M.

Minutes of the May 9 meeting were read and approved.

Erik passed on the Treasurer’s report, prepared by Maria. We currently have $4916.08 in checking and $545.54 in savings. Maria’s report raises concerns about SPS deficit spending. Last year, the SPS spent $120 more than it took in, and she predicts an even larger deficit for this year. We are still down in our membership/subscription renewals and Maria will send email reminders to encourage renewal.

The SPS will be listing only its monthly programs in the next chapter schedule. Erik also mentioned that there is a possibility of a problem with Larry Tidball’s upcoming slide show. We discussed possible alternatives but put off a final decision until we know more.

We discussed possible revisions to the Peaks List. Final decisions were deferred among questions about whether East Vidette should be reclassified.

continued page 8.
July minutes continued
The committee considered a suggestion that the next joint meeting of the climbing sections include the Lower Peaks Section, as well. We decided to run the idea past the DPS and HPS for their approval.

Ron described new forms for leaders from national Sierra Club. There are new incident report forms and emergency response patient report forms. Duane noticed that the incident report form does not include a date of creation or revision.

Ann talked about the Sierra Club outings centennial and suggested that the outings sections submit material about the history of outings for publication in the Southern Sierran. The committee decided to ask the section’s historian to write an article on the history of SPS trips.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

General Meeting
The meeting was hosted by Erik Siering.

Erik SPS welcomed four new attendees: Don Miller, Rick Dolphus, Geneva Gano, and Gary Schenk, who is also a new SPS member.

Ron discussed summer outings. Duane gave a report on the Bear Creek Spire rock checkoff. Joanne Andrews and Peter Vance did a great job passing their M and Craig Connally did a “superlative” job of passing his E checkoff. Unfortunately, the group’s climb of the peak got rained out. Craig told of returning to Bear Creek Spire, after the checkoff, with greater success.

Matthew reported on a successful climb of Denali in June with Maria Roa, Joe White and Nile Sorenson.

Erik introduced Ron Hudson who presented a program on the interesting sport of competitive orienteering.

August 8, 2001
Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown L.A.
Minutes taken by Matthew Richardson

Management Committee Meeting
Attended by: Erik Siering, Maria Roa, Matthew Richardson, Matthias Selke, Ann Kramer and Patty Kline.

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes of the July 11 meeting were read and approved.

Ann presented several announcements concerning outings. There is a new standard combined liability waiver/sign in sheet. Also, the Angeles Chapter will be having a celebration of Sierra Club outings. The event will be held on November 17 at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont. Check the Southern Sierran for more details.

SPS Treasurer, Maria, reported $3544 in checking and $546 in savings. She said that the SPS is now paid up through December of 2002 for use of DWP facilities for our meetings.

Barbara Sholle passed on a banquet update from Barbee Tidball. David Sholle will be featured at this year’s banquet, with a multi-media presentation on their climbing trip to Africa. A working title is “Mounts Kilimanjaro and Kenya, Kats, and Kitters”.

Erik announced that the other climbing sections have agreed to invite the Lower Peaks Section to the annual joint meeting. The LPS has accepted the invitation.

Bill Oliver, SPS Historian, will write an article on the history of SPS outings for the Southern Sierran.

The Management Committee ratified the proposed changes to the SPS Peaks List. East Vidette, it was decided, will be class 2, summit 3.

Patty presented a report from the nominating committee. They have four candidates who have agreed to run for next year’s Management Committee. They need to find at least three more candidates before the election.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

General Meeting
The meeting was hosted by Erik Siering.

Erik SPS welcomed four new attendees.

Patty went over recent outings. continued page 9.
August minutes continued
Howard Eyerly got an Emblem pin he had recently earned.

Bill Oliver told about the reinstatement of the Francis Farquhar award.

Matthias described a 2nd class route up Mount McAdie.

R.J. Secor announced that the body of a ranger, who had been missing in the Sierra Nevada for some time, has been found.

Barbee provided details of the upcoming SPS annual banquet.

Tina Bowman reported on the national climbing outing she co-led.

Erik introduced Bill, who gave an entertaining presentation on “Gnarly Adventuring on the East Fork of the San Gabriel River.”

September 12, 2001
Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown L.A.
Minutes taken by Matthew Richardson

Management Committee Meeting
Attended by: Erik Siering, Ron Hudson, Maria Roa, Matthew Richardson, Barbee Tidball, Dan Richter, Patty Kline and Ann Kramer.
The meeting began at 6:45 P.M.

Minutes of the August 8 meeting were read and approved.

The management committee decided to ask the safety committee to write an article on SPS helmet policy for the Echo.

Ron mentioned that trip write-ups for next spring are due to Ron the first week in November.

Maria gave a membership/treasurer’s report. We have 196 members, $3,788 in checking, and $546 in savings.

Barbee gave a report on banquet preparations. Next year’s banquet will be held in Long Beach. Tickets will be distributed to the management committee members at October’s meeting. She also explained that the Echo schedule will be pushed back one month to better conform to the SPS election schedule. Ballots will be published in the October/November issue and results will be tabulated at December’s SPS meeting. Permit information will be published in the December/January issue, along with membership renewal information.

Patty gave an update on programs. Christopher Brennen will present a program on adventure hikes and canyoneering in the San Gabriels. His program will be at our April meeting. Patty is also on the nominating committee and reported that they have a slate of seven candidates for our next election.

Ann mentioned that money may be available from the chapter to be donated for the purpose of purchasing bear boxes. Problems with bear box purchasing donations were mentioned, and it was suggested that perhaps the money would be better donated to China Lake Search and Rescue.

Dan announced that Andy Smatko will be the recipient of the Farquhar Award.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40.

General Meeting
The meeting was hosted by Erik Siering.

Erik brought the meeting to order. Despite exceptional security measures, sixteen people attended this month’s meeting.

Ron gave a report on outings. He mentioned that trip write-ups for spring trips should be forwarded to him by the first week in November.

He also reviewed recent trips, and announced that Erik had just finished the SPS list on Clouds Rest.

Barbee gave a report on conservation issues, encouraging everyone to read all about it in the Echo. She discussed banquet plans as well.

David Underwood talked about conservation issues in Yosemite.

Erik introduced Barbee, who presented a very interesting slide show on hiking and touring in Peru.
2002

WILDERNESS PERMIT INFORMATION

The following information is being offered early this year due to the new 6-month advance reservation system in the Inyo & Sierra National Forests.

Yosemite: Yosemite requires permits for overnight use year round. Day use permits are not required. Applications may be made by mail or phone. Permit applications are processed in random order. Your permit application will be processed for any trip 24 weeks to the day before departure up to 2 days before departure. 60% of permits are issued to reservations and 40% the day of entry on a first come first serve basis. For mail in reservations write Wilderness Permit Reservations, Yosemite, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite, CA 95389. To phone in a reservation call 209/372-0740. Advance reservations are $5.00 per person, make checks out to Yosemite Association, or use a major credit card number with the expiration date. Permits are issued by mail or in person. For general permit and day use information call 209/372-0310 or log on to www.Yosemitesecure.org/wildpermit. For trail information call 209/372-0200.

Inyo and Sierra National Forests: The new management plan has made changes to the permit process in these areas. Quotas now apply to ALL trailheads. Information can be found at www.r5.fs.fed.us/inyo. Quota season is in effect May 1st to November 1st for the John Muir, Ansel Adams and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses. Other areas remain the last Friday in June through September 15th. These areas include Cottonwood Pass trail in Golden Trout and Sample Meadow, Deer Creek, Billy Creek and Potter Pass trails in the Kaiser Wilderness. Non-commercial reservations are available for permits for the first 60% in advance with a reservation fee. 40% will be available for walk-in at no fee. Reservation fees are $5.00 per person and are non-refundable, except in the Whitney Zone where fees are $15.00 per person.

Reservations may be made up to six months in advance for all trailheads except Mt. Whitney.

Inyo National Forest reservations (eastside entry): Phone 10:00AM to 4:00PM Mon-Fri 760-873-2483, or Fax: 760-873-2484. E-mail reservations are not available. Mailing address: Inyo National Forest, Wilderness Permit Office, 873 N. Main St., Bishop, CA 93514.

Mt. Whitney: Whitney Lottery will be used. Applications for day or overnight will be accepted by mail and Fax only, starting Feb. 1st until Feb. 28th for all dates during quota season.

Sierra National Forest (westside entry) reservations may be made by mail only (no phone, e-mail or fax accepted) up to 3-weeks prior to start date. Reservation will be confirmed by mail and will include instructions for how to redeem your confirmation card for the actual Wilderness Permit. website: www.r5.fs.us/sierra/

Ansel Adams - South, includes trailheads South of Middle Fork of San Joaquin River; Kaiser, John Muir and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses reservation: Wilderness Reservations, Pineridge/Kings Ranger District, P.O. Box 559, Prather, CA 93651. Phone 559/855-5360.

Ansel Adams - North, includes trailheads North of Middle Fork of San Joaquin River: Wilderness Reservations, Minarets/Mariposa Ranger District, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA 93643-9734

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
VOTE - SPS Management Committee Elections 2002

Attended with this issue of The Sierra Echo members only should have received a copy of the 2002 election ballot. One ballot per member.

Please vote and mail your ballots for receipt prior to December 12th, or hand deliver your ballot at the December 12th SPS meeting.

2002 Management Committee Nominees:
Carl Peterson
Matthew Richardson
Maria Roa
Gary Schenk
Erik Siering
Asher Waxman
Joe Wankum

Mt. Abbot form Mt. Gabb
photo by Mitch Miller

2000 PERMIT INFORMATION CONTINUED

Sequoia & Kings Canyon Park: Wilderness Permit Reservations, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, HCR 89 Box 60, Three Rivers, CA 93271. Phone 559/565-3708. Fax 559/565-4239. $10.00 Reservation fee for permits is required. Group size maximum is 15 for most areas mid May to mid September. Permits may be reserved March 1 up to 3 weeks before start of trip. Web site: www.nps.gov/seqi.

Toiyabe National Forest: Bridgeport Ranger District, P.O. Box 595, Bridgeport, CA 93517. Phone 619/932-7070. $3.00 per person permit fee and reservations available for Hoover Wilderness only. Permits issued by mail or in person.

SPS Membership Report

New Members - Welcome!

Carl Peterson
2801 Ellendale Pl. #R-1
Los Angeles, CA 90007-4760
323-732-7845
cpetersonii@earthlink.net

Susan Gygax & Wayne Martin (returning member)
1180 N Main #101A-192
Bishop, CA 93514
877-283-3551
waynesue85@yahoo.com

SPS Address Changes

Patrick McKusky
1718 Meridian Ave., Apt C
South Pasadena, CA 91030-5514

Bill Bradley
145 Rainbow Dr., #4523
Livingston, TX 77399-1045

Teresa Nick
1061 E Del Mar Bl
Pasadena, CA 91106-3203

Ron Bartell and Christine Mitchell
1556 21st Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
310-546-1977

Daryn Dodge
2618 Kline Ct
Davis, CA 95616
(note correct email: DDODGE@OEHHA.CA.GOV)

Deborah Jamieson
6560 Ambrosia Lane, Apt 929
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Accomplishments - Congratulations!

R.J. Secor
3 times Senior Emblem (on Mt. Gayley)

Terry Flood
Master Emblem (on Whorl Mtn.)

Tina Bowman
2 times Master Emblem (on Mt. Sill)

Howard Eyerly
Emblem (on Matterhorn Pk.)

Erik Siering
List Finisher (on Clouds Rest)

WINTER/SPRING TRIPS CONTINUED

JUNE continued

I: Jun 1-2 Sat-Sun Olancha Peak (12,123') Moderately strenuous climb of emblem pk at the source of Crystal Geyser Water in the S Sierra. SPS intro trip geared to new SPS climbers and strong WTC students. Sat hike 7 miles, 3,600' gain from Sage Flat to base camp off Pacific Crest Trail. Sun climb pk and out. Total gain for weekend 6,500' in 23 mi rt. Send 2 sase, H&W phones, recent cond., to Ldr: Patty Kline. Asst: Maria Roa.

I: Jun 15-16 Sat-Sun Homers Nose: Climb a tough class 1 peak in the Sequoia National Forest, 20 mi rt, 7000' gain. Must be able to bushwhack or mountain bike. Send e-mail, exper., address, h/w phones to Ldr: Reiner Stenzel. Asst: Sara Wyrens.

M: Jun 21-23 Fri-Sun Mt Bradley (13,289'), Center Pk (12,760') Fri stren. bkpck from Onion Valley over University Pass to Center Basin. Sat xc spring snow climb to climb peaks. Sun hike out. Restricted to SC members w/ice axe/crampon exp. Send resumes w/snow climb exper. and LTC training. Send sase, resume, H&W phones, email, recent cond./exper., to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co-Ldr: Nile Sorenson

I: Jun 22-23 Sat-Sun Florence (12,432') Vandever Mtn (11,947') Mineral King weekend backpack. Sat 5 mi, 2,400' gain to camp and 2,300' 6 mi rt to Florence; community happy hour. Sun bag Vandever and pack out 11.5 mi rt and 2,600' gain. Send e-mail (preferably) or two sase, SC#, H & W phones, recent conditioning/experience, rideshare info to: Idr Sara Wyrens. Co-Ldr Randall Danta.
SPS Hardheaded?

Shall the SPS require helmets on all class 3 climbs?
The WTC and National outings have made this a rule. The SPS defers to leader discretion with management committee approval. That is to say, we expect the leaders to make a case-by-case decision, considering circumstances, as we’ll discuss.

One size sometimes fits all. The DMV or car dealer conventions come to mind. But WTC does have a point. They have a huge range of skills among participants, and the high volume of trips and attendees challenges the screening process.

That doesn’t make our policy “retrograde” however. Those who say so should examine the policy more closely.

Leader discretion is intended to promote greater safety. It should mean more helmet use, often. Some climbs easier than class 3 should involve helmets while we are free to dispense with them where judgement dictates.

Recently a WTC group climbed Split Mt. by the class 3 route (nice job, I hear, Jason). With all snow gone, so was any class 3. This being a somewhat small group, there being no loose rock of note, the participants were likely as well served by helmets as tuxedos.

Contrarily, we have a bunch of class 2 chutes where a similarly size group absolutely should wear helmets. Consider the west side chutes on North Palisade and Thunderbolt, below any class 3 and 4, for example.

Too, we have oodles of class 3 peaks where most situations would not call for helmets. The whole Great Western/Kings-Kern sweep of peaks comes to mind; Milestone and Junction, for instance.

Moreover, on some tricky spots a helmet may provide a false sense of security where a belay arrangement would be a better answer. Example: the Dragon Peak summit.

Our List has 70 peaks class 3 and up. My guess is helmets usually would be necessary on less than two dozen of these. Given seasonal conditions, route chosen, group size, I estimate several dozen easier climbs would necessitate helmets.

That’s not “devil-may-care” bravado; if considered thoughtfully, it’s prudence. I don’t think it’s an accident that SPS has no history of serious head injury. Let’s note, also, that most of our rockfall incidents have been on class 2 climbs.

We urge all our leaders to carefully weigh relevant climbing factors and come to a judgement about the need for helmets on outings. We urge the management committee likewise to scrutinize the outings as to helmet use prior to approval. A few factors to consider:

Helmets
Loose rock; steep route
Large group size
Difficult pitch
Long exposed pitch
Narrow chute
Pendulum potential
climbers going fast

No Helmets
Small group
Small group belays; screening
belay one at a time? parallel/multiple routes
midpoint/additional protection
slow them down
stress on case/caution

SPS Safety Committee/Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer
Clouds Rest
September 8, 2001  By Reinhold Janson

This was my first time to a Sierra Peaks list finish. Wow! There were forty-two people on the day hike. All made it up to Erik Siering’s party on the summit. The parade and picnic surely surprised the other hikers on the trail. Slobodan Messner missed out on this one.

The crowd met at 9:00 AM at the Tenaya Lake trailhead, after some had carpooled from Lee Vining sweep with Asher Waxman on the hike in and out. It was great, clear weather despite controlled burns to the southeast. We followed the Forsyth and Clouds Rest Trails. We took lazy breaks at three trail junctions marked by Yosemite NP “stencil metal” signs.

The summit dome of Clouds Rest at 9926 feet was awesome. The panorama takes in Half Dome, Mounts Starr King & Clark, and Tenaya Canyon below. I’m told that Bill Oliver was down there. Out came a potluck spread of tasty eats to share. A half-dozen double bottles of New York champagne complemented the brownies, nuts, cookies, veggies, cheese puffs and more. Erik was SPS finish-pinned by Patty Kline, and received a piton-shaped bottle opener from Ann Kramer.

CONGRATUALTIONS LIST FINISHER ERIK SIERING

Canyon. A bunch of us had been here before. For others, like Teri Ryan who came with DPSer Gary Craig, it was their first SPS trip. Erik traded lead and Summit photo taking was fun. First up were the SPS finishers: Erik, Steve Eckert, Ron Hudson, Barbara Sholle, Mary Motheral, RJ Secor, Vic & Sue Henney. The triple list SPS-DPS-HPS finishers: Erik, Barbara, Mary, Vic & Sue. Seven SPS Chairs were here. Then soon-to-be finishers, in pairs: Pat & Gerry Holleman and Greg & Mima Roach. Their parties are next. A friendly fellow we’d fed snapped photos of us all. Except for Scot Sullivan. He stayed
accounts from the “Accidents in North American Mountaineering 2000.” Climber black humor and pathos. Later, Dean & Pat Acheson and Vic & Sue headed home for a concert and earthquake in West Hollywood the next day. Gary Schenk, Val and Lilly returned to camp in Lee Vining Canyon.

Sunday morning, after pulling Annemarie Schober’s 2wd from the forest sand—Mary’s BIG truck rocks!—we went our separate ways. Some for climbs, others for hot springs. RJ, Susan Livingston, Keith Martin, Will McWhinney, and Paul Graff climbed beautiful Cathedral Peak. Will and Paul also did Eichorn Pinnacle. The Bay Area contingent of Steve, Ric Rattay and Bob Suzuki scaled Echo Peaks. Asher, Jack Waxman and Rebecca Owen soaked in Hilltop Hot Spring in Long Valley. Erik and Ann went cragging near Old Mammoth.

A great weekend by all!

Upper Left - Triple List Finishers!
Vic & Sue Henney, Erik Siering, Barbara Sholle,
Mary Motheral

twenty feet below. Guess where his finish will be. So Elena Sherman gets to do this again too.

Most everyone returned to the trailhead by 5:30 PM, and then left to set up camp in Mono Mills south of Mono Lake. Diane Dunbar made good time even with incipient pneumonia! Mary and Erik’s carpools waited patiently for the tail end, Rick Jali, before driving to the festivities already underway. What a potluck feast. I especially liked Lilly Fukui’s Thai chicken, and Mirna’s salads. Mary’s ample firewood stash fueled our campfire. Around which we took turns reading

SPS Past & Current Chairs - Rick Jali, Pat Holleman, Keith Martin,
Patty Kline, Erik Siering, Barb Sholle, R.J. Secor
Five hopeful climbers met in the Onion Valley trail head parking lot Saturday morning. The weather forecast was “sunshine for the weekend”, and as it turned out, we did not see a cloud in the sky for the entire trip. The group consisted of Penelope May (co-leader), Brent Crookham, Alois Smrz and Vishal Jaiswal. I had reserved a walk-in camp site for Friday night and all but one of us stayed in the camp ground that night. But because of late arrivals and the fact that Brent and I slept in our vehicles, we did not all get together until we met in the trail head parking area the next morning.

After the usual “sign in” and introductions, we were on our way up the Robinson Lake trail a little before 8:00 AM. We dropped our packs at the lake and worked our way up a prominent chute to the ridge south of the Independence Peak. From here we ascended the moderate third class ridge to the summit. Because we had plenty of time, we spent a leisurely 30 minutes on the peak, then returned to the lake for lunch.

After lunch we make our way up the slope to a prominent stand of pines several hundred feet above the lake. This spot is next to the stream and has a number of level tent sites. After making camp we enjoyed an extended happy “hour”, the high light of which was a tray of fresh strawberries and whipped cream, which Penelope and Alois had packed up.

The next day, Sunday we knew would be a long day of climbing with better than 4700 feet of gain and most of it above 11 000 feet elevation. So we were up at first light and away by 7:00AM. We worked our way up the right side of the valley, mainly through boulders and glacial moraine to the base of the chute that goes up to University Pass. Vishal was lagging a little and I discovered that he was carrying his full pack (although it was relatively light because he had no tent, stove, day pack, or much food). I had him cache his sleeping bag and pad at the base of the chute and we continued over the pass and into Center Basin.

Once into the basin we traveled along the base of the eastern slope until we arrived at the prominent chute which is located directly below the peak. This chute leads to the minor saddle between the south peak and main summit to the north. You drop down 20-30 feet on the east side of the ridge and shortly go up what Secor calls a small chute, but is more like a large crack. I missed it as I was following another errant climber’s footprints, but Brent picked up the small duck at the entrance.

We were quickly on the summit and did not tarry long as our day was wasting and we had yet far to go. Back down into Center Basin and the rest of us relaxed while Alois and Brent detoured over to the lake to pickup additional water. We started up over University Pass again, only this time we went up a smaller chute to the south of the main chute that we had come down. About two thirds of the way up to the saddle it dwindles and you can get out on some third class rock and diagonal over to the low point of the pass. It avoids about half of the loose scree in the main chute directly below the pass.

By this time it was getting late and it was apparent that we would be getting back to camp well after dark. Vishal and to a lesser extent I were climbing slower. As Penelope and Alois were riding together and planning to hike out and return home that night, we decided to have them go on ahead to camp and Brent and I would follow with Vishal. When the three of us reached the bottom of the chute below University Pass it was dark. Vishal got his sleeping bag and pad that he had cached and we started down the valley to camp through the large blocky glacial moraine.

After about a half hour Vishal complained the he was so tired that he could not continue. We both urged him to go on, but he was adamant that he could not go on. He assured us that he would be back at camp by 8:00 AM in the morning. Both Brent and I were planning to go out Monday morning and since we knew where he was sleeping, we relented. Brent and I got back to camp about 10:30 PM and found that Penelope and Alois were still there. They decided to get up at 4 AM and go out Monday. Well, all turned out fine as Vishal showed up Monday morning exactly at 8:00 AM as he said he would. We continued page 20
Mt Pickering and Joe Devel

Apr 14-18, 2001
By Reiner Stenzel

This outing was a ski mountaineering trip where we climbed and skied two SPS peaks south of Mt Whitney. It was a joint SMS and SPS trip and most participants were either active in both sections or otherwise experienced in ski mountaineering. The participants were Mark Vogt from San Diego, Ruth von Rotz von Truckee, Jonathan Meagher, Susan Livingston, and the leaders were R.J. Secor and myself. The trip started officially on Sat, 4/14, 6am, at the “Road Closed” sign on the Horseshoe Mdw Rd above Lone Pine. But, by chance some of us had dinner together on Fri night at PJ.s and then found the rest of the group sleeping at the designated meeting place. To sleep high I drove up as far up as possible. This year, the Cottonwood Lks area had 120% of the normal snowfall, great for skiing but a disaster for the road access. During the week prior to our trip it had snowed again. No first-hand information about the road condition was available. So we took our chances. Unfortunately, snow banks blocked the road already at the 8,000, level near the upper switchbacks. The Horseshoe Mdw Rd is long (24mi from Lone Pine) and the trailhead is high (10,000). Short of giving up, we had little choice but to walk many miles on a partially snowed covered road to the trailhead. No fun with packs which weighed over 50lbs with skis. By 1pm we had made it to the Horseshoe Mdw trailhead. By now we were on skis and proceeded, as planned, toward the Cottonwood Pass. The shorter route over New Army Pass was ruled out due to the steepness and the recent fresh snow on an icy base. Snowed-in Horseshoe Mdw looked beautiful. Ascending Cottonwood Pass on powder was a workout since the fresh snow was bailing up on the skins. By 4pm we were on the pass (11,180,) and proceeded to ski toward Chicken Spring Lake. Since it was too late to make it into Rock Creek, our original goal, we decided to stay at the lake. It was located in a big cirque, had nice trees for wind shade, but there was no open water. We cooked on dry ground of tree rings, relaxed for dinner, and spent a peaceful night out of the cold winds.

On Easter Sunday, 4/15, we had a leisurely 8:30am start. We ascended from the lake to the 11,600, level and contoured above the tree line roughly parallel to the PCT along the southwest slopes of Cirque Peak. The snow was wind packed and frozen, requiring careful edging to avoid a nasty fall down the long slopes. A cold wind blew from the west on a cloudless day. Gnarly foxtail pines are scattered along the slopes. The view over forests, meadows and distant mountains was beautiful. Big Whitney Mdw and the Siberian Outpost were completely covered by snow. The traverse was occasionally interrupted when we had to cross drainages, for example, just west of CirquePk and Army Pass. Our destination, the Rock Creek area near Joe Devel, was reached by early afternoon. We found a beautiful campsite in a drainage below the Soldier Lakes and were delighted to find an opening in a creek with running water. This place would become our base camp for the next three nights (UTM 40 39 312N, 11 3 86 250 E, NAD 27, elev. 3331m). Everyone was relieved and dropped their heavy packs. By the time we had set up camp, eaten lunch, enlarged the water hole, washed up in icy creek water and relaxed in the sun, it was too late for an afternoon peak climb. Nobody was in the mood for an SPS death march. Mark and I scouted the route to Erin Lake for next day’s ascent of Mt Pickering. After dinner, as it got dark, we crawled into our yellow Bibler submarines for a long night’s sleep.

On Mon, 4/16, I set the alarm clock at 5:15am, and we did start our climb one hour later. It was a clear chilly morning, 13deg F. Everyone had a light pack, carried skis, and was equipped with ice axe and crampons. We dropped down to and crossed Rock Creek, then ascended benches on mixed rock and snow to the drainage from Erin Lke. After cramponing up a steep slope east of Peak 3857m, we continued to climb on skis to Erin Lake, which was safe to ski on. At the north end there was a frozen waterfall. When we reached it, we were delighted to find some dripping water to fill our bottles. After shooting some nice pictures we proceeded to ski to the northwest end of the cirque where one ascends the southern slopes of Mt Pickering (4107m, 13,474,). The snow coverage was excellent, the slopes not too steep, so it was possible to ski all the way to the summit although five climbed the upper part on foot. All of us (Continued next page)
Pickering had softened and it was great skiing down its southern slopes. Of course, one had to watch ones turns on a long 30+deg slope. Mark and I had a great time with jump tele turns until Murphy’s law struck: In the soft wet spring snow one more strong steering of his skis cracked Marks bindings. The entire Voile base plate broke in half which was impossible to repair. There was no alternative than to hike down which he did ahead of us. The rest of us waited for R.J., then proceeded down on skis. By 6pm we were all back at base camp. Except for the ski damage it was a fine afternoon, and we all agreed that climbing J.D. would have been too much.

On Tue, 4/17, we got up at the usual hour, 5:30am, except for two who wanted to have a rest day. Our plan was to climb and ski Joe Devel. Since the snow coverage along its southern slopes looked spotty, R.J. decided to leave his skis behind and hike with Mark. We dropped down into a meadow in Rock Creek, then gained the southern ridge and ascended the long SE slopes to the summit (4062m, 13,327,). Impressive cornices hung over parts of the ridge. At 11:30am Mark and I signed in as first visitors in 2001, followed later by Susan and R.J. On a clear, winter-like day we enjoyed some of the best views from the summit. We could see San Gorgonio, Mt Pinos, the Panamints, the Kaweahs and the Great Western Divide, and of course the house on Mt Whitney. Mt Guyot, which we also wanted to ski, appeared tantalizingly close but judging from the GPS reading and the terrain it would be at least a 10mi round trip which was out of question for the afternoon. After taking many pictures and finishing an early lunch it was time to descend. Mark went ahead to avoid the soft snow, while I was looking forward to it for a fun ski run down. Near the summit the cold wind kept the snow crusty but further below it turned into nice spring snow. The main difficulty was to find a continuous ski route through the rocks on the south-facing slope. It required many tight turns and, of course, no falls into the rocks. But it was infinitely more fun than post holing or walking on scree as in summer time. Further below, I found a pair of skis hanging in a
tree, obviously Susan. s. I sat down, took a nap, and waited till she and R.J. came down. Then we skied/hiked together back to base camp, arriving there by 3 pm. It was warm enough to take a full body wash in the icy creek and to make laundry. We had a relaxed afternoon, an early supper, but watched with concern the increasing cirrus clouds and the ring around the sun. A spectacular red sunset concluded the fourth day.

On Wed, 4/18, we all packed up and began our return. We counted on skiing out in two days. If it were not for the long trek on the road we would have stayed another day to do Mt Guyot. But in retrospect, the decision to head out saved us from a rapidly approaching winter storm. As we retraced our route along the slopes below Cirque Pk a cold wind was blowing, the sky became overcast, and low clouds approached from the south. Although it was tricky side hiling along the frozen slopes we made good progress and arrived by noon at Cottonwood Pass. Good spring snow made the 1,000, ski run down from the pass a real pleasure, although tiring with full packs. We lunched in Horseshoe Mdw, skied to the trailhead, and then enjoyed a wonderful ski run down the snow-covered road to near Little Cottonwood Creek where the snow petered out. A short ascent got us to the high point near the heliport. There the road makes a narrow passage in the ridge forming a wind tunnel where 60mph gusts nearly blew us off the road. After this last obstacle we cruised down to the cars. By 4 pm we had concluded our 15 mi ski/hike out from Rock Creek. We were glad since the weather report predicted snowfall on Thur down to 5,500. Near our cars a crew was filming a TV commercial showing a luxury car driving on a curvy mountain road. After unloading our gear and changing into fresh clothes we headed down to Lone Pine for dinner. An extra large pizza vanished in no time since we had burnt many calories on this trip. At 6 pm we all scattered into different directions, some even staying in town. Although the bodies felt various aches and pains nobody got hurt and we felt good about our ski mountaineering adventure. We had hoped to ski more peaks but road and weather conditions are unpredictable in mid April and it is not so easy to knock off two peaks a day in winter. Instead of many peaks we had lots of fun. Just remember the discussion of fying the grouse, Susan, s dream talks interpreted by R.J., the story of her “missing” gloves, the many “mutinies” on the rocks, and gossips about all our somewhat eccentric SMS leaders.

Thanks to everyone for five enjoyable days.
COYOTE PEAK/ANGORA MTN
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
May 26-28, 2001
By Sara Wyrens

This three-day trip to the Great Western Divide started at Lloyd Meadows Trailhead (5,840'), 23 miles north of Johnsondale where our group of 13 started off. They were: Reiner Stenzel, Randall Danta, Dea Denton, Donna Specht, Joe Stack, Warren Ngo, Eric and Lori Beck, Susan and Bill Livingston, Rob Jorden, Harvey Ganz and myself. This trail moves its way North East and continues to the Little Kern River Bridge where our group stopped to have an early lunch and to share this lovely rest stop with several other people, horses and dogs. This was a relatively uneventful morning until a dog fell into the fast flowing river and, for all intense purposes, looked like it would drown. Ahh, but not to worry; the very gallant Randall saved the day and jumped in to rescue the canine. Way to go Randall! It surely would have ruined my day to have started off watching a dog drowned. But the trip continued on and we had other challenges to deal with beside dogs in water.

The first issue is that the trail system indicated on either the Forest Service or the topos, are not necessarily accurate and true to form. Many trials break off here and there, and the Forest Service map shows a trail breaking off near White Mtn saddle heading North East in a gully towards Coyote Lakes. We found the gully but not trail; well not where it is indicated on the map anyway. The trial actually heads sort of North West. All of this is talked about in the SPS archives and backpackers/climbers are warned. This maze of trails is not as ambiguous as it seems, and actually, all trail veins end up on a main trail eventually. However, it is strongly suggested that this trip be scouted before taking up groups to avoid detours and delays.

At any rate, our group continued on from Kern Bridge winding around and eventually coming upon a 4-way trail junction (this junction is actually on the map). From here looking towards the North, the saddle between White Mtn and Angora dominates the view. This is where we will camp which brings us up to yet another issue; water or the lack thereof.

The saddle from the trailhead is slightly over 3,300 accumulative gain and 11.5 miles. It is necessary to get at least as far as this saddle on the first day in order to bag both peaks for the weekend; day two being 16 miles and 5,000 accumulative, mostly xc.

When looking at the topo, it shows that Deep Creek runs just about the area most convenient to camp. As we backpacked up the last very steep 800 feet towards the saddle, we knew there would be a possibility the water was dried up, what with low rain fall. Turns out, it was almost dry with small pools with slow trickling water, barely big enough to make do. But again, not to worry, Reiner suggested a dam could be made so he and Randall proceeded to do so. Thanks again to both of these guys!

Day two: The group went first for Coyote (10,892'). It is best to break from the trial at about the 9,600' contour line xc and traverse around the ridge rather than taking the trail all the way. This saves miles, gain and loss. The ridge will let you off back on the trail to continue on towards Coyote Lakes and Peak. Coyote proved to be a fun class two peak, the route being obvious following another convenient ridge. Angora (10,198') was bagged on the way back to camp. The route being xc to saddle, hop on ridge and scramble to top. After the tiring day, Harvey made us a homemade pie in the ground using coals that he packed in. What a treat! This went very well as breakfast the next morning.

I went back two weeks later to the area to explore the Trout Meadow Springs area which is East of the Little Kern. To get there, one takes a right at the 4-way junction (above mentioned) instead of left as I did with my group. This is a decent trail that leads to a flowing creek and forest service station (I'm was told by a horseman is broken into by bears on a regular basis). I also went to take the alternative route towards the peaks on the trail and avoid the ridge/divide. This area is very desolate down the steep broken trail that fades in and out and dissolves into the various meadows surrounding the creek. I had to xc back to the crest as I was not able to find the trail at one point. Hence, the ridge route is the best way to bag Coyote. I camped again at the saddle and found our beautiful dam of sticks, logs and earth had almost evaporated but was still usable, luckily because of the small trickle of merciful water still flowing.

Hikers/peak baggers and the like don't get up into this area much. The last person to sign in the Coyote register was in 1999 and we saw not another soul after the Little Kern; water, of course being a main issue; but actually, the remoteness of this area is a personal attraction for me.

Despite all the challenges confronting us, what with drowning dogs, vague trailways and unreliable water, this was a wonderful trip.

Thanks to all who made it so!

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Quote: "God is the friend of silence. See how nature -- trees, flowers, grass -- grow in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence - We need silence to be able to touch souls."   Mother Teresa
Mt. Silliman

September 22-23, 2001
Doug Mantle and Tina Bowman, Co-leaders

At 7:30 Saturday morning at the hiker parking area at Lodgepole, Sequoia National Park, Doug and I met nine participants: Joanne Andrews, Gary Bowen, Robert Cymbala, Abraham Gale, Linda Landau, Lorna Mathias, Randy Riedel, Don Sparks, and Nancy Stanko. Once the food was packed in bear barrels, we headed off up the gentle Twin Lakes trail, past the junction with the trail to the new Wuksachi lodging area, and on to the Silliman Creek drainage, where we picked up a good use trail. Unfortunately, the stream branch down from Silliman Lake was dry, so we ended up backpacking farther up the drainage than originally planned, all the way up the slabs and on to Silliman Lake. At least the weather was lovely—sunny, warm without being hot, and all around gorgeous.

We found good campsites away from the lake and off the vegetation, and soon nine of us were on our way to Mt. Silliman, getting to the top in a little over an hour. We spent a long time up there, pointing out the peaks we could see from this excellent vantage point well off the crest. Having lingered till after the moment of the autumnal equinox had passed—thanks to physics and astronomy teacher Don Sparks for knowing that—and then ambled back to camp by 5:00.

The Thai-theme dinner potluck was quite successful, with too much food. We were treated to a splendid sunset, very rich in color from clouds over the valley and alpenglow above us. The night was very mild with only a hint of breeze, enough to keep the dew off us.

Sunday morning we were up at 5:45 and off at 7:00, back down the slabs an onto the use trail. The one clump of aspens in Silliman Meadow was ablaze with color, lit up very nicely with the morning sun. Even with several generous rest stops, most of us were back to the cars by 11:00. Doug and I signed WTC cards for four participants—Abraham, Lorna, Randy, and Nancy. Everyone did quite well on this trip that turned out to be a bit more difficult than planned because of the backpacking up the slabs. All handled the tough stuff with aplomb! What a great late-season trip!

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had a leisurely breakfast and walked out to the cars somewhat the wiser from our experience.

The interesting thing about this two and a half day trip was that we went all the way into Center Basin, climbed Mt. Bradley and never needed a wilderness permit. The reason is that Robinson Lake, where we camped is not in the wilderness permit area and our entry was only on a day hike.

Lamont Peak

September 15, 2001
By Jerry Keating

It was supposed to be a leisurely one-day intro trip with Sunday left open for independent climbs. Thirteen persons were on the roster, and some of them were relative newcomers. Then, the tide turned, the worst development being the deadly attacks September 11 on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

By September 15, there were five withdrawals and one no show. On hand, were seven veteran climbers, all but one with leader ratings. Four climbed Lamont Peak (7429') Saturday via the conventional use trail that seemed more faint in places than in the past. The three others, all of whom previously had climbed Lamont at least once, went part way to the summit and then relaxed at a good viewing point.

Participants were June Box, Delores Holladay, Barbara Lilley, Gordon MacLeod, Barbara Lilley, and leaders Jerry and Nancy Keating.

Sunday, three members of the group independently climbed Backus Peak (6651') in deference to nearly 90-degree mid-day temperature at the cars. A steady breeze made the day bearable for hiking but did little to allay apprehension about how far terrorists are willing to go to attack America’s well-being.

Summit of Independence
An SPS Newbie Perspective:
Mt. Baldwin (12,615) and Red Slate Mtn (13,123)
Sept 5-7, 2001
by George Wysup

I have led a sheltered climbing life under the
protection of the Hundred Peaks (HPS) list, with a
few Desert Peaks (DPS) thrown in. I figured that,
after completing three HPS lists it was time to bust
out of the shell and try a Sierra Peaks (SPS) trip. My
friend Penelope May suggested I go on a trip on
which she was assisting Ron Hudson. I did not know
Ron Hudson, but Penelope assured me that he is a
eine fellow and the epitome of leaders.
I checked the peaks in Secor’s book, which
said they were class 2. They should be done after a
have developed a case of sluggititis and I was
struggling mightily to keep up with Ron’s pace,
though it looked effortless on him. I was the only
person not talking—not out of shyness; I just
couldn’t speak for gasping. I got a reprieve when one
member realized that she forgot to lock her car. No
problem. She just hustled down the 3 miles/1500’ to
lock the car, then hustled back. I would have just let
them steal the darned car.

We camped at a pleasant spot at about
10,000’ elevation, just east of Baldwin. There was a

Nice, easy pack in on Convict Creek trail. This
sounds like something I can handle. I figured—a
baby step on the road to many SPS achievements.

Settled. Rather than conquer 12 or 15 HPS
peaks on these 3 days I drove to Convict Lake to do a
bit of acclimatization overnight at 7600’. A slight
threat of thunderstorms appeared to be ending,
though it was breezy. Looks like a fine 3 days! I met
the group in the morning. I knew most of them; Brent
Crookham, Patty Rambert, Tom Sakovich, and
Penelope, Eric Lesser and Ron I had not met.

We threw on the packs and started up the
trail. Now, I am used to being in the front on HPS
trips, with the others gasping behind. I seemed to
nice spring that could not possibly have giardia, and
there was no sign of bears, not even varmints. And
no mosquitos! We had talked about assaulting
Baldwin that afternoon, but the foray back to the
unlocked car forwent that—luckily, as it turns out.
We enjoyed a happy hour, then BS’ed until after
dark.

We started up to Baldwin before sunrise,
about 0630. Everyone else wore some sort of tiny
summit pack. Curious. I probably should have one of
those. I wore my 6 lb. internal frame, compressed.
More bad planning; I had only 2 quarts of liquid
capacity, so I had to borrow from Ron. I am a pretty
heavy drinker (water and

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Gatorade). We intersected a use trail, followed it for a mile or so until it disappeared. We jogged left, then right, then left again, heading up a very steep slope which may be class 2. I think almost class 3, eventually reaching a saddle north of Baldwin, where I looked up at a loose class 3 to 4 ridge, maybe 400' to the summit. We had best go back and find a better route, I thought. Ohmigod, they are actually going to climb this! I tossed a mental coin. Heads I wimp out, tails I probably die. I threw tails and proclaimed my reluctance to sacrifice my life for Mt Baldwin. Heck, it's not even an emblem peak. Tom Sackowitch, apparently wanting to die with me, said, "Come on, George, you can do this." This urging got me up another 50 feet, where I could see the route get even worse. To my extreme relief Ron decided it was too dangerous [I knew that!] and we headed back down.

We scooted down, maybe 700', with some difficulty on my part, and Ron led us on a traverse to the left. Voila, there was the use trail below us. Ron had originally intended to climb Red Slate in the pm, and he seemingly had not given up on that idea. The way was clear, but my quads were burning from that downhill. I suggested that I head back for camp and not slow them down. No way could I bag Red Slate, too. The group urged me to the summit, saying "come on, George, it's only a thousand feet!" I succumbed.

A bit up the hill we passed a calcite mine, littered with tons of glistening, translucent, rhomboid crystals. The trail was seemingly created for access to this mine and another mine further up the hill. From here it proved to be an easy slog to the summit. Baldwin is quite a handsome mountain, being composed of white (marble) and gray bands of metamorphic rock with some red-brown volcanic intrusions. I was happy that I came along.

We checked for a good direct route to Red Slate and, to my relief, there was none. So we headed back to camp, arriving at about 3 pm. A nap, a happy hour, and some more BS-ing preceded sack time. Up early again for a 630 start to Red Slate. The route was very scenic up to Lake Wit-so-nah-pah, and I was almost keeping up with the gang. Then the excrement hit the (alluvial?) fan. We went up a long, loose, steep slope of smallish talus. One step up, half a step back, kicking spectacular boulders down the hillside (no danger, it was on traverse). My butt was beginning to show serious dragging. The summit was straightforward, and soon I had my second SPS peak on a scheduled trip. Hey, I can now become a member [and vote the bums out!] Tired but proud I signed the register and gazed at the grand panorama about us. Banner and Ritter, Lyell, Montgomery, Red'nWhite, you name it. Baldwin glistened in the foreground, a pretty little peak.

I was dreading a trip back down that talus slope. Ron saved my arse and led us on a different route back to camp, via Constance Lake, that went quite nicely. We hastily packed up for the walk back to "civilization". I used my pack as a large stuff sack; plenty of space, neatness doesn't count. A surge of energy overcame the wiped out feeling and we made it back to the vehicles in 2 hours. The bad news: we didn't 'get' Bloody Mtn, which was on the original schedule. OK, some other time. It's just a day hike. I'm happy; I have already forgotten the agony and remember only the ecstasy. I'll be back.

Note: La Casita Mexican restaurant, in Bishop, was quite good—probably because of the principle of relativity (the food was relatively much better than I had eaten for the last 3 days).

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Own Your Own SPS T-Shirt. They come with a picture of North Palisade on the front and the entire SPS list by geographic area, with Mountaineer and Emblem Peak easily identified on the back. T-Shirts come in Medium, Large and Extra Large. Colors are sand, ash and yellow. Cost is $12.00 plus $3.50 shipping for 1 and $4.00 for 2 or more T-shirts. Buy them from Patty at the SPS meetings and save the shipping charge. Make check payable to the SPS. Send your order to: Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga Canyon, CA 90290.

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Tired of Holiday/Yearly Junk Mail?! Get a complete list of addresses and ideas for reducing junk mail at: http://www.epa.state.oh.us/opp/consumer/junkmail.html Also send post cards to each company that you do not wish to receive mail from. They should put your name on a suppression list. This is a bit of an effort, but it pays in greatly reduced junk mail. Each year, 100 million trees are cut to produce paper for junk mail!
BOOK REVIEW:
CLOSE-UPS OF THE HIGH SIERRA, BY NORMAN CLYDE
(1998: Spotted Dog Press, Bishop, California; Edited & Designed by Wynne Benti)
Review by Mike McDermitt

On my week in the mountains this past summer, I took a couple of layover days in the Owens Valley, resting blistered feet and rearranging plans. Stopping by Wilson’s Eastside I happened to look at the book section and among other things picked up this book, curious about the legendary Norman Clyde, about whom I knew very little. He was born in 1885, he died in 1972. He was the most prolific Sierra Nevada peakbagger of his day and still one of the 3-4 most prolific of all time; his Sierra first ascents outnumber those of all but one other climber. His initial first ascent was Electra Peak in Yosemite in 1914; his final first ascent was Kid Mountain in Kings Canyon in 1940. He climbed Mt. Whitney 50 times. He continued climbing into his 80s.

The book is a slim 170-page paperback. It begins with a forward which provides an historical background on the book itself (which was originally published in 1928 by the Auto Club) then an introduction which provides an excellent short biography of the author (in contradiction to the once-prevailing view, he was once married, briefly but happily), then a recollection by Glen Dawson. At the end is a closing, a list of Clyde’s first ascents (actually a useful reference although a portion of the list consists of citations like ‘Peak 12,415’ which is who knows what peak) and a selected list of Clyde’s other writings.

The book itself consists of 21 short chapters. Occasional photos (new and old) are interspersed along with old hand-drawn maps. The first four chapters describe noteworthy peaks grouped by elevation (fourteener, peaks over 13,500, etc.) and a fifth, peaks of Yosemite. The rest of the chapters consist of essays, most being essentially short reports of various trips and climbs, including rather noteworthy first ascents (east face of Mt. Whitney, Clyde Minaret, Mt. Russell). There are also a few chapters on general climbing topics such as thunderstorms and avalanches. Clyde has a writing style that manages to squeeze out florid almost contorted phrasings about the repetitive observations characteristic of climbing (views, views, views); it makes the reading more interesting for sure. Everything about the climbs is, of course, understated. Things get strenuous but never out of hand. Solo unroped fourth class climbs, thousands of vertical feet, all compressed to a jump or a hop or a walk. It is amazing that he survived his career.

I read the introductions then skipped to the penultimate chapter and read the vignettes back to front, lastly reading the sections on peaks, then closing with the last chapter (a sad story). It let me get a sense of the man first and I would suggest that approach to anyone reading it. For those comparatively few peaks that I personally have climbed, it was fun to compare his impressions to mine. I felt that the book does convey a sense that us avid peak climbers are following in his footsteps (since mountains erode quite slowly, of course, this is literally true but still enjoyable), that his climbing experiences were not that different from ours. There is ample opportunity for Sierra travelers to find personal common ground. For me it happened when he related a scene in Desolation Basin in the early summer when snow cover was virtually continuous; a tiny patch of grass is uncovered and some tiny yellow flowers (Draba) are blooming. I have only camped in Desolation Basin once; it was an early summer in identical snow-bound conditions; the only time I have ever attempted a close-up photo of flowers in the Sierra, was exactly that shot (it turned out nicely). Finally, the closing essay describes a trip gone awry in a snowstorm; his hiking partner dies in the cold. He describes it as an unfortunate but freak occurrence, caused by that individual’s quirksiness. I read it and saw a clear-cut case of hypothermia (I would be interested to hear if others agree or disagree). In closing, this book is an easy, quick and entertaining read, one which I highly recommend to any Sierra Nevada peak climber.
CONSERVATION 2 LINERS

Barbee Tidball

Recruitment Fees – FEE Demo. Fee Demo was extended through 2004 on Wed., October 10, Congress worked out a compromise for the Interior Appropriations Bill (HR 2217) and sent the legislation to President Bush to sign. The compromise included an extension of the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (Fee Demo) by another two years.

This is not the fourth year extension that President Bush originally requested and was passed in the House version of the bill on June 22nd. The program is now set to expire on September 30, 2004. In addition to the two year extension of Fee Demo, the bill includes another provision for the removal of the cap on the number of projects permissible under Fee Demo. Previously, each agency (Forest Service, Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management) was authorized to implement no more than 100 Fee Demo projects. For more information see www.freeourforests.org. The site includes links to supporting groups.

Summary of Recreational Fee Demonstration Program Receipts
Information from the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee

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<tr>
<td>National Park Service</td>
<td>456.9</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Land Management</td>
<td>16.1</td>
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<td>Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>181.7</td>
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South Sister, Oregon Volcanic activity has been observed possibly building on South Sister one of the Three Sisters volcanoes in central Oregon. The mountain last spilled magma about 1,200 years ago. “Satellite images earlier this year revealed that a region 9 to 12 miles across had risen about 4 inches from 1996 to 2000. Geologists said it was the most striking geological change in the Cascade Range since the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens.” LATimes Oct. 25, 2001.

Giant Sequoia National Monument protected! Late September, a federal judge in Washington D.C. upheld the designation of this new California monument. Tulare County as well as timber and off-highway groups had sued against the monument. Created in April 2000 under the Antiquities Act, the monument covers 330,000 acres of land. The Antiquities Act requires delineating the least possible area to protect a resource.

The court rejected Tulare County’s argument that the Sequoia groves only required a designated area of about 20,000 acres. The ruling sets a precedent that Earthjustice hopes will prevail in similar challenges currently pending hearings.

Mammoth Airport – Since last publication Earthjustice’s lawsuit on the airport was dismissed pending the FAA’s preparation and issuing of the required EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). Earthjustice, representing the Sierra Club, National Parks Conservation Association, California Wilderness Coalition and Natural resources Defense Council maintains the option to reopen the lawsuit if the FAA does not meet its obligations.

On the state and local level, a SSEIR (Supplemental Subsequent Environmental Impact Report) was issued October 5, 2001. Comments are currently being prepared by the Range of Light Group as well as other organizations. The SSEIR reportedly addresses impacts to the airport area but fails to consider impacts to the town of Mammoth and surrounding areas. Your letters are needed to support the efforts of the Range of Light Group. Send a short letter before Thanksgiving to William Manning, Airport Manager, Town of Mammoth Lakes, P.O. Box 1609, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Fax: 760/934-7493 stating that you are a skier and hiker or climber. Note in your letter that your frequently travel to the subject area and that you are very concerned about impacts to water, air, solitude, etc. from an expanded airport operation. Request that the SSEIR be corrected to study impacts throughout the area.

On a side note, Bishop has recently completed an EIS/EIR for expansion of their airport. The expanded airport would allow for more flights from Southern California. Long range plans include widening one runway to handle 757s.
A new video, “Those Tremendous Mountains” - so named because that’s what Meriwether Lewis called the Rockies during his trek with William Clark - is available from the Sierra Club’s Bitterroot-Mission Group. The video introduces the Club’s campaign to honor the bicentennial of Lewis & Clark journey, to acknowledge what has been lost since and to protect and restore what is left of wild America.

The video is an outreach tool for educating Club members and others about the campaign and the need to take action. For more information, contact Jennifer Ferenstein at jen@wildrockies.org; (406) 543-0079.

The following story was published in the March/April issue of “Tracks” the Angeles Chapter, Gay & Lesbian Sierrans newsletter. I have taken the liberty of copying most of the article for SPS members reading.

Hiking the World Wide Web: Hit the Trail without Getting Your Boots Dirty

By Eric Sas

Everything you ever wanted to know about Wildflowers but were afraid to ask

Our first stop is the website for The California Academy of Sciences’ California Wildflower Database located at http://www.calacademy.org/research/botany/wildflow/. Here you can search for pictures and descriptions of wildflowers by their color, common name, Latin name or by their family. I found this website to be very straightforward and user-friendly. I just clicked on “Common Names” then selected “F” (first letter of Farewell-to-Spring) and scrolled down to Farewell-to-Spring. I then clicked on the name and was taken to a page that showed three pictures of the flower as well as a brief description. The thing I didn’t like about this website is that the pictures are fairly small and they can’t be blown up by clicking on them.

If it’s pictures you want (21,378 images) then the Calphotos: Plant & Fungi, UC Berkeley Digital Library Project is the website for you. See http://d1d.cs.berkeley.edu/Photos/flora/. The search feature on this site looks a little complicated at first glance, but in actuality it is quite easy to use. In the “Name” box I just typed in “Farewell-to-Spring” (making sure to include the hyphens) and came up with 28 different pictures. On this site, when you click on the small photograph (called a “Thumbnail”) you get a beautiful enlargement. Clicking on “More Information” gives you the date and location of the photo as well as links to the Calflora Database and ITIS, the (Integrated Taxonomic Information System)

For all you scientists, the Calflora Database located at http://www.calflora.org/ provides access to information about all 8375 currently recognized vascular plants in California, including over 660,000 records of plant observations and 20,000 photographs. Users may browse these collections by scientific or common names, or search by name, location, and other attributes. Information about plant distribution and individual occurrences are presented textually and via interactive map capabilities. In most cases the data is publicly available and downloadable.

For those that would like to plant wildflowers in their own yards or those that want to go see wildflowers, up close and personal, I recommend the website of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers & Native Plants at http://www.theodorepayne.org. This foundation is nonprofit retail nursery selling California native plants, seeds and books. They have 22 acres (in Sunland) and usually have displayed over 300 native species for sale. Starting March 1, 2001, they will be bringing you the best information around on what wildflowers are blooming where throughout Southern California. With information from about 30 sites throughout Southern California, they will be following the season’s color from the deserts to the mountains and in between. (Wildflower Hotline 818/768-3533). This site has a calendar of events, photo gallery and book reports, but unfortunately, some sections are still under construction.

These are but a few of the very interesting and informative sites that help us appreciate Mother Nature even more than we already do. Space does not permit me to list the many more websites available here, but they will be posted on our GLS website www.an-elescharmer.org/gls under “Resources.”

I hope the information provided here has sparked some curiosity in you and that you’ll go hiking the World Wide Web to find your own favorite websites to visit.
SPS Annual Banquet
Jan. 9, 2002
Travel to Africa. Climb Kilimanjaro (Uhuru Peak)

On June 11, 2000, Tina and Tom

Bowman, Jack Miller, and Barbara and Dave Sholle flew to Africa to climb two peaks and to go on safari. Dave carried his tiny digital video camera everywhere on the trip, capturing seven hours of video footage. The 2001 SPS banquet will feature Dave’s presentation of this video on DVD. Fortunately for the audience, the presentation is not all seven hours of video. Dave edited down the seven hours of footage into seven entertaining segments, totaling about 45 minutes. One segment features a day by day documentary of a climb of 19,340’ Mt. Kilimanjaro by the Western Breach route, from the Machame Gate to the Mweka Gate. Another segment is a day by day documentary of a climb of 16,355’ Pt. Lenana on Mt. Kenya, from the Sirimon Gate to the Naro Moru Gate.

Safari segments include one featuring only lions, one featuring animals at play, one featuring a balloon safari, and two general safari videos.
that contain scenes of many different animals. The safari footage was shot at Ngorongoro crater, Oldupai gorge, the Serengeti, Aberdare Country Club, the Ark and the Masai Mara. If you have never been to East Africa, the banquet presentation will whet your appetite to go, and if you have already been there, the video will bring back fond memories.

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Ticket Order Form  SPS Annual Banquet - Jan. 9, 2002
Mail checks made out to the SPS and the information on this form to Barbee Tidball, 3826 N. Weston Place, Long Beach, CA 90807-3317 along with a SASE for your return tickets.

Name(s) ________________________________________________

Number of Tickets ____ @ $28.00

Dinner Selections:
____ Fettuccini Boscaiolla (Artichokes, wild mushrooms, sun dried tomatoes in a roasted cream sauce)

____ Roasted Herb Salmon with Lemon cream sauce

____ Chicken Grecque (Chicken breast stuffed with Spinach, Feta and Ricotta with Supreme Sauce)

Location: Cultural Center at the Greek Orthodox Church, 5761 Colorado, Long Beach
Time: 6:00 PM No Host Bar, 7:30 Dinner. The evenings awards program will start at 8:30 and the Program at 9:15 PM
Table reservation for groups of 8. Provide name of your group with ticket orders.
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SUBSCRIPTIONS: $12.00 per year, due by March 31st. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Sustaining membership is $25.00 per year, and includes first class postage. Submit new subscription applications and renewals to the section Treasurer: Maria Roa, 2249 Pattiglen Ave., La Verne, CA 91750 and include your Sierra Club membership number. New applications received after October 1 are credited for the subsequent year. Only one ECHO subscription is necessary for multiple members of a family residing at one address. Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club or the SPS are not tax-deductible.

ADVERTISEMENT: Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the following rates. Private trip announcements: $1.00 for the first 4 lines and $1.00 for each additional line. Other announcements and product/service advertisements: $1.00 per line or $25.00 for a half page space. Reach out to our climbing constituency and place an ad today! Send copy and check made out to the SPS, to the Editor.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes to Matthew Richardson, 333 Sycamore Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. The ECHO is mailed via 3rd class mail and will not be forwarded by the post office.

PEAKS LIST: Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending $1.00 and a SASE to the section Secretary: Matthew Richardson, 333 Sycamore Ave., Claremont, CA 91711.

MISSING ISSUES: Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Erik Siering, 9359 Lincoln Blvd. #1252, Los Angeles, CA 90045-7101.

AWARDS: Notification of accomplishments send to section Secretary: Matthew Richardson, 333 Sycamore Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. To purchase awards merchandise - Emblem pins ($15.00), senior emblem pins ($15.00), master emblem pins ($15.00), list finisher pins ($15.00), and section patches ($2.00) are available from Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr., Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290. Make all Checks Payable to the SPS. all prices include sales tax.

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Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904
"To explore, enjoy, and preserve"

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