List Finish on Tehipite Dome

September 24, 2016

Photo by Anne Mullins
Story Page 6

Also in this issue:
Iron Mountain,
Astronomy 2017,
Electric Charging in the Backcountry,
In High Places: The Alps, (Part 2)
Echoes from the Chair
By Tina Bowman

On January 29th, this year’s banquet will celebrate the life of Glen Dawson (1912-2016). Once again we’ll gather at Almansor Court in Alhambra to socialize with our climbing friends and hear about the life of an amazing climber and fine person. See the banquet flyer for more details, and be sure to make your reservations before January 19th to avoid the price increase. I hope to see you there!

The SPS Safety Policy has been rewritten and approved by the Safety Committee. Long-time member and former chair Joe Wankum has been working on creating a new website for the section, once again under the Sierra Club umbrella. After many years as webmaster, Kathy Rich is stepping down; we thank her for her fine service and appreciate all that she has done for the SPS over the years. For now, please continue to use sierrapeaks.org, but soon go to http://sierraclub.org/angeles/.

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Time to Renew!

Don’t forget to renew your Sierra Echo subscription! The annual $10 subscription is due each year by January 1st and delinquent after March 31st.

For more information, see the back cover of this issue. Please make out checks to the Sierra Peaks Section and mail to the treasurer:
SPS Treasurer
1701 Paloma St.
Pasadena, CA 91104

Unfortunately, there’s been no forward progress in the naming of a peak for Andy Smatko, but the proposal is still live.

Though the year is just beginning, it’s never too early to start dreaming of and planning Sierra climbs. I hope we’ll have another good year of SPS outings, ranging from introductory trips to hard-core climbing. If you know people who might like to join the SPS, please encourage them to check out the website, through the Echo, and on outings. Leaders, please try to have room for newcomers on your trips as appropriate.

Thank you to the members of the management committee, who have continued to serve the section so well. They have been a pleasure to work with.

Happy trails,
Tina
Tina Bowman, tina@bowmanchange.com

sierra-peaks (sierraclub.org/sps should also redirect you to the home page). We also will likely switch to electronic voting for most of our members, though of course those without email will receive a paper ballot. Please vote! Don’t forget to renew your Sierra Echo subscription! The annual $10 subscription is due each year by January 1st and delinquent after March 31st.
Glen Dawson-A Life Relived

Angeles Chapter historian and SPS emblem holder Bob Cates will present the life of Glen Dawson (1912-2016). An extraordinary climber and one of the earliest mountaineers in the United States to use roped climbing, Glen was a member of the first party to climb the east face of Mount Whitney, one of three honorary members of the SPS, bookman, and so much more in his rich, varied, and long life.

Sunday, January 29, 2017
Almansor Court
700 S. Almansor St.
Alhambra 91801
626-570-4600
5:00 Social Hour,
6:30 Dinner

Name________________________ E-Mail________________________ Phone_____________________

Number of tickets: __________________ TOTAL DUE __________________

Entree choice:
(Please indicate total number of each)

Fish
Vegetarian
Beef

@ $45 / each if postmarked by January 19. Ticket price increases to $50 each thereafter.
Make checks payable to “Sierra Peaks Section”

To order tickets by mail, send this form and payment to:
Alexander Smirnoff
1701 Paloma St.
Pasadena, CA 91104

— OR —

You may order tickets electronically.

Log on to:
http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2629154

(A $2.57 service fee applies)
Welcome new members!

Casey Newton
Casey has been hiking and climbing in the Sierra since he was a teenager. His favorite place to explore is Yosemite, where his current goal is to climb all the park mountaineers and SPS peaks. He is looking forward to SPS outings and gathering trip ideas from the Echo.

Welcome back!

Jim Scott
Jim has just returned to Southern California after a twenty-three-year absence, having lived in Texas, Nevada, and New York. Jim’s first official SPS peak was North Palisade in 1971. He was awarded the SPS Senior Emblem in 2008. He has climbed extensively in Asia, North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Australia. His list completions include the DPS, HPS, and fifty-state Highpoints lists.

We also welcome new member Patrick McCreary

New Leaders!

Kristen Lindbergh
Congratulations to Kristen Lindbergh, above, who has achieved her M-Rock rating!

Thanks for leading for the SPS!
Congratulations!

Shane Smith
Shane completed the SPS list on Tehipite Dome, September 24, 2016. See page 6 for the report. Congrats, Shane!

Laura Newman
Laura earned her Smatko emblem on Jeff Davis Peak, on September 28, 2016.

Alvin Walter
Alvin earned his Master Emblem on Mt. Ruskin, October 10, 2016.

SPS Climbers from Afar
Shown on a recent Sierra trip are SPS climbers from across the country (left to right) Burt Falk (Palm Desert), Mary Motheral (Upland), Jim Scott (New York), Diane and Charlie Winger (Colorado). Many of Jim Scott’s climbs were with Burt Falk (439 so far), whom he’s known since kindergarten; with Charlie Winger (117), Diane Winger (3), and Mary Motheral (58). Everyone shown has completed the fifty-state Highpoints list except Diane with forty-nine.
A very big thank you to the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club for allowing me to be a participant with all of the club’s wonderful peak climbing sections and to the Sierra Peaks section for having me as a member. Thank you to the following who came on this SPS list finish trip and encouraged me all the way to my final step on Tehipite Dome: Daryn Dodge, Kathy Rich, Paul Garry, Dan Richter, Steve Smith, Corrine Livingston, Keith Christensen,
Tom Sakowych, Anne Mullins, Lisa Barboza, Sandra Hao, Brian Roche, Greg Gerlach, Laura Newman, Skyler Smith, and Bruce Albert.

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, Paul, Dan, Steve, Anne, and Lisa for co-leading. A special note of appreciation to Dan Richter for also sharing his excellent rope work knowledge, which added to our climbing efficiency and a feeling of safety for all. The weather turned out to be excellent, and the nightly camps were enjoyable and fun. (Continued on page 8).

Bill T’s Dream

By Dan Richter

Over the years as your SPS Archivist, I have become acutely aware of the tragic loss of our summit registers. Whether stolen or destroyed by time, these valuable histories of our climbs are gone forever. Before he died, my mentor, Bill T. Russell, asked me to help him fulfill his dream of creating an SPS Archives at UCLA. During his last days, we went there, and, with the help of our friends at UCLA, we able to establish the archives. Over the years I have placed all the SPS papers, photos, registers, and artifacts there. I have also arranged for donations to the archives from the DPS and other...

Editor’s note: This sidebar and photos of the register will continue to run alongside the list finish article. All register photos by Dan Richter.
Shane Smith’s Notes from a Sierra Peaks List Finish:

1st Peak: Mt. Lola 10/15/1978 (on dad’s shoulders)
Favorites: Russell (E. Arete), Tyndall (N. Rib), Williamson (George Ck), Tunemah (solitude), Sierra Buttes (appearance)
Memorable Areas: Benson Lake (near Piute and Petitt), Armstrong Canyon drive and campsite (Mt. Perkins climb)
Most Dangerous: Black Kaweah (loose!), Middle Pal (14’er w/lots of people and a 2,000’ chute of falling rock)
Memorable Peaks: McDuffie (exhausting), McGee (sinister looking and remote), Whorl (route finding)
Worthy of Class 4 (my opinion): LeConte (Waterfall Pitch), Summit Blocks: Stewart, Brewer, Tehipite
Fun Group Trips: Big Arroyo Mule Clean Out (nine peaks), Kings-Kern Divide Mule Clean Out (eleven Peaks)
Most Memorable View: Kern Point—A Great 360!
Peaks Soloed: 163

(Bill T’s Dream continued)

climbing sections as well. Now when I receive old registers, I send the ones from before 1940 to the Bancroft Library at Berkeley, and the newer ones I place in UCLA.

In September, I had the privilege to be on Shane Smith’s list finish on Tehipite Dome. While celebrating on the summit we found an old register that was deteriorating from damp and time that had been placed on the summit September 14, 1974. As I opened it there was Bill T’s name on the first page written on the 21st of May 1977 along
Shane’s Safety Note Suggestions
(for newbie future SPS climbers):

- Stay off snow and ice
- Stay away from loose rock
- Stay away from large groups in steep rock fall areas and gullies
- Ascend the peaks via the easiest route possible (all peaks can be climbed snow free if you schedule accordingly)
- Watch late season weather! Why rush a late season climb, run into a storm, and get stuck? There is next year!

I felt rain would be the number one climbing danger because if you get wet and a cold wind comes in, it can get very dangerous. Thus, I packed lightly but always carried rain gear and a rain-proof solo tent all the way to peak summits. This gave me a lot of confidence knowing I could keep warm and dry with that of his close friend Duane McRuer. I was for a moment overcome with emotion, and, as I turned the pages, memories welled up of so many other old friends as well as those I never knew but had heard so much about. The fragile register was falling apart as I held it, and so we removed it to be placed in the safety of our archives at UCLA.

I have scanned the complete register and some of the pages have been reproduced here for you to see. I hope you enjoy looking at these images and the memories they engender.
during ANY part of the trip.

I also enjoyed the confidence I got from observing everything around me (what the peaks look like, what the peaks look like from every different angle of the trip, and what my surroundings look like from every different location on the trip). Soon I could recognize just about all areas and peaks of the Sierra—a definite confidence booster and essential skill for climbing. I soon found my orienting skills improve quickly. Definitely climb as much as possible with groups and participate in the wonderful Sierra Peak Section trips to gain confidence and experience.
Again, thank you to the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club for the great peaks lists and of course the SPS for all the great climbing opportunities and support. I now have the confidence, experience, social skills, and knowledge to be a productive and contributive citizen to society. Now on to the ultimate challenge; a career job and family!

~Shane
10/30/16
Ridgacent, California

Top: View from Tehipite summit to Gorge of Despair. Left: Fire burning in Crown Valley seen from Spanish Mtn. Fire would have canceled the finish for a second year, but with a change of campsites the climb could proceed (Photos by Kathy Rich).
The cell phone has become as ubiquitous in the wilderness as the backpack. Irony runs wild, for there is no cell signal in the wilderness. It is wrong to call that pocket device a phone. It is a GPS receiver, a topographic map, a wristwatch, a camera, a notepad, a compass, a flashlight, a first aid manual, a music box, a solar lunar ephemeris, a calendar, and a guidebook. All these functions are available even when there is no cell signal. If the trek happens to be in the line of sight of a cell tower, the pocket device serves even more functions.

It’s not my purpose today to judge whether the pocket device degrades or enhances the wilderness experience. (John Muir would have scoffed but Norman Clyde would have indulged.) It is enough to say that in this era, many wilderness travelers carry one.

Every wilderness user of the little electronic wonder quickly runs up against its basic flaw: Usage draws down the battery. The device cannot continue to function all the way from trailhead to trailhead.

We try to conserve power. We switch to airplane mode, which disconnects the power thirsty antenna circuit. We ratchet down screen brightness. We ration our use of the most power intensive apps. But eventually we must recharge.

How much juice do we need? If we open the battery cover on the phone, we can read the rated capacity right off the stenciled letters on the battery. My iPhone 5 is rated at 1900 milliamp-hours, abbreviated mAh. Now that the battery has aged a few years, the actual capacity may be somewhat diminished. The iPhone 6-plus is rated at 2900 mAh. How much juice is that?

A circuit that carries one amp of current for one second, over a drop of one volt, uses one watt of power. When we do the math, we find that a 100 watt light bulb operating on a 115 volt household circuit draws 870 milliamps of current. We could run that standard light bulb for about two hours with an iPhone 5 battery, or about three hours with an iPhone 6-plus battery.

We have two basic options: make our own juice or bring extra juice from home.
Generating solar electricity is an attractive option. Generating is green, it is self-sufficient, and it can meet our needs for a trek of any duration. There are a lot of products that fit the bill. Try the Nekteck 20 watt solar charger. In bright sunlight it will provide 2.0 amps to one device, or 1.5 amps each to two devices. You and I could both charge up using the Nekteck in the time it takes to enjoy a lunchtime swimming break. It’s a compact solar panel, measuring at 12 by 6 inches folded, or 12 by 23 inches opened. The unit weighs 16 ounces. It costs $49.99 direct from Nekteck.

Bringing extra juice from home is an attractive option. Charge up a high capacity external battery at home, and then use the external battery to recharge the phone on the trail. This option works well even if the sun doesn’t shine. There are also a lot of options for this class of product. Try the Anker Power Core 10000. As the name suggests, its capacity is 10000 mAh. The Anker can recharge the iPhone 5 five times, or the iPhone 6-plus three times. Charging a phone with the Anker takes about 90 minutes, and unlike a solar charger, it takes the same amount of time at any hour and in any weather. At home after the trek, we plug the Anker into an outlet and refill the battery overnight, just as we would recharge a phone. The unit weighs 6.4 ounces. It costs $23.99 direct from Anker.

We could try to capture the advantages of a solar charger together with the advantages of a battery pack. Absone makes a solar charger with an integral 10000 mAh battery pack. It’s 5.5 inches by 2.5 inches, and 0.75 inches thick. The solar array is small, so it takes 40 daylight hours to recharge the battery. The maker says that the primary charging should be done at an outlet, and the solar cell is only for topping off the battery. The unit weighs 9.2 ounces. It costs $19.99 direct from Absone.

With a solar charger, with a large capacity spare battery pack, or with a hybrid solution, we’re now ready to become 21st century mountaineers in a cyber wilderness.

Astronomical Events in 2017

By Gene Mauk

I have been asked by Tina Bowman to write a preview of astronomical events in 2017 that might be of interest to SPS members. The following discussion will be limited to phenomena observable with the naked eye.

The brightness of four planets attracts attention, depending on the circumstances. Venus is always an attention getter. It is the brightest object in the sky after the sun and the moon. It will be a bright "evening star" in January and February. In March it passes through inferior conjunction and reappears in the morning sky, to remain as a bright "morning star" for the remainder of the year.

Jupiter is also a very bright object in the sky. It will rise in the east close to 1:00 am at the beginning of the year. By early April it will be up all night, rising at sunset and setting in the west at dawn. It will remain a prominent object in the evening sky until September when it will be lost in the sun’s evening twilight.

Mars, with its history of Martians and canals and the fact that humans may set foot on it within the next generation, deservedly attracts the public’s attention. That said, it will not be easily observable to the naked eye in 2017. It begins the year with a +1 magnitude just clear of evening twilight. As the months go by it recedes into the sun’s evening glare, finally passing behind the sun and into the dawn twilight at the end of July. It won’t become easily visible again until mid-October, rising just ahead of the sun.

And then there’s Saturn. It starts the year rising just early enough to be out of the Sun’s glare. As the months go by it rises earlier and earlier, finally reaching opposition with the sun in mid-June. At this
time it will be rising in the east at sunset and setting in the west at dawn. At that time it will be due south at midnight a little more than 30 degrees above the horizon. By October it will be disappearing in the evening twilight.

Of more than a dozen named meteor showers, three deserve mention. The best-known and very reliable Perseids shower peaks during the night of August 11/12. Best viewing for this shower is always a few hours after midnight. This year, however, the waning gibbous moon will hide all but the brightest meteors. The Orionids peak in the wee hours of October 21. The moon will not be a problem for this modest shower. The Geminids peak in the early evening hours of December 14. This shower can be counted on for numbers of up to two per minute, and the moon will not be an issue for this shower either.

The big astronomical event for 2017 will be a total eclipse of the sun on Monday, August 21. The path of totality, the first to pass over the United States since 1979, will be a narrow corridor of approximately sixty miles in width. The moon’s umbral shadow will first touch the earth in the northern Pacific and reach the Oregon coast just south of Portland soon after sunrise. It then crosses the breadth of the United States, exiting the South Carolina coast late in the afternoon. The duration of totality along the path centerline will vary from just under two minutes to a maximum of two minutes and forty seconds at a location in southern Illinois. Weather prospects are always a major consideration for the hopeful viewer. Fortunately for those of us in the west, the best chances for clear weather at eclipse time begin just east of the Oregon Cascades and extend through Idaho, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Further east and especially east of the Mississippi River, the likelihood of clear weather deteriorates significantly.

It should be noted that all of North America and a portion of South America will experience varying degrees of a partial eclipse. In Southern California over 60% of the sun’s diameter will be occulted by the moon at maximum eclipse. A warning! Be very careful to use proper eye protection when looking directly at the sun. Sunglasses do NOT provide safe eye protection.

Do any major Cascade peaks lie within the path of totality? Well, there is one. Mt Jefferson’s summit is within five miles of the path centerline. What a joy it would be to be on that mountain’s summit, in clear weather, at the time of totality (approximately 10:20 am) observing one of nature’s most glorious sights. Ahh! But I’m told that attaining Jefferson’s summit is no easy task. Nevertheless, I suspect that it will have human presence that day and hour.

A Not-So-Great Option for Iron Mountain

By Tina Bowman

In the last couple of years, I’ve taken some roundabout trips to climb peaks, following no-longer-maintained or infrequently maintained trails. This worked well for Kern Peak using the trail from the north and Tunnabora via the trail to Wallace Lake from the junction of the John Muir and High Sierra Trails. With ducks and obvious sections of trail, these routes went well, though they took longer simply because I had to go in a ways to reach the old trails. Still, I was walking trails new to me and seeing areas of the Sierra I hadn’t seen before. I decided to do this with my trip to Iron Mountain, September 6-7.

There’s a new overnight hiker’s parking lot near the Devils Postpile visitor’s center now, which adds about three-tenths of a mile to the trip and features an uphill return to the car. Oh well. I started toward the Postpile about 6:30, soon turned right at the sign for the PCT/JMT and King Creek trails, crossed the PCT and JMT, and continued on the King Creek trail, which RJ refers to as the Mammoth Trail in his book. I passed the junction of the trail to Fern Lake (aka the Beck Lakes trail), typically followed for a climb of Iron Mtn. I went up to a saddle at 9250’ and then down to Corral Meadow (7940’), about 10.5 miles from the car. So far, so good.

At the sign for Iron Lake, I turned right (north) and followed the trail a short ways in the meadow. And then it disappeared. I found it off and on again, but things didn’t bode well. Ahead of me and out of the meadow was an area burned long ago with...
downed trees and brush, sometimes sparse, sometimes huge. Now and then I saw footprints and the faint impressions of a trail. I followed it into some forest, where the trail was often evident because of all the branches it had collected. With my map and altimeter, I kept guessing where the trail might be, sometimes guessing right, sometimes just giving up and going cross-country. I saw a duck, one and no more—not very helpful. Eventually the trail became obvious above Alstot Lake and above most of the trees and meadows. It was easy to follow to a small pass and around the corner up to the small lake near Iron Lake, arriving at 3:05.

I set up my tent in one of the two great spots and headed off for Iron Lake and Iron Mountain on a bit of use trail but mostly talus and some scree, class 1 and 2. With a leisurely time on the summit, I was back in camp by 6:30 after about 15.5 miles and a little less than 6,000' gain for the day. A group of four had climbed the peak via Iron Lake two days earlier (over Labor Day weekend).

The next morning I came down most of the good section of trail and then went cross-country, contouring along well below the ridge that runs southeast from Iron Mountain. Most of this was easy walking with one spot where I worked around a dry waterfall area (class 2) and some brush, mostly fairly open and low. As I approached the area of the Granite Stairway and Stairway Meadow, I should have gone south to pick up the trail, but I continued with the contouring with a few logs to go around and such but still pretty easy. I eventually made my way to the saddle and trail, then dropped back to the Fern Lake trail junction. Below there I saw three guys on their way in to fish the lakes for a few days, the first people I’d seen on the whole trip. I was back to the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River before I saw anyone else.

So, yes, I climbed Iron by a different route and saw new territory, but I found the Iron Lake trail to be annoyingly elusive. Others might have more success in following the old trail, but since there are fine ways to climb Iron that are much shorter, there’s little incentive to take the route I took.

Left: Iron Lake, looking north toward (L to R) Ritter, Banner and the Minarets (Photo by Tina Bowman).
Dana, Gibbs, and Koip

By Mat Kelliher

Sixteen of us got up on top of Mt Dana (13,057'), Peak 12,565', and Mt Gibbs (12,773') in Yosemite on Saturday, August 6. Cool and breezy, sunny, no mosquitoes, great views. How could a day get any better than that? Group included Richard Reid, Ron Webber, Jim Green, Miriam Khamis, Pamela Sivula, May Tang, Aimee Shocket, Jim Morehouse, Louie Hoffman, Sridar Gullapalli, Bill Simpson, Mary Varalyay and Dan Graef, Mike Manning, Shurovi Masud.

Ed. note: Ron Webber left the group from Gibbs to climb Kuna and Koip with a light pack: "I carried a little extra food, typical blue foam pad, sleeping bag and Ursack Bear Bag for food. That was it. No ground cloth, tent, or anything else. Weather forecast was good. I wouldn’t have carried the sleeping bag, except it felt really cold the previous night at the car... From the top of Gibbs, I went cross-country down to the trail junction below Summit Lake/Mono Pass. ... Started up the trail for Koip [and soon camped]. Sunday morning went up and climbed Koip. Again, met some nice people on the trail... I went too slow to get Kuna too... A very enjoyable trip all the way around. Mat and the group were a pleasure to be with."
In High Places: The Alps, 1980
By Burt Falk

Part 2
(See the previous issue of the Echo for part 1, days one through thirteen.)

Day 14 Heading for France day—from my journal:
"Today we take a twelve-minute train ride to Tasch, where a giant parking lot accommodates the cars of tourists visiting Zermatt. Later, driving through the lush greenery of the Rhone River Valley, we head west toward France by way of Martigny.

"Arriving in the early evening at the Chamoniard—a hostel-like lodging catering to climbers on the outskirts of Chamonix—we find that good weather is forecast in the Mont Blanc region during the next few days. Bill and John decide we should take advantage of the situation and leave for the Grand Mullet Hut tomorrow.”

Day 15 Next morning, Bret and another climber opt to forego the climb. The manager of the Chamoniard agrees to let the rest of us store our personal belongings while we are on a three-day ascent of Mount Blanc.
We disperse to buy supplies, return to pack our climbing gear, have lunch, and at 2:00 p.m. we board the Aiguille de Midi Telepherique: "We clamber out of the gondola at the first stop (Plan de L'Aiguille, 7,576'), where we wait briefly for the balance of our group to arrive. At 3 p.m., we begin to hike west across the Glacier des Pelerins and the Plan Glacier at a rapid pace. The going becomes increasingly difficult as the gain increases and the snow softens. Finally, about 5:45 p.m., we arrive at the aluminum-sided hut perched precariously on a crag in the middle of a glacier. As I quaff a brew at the 10,007' hut, I am totally exhausted.

"We have an early dinner and, as we will be getting up at midnight, attempt to get into our sacks as early as possible. Steve takes a Dalmane to help him sleep while I prefer to tough it out. Later, in a half-sleep struggling with imaginary peaks, crevasses and other climbing hazards, I wish I had."

**Day 16** "We actually do arise at midnight and down a hasty breakfast. Thanks to the Dalmane, Steve enjoyed a blissful few hours of sleep, and even at breakfast he seems to be moving in a dream-like state. Later he admits he doesn't remember the first hours of the 5,700' climb.

"Once outside the hut, in the chill night air, we roped up quickly and began climbing before 1 a.m. In Chamonix, 7,500' below, lights were shining brightly, traffic noises could still be heard, and tourists were probably hoisting final drinks before heading for bed.

"Our moonlit route led almost straight south to an east-west ridge, then east to the summit of Mont Blanc at 15,767'. Climbing at night, following a rope into the darkness, was mesmerizing. I was only vaguely aware of the shadowy figures of my fellow climbers moving up the dark and icy slopes.

"As we approached the east-west ridge, the sky began to glow red in the east while the moon set in the west. Magnificent. Once on the ridge, we joined several climbers coming up from the Gouter Hut to the west, an easier route.

"The final portion of the climb was up a moderately steep ridge in the full alpine morning sun. We reached the spacious summit at 8:45 a.m., at which time Steve, overwhelmed with the beauty of the scene, came over and hugged me. It was a thrill for me too, but I was tired. I sat down on my ensolite pad, lay back on my pack, and actually started to doze off even though the temperature was -5˚F. In fact, the water in my bottle, after being out of my pack only a few minutes, started to freeze."

One member of our group wanted to return to Chamonix rather than, as planned, continue on to bag Mont Maudit and Mont Blanc du Tacul, and spend a second night on the massif. Because of the crevasse danger, however, John and Bill wouldn't let him go down alone. Since I was pretty well climbed out, I agreed to accompany him down, and so we two started our descent following the same route we had ascended the day before.

The rest of the group, setting out for Mont Maudit and Mont Blanc du Tacul, didn't get far before Jim stumbled and momentarily blanked out.
fellow climbers, a doctor, thought Jim might be suffering from cerebral edema and advised him to get to a lower elevation a.s.a.p. Steve offered to accompany Jim, so they, too, started down for Chamonix, leaving John Cleare and Bill O’Conner and three clients to carry on.

Back in those pre-cell phone days, it was only by sheer luck that I met Steve and Jim as they stepped off the Telepherique in Chamonix later that afternoon. Since all four of us were tired, we rented two rooms in a Chamonix hotel, took long showers, and enjoyed a nice dinner that evening (actually, Jim slept though dinner and went out for a pizza later). In my journal I noted, "I slept like a log tonight," meaning that, due to my (alleged) snoring, I probably shattered anything in the area made of glass.

Meanwhile, because of sun-softened snow, the climbers left on the mountain scrubbed their attempt to climb Maudit and Blanc du Tacul and ended up spending the night in a hut next to the giant Mer de Glace, the largest glacier in France.

Days 17-21 We spent the next three days regrouping, doing some local rock climbs, and eating and sleeping. We all looked gaunt and bewhiskered—except, of course, for our one and only female group member, Ann, a lovely woman. Furthermore, we all appeared owlish—sun blackened faces with white ovals around our eyes left by our snow goggles.

Dare to Lead! Spring Leadership Training Seminar Set for April 15, 2017

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 this April 15th at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Altadena, Deadline to register is April 1.

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 at angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc. At this same site, you can pore over more of LTC’s upcoming offerings, which are also on the Schedule of Activities page.

Mail the application and check, payable to Sierra Club, to Steve Botan, LTC Registrar, 18816 Thornwood Circle, Huntington Beach 92646. You also can reach Steve by email (ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org) or by phone (714-321-1296).

Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Anne Marie Richardson AMLLeadership@gmail.com

Above: Jet d’Eau, Lake Geneva’s giant fountain (Burt Falk Collection). After a round of fond farewells, Jim, Steve, Bret and I left Chamonix, heading for Geneva. And it was there on a perfect afternoon, while on a boat ride on the city’s namesake lake, with snow-capped Alps to the south, verdant orchard and vineyard-covered hills tumbling down from the north and east, and the giant fountain, Jet d’Eau, spouting water hundreds of feet into the Swiss sky, our excellent trip to the Alps came to an end.

Days 17-21 We spent the next three days regrouping, doing some local rock climbs, and eating and sleeping. We all looked gaunt and bewhiskered—except, of course, for our one and only female group member, Ann, a lovely woman. Furthermore, we all appeared owlish—sun blackened faces with white ovals around our eyes left by our snow goggles.

Above: Jet d’Eau, Lake Geneva’s giant fountain (Burt Falk Collection). After a round of fond farewells, Jim, Steve, Bret and I left Chamonix, heading for Geneva. And it was there on a perfect afternoon, while on a boat ride on the city’s namesake lake, with snow-capped Alps to the south, verdant orchard and vineyard-covered hills tumbling down from the north and east, and the giant fountain, Jet d’Eau, spouting water hundreds of feet into the Swiss sky, our excellent trip to the Alps came to an end.
Dec 11 | Sun
LTC
C: First Aid/CPR Class: American Red Cross First Aid & CPR class. Cost is $62. Held at Angeles Chapter office. Contact Ldr: Steve Goldstein to sign up.

Jan 7-8 | Sat-Sun
LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle:
Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, 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 Leader’s Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

Jan 28 | Sat
LTC, SPS, DPS, HPS
M/E-R: Snow: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M and E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone # to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldr: Neal Robbins.

Feb 11 | Sat
LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Navigation: Mt Pinos Navigation Practice on Snowshoes: Ever wonder what it is like to navigate in snow? Find out on this navigation practice as we take a cross-country route to Mount Pinos (8831’). Four miles round trip, 700 feet gain. Snowshoes required. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: Robert Myers. Co-Ldrs: Ann Pedreschi Shields, Adrienne Benedict, Jane Simpson

Apr 1 | Sat
LTC
Deadline to register for the April 15th Leadership Training Program seminar. For information, see the LTC website (http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/).

Apr 8-9 | Sat-Sun
LTC, SPS, DPS
M/E-R: Snow: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M and E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. We welcome others who wish to...
OUTINGS

Leaders in this issue’s schedule:
Adrienne Benedict sierraadrienne@verizon.net
Steve Goldstein 310-837-8580 hatsba@sbsglobal.net
Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com
Jack Kieffer 714-522-1376 jockorock42@yahoo.com
Patrick McKusky 626-794-7321 pamckusky@att.net
Robert Myers 310-829-3177 rmmyers@ix.netcom.com
Dan Richter 818-970-6737 dan@danrichter.com
Neal Robbins 310-540-5089 neal.robbins@l-3com.com
Ann Shields 818-637-2542 apedreschi@sbcglobal.net
Jane Simpson outdoorssimpson@gmail.com
Nile Sorenson 714-996-5683 nsorenso@pacbell.net

practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H and W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldr: Neal Robbins.

Apr 15 | Sat | LTC
Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. For information, see the LTC website (http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/). Next seminar: Fall 2017.

Apr 19 | Wed | LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP15): Basic Safety System: First of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This will be an indoor workshop held in the evening reviewing ropes, harnesses, helmets, basic climbing gear, and knots in preparation for later workshops. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register please see http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Apr 22 | Sat | LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP15):
Belaying: Second of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This workshop will focus on belaying and related principles starting with standard sport climbing all the way up to advanced techniques to move large groups across dangerous terrain. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register please see http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Apr 22-23 | Sat-Sun | LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Navigation: Mission Creek Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mission Creek Preserve to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout.

Send email/sase, contact info, 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 Leader’s Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

Call for Outings!

By Gary Schenk, Outings Chair

Leaders, it’s that time of year! With the OARS system there’s no longer a six-month lead time needed to get your trips in the schedule. Getting people into the outdoors is the most important thing we do. Truly, mountaineering is the heart of the Sierra Club. We need trips.

Leaders, please, if you are planning a restricted M or E trip, give extra lead time for the Mountaineering Oversight Committee approval process.

Provisional leaders, please make sure that the Provisional Lead Committee has approved your trip before submitting your outing for publication.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at gary@hbfun.org.

Apr 29 | Sat | LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP15): Rappelling: Third of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing both as a participant
or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This workshop will focus on rappelling using a variety of techniques with a heavy emphasis on redundancy, safety, and efficiency. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register please see http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

May 6-7 | Sat-Sun LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP15):
Anchors and Real World Application: Third of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This workshop will focus on rappelling using a variety of techniques with a heavy emphasis on redundancy, safety, and efficiency. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To

KERN PLATEAU
Web site: www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia
Cannell Meadow Ranger District
105 Whitney Road
PO Box 9
Kernville, CA 93238
Phone: 760/376-3781 fax: 760/376-3795
Tule River Ranger District
32588 Highway 190
Springville, CA 93265
Phone: (559) 539-2607

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Web site: www.nps.gov/yose
Reservation requests for summer trips (mid-May through September) are accepted from 2 weeks to 24 weeks in advance on-line or by writing to Yosemite Association
PO Box 545
Yosemite, CA 95389
By phone: reservations for summer trips are accepted by calling (209) 372-0740.
Obtain your free permit from the Wilderness Permit Station nearest your departure trailhead. Call (209) 372-0200 for permit station locations.
If entering park from Cherry Lake in the Stanislaus National Forest to

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

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST (WESTSIDE) ENTRY
Web site: www.fs.fed.us/r5/sierra
Ansel Adams Wilderness—North Bass Lake Ranger District
57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93643
Phone: (559) 887-2218

Ansel Adams Wilderness—South
John Muir, Kaiser and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses
Pine Ridge/Kings River Ranger District
29688 Auberry Road
Prather, CA 93651
Phone: (559) 855-5355

May 19-21 | Fri-Sun LTC
C: Wilderness First Aid Course at Harwood Lodge: The course runs from 7:15 am Friday to 5:30 pm Sunday. Fee includes instruction, lodging and meals. Proof of CPR within previous 4 yrs required to enroll. Fee $250 (full refund until Apr 14). For sign-up, see instructions and application at www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org

Jun 3-4 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle: Navigation Noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Sat is for practice; Sun is for checkout or
SPS outings can always be viewed online on the electronic Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities:
http://angeles2.sierraclub.org/activities
http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sps/outingsAwesome.asp

additional practice. Send email with contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr:

SPS Management Committee Meeting, Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 7:00 p.m. via teleconference

2. Standard business and reports
   a. Approval of minutes—Previously approved.
   b. Chair
      i. Smatko Peak—No news USGS waiting for CA Board of Geographic Names to meet.
   c. Vice Chair
      i. Banquet—Per Alexander, two advance payments have been made.
      ii. Award—Leadership and Lifetime Achievement—Jim to get plaques for awardees.
   d. Outings—No Report
   e. Treasurer’s report—$6,624 balance. There are two new members: Patrick McCreary, Casey Newton.
   g. Outreach—The Alpine Speaker series was discussed. We should try to get more SPS speakers in the series next year.
   h. Archivist—No Report.
      i. Echo
         i. November 24th deadline for next issue;
         ii. No news to report on scanning of old Echo issues;
      iii. Move to digital/blog format? Jeremy to provide some ideas.
   j. Mountain Records—No news on SEKI register issues.
   k. IT—No report
   l. Website
      i. Joe Wankum working to set up new website using Drupal. Harry agreed to help as backup webmaster.
      ii. There was no discussion about restoring old links—old Echoes and really old trip reports under “About Us” and “First Year of Official SPS Trips.”
   m. Conservation—we need a conservation chair!
   Paul suggested Sharon Moore. Tina to contact her.
   n. Safety Chair—No report.
3. Old Business
   a. SPS Safety Policy—Safety Committee has not met yet to review policy.
   b. SPS welcome/conditioning hike (local)—Jim will plan one for the spring, possibly to Smatko Peak.
4. New business
   a. Roster distribution—Consensus was to distribute SPS roster via email next year to those receiving Echo.
   b. Elections—All five current committee members agreed to run for re-election next year. Jeremy agreed to talk to others at WTC graduation about running for office.
   c. Chapter awards—SPS agreed to nominate one person.
   d. Next meeting date—December 12, 2016, 7:00 pm at Alexander’s house.
OUTINGS

Sep 17 | Sun | LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle: Navigation Noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email with contact info, 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 Leader’s Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

Oct 27-29 | Fri-Sun | LTC
C: Wilderness First Aid Course at Harwood Lodge: The course runs from 7:15 am Friday to 5:30 pm Sunday. Fee includes instruction, lodging and meals. Proof of CPR within previous 4 yrs required to enroll. Fee $250 (full refund until 9/22). For sign-up, see instructions and application at www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org

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Mystery Peak Challenge Answer

The photo in last issue’s mystery peak challenge was a clip of Paul Simon singing at the Democratic National Convention with a Sierra backdrop featuring Bear Creek Spire to the right of center. Unfortunately, no one answered the puzzle. Perhaps another casualty of the election cycle? Thanks to Shane Smith for submitting it!
This occasional just-for-fun puzzle is for you to figure out which Sierra peak or peaks are featured in the image. If you have a fine mystery peak puzzle to challenge Echo readers, please send it to tina@bowmanchange.com. We welcome any mountain images, including those from popular culture—imagery used and abused in film and print!

Bart O’Brien sent us a photo of a print of a Chiura Obata painting that he owns. Which SPS peak is featured? Send your answer to Tina Bowman at tina@bowmanchange.com.

Check out the SPS website if you have not visited in a while—the puzzle also appears there! www.sierrapeaks.org

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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.org. Refer to the SPS Roster for mailing address. The Echo will also be available as a PDF download at the SPS website and via a link sent to all SPS members opting for this method.
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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Subscriptions $10 per year, due by January 1, delinquent after March 31. Subscribing to the Echo is a requirement for membership in the SPS. A suggested donation to the section is $25.00, which includes the $10.00 subscription and a $15.00 donation to the SPS operating fund. Thank you for your support of the SPS. Submit new subscription applications and renewals to the SPS Treasurer, 1701 Paloma St., Pasadena, CA 91104; include your Sierra Club number. New applications received after Oct 1 are credited to the following 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 SPS are not tax deductible.

Advertising Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the following rates: $1 for the first four lines and $1 each additional line. Other announcements and product/service advertisements are $1 per line or $25 for half-page space. Send copy and check to the Echo Editor, payable to SPS.

Address Changes Send to the treasurer via email treasurer@sierrapeaks.org

Peaks List Copies of the SPS Peaks List can be obtained by sending $1 and a SASE to the SPS treasurer, 1701 Paloma St., Pasadena, CA 91104.

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

Awards Send notification to Secretary Paul Garry: email secretary@sierrapeaks.org Awards merchandise is available through Patty Kline at 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga, CA 90290 and include emblem pins ($15) and SPS section patches ($5). Make checks payable to SPS. All prices include sales tax.