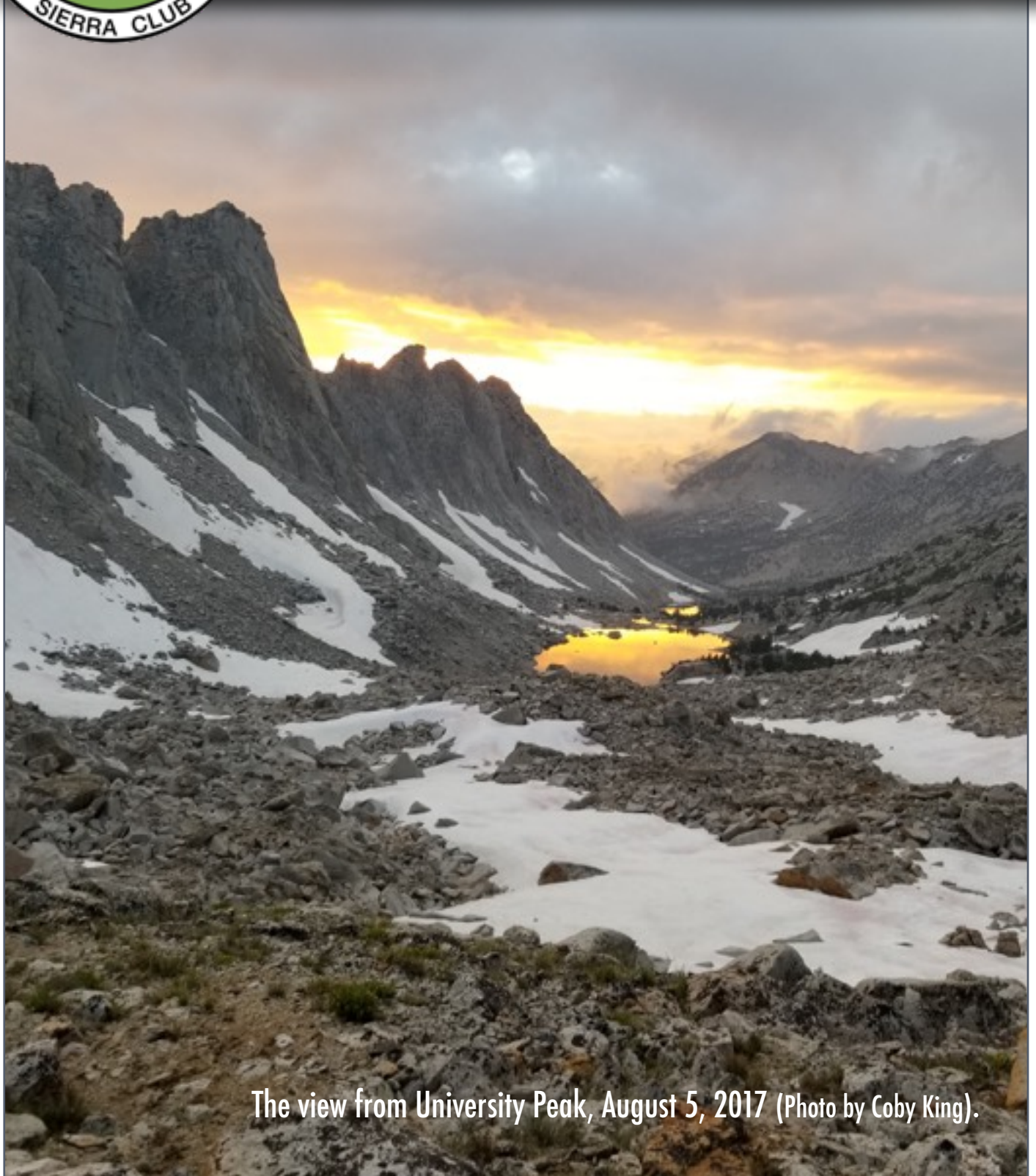




# *The Sierra Echo*

Volume 62 ▲ Number 2 ▲ April-June 2018



The view from University Peak, August 5, 2017 (Photo by Coby King).



# Echoes from the Chair

By Jim Fleming

Hello, my fellow Sierra Nevada peak-baggers! I am very honored to serve you as the incoming Chair for 2018, to be a part of our august organization. I have big shoes to fill, in taking the baton from Tina

Bowman, but I look forward to the challenge! This is a great organization, and as one who loves the mountains, I am excited to participate in sustaining the membership and encouraging new members to join us. Recently we have seen a number of new members adding to our ranks, and we will do our best to continue this trend. A strong membership group, along with competent, focused leaders to schedule trips throughout the year (yes, there are some peaks that can be done in times other than the summer season!) keeps the section a viable entity. Your thoughtful input is invaluable in making changes and promoting our mission to explore, enjoy, and protect the Sierra. I encourage all of you to become involved, in whatever ways you are able, to achieve the goals

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in making us even stronger! So, join me in making 2018 the best year it can be, exploring, enjoying, and protecting the Sierra Nevada!

Jim Fleming, [chair@sierrapeaks.org](mailto:chair@sierrapeaks.org)

## Ballot Survey Responses

By Tina Bowman

The ballot to elect the 2018 SPS management committee also included three survey questions. Here are the questions, a summary of the responses, and some quoted replies.

**How did you learn about the SPS?** Fifty of eighty-two people voting electronically replied. Many people learned about the SPS through BMTC/WTC; some through HPS, DPS, and PCS (Loma Prieta's Peak Climbing Section); National outings; a Canyon Explorers trip led by Jerry Keating; and other Sierra club hikes. Besides mentioning other members, an uncle, a father-in-law, and friends, respondents named specific people: Nile Sorenson, RJ Secor, Jim Watters, and Ron Bartell (twice). The old *Schedule of Activities*, register entries, a Facebook post, a Sierra Club newcomers' meeting, and the internet were all cited.

**Why did you join the SPS?** Fifty-five people responded to this question. Besides "to climb Sierra peaks" and loving to bag peaks, some replies focused on people: having people to climb with, meeting new people to climb with, climbing with experienced people, making friends, and having mentors. While emblems and goals were motivators for some, good leadership was a draw for others. Outings help some people make time for mountaineering and provide a great way to explore the Sierra. Several people noted the value of learning from veteran climbers when they were newbies. Some supported Sierra Club goals of preservation. And let us not forget "The list, the organization, the comradery," "Because they are so cool," and "They Rock . . . Climb"!

**What can the SPS do for you?** Forty-eight replied to this one. Some replies are, unfortunately, currently beyond the power of the SPS to address: "Make me forty years younger. Thanks!" or "Give me lots of money." Not surprisingly, many replies focused on outings, whether to specific peaks such as North Pal and Sill or more generally on outings to listed peaks, unlisted peaks, outings that will be attractive to newcomers (leading to their becoming members), mountaineering outings,

trainings, slower-paced trips, more outings. One person mentioned, "I hear complaints from some of my climbing friends that it's very hard to get onto an SPS trip because they are full." Several people responded, "Try to get more of us to submit trip reports," "Keep providing the *Echo*," and "Keep sending news of interesting trips and interesting ascents—maybe more news about little-known unlisted peaks of interest, and peaks in areas that still need protection—like Cannell Peak." Others want a "good network of people to do Sierra peaks with" and suggest "Maybe implement a system where people get notifications about upcoming trips." Maintaining registers, encouraging more leaders, advocating "to streamline or eliminate the MOC process for publishing restricted outings" were all desirable.

Two comments supported conservation, such as "Continue to be a strong force in introducing folks to the Sierras and encouraging them to actively climb and protect the range. Let's get the younger folks there!" One recommended adding Mt. Hoffman to the list because it is prominent and historic ("Josiah Whitney himself climbed it"). Some other miscellaneous comments include providing "even more" information about various trails, going to SEKI [Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP] "the best place on Earth!", "Keep the tradition alive," "Keep on being the wonderful SPS," and "Appoint Tina Chairman for Life" (please, don't go THERE!).

## 2018 SPS Management Committee

### Elected

Jim Fleming	Chair <a href="mailto:chair@sierrapeaks.org">chair@sierrapeaks.org</a>
Paul Garry	Vice-chair/banquet <a href="mailto:vicechair@sierrapeaks.org">vicechair@sierrapeaks.org</a>
Alexander Smirnoff	Treasurer <a href="mailto:treasurer@sierrapeaks.org">treasurer@sierrapeaks.org</a>
Laura Newman	Fifth officer/outreach <a href="mailto:outreach@sierrapeaks.org">outreach@sierrapeaks.org</a>
Tina Bowman	Secretary <a href="mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com">tina@bowmanchange.com</a>

### Appointed

Archives	<a href="mailto:dan@danrichter.com">Dan Richter dan@danrichter.com</a>
Conservation Chair	Sharon Moore <a href="mailto:justslm@earthlink.net">justslm@earthlink.net</a>
<i>Echo</i> editors	Tina Bowman <a href="mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com">tina@bowmanchange.com</a> , Beth Epstein
<i>Echo</i> mailer	Tina Bowman
Emblem Committee	Paul Garry, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge, Shane Smith, Ron Bartell
IT Support	Greg Mason <a href="mailto:admin@sierrapeaks.org">admin@sierrapeaks.org</a> , Matt Hengst <a href="mailto:matthew.hengst@gmail.com">matthew.hengst@gmail.com</a>
Keeper of the List	Tina Bowman
Merchandise	Patty Kline <a href="mailto:patriciakline@aol.com">patriciakline@aol.com</a>
Mountain Records	Harry Langenbacher <a href="mailto:register@langenbacher.org">register@langenbacher.org</a>
Outings	Gary Schenk <a href="mailto:gary@hbfun.org">gary@hbfun.org</a>
Safety Chair	Doug Mantle
Webmaster	Joe Wankum <a href="mailto:jbwankum@aol.com">jbwankum@aol.com</a>
Asst. Webmaster	Harry Langenbacher <a href="mailto:register@summitregister.org">register@summitregister.org</a>

### Regional Representatives

San Diego	Joe White
Central California	Daryn Dodge
Northern California	Lisa Barboza
Eastern Sierra	Shane Smith

Meet our newest Elected Representative, Laura Newman, seen below on Jeff Davis Peak. She will serve on the Management Committee as Fifth Officer, in charge of outreach. Thanks, Laura!



## Time to Renew

Don't let your *Sierra Echo* subscription expire! 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



# Welcome new members!

## Michael Chamoun

Mike first drove to Yosemite Valley in 2004 for a solo backpacking trip, and it was love at first sight. He has since backpacked the entire John Muir Trail multiple times and the Sierra High Route and several years ago started taking an interest in not simply running and hiking among the peaks but to climbing to the tops of them. He has backpacked mountain ranges all around the world, including Aconcagua in Argentina, but the Sierra will always be home. He has summited thirteen SPS peaks so far and plans to complete the SPS list at least once in his lifetime with a bit of good luck.



## Amy Huang

Previously, Amy was a Sierra Club member without the knowledge of the Sierra being an actual place where people camped and climbed. From Connecticut, she had also been active living in Sydney, Australia, before coming to California in 2011 and leading outdoor classes in cross-fit. She was introduced to the Sierra through the Sierra Club's Wilderness Travel Course (WTC) with snow camping and then completing a few of the 14-ers such as Whitney, Williamson, and Langley and doing experience trips located in the eastern and southern Sierras. She was inspired to do some of the Seven Summits and has recently summited Kilimanjaro and Mt. Meru in Tanzania and Aconcagua in Argentina. She hopes to continue with climbing Mt. Elbrus in Russia.

## Megan Birdsill

Megan grew up in the desert and was always most comfortable in that environment before taking WTC in 2016 and discovering her inner snow fox. Since then she's recently completed her leadership rating and made many new friends, explored new places, conquered new peaks, and has a few stories/scars to show for it. Some of her favorite wild places include Florence Peak (in Sequoia NP), the Grand Canyon, Salar de Uyuni (Bolivia), the Perito Moreno Glacier (Argentina), and wherever the next total eclipse will be (Villarrica Volcano, Chile, December 2020). She looks forward to meeting more SPSers this year and the adventures to come.



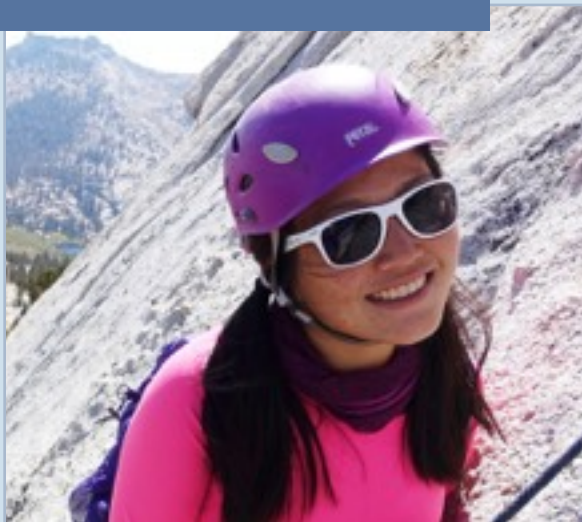
## ...and welcome back reinstated members!

### Steve Curry

Since climbing Mt. Whitney as a high school student, Steve has returned to Whitney half a dozen times and included nearby peaks in his itinerary. Having done thirty-five peaks on the SPS list, he's continuing to pursue Sierra Nevada summits with friends in the SPS. Steve took WTC in 2003 and was an instructor with the San Gabriel Valley section for several years. Work and family obligations got in the way of getting into the Sierra Nevada, but since retiring, he has more time to devote to hiking, backpacking, and mountaineering.



## New Leaders!



### Lisa Miyake

Lisa Miyake has attained her M Rating. Congratulations and thank you for leading for the SPS!



### Megan Birdsill

New member Megan Birdsill (see previous page) has attained her I rating. Congratulations!

## New for 2018--FREE First Year's Membership or Echo Subscription

Beginning in 2018 new subscribers and members can receive their first year's subscription for free! See the Membership Application Form available for downloading on the Membership page at <http://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/new-members#mr>. Please contact the chair if you have any questions.



# Congratulations!

## Ron Webber

Ron has been awarded his SPS emblem, earned on Mt. Abbot in 1980.

*(At right, Ron Webber on Mt. Humphreys, 2017.)*



## Will Whitney

On October 17, 2017, Will Whitney earned his Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem on Rubicon Peak.



## Jim Fleming

Congratulations to our chair, Jim Fleming, who will be honored with the Angeles Chapter's Lifelong Service Award at the Chapter banquet in May.

*(Above: Jim Fleming near Three Sisters, August, 2013. Photo by Mumtaz Shamsee.)*

# Geological Time Includes Now



By Sharon Moore, SPS Conservation Chair

This quote—"Geological Time Includes Now"—from *Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey might come to mind as you are working your way up a tough Sierra peak or as you witness a rockfall (I hope from a safe distance). However, it is better to contemplate it on a beautiful rocky summit, likely made of granitic rock that solidified underground around 115 million years ago. This is a tough time span to wrap your head around; you can easily look up a diagram of the geologic time scale, but it will probably make your eyes roll back into your head. I've included a couple of illustrations to make it more relatable.

quartz veins. These and other valuable ores attract mining development and the infrastructure it requires. Once a mine plays out, mining companies frequently abandon this infrastructure in place. Mining also generates shafts, adits, tailing piles, and toxic chemicals. Mines in the Sierra are mostly points of historical interest, but the mercury used to process ores still lingers in some places. You can find more information here: <http://www.sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov/our-region/abandoned-mine-lands>.

Most, but not all of these sites are north and west of the highest Sierra peaks. In the Eastern Sierra, the Log Cabin Mine in Lee Vining Canyon and the Golden Gate Mine located west of Walker operated into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It seems unlikely that gold mining will ever be a major industry in the Eastern Sierra, but there are still a few mines on the west side. Mining claims are in essence private property, so any revival in mining activity can create access issues. We can hope that wilderness designations will keep our peaks open to all, but if recent examples of Bears Ears and Grand

Staircase Escalante are any indication, we can never take this for granted.



Yes, the toilet paper roll represents the entirety of geological time. The Sierra formed during the last eighteen inches. All the major glaciations that shaped the peaks you see today occurred on less than half of the final square.

So, what does this have to do with conservation? LNT (Leave No Trace) tells us rock is a durable surface, but in truth, it can be vulnerable. At the margins where metamorphic rock encounters granite, prospectors found veins of silver and gold in

*Top: Shell Lake, just beyond Bennettville Mine in Lee Vining Canyon. The immediate area is metamorphic rock (schists and shales) but where it shifts to gray it also shifts to granite. This mine never produced any silver. Mt. Conness and North Peak are on the horizon (Photos by Sharon Moore).*





# Sierra Peaks Section Banquet, 2018

By Mary Motheral

Kudos to Barbara and Dave Sholle for discovering this year's banquet speaker, Patrick Armstrong, and a superlative choice he turned out to be. The Sholles heard Pat at a small presentation at Mammoth Lakes Library and knew he'd be perfect for our audience of climbers and skiers. His story of measuring the water content of Sierra snowpack with its attendant dangers and adventure was one to which we could relate. After Chair Tina Bowman and Roving Reporter Extraordinaire Mary McMannes conferred upon our section's most illustrious



*Top: Banquet chair Jim Fleming introduces speaker Patrick Armstrong (Photo by Dave Sholle). At right, left to right: Elena Sherman, Barbara Sholle, Doug Mantle, Don Sparks (Photo by Ellen Shumacher). Below: the audience at Almansor Court (Photo by Dave Sholle).*

*Dave Sholle took many other fine photos which can be seen here: <https://sholle.smugmug.com/2018-SPS-banquet/2018-01-28-SPS-Banquet/n-NQ5XqK/>*





member, Doug Mantle, the coveted SPS Lifetime Achievement Award, banquet chair Jim Fleming introduced Pat, who regaled us with his experience as a snow surveyor in Kern Canyon of Sequoia National Park and Inyo National Forest for forty-three years. The data snow surveyors collect are useful to water agencies in regulating and dispensing water allotments for agriculture and urban areas. He brought to life stays in a



string of cabins, details about their provisioning and comfort levels, wildlife (coyotes, ravens, Clark's Nut Crackers), avalanche danger,



*Top: Speaker Patrick Armstrong, second from left, then Alvin and Ellen Walter were among those who enjoyed handling the survey gear. Above left: Alexander Smirnoff, Patty Kline, Beth Epstein, Anne Mullins. Above right: Joy and Mark Goebel (Photos by Ellen Shumacher). At left: Dave Sholle, Greg Scarich, Gerry Holleman (Photo courtesy Dave Sholle).*

blizzards, breakable crust, and stream crossings. Of interest to skiers in the group was his love for waxing skis. Some technology can't be improved on, like waxing and the long metal tubes used for measuring the snow's water content. One humorous account was encountering a bear who had made himself at home in one of the cabins. Needless to say, he rearranged the inside to promote his comfort to the detriment of cleanliness and tidiness and helped himself to the kitchen's winter supply of food.

Pat lives in Bishop during the winter with his wife Merry and runs a ranch in Idaho during the summer. In 1972, he trained to join the U.S. biathlon team, has taught chemistry and electronics at the college of Idaho, fished commercially in Alaska, and was a wilderness supervisor for the Forest Service in addition to working on snow surveys in the Sierra Nevada. Readers can enjoy more of



Pat's history in his book *The Log of a Snow Survey: Skiing and Working in the Winter World of the Sierra Nevada*.

Above: left to right: Doris Gilbert, Henry Arnebold, Yvonne Jamison, Christine Bartell. At left: Ron Hudson, Karen Andersen, Jim Murphy (Photos by Ellen Shumacher). Below left: Merry Armstrong and her husband, speaker Pat Armstrong. Below right: new SPS members Sunny Yi and Jason Park (Photos by Dave Sholle).





# SPS Lifetime Achievement Award 2018

*At the 2018 banquet we had two presenters of the SPS Lifetime Achievement Award, so we have the more factual basis and the more personal introductions of the recipient—The Editors*

## First, the Facts

*By Tina Bowman*

He was SPS vice chair 1974 and chair in 1975. He's been on or simply been the SPS Safety Committee forever.

He earned his SPS emblem on March 10, 1972, just before he turned 22, and finished the list on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1974, on Clouds Rest—for the first time. He was, of course, the first to complete it the second time (Clouds Rest, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1982) and only person—so far!—to finish it three times, also on Clouds Rest. And then came #4 on Iron Mountain, September 1, 1993; #5 on Clouds Rest, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999; #6 on Clouds Rest on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005; and #7 on Clouds Rest on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014. (What's with Iron being in there?) I'm sure #8 is waiting in the wings. Let's not even go into DPS and HPS multiple list completions!

He has climbed the Seven Summits, the highpoints of Earth's seven largest islands (and plenty more), just about every high mountain in South America, the western states' highpoints, and zillions of other mountains. It might be easier to figure out what he hasn't climbed. Oh, he loves lists! How about 50 Classic Climbs in North America? Classic climbs of the Sierra? The mind reels, it boggles, at the sheer number of ascents.

He was awarded the SPS's Leadership Award in 1998, the chapter's Outings Service Award in 1981 and Chester Versteeg Outings Award in 1987, and the National Sierra Club's Francis Farquhar



Mountaineering Award in 1994. So, though he's too young for it, we're giving him the SPS's Lifetime Achievement Award.

He is, of course, Doug Mantle!

## And Now the Good Stories

*By Roving Girl Reporter, Mary McMannes*

There's a race of men that don't fit in  
A race that can't stay still;  
So they break the hearts of kith and kin,  
And they roam the world at will.  
They range the field, and they rove the flood,  
And they climb the mountain's crest;  
Theirs is the curse of the gypsy blood,  
And they don't know how to rest.  
*(Robert Service)*

Indeed, the recipient of our SPS Lifetime Achievement Award is a climber, a man who is unable to rest as long as his lungs and limbs can take him to the lofty climes—but contrary to the

poem, he does fit in and is loved, cherished, and respected by all in attendance here.

At the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SPS, he successfully toasted, teased, roasted, and adored over two-hundred climbing peers, both past and present—didn't miss one of us. Bar none, the most eloquent and all-inclusive speech I've ever heard in my life. Winstonian in his delivery, we all sat on the edges of our chairs, afraid he'd mention us, afraid he wouldn't. Beware, most assuredly, our recipient has a photographic memory or hefty journals, because he knows where all our skeletons are hiding or where they are buried.

This year's distinguished awardee is outstanding beyond compare, noble of character, brilliant of mind, tough as

*Above, left to right: Tina Bowman, Doug Mantle, and Mary McMannes at the 2018 SPS banquet (Photo by Dave Sholle).*



nails, and even kind. In his younger years, the fuse was short, and you didn't want to be caught in the hurricane of his displeasure. Rangers were wary and didn't dare tinker with his climbing agenda or tread where angels dare not go. And for the public record, we are relieved he did not kill Ranger Randy, although he was briefly considered as a suspect. Steadfast and enduring, he's rarely known to back out or cancel on a mountain. Lying on the parking lot of St. Joe's Hospital and writhing with kidney stones, he finally called 911 for a gurney. Surely he'd cancel his trip to Oregon's North Sister, scheduled that same week, but knowing him well, we knew he wouldn't. And he didn't.

William Teasdale once said, "Kindness is the highest form of intelligence." How many in this assemblage have not benefitted in completing the Sierra Peaks or Desert Peaks lists because he helped us bag those last and most difficult peaks? Gene Mauk wrote in a recent birthday card, "Thanks, friend, for Starlight." Many of you are thinking of your own peaks where he cajoled, led, dragged you to the summits. Rudy Fleck recalls huddling even freezing in his

tent, and a kind hand reached in with a warm plate of dinner. Kind, yes, but thank God, the sense of irony, sarcasms, and persnickety-ness continues.

Both noble and a true intellectual, his long drives to and from the mountains are filled with classical music as Bruckner blasting from the radio or listening to Hillsdale lectures from Cicero to Seneca. He is exceptionally well read, and



*Clockwise from top: Doug Mantle, John McCully and Bob Hicks on Needham, June 18, 1982 (Photo by Tina Bowman); Nile Sorenson and Doug Mantle (7x) on Clouds Rest list finish (Photo by Tina Bowman); Mary MacMannes, Greg Vernon, Pat Holleman, Doug Mantle, 2018 banquet (Photo by Dave Sholle).*



**Lifetime Achievement Award, continued;**

his one-thousand-page biographies and commentaries could fill a couple small vans. And often he reads in Spanish.

Fiercely loyal to his friends and many admirers, he never met a dinner party or a \$60 bottle of wine he didn't like. He's mainly a solo climber with the lists, but once back to the city, he relishes those dinner parties. We've observed an almost Jeffersonian manner where he can lure the most shy and quiet diner into discussions dominated by more verbose and talkative friends. Noblesse Oblige is never out of style.

Moving on from guts and glory in a darkened movie theater, somewhere in the San Fernando Valley, he had climbed Everest, putting him on the map with world class climbers and professional guides, in particular Rob Hall and Gary Ball; "Hall and Ball," rolls nicely off the tongue, now both deceased and buried in the mountain heart. Theirs was Everest the Success, May 12, 1992.

Fast forward to the film, *Everest*, as Rob Hall lay dying below Everest's towering summit, May 11, 1996, exactly

four years minus one day from the previous climb. We hear Hall's actual voice and final words from the saved radio transmissions, and I see tears rolling down our friend's face. It's powerful realizing whether it's repeating a magnificent speech or reciting from memory an epic poem or the re-enactment of the death of his friend that tough guys do cry.

Finally and in closing, our SPS honored guest started his climbing life on Knapsack Outings to high camps in Yosemite, 1969 and early 1970s. Norman Clyde was slated to be on the 1970 trip, but a hernia operation kept him home. Soon thereafter, Clyde was gone, and no second chances in meeting this legendary mountaineer. With a voice of regret, he says, "I always wanted to meet Norman Clyde."

Somewhere out there in the twilight of gods and heroes, I am sure the spirit of Norman Clyde is saying, "And, I always wanted to meet Doug Mantle."

Climber extraordinaire, human being wondrous, Doug Mantle, come forward and accept your Lifetime Achievement Award from your many admiring friends and fans. (wild applause)

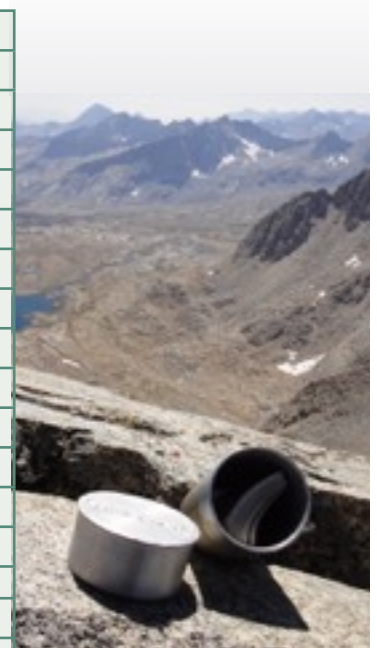
**2018 SPS Summit Register Needs** By Harry Lagenbacher

This table doesn't tell the whole story, so please contact Harry Langenbacher at [register@summitregister.org](mailto:register@summitregister.org), and/or see <http://summitregister.org> for details and advice.

This is just a quick update on the list of SPS register needs. There were just a few more deletions than additions since last year. I have received no updates for many years on many of the peaks—please keep the reports coming in!

"All" means Container AND Book \*Four Gables is bare, box chained to wrong summit nearby

Abbot Mt	All	Julius Caesar Mt	All	Sawtooth Pk N	Container
Agassiz Mt	Container	Kaweah Mt	Container	Sill Mt	Container
Alta Peak	All	Kern Peak	Container	Silliman Mt	All
Black Hawk Mtn	All	Matterhorn Peak	Book	Split Mtn	Book
Black Mtn	Book	Morgan Mt S	All	Stanford Mt S	All
Carillon Mt	Container	Morrison Mt	All	Stanislaus Peak	All
Cathedral Peak	All	Moses Mtn	All	Starr King Mt	Container
Colosseum Mtn	move	Muah Mtn	All	Temple Crag	All
Conness Mt	All	Needham Mtn	All	Three Sisters	Book
Dana Mt	Book	North Palisade	Book	Tinemaha Mt	Container
Eagle Scout Peak	Book	Olancha Peak	All	Tower Peak	Book
Elwell Mt	All	Pyramid Peak S	Container	Twin Peaks N	All
Emerson Mt	Container	Recess Peak	All	Vandever Mtn	All
English Mtn	Book	Red & White Mtn	All	Virginia Peak	All
Excelsior Mtn	Container	Rose Mt	All	Vogelsang Pk	Book
Four Gables	All/move*	Round Top	Book	Whorl Mtn	All
Gabb Mt	All	Royce Peak	All		
Gibbs Mt	Book	San Joaquin Mtn	All		



Bolton Brown register (Photo by Matt Hengst).

This continues a series of brief articles contributed by SPS members who would like to share information about their favorite pieces of trail technology. For this issue Barbara Lilley tells us about pieces of technical equipment that makes her life better in the mountains. How about you? Send your proposal or article to Tina Bowman at [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com)

## Low-Tech Suggestions

By Barbara Lilley

### FOR THE HIKE

Short gaiters are very useful in keeping sand, gravel, small rocks, and vegetation (think foxtails) out of your boots and socks.

Small pliers are handy for rearranging barbed wire on fences to permit passage.

A small hand level is useful when climbing unlisted peaks to determine which point is highest—avoids having to climb several summits or having to return because the correct one wasn't climbed!

Putting screws in your boot soles (including the heel) to keep them from coming off at an inopportune time and carrying a small one-use tube of Superglue for emergency repairs. Also, putting shoe trees in your boots when not being used helps keep the toes from turning up.

A peak register, to replace one that is damaged or that vandals have stolen—or to put on a new peak. One source is a glass jar with a metal top. Notebooks and pencils can often be found at Big Lots stores. To make a better register, paint the top and wrap the jar with duct tape. A pencil sharpener is handy also.

In mountains where thunderstorms are common but usually go through fast, carry a plastic tarp, under which one can shelter in (hopefully) a safe place until the storm passes.



Hand level

### IN THE VEHICLE

Among the usual items (tow rope, shovel, small tool kit, jumper cables, cans of oil and brake fluid), a tire inflating device—even a simple bicycle-style pump—is VERY handy for inflating that neglected spare or pumping up a tire enough to drive to a repair facility. Also handy is

a 12-volt impact wrench to loosen those lug nuts put in with a similar device by the tire dealer.

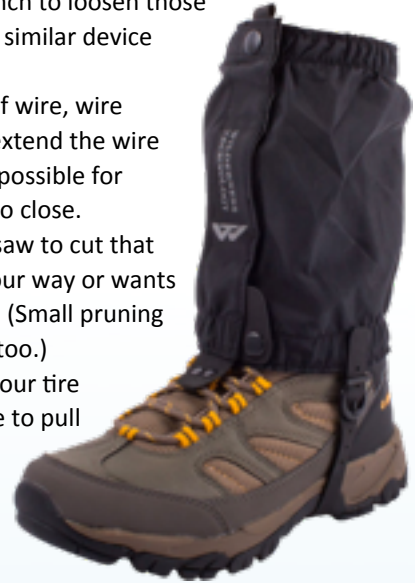
A kit consisting of wire, wire cutter, and pliers to extend the wire on a gate which is impossible for the ordinary person to close.

A small pruning saw to cut that branch that blocks your way or wants to scratch your paint. (Small pruning shears can be useful too.)

A rake to erase your tire tracks when you have to pull off the road to park.

A siphon tube for transferring gasoline.

A light which turns on after dark, which can be put on top of the vehicle. Even with GPS, a welcoming light in the distance can be very reassuring!



[We asked Barbara for more details about the automatic light for a car rooftop. She suggested possibly using a solar-powered light that turns on at dusk and off in the morning, the kind of light used to light walkways and such. She has used a battery-operated light and mentioned a light Richard Carey had for finding a vehicle in the dark, so we asked him about it.—*The editors.*]

## A Guiding Light

By Richard Carey

The light I used some years ago is a strobe light that I built myself. It had a slow flash rate and turned on at dusk. Used two C cells. We used it in the Cabeza Prieta, Goldwater area of Arizona for some long hikes where we knew we would likely return after dark. Sometimes our vehicles would be in a wash and possibly not visible from a

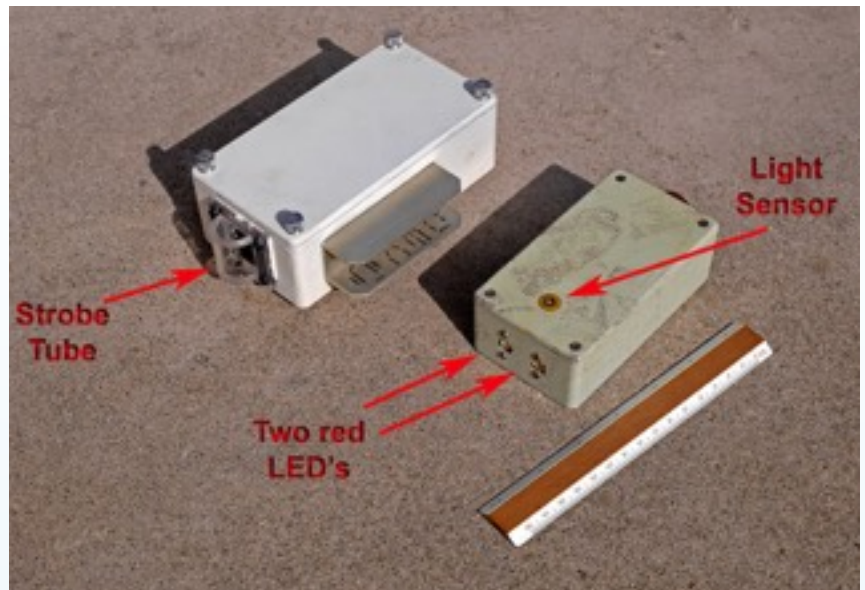


## TrailTech, cont;

distance, so I put it up on a pole above my truck about six feet. This unit was about the size of a thick smartphone and not too handy for say a backpack.

Later I built one that is much simpler that uses red LED lights. They are quite bright but more directional than a strobe. I built two different ones which use AA cells and are about the size of a pack of cigarettes. They also have a light sensor and turn on at dusk. I don't know of any on the market like these. Most strobes go all the time when activated. The small red strobes like bike riders use are close to what I made, but again they don't have a light sensor. Also they flash rather fast. For finding your car a slow rate of once every couple seconds is fine, and it saves the battery.

Below are two strobes that would work, but they are going to flash all the



*Richard Carey's signal strobe.*

time. The first is from West Marine: <https://www.westmarine.com/buy/Ieland--personal-strobe-light--9391681?recordNum=2> This is a smaller and cheaper device from Amazon: [https://www.amazon.com/UST-See-Me-Waterproof-Approved-Strobe/dp/B01BPJLCMY/ref=sr\\_1\\_15?ie=UTF8&qid=1519505632&sr=8-15&keywords=light+strobe](https://www.amazon.com/UST-See-Me-Waterproof-Approved-Strobe/dp/B01BPJLCMY/ref=sr_1_15?ie=UTF8&qid=1519505632&sr=8-15&keywords=light+strobe)

## Solar Lights for Your Car's Roof

*By Tina Bowman*

The battery-powered Lights Up light Barbara Lilley bought some thirty years ago is, apparently, no longer on the market, so Beth Epstein and I have been searching on-line and in stores like Costco and Lowe's for alternatives. Various solar-powered lights that turn on automatically at dusk and off on dawn are available, but you may need to do a little project to use them as a beacon on your car for returning after dark.

For example, the strobe sold by Global (<https://www.globalindustrial.com/p/electrical/safety/Visual-Signal-Strobe-Lights/3337-00003-solar-powered-led-strobe-lights-white-bulb>—think road work warning light—white but available in other colors also) needs a base of some sort to rest in, probably easily made (a plastic food storage box with sand in it and a hole cut in the top to rest the base in or a small cone might work). A base is available through Global, but I doubt anyone wants to lug around a 125-pound concrete base with a square post set in it.

The solar-powered LED bulb made by KK.BOL ([https://www.amazon.com/dp/B071JLJVHK/ref=psdc\\_14107631\\_t2\\_B01LXBBU3G](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B071JLJVHK/ref=psdc_14107631_t2_B01LXBBU3G)) or one like it would also need a holder (note that this one doesn't turn on and off automatically, so you would need to turn it on and let it

run all day on solar power and hope there's enough charge in the battery for the light to stay on until you're back).

Path lights tend to be very simple, but if the solar panel is on one side of the device and the light on the other, the light might not be suitable for this use of finding a vehicle at night ([https://www.amazon.com/Segarty-Wireless-Aluminum-Sensor-Housing/dp/B01KNFBS02/ref=br\\_lf\\_m\\_rx8beqybgfcp6pe\\_ttl?encoding=UTF8&s=home-garden](https://www.amazon.com/Segarty-Wireless-Aluminum-Sensor-Housing/dp/B01KNFBS02/ref=br_lf_m_rx8beqybgfcp6pe_ttl?encoding=UTF8&s=home-garden)). In some instances, you could prop it up so that the panel gets sunlight but the lamp is aimed in the direction of your hike.

For a solar flood light ([https://www.amazon.com/MicroSolar-180-LUMEN-Automatically-Adjustable/dp/B00D3B1GLA/ref=br\\_lf\\_m\\_rx8beqybgfcp6pe\\_ttl?encoding=UTF8&s=hi](https://www.amazon.com/MicroSolar-180-LUMEN-Automatically-Adjustable/dp/B00D3B1GLA/ref=br_lf_m_rx8beqybgfcp6pe_ttl?encoding=UTF8&s=hi)) or spot light ([https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01N5EGOEN/ref=sspa\\_dk\\_detail\\_2?psc=1&pd\\_rd\\_i=B01N5EGOEN&pd\\_rd\\_wg=Lev6P&pd\\_rd\\_r=YGGGDFE6581XR50E5529&pd\\_rd\\_w=rNQrs](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01N5EGOEN/ref=sspa_dk_detail_2?psc=1&pd_rd_i=B01N5EGOEN&pd_rd_wg=Lev6P&pd_rd_r=YGGGDFE6581XR50E5529&pd_rd_w=rNQrs)), again you'd need to provide a holder for the light and possibly one for the solar panel, depending on the model, especially if it's used in a windy area. Good luck!



# Outings

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

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

**Apr 14 | 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 2018.

**Apr 18 | Wed**                      **LTC**  
**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2018):**  
**Knots and Basic Safety Systems:** 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 21 | Sat**                      **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2018):**  
**Belay Skills:** 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 21-22 | 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.

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

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



# OUTINGS

Apr 28-29 | Sat-Sun

LTC, SPS, DPS

**M/E-R: Snow: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice:** For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. We welcome others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldrs: Neal Robbins, Jack Kieffer, Phil Bates.

Apr 28 | Sat

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2018): 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 4-6 | 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](http://www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org)

Visit the SPS website for an even more up-to-date listing of upcoming trips at <http://www.sierraclub.org/sp>

Also, please check at [summitregister.org](http://summitregister.org) whether a peak needs a register book or pencil before you go on a climb.

May 5-6 | Sat-Sun

LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2018): Anchors and Real-World Applications:** Fourth 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 weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on building anchors and applying previously learned skills in real world climbing situations with multiple participants. All

## Leaders in this issue's schedule:

Philip Bates 949-786-8475 [philipabates@gmail.com](mailto:philipabates@gmail.com)  
Megan Birdsill [mbirdsill@gmail.com](mailto:mbirdsill@gmail.com)  
Richard Boardman 310-374-4371  
Justin Bruno 909-783-7697 [justinbruno@hotmail.com](mailto:justinbruno@hotmail.com)  
Diane Dunbar 818-248-0455 [dianedunbar@charter.net](mailto:dianedunbar@charter.net)  
Beth Epstein 562-439-0646 [b.epstein@verizon.net](mailto:b.epstein@verizon.net)  
Matthew Hengst [matthew.hengst@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.hengst@gmail.com)  
Mat Kelliher 818-667-2490 [mkelliher746@gmail.com](mailto:mkelliher746@gmail.com)  
Jack Kieffer 714-522-1376 [jockorock42@yahoo.com](mailto:jockorock42@yahoo.com)  
Daniel Kinzek 818-891-9108 [dkinzek@yahoo.com](mailto:dkinzek@yahoo.com)  
Patrick McKusky 626-794-7321 [pamckusky@att.net](mailto:pamckusky@att.net)  
Kate Miller 310-592-7965 [miller.k8@gmail.com](mailto:miller.k8@gmail.com)  
Mark Mitchell 818-753-9328 [markamitchell@att.net](mailto:markamitchell@att.net)  
Robert Myers 310-829-3177 [rmmyers@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rmmyers@ix.netcom.com)  
Jeremy Netka 818-703-8607 [jnetka@gmail.com](mailto:jnetka@gmail.com)  
Jimmy Quan 626-688-6283 [h2otigerjim@gmail.com](mailto:h2otigerjim@gmail.com)  
Sarah Quist [sarahschuh@gmail.com](mailto:sarahschuh@gmail.com)  
Dan Richter 818-970-6737 [dan@danrichter.com](mailto:dan@danrichter.com)  
Neal Robbins 310-540-5089 [neal.robbins@l-3com.com](mailto:neal.robbins@l-3com.com)  
Ann Shields 818-637-2542 [apedreschi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:apedreschi@sbcglobal.net)

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 19 | Sat

LTC, WTC, HPS

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

Jun 16-17 | 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 for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout or additional practice. Send email with contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst:

# OUTINGS

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.

**Jul 28-29 | Sat-Sun**

**WTC, SPS**

**MR: University Pk (13,589')**: Sat morning we will depart on trail from Onion Valley and make camp above Bench Lk. Sun we will leave camp at dawn to make our way up the mostly third class North Face to the summit for a total of 1.4 mi and 2000' of gain. After summiting we will head back down to camp via the same route we came up, pack up and head out. This is a Restricted Mountaineering outing, so participants must be current Sierra Club members, and must submit a Sierra Club Medical Form to join the trip. Note that permit

severely limits group size. Email the ldr with contact & carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, to be considered for this trip. Ldr: Justin Bruno. Asst: Mat Kelliher.

**Aug 18-19 | Sat-Sun**

**WTC, SPS**

**I: Florence Pk (12,438')**: Join us for an idyllic weekend in one of the most beautiful parts of Sequoia NP! Total two-day stats: 20mi, 4600' gain. Sat morn we will stay on-trail for 7mi, 2600' to make camp at Franklin Lakes. Sun morn we will rise early to summit Florence Pk (12,438) and take in the views of the Great Western Divide before signing the register and returning the way we came to break camp and hike back to the trailhead (13mi, 2000'). Participants are encouraged to camp with us at the trailhead Fri night. For consideration please send hiking resume and current conditioning to Ldr: Megan Birdsill. Co-Ildr: Sarah Quist.

**Aug 18-19 | Sat-Sun**

**WTC, SPS**

**I: Vogelsang Pk (11,493')**: Join us for a couple of pleasant days in wildy scenic Yosemite NP on this overnight trip to

## Call for Outings!

*By Gary Schenk, Outings Chair*

Changes are coming to Sierra Club outings: some will affect members a bit; some will affect leaders a lot.

Very soon a new waiver will be in use. The final wording and form have not yet been decided upon, but it will be quite a difference. This is coming soon. We will get the word out to leaders as soon as the new waiver is finalized.

One change that affects leaders will be the new first aid requirements from the Sierra Club National Office. They will go into effect September 1, 2018. Previously First Aid expired after four years, regardless of the date printed on the certificate from the certifying group.

The new rule is that first aid will expire as of the date on the card from the issuing organization. So if the card you were issued says it expires in two years, then you will have to renew first aid in two years in order to lead Sierra Club trips. There will be no grandfathering in of existing certifications. So, if you plan to lead trips this year after September 1 and your first aid certificate has an expiration

date that expires when the new rules go in effect, be sure to schedule a refresher well in advance.

You won't be able to rely on the automated expiration messages that come from National. They're based on the four-year date we put in to the LEADERS database, and we've asked National to take on the task of changing all those records for us.

Most basic first aid and CPR cards have a two-year expiration date. Many wilderness first aid certifications have a three-year expiration date. At this time the Angeles Chapter Safety Committee will continue to recognize a four-year expiration date for the Wilderness First Aid Course. Web-based first aid renewal will continue to be accepted on an alternating basis as in the past, meaning that leaders can renew first aid on-line if the previous class was attended in person.

Many leaders will have expired First Aid as of September 1. As part of your trip planning process, you may want to include renewing your first aid just to be on the safe side.

Many thanks to Sandy Lara and Mat Kelliher for helping to put this explanation together.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [gary@hbfun.org](mailto:gary@hbfun.org)



# OUTINGS

climb a classic Sierra Peak in the Cathedral Range. Sat we pack in out of Tuolumne Meadows at a relaxed, but purposeful pace on trail alongside Rafferty Creek up and over Tuolumne Pass and beyond. Once we reach Vogelsang Lk, we will travel x-c around its eastern shore and set up camp near its headwaters to the south. Distance for the day will be about 8.0 mi with 1,900' gain. At camp that night we will celebrate the gorgeous country we find ourselves in with a Festive Happy Hour under starry, summer-night skies. Sun we continue our southern course x-c up to and then along the eastern ridge of Vogelsang Pk to its summit, where we will savor the expansive views all around us before heading back down to our camp for a total of 2.0 RT mi with 1,200' gain. Back at camp we will pack up and head out the same way we came in. Satisfies WTC Experience trip requirements. Permit limits group size and permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among the group. Email Mat with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details. Ldrs: Mat Kelliher, Jimmy Quan.



*Sunny Yi sent this photo from her December 2, 2017, climb of Thor Peak with Jay Park and Tay Lee. They started at 7:00 a.m., summited at 1:30, and returned at 6:30 on a 10.8 mile dayhike with 4100' of gain, wind and snow. "Not easy, but it was fun."*

*Send us your stories and pictures!*

**Aug 24-26 | Fri-Sun**

**SPS**

**I: Arrow Pk (12,939')**: Grind of a climb over a pass to reach a beautiful spot, about which R.J. Secor writes: one of the finest (views) in the Sierra. And the view from the summit isn't bad either. Fri, start at 5,430' in the desert for very strenuous 6,000' climb to 11,360' Taboose Pass, then drop to Bench Lk for total of 12 mi. Sat, moderately strenuous 6 mi, 2,400' gain/loss off-trail ascent of SPS-listed Arrow Peak. Sun, return to cars. Although pace will be moderate, must be in very strong physical condition and comfortable with steep, off-trail hiking. Snow cancels trip. Send \$10 permit fee, 2 SASE or email, H/W/cell phones, recent conditioning, experience, rideshare to Ldr: Mark Mitchell, Co-Ldrs: Beth Epstein, Daniel Kinzek

**Aug 25-26 | Sat-Sun**

**WTC, SPS**

**I: Sawtooth Pk (12,343')**: Join us for a weekend in the gorgeous Mineral King area of Sequoia NP. We'll climb Sawtooth Pk, an SPS peak with stunning 360 degree views. On Sat morning, we'll meet in Mineral King and backpack at a moderate pace up to Lower Monarch Lk (4.5 mi, 2700' gain). We'll camp at the lake, where we can swim, fish, relax, and enjoy goodies at happy hour. Sunday morning, we'll hike first on trail up to Sawtooth Pass, then go cross-country to Sawtooth Pk via its northwest ridge (2.2 mi, 2300' gain). After a break on the peak to soak up the scenery, we'll head back to camp, pack up, and return to the cars. Permit limits group size. Priority given to WTC students. Please send email with

**Wear 'em! Give 'em!**  
**SPS TEES**  
**Front: NORTH PAL**  
**Back: FULL SPS LIST**  
 By geographic area with Mountaineer & Emblem peaks highlighted  
 M, L & XL in Sand & Ash  
 \$12 plus \$3.50 shipping  
 (\$4 shipping when ordering 2 or more shirts). Send your order to:  
 Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Drive  
 Topanga, CA 90290  
 Make check payable to SPS  
 CST 2087766-40

# OUTINGS

contact info, hiking resume, conditioning, and altitude experience to the ldrs: Kate Miller, Jeremy Netka.

Sep 8-9 | Fri-Sun

SPS

**ER: Thunderbolt Pk (14,003')**: Climb one of the most spectacular and technical Mountaineers' Peaks. Early Fri depart from South Lake Parking Lot Bishop Pass TH. Hike on trail to Bishop Pass, continue off trail to make camp on benches SE of Thunderbolt Pass (7 mi, 3000' gain). Alpine start Sun to climb Thunderbolt via Southwest Chute 1 (1 mi, 1800' gain). We will return to camp and TH via same route. Technical gear: climbing helmet, alpine harness, ATC, 2 standard and 1 double 6mm prusiks, 2 locking biners, 1 non-locking wire gate biner. Mandatory alpine climbing skills: rappelling, ascending rope with prusiks, and climbing on class

4 terrain. Email climbing resume, and altitude training info to Ldr: Philip Bates. Asst. Ldr. Neal Robbins.

Sep 23 | 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](#)

## Wilderness Permit Info

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

### INYO NATIONAL FOREST

Web site: [www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/home](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/inyo/home)  
Pick up permit closest to departure trailhead.

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

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

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

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

### KERN PLATEAU

Web site: [www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/sequoia)

Cannell Meadow Ranger District  
105 Whitney Road  
P.O. Box 9  
Kernville, CA 93238  
Phone: 760/376-3781 fax:  
760/376-3795

Tule River Ranger District  
32588 Highway 190  
Springville, CA 93265  
Phone: (559) 539-2607

### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Web site: [www.nps.gov/yose](http://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 Kibbie Lake and Lake Eleanor in

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

### SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NP

Web site: [www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia)  
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: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra>  
Ansel Adams Wilderness—North  
Bass Lake Ranger District  
57003 Road 225  
North Fork, CA 93643  
Phone: (559) 887-2218

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



# OUTINGS

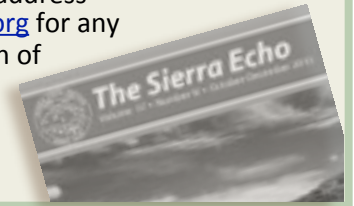
for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

**Oct 10 | Wed** **LTC**  
**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2018):**  
**Knots and Basic Safety Systems:** 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.

**Oct 13 | Sat** **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2018):**  
**Belay Skills:** 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

## REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

Please contact this email address [newsletter@sierrapeaks.org](mailto:newsletter@sierrapeaks.org) for any problems with distribution of hardcopy or email versions.



## SPS Income Statement 11-19-2017

	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final	Final
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>INCOME</b>												
Echo Subscriptions	1,330	650	320	200	100	40	1,835	1,360	1,560	1,560	1,630	1,580
Banquet Income	2,650	-	-	-	-	-	2,800	2,940	4,610	4,110	3,760	2,795
Donations	625	265	135	60	30	-	340	440	575	651	873	670
Merchandise Sales	58	-	-	-	-	-	39	27	276	395	262	112
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,663</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5,014</b>	<b>4,732</b>	<b>7,041</b>	<b>6,731</b>	<b>6,525</b>	<b>5,157</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>												
Postage	(7)	-	-	-	-	-	609	-4	14	938	522	321
Printing	(12)	-	-	-	-	-	578	898	640	706	433	430
Merchandise	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	196	234	130	-
Raffle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-	-	-
Banquet Expenses	3,715	-	-	-	-	-	3,216	4,206	5,640	4,772	4,710	3,553
Bank Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	10	6	18	12
Website	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	268	36	84	96
Charitable contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	-	-	200	200	200
Outreach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	899	254	82
Membership meetings/activities	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,257	174	-
Register Related	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,777</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,821</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>7,019</b>	<b>9,048</b>	<b>6,583</b>	<b>4,694</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>(371)</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>(2,317)</b>	<b>(58)</b>	<b>463</b>

# OUTINGS

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.

## Oct 20 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS

**I: Navigation: Beginning Clinic:** Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome, and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend;

many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead (Sierra Club) to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

## Oct 20 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2018):

**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

### SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 7:00 p.m. Alexander Smirnoff's home 1701 Paloma St., Pasadena 91104

1. Call to order: present were chair Tina Bowman, vice-chair Jim Fleming, treasurer Alexander Smirnoff, and via phone secretary Paul Garry.
2. Standard business and reports
  - a. Approval of minutes—done via email
  - b. Chair—report under other subjects
  - c. Vice Chair—Banquet
    - i. We will pay the speaker, Pat Armstrong, a \$300 honorarium and cover his travel expenses.
    - ii. Tina will bring projector, back-up computer. We'll take SPS stickers and the banner.
    - iii. Jim will get plaque for Lifetime Achievement Award.
    - iv. Tina will ask Lisa to post on the SPS Facebook group about the banquet.
    - v. Discussion of having a Power Point slideshow of photos of R.J. Secor to run during the social hour (Brian Smith a possible source of images)
  - d. Outings—no report
  - e. Treasurer's report
    - i. \$6261 balance
    - ii. Tina brought up the Sierra Club directive to divest our account from Wells Fargo (big oil investments). She will ask Laura Newman, treasurer for DPS and HPS, to give Alexander information about that.
  - f. Emblem Committee Report—Nile Sorenson has applied for the Smatko Award. Paul needs Nile's last peak and date to send to Dan Richter for archives and for posting on the web site and printing in the *Echo*.

- g. Outreach—no report
  - h. Archivist—no report
  - i. *Echo*
    - i. February 22nd deadline for next issue
    - ii. Hand over more old issues to be scanned and uploaded to the website—previous issues not scanned yet
    - iii. Move to HTML version?—no discussion
  - j. Mountain Records—no report
  - k. IT—no report
  - l. Website—no report
  - m. Conservation—no report
  - n. Safety Chair—no report
3. Old business
    - a. Unofficially name a peak for Andy Smatko? Mark Allen is willing to make a sign.
    - c. Laura Newman is willing to run for the management committee.
  4. New business
    - a. Leader awards for leading the most outings—have a list from Gary Schenk
    - b. Election—Tina will get someone on the election committee to set up a Survey Monkey ballot, the link for which she'll email to members along with the banquet flyer and *Echo* subscription renewal form, and will mail a paper ballot with the flyer and form to the few members without email. We'll ask three survey questions: How did you learn about the SPS?, Why did you join?, and What can the SPS do for you?
    - c. Should we offer any scholarships for leaders to take CPS, first aid, or wilderness first aid? No. Those who needs scholarships can apply to the LTC chair, who can then request a scholarship through the Angeles Chapter Foundation.
    - d. The chapter banquet is May 6<sup>th</sup>.
    - e. Memorial hike for RJ on April 15th
    - f. Next meeting date—Monday, February 12, 2018, 7:00 p.m., at Alexander's home.



# OUTINGS

see <http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org> Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

**Oct 27-28 | Sat-Sun** **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2018): Anchors and Real-World Applications:** Fourth 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 weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on building anchors and applying previously learned skills in real world climbing situations with multiple participants. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and

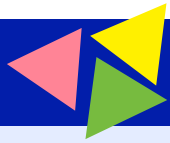
commit to all four classes. To register please see <http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org> Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

**Nov 10-11 | Sat-Sun** **LTC**  
**M/E-R: Rock: Sheep Pass/Indian Cove Joshua Tree Rock Checkoff & Practice:** M & E level rock checkoff and practice for LTC leadership candidates wishing to pursue a rating or practice skills. Also open to Advanced Mountaineering Program students wanting to solidify what they learned in the course. Practice Sat and optionally checkoff Sun. Restricted to active Sierra Club members with previous rock climbing experience. Climbing helmets and harnesses

**SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Alexander Smirnoff's home**  
**1701 Paloma St., Pasadena 91104**

1. Call to order at 7:10. Present were chair Jim Fleming, vice-chair/banquet Paul Garry, treasurer Alexander Smirnoff, secretary Tina Bowman, and fifth officer/outreach Laura Newman.
2. Standard business and reports
  - a. Approval of minutes—Tina will draft minutes for December and send by email for corrections and approval. Paul will add his notes where the minutes aren't complete.
  - b. Chair—no report from past chair aside from comments on other topics
  - c. Vice Chair—Banquet post mortem
    - i. Sixty people attended; everyone who bought a ticket was present.
    - ii. Lost \$1,067 on the banquet.
    - iii. Almansor Court ok for 2019; date set for January 27, 2019; Sophie Taylor as possible speaker on the Seven Volcanoes.
  - d. Outings—no report. Gary Schenk may be retiring as outings chair sometime this year.
  - e. Treasurer's report
    - i. Current balance of \$9,183.70
    - ii. Forty-seven people haven't renewed their subscriptions yet. Alexander will provide a list, and we will choose whom to contact.
  - f. Emblem Committee Report
    - i. Will Whitney has applied for the Smatko; one peak on his list is questionable.
    - ii. Shane Smith still hasn't supplied peaks to make up for two or three that were not allowed.
  - g. Outreach
    - i. Laura needs to be an administrator for the Facebook Group. Paul set that up.

- ii. Laura suggested SPS business cards to place in registers for people to take with our website address and basic information.
  - h. Archivist—Jim gave Dan a box and notebook of materials that were given to him at the banquet.
    - i. *Echo*
      - i. February 22nd deadline for next issue
      - ii. Hand over more old issues to be scanned and uploaded to the website—Laura is willing to scan
      - iii. Move to HTML version?—no discussion
    - j. Mountain Records—no report
    - k. IT—Tina will see whether there's a discrepancy between the roster as maintained by Alexander and the Google email group.
    - l. Website—keep sierrapeaks.org another year? Yes. Jim will contact Greg Mason.
    - m. Conservation—no report
    - n. Safety Chair—no report
3. Old business
    - a. Unofficially name a peak for Andy Smatko? Sign will be made by Mark Allen. Jim will check on progress.
    - b. Welcome new member to Mcomm—Laura Newman
    - c. Offering scholarships for leaders to take CPR, first aid, or wilderness first aid (revisit)—no, handled through LTC and the Angeles Chapter Foundation
    - d. Memorial hike for RJ Secor on April 15<sup>th</sup> (reminder).
  4. New business
    - a. New Mcomm positions
      - i. Determine them! See 1. above for who is in which position.
      - ii. Tina will let Brian Decker (OMC chair), Phil Wheeler for the HELEN database, and Joe Wankum for the website know who is doing what.
    - b. Next meeting date—Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m., at Alexander's.



## Mystery Peak Challenge Answer

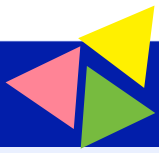


Ron Bartell was the first to answer Shane Smith's puzzle correctly: the Kaweahs are under the B-52, the upper bomber in the photo, with Big Kaweah on the left and Red and Black farther right. Greg Gerlach was also correct about the Kaweahs. Ron added that photo was taken from over Owens Valley, more or less over Owens Lk, Cirque Pk is just above the nose of the B-2; Mt Guyot is under the leading edge of the B-1's wing; Mt Eisen is left of the B1's tail; Lippincott Mtn is just right of B-1's tail. Please note that the summit of Cirque is actually by the tail of the B-2.

required. Email climbing resume to leader to apply. Ldr: Patrick McKusky. Asst: Dan Richter.

**Nov 17-18 | Sat-Sun**                      **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**  
**I: Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle:** Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkoff or practice to satisfy the basic (I/M) level or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. To participate, 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.



## Mystery Peak Challenge

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

Hal Browder sent us this lovely photo of an SPS peak. What peak is it and which lake is it reflected in?

Send your answer to Tina Bowman at [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com).



Dec 9 | Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

### I: Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle:

Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkoff or practice to satisfy the basic (I/M) level or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To participate, 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.

## The Sierra Echo



is a quarterly publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter. For more information, see the back of this newsletter. All questions, copy, and photo submissions should be directed to Tina Bowman, Editor, The Sierra Echo, preferably via email at [tina@bowmanchange.com](mailto:tina@bowmanchange.com). 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.





## Frank Sanborn

December 28, 1925 - January 21, 2018

By John Robinson

I had just joined the Sierra Club in May 1953 when I first met Frank Sanborn. Several of us 1953 "newcomers" were camped at the mouth of Big Rock Creek, on the north flank of the San Gabriels, when a well-built, deep-voiced man dressed in a brown pullover sweater walked over to our campsite, introduced himself and—after some small talk—invited us to join him on a backpack in Sequoia National Park that he was organizing. The name Frank Sanborn meant nothing to us then, but his knowledge and persuasiveness had a strong influence on us. Next day, we followed a trail at a brisk pace up toward Islip Saddle, and Frank again asked us to join him on a backpack. Thinking his pace was too fast, several of the newcomers turned him down. But I enjoyed the pace and, once on the summit of Mt. Williamson, I agreed to go on the Sequoia trip. One trip led to another and then another, and I became one of Frank's loyal summer gang, with alternating trips to the west side of the Sierra and the more precipitous east flank. I was away on military duty

in Korea most of the summer of 1955 but returned to civilian status in September to participate in the official birth of the Sierra Peaks Section. Since then, I've been privileged to have maintained contact with Frank for more than a half-century. With his passing on January 21 of 2018, it's time to look back with admiration on his importance to the SPS.

Sierra Nevada hikers in the 1950s, often passed—or were passed by—an imposing, steady-paced young man with a deep baritone voice. He usually was followed by eight to ten backpackers, some of them struggling to keep up. All were relieved when base camp was reached, usually by mid-afternoon. Next morning, the leader roused his party early and set off for a nearby peak, reached the summit, signed the register, then briskly

headed home. The leader of this—and many other High Sierra backpacks—was Frank Sanborn.

Frank was born in Flint, Michigan, on December 28, 1925. He spent his early years in Flint and the nearby towns of Pontiac and Berkley. He was called to military duty during World War II and served as a combat infantryman in eastern France and in Germany. After the war, he returned home and enrolled at the University of Michigan with a major in geography.

A big change in Frank's life occurred in August 1949. He accompanied his family on a cross-country drive to California. He crossed the Sierra via Lake Tahoe and Echo Summit and was impressed with the magnificent scenery. The family continued west to the Pacific Ocean and journeyed south on Highway 1 to Southern California, where they settled first in Inglewood.

*June 16, 1962: Frank Sanborn displays the SPS flag atop Mt. Goode on an SPS trip run jointly by the SPS and the Mother Lode Chapter. The group camped along the snow-covered Bishop Pass Trail and climbed Mt. Agassiz on June 17. Leaders were John Robinson and Jerry Keating. John's trip report appeared in the July-August 1962 issue of The Sierra Echo. Thirty-three persons were on the trip, and twenty-three climbed Goode the first day in what started out in gloomy weather but cleared up on the summit. Clouds prevailed the next day on the Agassiz climb (Photo by John Robinson).*

# PASSAGES

Frank enrolled at UCLA and completed work on his bachelor's degree in geography in April 1950. While there, he joined the UCLA Geographic Society and with that organization made his first backpacks into the Sierra. He learned of the Sierra Club and quickly joined that organization, too. Frank was now hooked. By year's end, he was backpacking in the Sierra, exploring the desert, or climbing the mountains above Los Angeles.

By 1951, Frank was recognized as one of the top Angeles Chapter leaders, on par with such luminaries as Niles and Louise Werner, John del Monte, Warren Flock, Howard Hill, and Toni Gamero.

His first love always was the Sierra Nevada. Frank sought out like-minded hikers to join him on Sierra backpacks, and found the first one, Frank Bressel, who worked at North American Aviation in El Segundo. Gradually, more enthusiasts joined Frank S. on his weekend outings, alternating between the rugged east face of the Sierra and the more gentle western side. Frank was particularly noted for his graphic and colorful language of trip write-ups.

One of Frank's pet peeves was that while there was a Desert Peaks Section and a Hundred Peaks "game" in the Angeles Chapter, there was no organization dedicated to climbing Sierra peaks. Many felt there was no need for a Sierra Peaks Section, as the drive to the trailheads would be too long. If anyone wanted to sample the Sierra, that person could join a Desert Peaks Section trip. The Desert Peakers at that time were authorized to lead one or two climbs in the Sierra each summer.



*August 7 or 8, 1953: Frank Sanborn appears second from left at Farewell Gap on a scheduled outing to Sawtooth (N) and Vandever above Mineral King. Other SPS founding members-to-be shown are Frank Bressel (far left), John Robinson (third from right), and Bob Sheller (far right). The trip was scheduled by a Sierra Club entity listed as "High Sierra" (Source: Frank Bressel Collection).*

This grated on Frank. He had been leading Sierra backpacks and climbs since the summer of 1951 and found them popular and well attended. He continued lobbying for a Sierra Peaks Section. Until 1955, the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee was generally unmoved by the growing call for an SPS. Now, they were forced to listen. By 1955, nonscheduled trips outnumbered scheduled ones by six to one in the Sierra. Frank was told that a statement of purpose and an interim set of officers had to be selected to guide the affairs of the proposed new section.

In July 1955, Frank headed a delegation to speak to the Executive Committee. With him were Chuck Miller and Pat Meixner. In a short speech, made more impressive by his deep baritone voice, Frank explained how a Sierra Peaks Section would benefit the chapter. Chapter Chair Bob Bear followed with a strong endorsement. The Executive Committee promised to consider the issue and come forward with a decision in the near future.

The decision came in October 1955. The Sierra Peaks Section was formally authorized. The long struggle finally was won!



# PASSAGES



*August 23, 1955: Frank Sanborn (far left) and three other SPS founding members-to-be appear in this photo taken along the John Muir Trail. Right of Frank: Ted Maier, Roger Gaefcke, Chuck Miller, Dick Woodward; then, tentatively, Jim McGoldrick. According to a report by Pat Meixner in a 1955 issue of Southern Sierran, others on the trip were Meixner, who also was to become an SPS founding member, Lucy Woodward, and Bob Smeltzer. Mt. Sill was climbed during this extended backpack (Lucy Woodward Collection, Angeles Chapter Digital Archives).*

To celebrate the new SPS, many of the eighteen—who now became charter members—organized a climb of Sawtooth and Needham. Although not officially scheduled, this was the first Sierra climb by the newly recognized SPS. Thankfully, I was on that climb.

The fledgling SPS quickly organized itself. Officers were selected: Frank Sanborn (chair), Bob Sheller (vice chair), Pat Meixner (secretary), Leo Scotti (treasurer), and Frank Bressel (alternate officer). Miles Brubacher was chosen to draw up a list of qualifying and emblem peaks, a process that continues to this day.

A full schedule of activities was drawn up, starting in the Angeles Chapter Schedule for May-August 1956. The first officially scheduled trip was a climb of Deer Mtn. on the Kern Plateau led by Frank Sanborn and John Robinson. The dates were May 5-6, 1956, and there were ten participants. We backpacked over Haiwee Pass to the South Fork of the Kern River, only to discover the river to be a raging torrent. Next morning, we followed the east bank of the river northward and found a wobbly log to cross. The shaking log was carefully crossed, and we made the forested summit without any further difficulty.

Frank's hope for a full summer of climbing Sierra Peaks was partially frustrated when early in the summer of 1956 he accepted a job with the Automobile Club of Southern

California. Being a geography major, he felt he could not turn down the job, especially since it gave him ready access to the maps on file or in preparation. However, the job required him to work on Saturdays—days on which most SPS trips were beginning. (He was able to join several SPS weekenders by driving up after Saturday's work day.) Frank's

biggest regret was that he had to give up his scheduled Mt. Williamson climb in the Sierra on Labor Day weekend 1956.

Over the next several years, Frank participated when he could. He served as SPS alternate officer in 1957 and vice chair in 1960 and 1964. He earned his DPS emblem in May 1957. And he completed his master's degree at Cal State Los Angeles in June 1960.

In August 1960, Frank and his wife, Charlotte, whom he married in the summer of 1957, moved north to Oroville, where he became a regular in Mother Lode Chapter activities. He chaired the Butte-Shasta Group, a component of the Mother Lode Chapter, for several months in early 1963.

In June 1963, Frank moved back to Southern California and quickly re-established ties with fellow climbers. For the last time, Frank rounded into top shape and participated in some rigorous climbs. On Labor Day weekend 1963, he joined Andy Smatko and John Robinson's DPS trip to Arc Dome in Central Nevada (considered strenuous only because of the long drive). Next day, he joined John in a successful ascent of Mt. Abbot. This was Frank's tenth SPS emblem peak. John surprised him by presenting Frank his emblem on the summit.

Frank, continuing to be in top shape, led the steep, strenuous climb of Cartago and Timosea in November of



# PASSAGES

1963. Then, came Frank's most controversial trip: Mt. Goddard from the east via Lamarck Col over the Labor Day weekend, September 5-7, 1964. It was advertised in the Angeles Chapter Schedule as being "EXTREMELY STRENUOUS . . . not for beginners." Frank was listed as leader with no one shown as assistant leader. Despite the warning, thirty-two persons showed up, many of them beginners. By the end of the first day, the group was hopelessly spread out. (Details of the resulting controversy appeared in the July-August-September-October 1964 issue of *The Sierra Echo*.) On the second day, Goddard was climbed by twenty of the trip members, half of them much slower than the lead group. Fortunately, all thirty-two got back to the cars on the final day. Thereafter, the SPS, and later the Angeles Chapter as a whole, required dual (or more) leaders on all overnight trips.

Frank was involved, both as leader or assistant leader, on several more scheduled trips in 1964 and 1965—including Wonoga/Muah in October 1964 and Tehipite Dome in May 1965—but after Wonoga/Muah and Tehipite Dome he no longer was the hiker he once was. Age and physical difficulties began to plague him.

As the late 1960s and the '70s passed into the '80s, he began experiencing more serious medical difficulties that prevented any more long hikes. With his second wife, Gloria, Frank moved to Kent, Washington, and shortly thereafter into Seattle to be closer to the Veterans Administration medical facilities. There, he was diagnosed with an early stage of Parkinson's Disease and other ailments. He qualified for full

**October 25, 1964:** Frank Sanborn on a short break en route to Muah Mtn., a scheduled SPS climb Frank and Ron Jones led. This was a day climb not from the unfinished road leading up to Horseshoe Mdw. but from a campground along Cottonwood Creek just above Owens Valley. The climb was all cross country and billed as "STRENUOUS, NOT FOR BEGINNERS" in the Angeles Chapter Schedule with a roundtrip distance of 12 miles. Frank authored the trip report for the November-December 1964 issue of *The Sierra Echo*. "Promptly at 6 a.m.," he reported, "sixteen hardy climbers assaulted the great trailless ridge which leads directly from camp 4,800 feet in about six miles to the Sierra crest to the south, between Diaz and Wormhole Canyons. By 9:30 a.m., we were on the Sierra crest escarpment and by 10:30 a.m. atop Muah . . . Although strenuous, the 5,800-foot climb was easier than anticipated . . . We were back at camp by 2 p.m." (Photo by Jerry Keating).



services because of his WW II Army combat experience. But his various ailments never caused him to forget his love of the Sierra Nevada and his pride in working effectively to form the SPS.

*Many thanks to Jerry Keating, who collected these photos and provided detailed caption information.—The editors*

**September 2, 1963:** John Robinson completes awarding the SPS emblem pin to Frank Sanborn during an independent climb of Mt. Abbot. This climb was done by only the two but on the way home after they, Andy Smatko, Graham Stephenson, Ellen Siegal, and three others climbed Arc Dome in Nevada. John's account of the Abbot climb appeared in the November-December issue of *The Sierra Echo*. "Frank hardly had time to catch his breath on the summit before he was presented with his emblem—given to him by the Section in appreciation for his valued contributions to the SPS," read the account. "The badge was bought by the Section last year after Frank climbed his ninth emblem peak and was to have been presented on the scheduled Abbot climb. But a last-minute visit by Frank's parents prevented him from making the trip. So it was with justice that Frank received the emblem on the peak that it was intended he receive it—one year later" (Photo by John Robinson using a delayed-timer).



## Fred Johnson

August 2, 1927–November 1, 2017



Long-time SPS member Fred Johnson died November 1, 2017, at the age of ninety. He was emblem holder #123, September 1, 1967. Jerry Keating was able to provide some information on Fred, whose first Sierra Club trip was on March 29, 1942, when he was fourteen. Fred joined the DPS in 1945, earning “his emblems in 1946, 1967, and 1987 as the list grew.” He was a member of the SPS in 1959, possibly earlier, and maintained his membership until he died. He also participated in the Old-Timers series of hikes led by Jerry, even arriving a day early for the 2007 outing to the Needles et al. in Giant Sequoia National Monument to climb Slate Mountain with Dave Jenkins, more than ten miles round-trip with about 2300’ gain.—  
*The editors*

See his obituary here: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sfgate/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=187306859>

## Remembering Fred Johnson

By Richard Carey

The first time I met Fred Johnson was on a trip to Long Ridge, the high point of San Mateo County, in May 2003, which he arranged since the spot was on private property. Fred had been there before and was one of the early completers of all the California counties in 1995.

Gail Hanna and I visited with Fred on several trips to San Francisco and the Bay area over the years. Fred was always friendly, courteous, and willing to meet us. Because he had slowed down some in his later years, instead of scaling bigger peaks he was visiting numerous fire lookouts in central and northern California. I set up a web page on fire lookouts, and Fred sent me dozens of photos he had taken, which greatly helped me add to the page.

Later Fred sent me a CD with 385 photos of peaks all over the west, which included some fine views of Sierra peaks. I last met him at a luncheon in Berkeley in August 2017. With Andrew Kirmse, David Sanger, and Fred we had a lively discussion of peaks and mountain-related topics. Later in October I told Fred I had just done Mt. Kaweah, and he said that was the very first peak he did in July 1942. Fred has a trip report on [Peakbagger.com](http://www.peakbagger.com) on this trip: <http://www.peakbagger.com/climber/ascent.aspx?aid=58321>

Fred logged all his ascents on Peakbagger and wrote many trip reports. He had quite an impressive list of ascents which you can see on his home page: <http://www.peakbagger.com/climber/climber.aspx?cid=1776>

Above: Fred Johnson en route to Wonoga Peak, SPS Oldtimers trip, September 9, 2006 (Photo by Jerry Keating).



# PASSAGES

Fremont Pass  
Sunday, March 29, 1942

My first actual association with the Sierra Club was on a trip to Fremont Pass above San Fernando.

Leaving town about 8:00, we easily reached our starting point by 9:30. With Pat Carmical as leader and Parker Severson as assistant leader, a large group of sixty or so started out in the hot sun through Fremont Pass and up onto a firebreak which lead to the Mt. Pinetop (3750') Lookout. The distance to the lookout was short, so most of us were there by noon. I had started out knowing only Pat Carmical, but on the trail and at the lookout where we had lunch I became acquainted with several of the members, and I was fortunate enough to be indorsed for membership in the club my first time out by George Wilson and Alexander Baxter. A point of interest very near the lookout was the spot where Martin Johnson's plane crashed several years ago. It was quite hazy in the valley and the surroundings were rather dull, so I didn't take many pictures. About 2:00 we started back to the cars by the same route we had come, getting to them by 4:00.

Although it was not an exceptional hike, I enjoyed it; and I was looking forward to my next hike with the club.

*Left: Fred Johnson's description of his first Sierra Club outing, which he participated in when he was fourteen. Note that he was endorsed for membership on his first outing (in those days, one needed to be sponsored by club members to join the Sierra Club). Below: Summit of Waucoba Mtn., on a DPS trip led by Niles Werner and Chester Versteeg, June 7, 1942. Fred Johnson, second from left, was still 14. Also in the photo, L to R: Parker Severson, Fred Johnson, Martin Britt, Harry Paley, Rhoda Goertz, Freda Walbrecht, Chester Versteeg, Jim Tow, and Morris Vehon. This is the earliest known photo of a DPS outing (Photo by Niles Werner, Niles Werner Collection, Angeles Chapter Archives).*





## Remembrances of RJ Secor, Part 2



### Remembering a Young Boy

*By Ron Eckelmann*

One evening many years ago, I received a telephone call from a young boy. He wanted a ride to the SPS climb scheduled for the next weekend. I was immediately concerned about his youth and ability to participate. Would he be a nuisance? Would he be fumbling with his equipment all weekend? Would he be lagging far behind the group? Would I become responsible for his safety? And there was the practical matter of driving through Friday evening traffic from my workplace near LAX to his home in Pasadena. At this point I was much more focused on the problems he might create, rather than trying to help a young boy experience the mountains. About this time, he described how he could ride a bus to an airport parking lot near my workplace, eliminating my complaint about the traffic. Somehow, he also dealt with my other concerns, at least to the extent that I ran out of excuses. (His determination and facility with words were already present.) So, reluctantly, I agreed to pick him up at the airport parking lot.

That Friday evening after work I drove to the agreed-upon meeting place. There, standing at the curb, was a thin young boy not much taller than his backpack. I did not understand his name when he told me during his telephone call, so I asked him again. "RJ," he replied. Expecting something more common like Bob, Dave, or John, I was sure

that I still misunderstood him. After all, how many boys use initials instead of a name? So I asked him again. "RJ," he repeated emphatically! I didn't ask again. Thus began my reluctant relationship with a young boy who would quickly become not only an accomplished climber, but also a noted author and friend.

I can no longer accurately remember that first trip with R.J. But it probably was the time I remember him eager to press ahead, but frustrated by the group's steady, grinding pace up the Bubbs Creek Trail. Later, high up the Sphinx Creek Trail during a rainy rest stop, the leader terminated the trip because of deteriorating weather. Consequently, I have no record of a peak ascent to pinpoint the date of that trip. On a trip that I believe occurred sometime later, R.J. and I made a snow climb of Basin Mountain led by past chair Horace Ory. My records show that was in June of 1971; R.J. was only 14 years old. Years later he would thank me for taking him on his first SPS trip.

I climbed with R.J. only occasionally after those

*Above: RJ Secor at his second SPS list finish on Smith Mtn., October 18, 1997 (Photo by Ron Eckelmann).*

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*Photos below, clockwise: R.J. Secor on the summit of Mt. Baker, August 22, 1977; with his mother and father at his second SPS list finish on Smith Mtn., October 18, 1997; on Smith Mtn. for his first list finish, October 5, 1986 (Photos by Ron Eckelmann).*



early trips. He was too eager, energetic, and talented to be slowed up by a laid-back recreational climber old enough to be his father. But in 1977 he proposed a climbing trip to the Pacific Northwest, to be preceded by a climb of Mt. Humphreys (to test me?). R.J. led; I followed. Apparently, he found me acceptable, because we firmed up the trip shortly thereafter.

Starting in late August, we drove his old panel truck up to Seattle, where he would continue his education at the University of Puget Sound. He expressed interest in a foreign service career with the State Department, apparently already eyeing the great mountain ranges of the world. We climbed Baker, St. Helens (three years before it erupted), and Hood. We were turned back by bad weather on Shuksan, Rainier, and Adams. (R.J. took advantage of a good weather window later in September to summit Rainier.) Although I was much older and had some prior experience in the Northwest, this was definitely R.J.'s trip. He had planned it. He had persuaded me to participate. He had modified the carburetor of his truck to improve gas mileage. He placated an angry Oregon farmer who objected to us camping on his property. His copious notes in the margins of Fred Becky's guide to the Cascades kept us



## R.J. Secor Memorial Hike

**Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>**

Join us on a hike to Henniger Flats in Pasadena as a celebration of our friend R. J. Secor's life. This moderate local climb from the mouth of Eaton Canyon up the Mt. Wilson Toll Road was R. J.'s favorite local conditioning hike.

Henniger Flats has picnic tables, restrooms, and a nature center. We plan to have our celebration when we get to the Flats, so bring your R.J. stories, memories, and food and drink to share.

Expect a day's total of about 5.35 miles round trip with 1,300' of gain. We'll leave from the Pinecrest trailhead at 8:00 am. Parking is

limited, so plan to carpool if you can. Some may want to park at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center and carpool from there. Kids and dogs are welcome.

From the 210 Freeway in Pasadena, exit on Lake Avenue. Turn north and continue to Altadena Drive. Make a right, continue about ten blocks, and look closely to your left. Turn left on Pinecrest Drive and wind a few blocks through a residential area to the trailhead. You can also come up Altadena Drive from the 210 Freeway past the Eaton Canyon Nature Center and take a right on Crescent Drive and then another right on Pinecrest Drive. The trailhead is found in 2200 block of Pinecrest. You'll spot a locked gate where the trail starts.

Email contact info to Ldrs: Dan Richter ([dan@danrichter.com](mailto:dan@danrichter.com)), Asher Waxman  
Note, this is a private hike, not a Sierra Club sponsored outing.

on route. He modified his plans as necessary to cope with the intermittently poor weather. And he led all of the climbs. (Our peak success rate of 50 percent is quite typical for this area known for bad weather.) A few days before I flew back to Los Angeles, R.J. turned twenty-one. He already was a competent leader.

From time to time I would accidentally meet R.J. and his father at a restaurant. His father owned a sailboat anchored at Marina del Rey, appropriately named *The Secor*. After a hard day's work maintaining the boat, they would enjoy a hearty dinner at a nearby smorgasbord. On at least one occasion very late at night while returning from a climb, I dropped off R.J. at the marina. He told me to wait while he cautiously approached the boat and called out to his father sleeping inside. It took a while, but

his father eventually emerged, happy to see his son regardless of the hour.

R.J. invited me to each of his two SPS list finishes: the first on October 5th, 1986, when he was just thirty; the second on October 18th, 1997, both on Smith Mtn. His proud father was on both. His mother summited on at least one, perhaps both. He was especially close to his parents and lived with them in the family home until they passed.

After his accident, I visited R.J. twice while he was in the hospital. The first time was with a group of SPSers. The second time I was alone. I talked to him about those early trips, hoping to stimulate a brain still in a coma. I

left unable to detect any response.

He did recover of course. But not completely. He would not be able to complete the SPS list for the third time. I last spoke to him at the SPS banquet where he received the Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award while his mother looked on proudly.

Yes, I still remember that telephone call from so long ago. Thanks R.J.! I'm sure glad you persuaded me to meet you at the airport parking lot!

*Steve Porcella published an obituary of RJ in The American Alpine Journal: <http://bit.ly/Secor-AAJ> or the full URL <http://publications.americanalpineclub.org/articles/13201214503>. This article is longer than the version which appeared in the last issue of the Echo.*



## Remembering My Cousin, RJ Secor

*By Joan Colgrove*

RJ and I were two years apart in age—he was born in 1956, and I was born in 1954. Because of this and since we were the youngest cousins, we usually hung out together at family gatherings.

When we were very young, we met for family picnics at a park in Pasadena. RJ and I used to roll lengthwise down a grassy slope, over and over again, enjoying the feeling of being a little bit dizzy after each descent. There were tiny white flowers in the park growing in the grass. They looked like miniature daisies, but RJ told me that although they looked like daisies, they were actually some other kind of flower and that they were weeds. I remember wondering, “How does he know that???” But I knew him and didn’t doubt what he was saying because he wouldn’t have said so without knowing. He always did his research.

When we saw each other each Thanksgiving, usually at my parent’s home in Costa Mesa, he and I would hang out and played our own version of adventure games. RJ had a good imagination, and we both really “got into” our roles in the games, which felt, in retrospect, like Indiana Jones searching for something ancient and valuable. My bedroom, with the lights dimmed, became a cave, and a toy Aladdin’s Lamp was our magic guide that helped us find the precious treasure. As I recall, RJ would come up with elaborate plots and rules and was insistent that the rules be followed. He wasn’t rude about it, but very matter of fact, and I never objected to the many rules, even though I had to be reminded of them.

At RJ’s house his bedroom had a door that led to a half-basement that, as a child, I found to be very cool and mysterious. It had steep steps and felt like some kind of secret scientist’s lair. In it, he kept his notebooks and scrapbooks, in which he kept meticulous records. Even then I felt honored that he would allow me into his private universe and take the time to explain that universe to me.

RJ, even as a very young boy, spoke with the same speech patterns he retained as an adult. We used to say he had a lot of “nervous energy.” He would be silent for a while, always thinking, and then speak quickly with frequent bursts of verbiage, and the bursts were usually

packed with meaning. To understand him required taking time and paying close attention. RJ measured and chose each word carefully and precisely whether he was speaking or writing. Accuracy was a big deal to him for his entire life. I was the recipient of a number of his corrections, delivered not unkindly, but plainly, as if it just wouldn’t be right to let something slide if it wasn’t accurate. I have some of that trait myself, which is probably one reason why we enjoyed each other’s company, but RJ’s attention to detail was exceptional.

He also liked puns and word games and was a worthy adversary in any contest of wit.

As a small child and into adulthood, he was a bit like a professor, something like Sheldon on *The Big Bang Theory*, only much more aware and concerned about other people’s feelings than Sheldon. He would often instruct me on some new subject he’d learned about, and I found his “lectures” fascinating. In the 1960s or so when he was a small boy, he used to watch a TV Show called *The Funny Company*, and he described all the characters and many episodes to me. Although I never watched it, I feel as if I did because his descriptions were so detailed. He retained that trait.

He was born into a family of strong-willed and opinionated people. His mom, Leta, came across initially to people who were just meeting her as sweet and accommodating, but beneath that exterior was a focused and goal-oriented woman who always knew what she wanted. She worked in real estate for many years as well as working for many years for the City of Pasadena. RJ’s father, Jack, seemed to me to be a quick-witted, often sarcastic, and wisecracking character. Before he grew a beard in his later years, he looked like and reminded me of Don Rickles, and the personal put-downs, delivered with a smirk, were some of Jack’s trademark comments, too. My recollections of Jack’s visits to our home included him sitting down at our piano and playing boogie-woogie, while looking over his shoulder occasionally, with a silly grin, his ever-present pipe between his teeth. Jack worked at the L.A. County Assessor’s office for many years and also, along with Leta, was involved in real estate and other investments.

RJ inherited a very quick wit, a way with words, and sarcasm from his father and determination, goal setting,

*Many thanks to Bill Oliver for working with Joan Colgrove to supply the Echo with this remembrance.*

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and frugality from his mother. Frugality is a trait that many people on his mother's side of the family shared. Also, Leta, Jack, and RJ each had a very good head for business.

When I learned that often RJ's hiking and climbing equipment was ancient and usually purchased at garage sales, etc., I laughed and thought that our Grandmother Emma (Leta's mother, who died in 1989, at the age of ninety-five) would have been proud because she could get more out of a dollar than any person I've ever known.

I am the youngest of three kids, and when we spoke of RJ, we often remarked on the fact that he was an only child. At the time, it seemed to be a sad thing because my siblings and I had a hard time imagining a home without a brother or sister to play with or fight with. But upon reflection I think that RJ's comfort with being alone developed because as a child he spent a lot of time alone and he very much enjoyed his own company. He didn't have to compete for his parent's love and attention, which I believe gave him a certain security.

RJ's cousin Joan Colgrove also prepared answers to a number of questions she was being asked about RJ after his death. We thought you might find them of interest.—*The editors*

*I have been asked some questions about RJ and will do my best to answer them:*

**Education:** He had an AA from Pasadena City College (1976), a Bachelors Degree from the University of Puget Sound (1978), and a Masters in International Relations from Claremont Graduate University (1984).

**Other sports besides hiking/climbing:** he was in the ski patrol while at Puget Sound. In addition to skiing he loved sailing. His dad had a sailboat for many years at Marina Del Rey, and sailing was a family activity. Interestingly, their boat was docked close to a boat that Dan Blocker, the actor from Bonanza, kept there.

**Boy Scouts:** I don't know if RJ was in Boy Scouts but suspect he was because after his father's death, their sailboat, which I think was an approximately thirty-foot Bristol, was donated to the Boy Scouts. RJ and I were only in touch sporadically once we were grownups, and I don't recall him mentioning Boy Scouts, but there were many things we didn't talk about.

**Spiritual beliefs:** RJ was raised Lutheran and was confirmed in the Lutheran church after completing catechism classes in seventh and eighth grades, as I was, and as was everyone on his mother's side of the family. From what I am aware, he remained a Christian, but we didn't discuss that in any depth as adults. He did say some

things after our Grandmother's funeral in early 1989 that seemed as if he believed she was with Jesus, but it's also possible he said that as a comfort to his mother and other relatives. Of course, no one knows for sure what's in another person's heart. RJ mentioned Jesus when I visited him in early 2017, so I think and hope that his Christian beliefs stayed with him. That is a comfort to me.

His mother stayed connected to a Lutheran church near their home, but I don't know how often she and/or RJ may have attended there.

**Was RJ ever in seminary:** I asked my mother, because RJ's mother Leta (my Mom's sister) would have more than likely mentioned this to her, had it happened, and my mom said she was never aware of anything having to do with RJ attending seminary. My thoughts on this are that I can imagine RJ wanting to immerse himself deeply in any subject that strongly captured his interest. He was a lifelong student. However, I can't imagine him wanting to be a pastor. He would have realized that pastors need to be accessible and available to everyone in their flock, and RJ was more selective than that. I can easily picture him being something similar to a Trappist Monk because of the solitude and contemplative nature of their existence. How he would have gotten past the historic antipathy between the Lutheran Church and the Catholic Church is something he would have had to figure

out. But there was no seminary to my knowledge. But it's still possible that he considered it at some point; I simply don't know. It wouldn't be too far fetched to think that he might have mentioned it to someone as a joke, and because his wit could be very dry, it could be hard to tell when he was kidding and when he wasn't.

**What were his parents' ages and when did they pass:** Jack died in 2008 at the age of eighty-two, and Leta died in 2016 at the age of eighty-nine. RJ died one year and 3 weeks after his mother. I know he missed both parents. As far as longevity, on his mother's side there are many long-lived people. RJ's and my great grandmother, Minnie Kruse, from Iowa, lived to be 101. Her daughter, our grandmother Emma who was mentioned earlier, was almost ninety-six.

**The Mt. Baldy Accident:** The accident happened in April 2005. There is information that can be Googled; when searching "RJ Secor Accident," one finds a description of the out-of-control glissade that resulted in his serious head and other injuries. Over months of hospitalization and rehabilitation, he regained much of his functioning and was able to be re-issued his drivers license and do most normal day-to-day activities. To me, he was never the same person afterwards, and he stopped communicating via email (with me, anyway) after his accident. His conversations were shorter and he often

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RJ valued friendships, especially with people who shared the same sensibility about nature. But it could also be said that he could take or leave people. He enjoyed sharing ideas and time but also savored peace and solitude. If RJ was intriguing, and I think he was, it was, in part, because he wasn't needy. His independence and even aloof quality could draw people in.

From what I know of RJ, he didn't talk much about caring for other people. Instead he showed it by small and larger gestures. He wanted his life to have meaning, and he wanted to help the world by contributing with his books and by

*didn't initiate any discussions but would respond/reply in context when spoken to. I think that his verbal and writing abilities were diminished from the accident as well.*

**Other head injury:** In April 2016, RJ fell in his backyard and sustained another head injury. This was a serious setback and after this second fall he was no longer able to care for himself. He was initially hospitalized for several weeks and then moved to a care facility in Pasadena (more about that in the paragraph below). After this second fall, it was still possible to have an intelligent conversation with him about a number of subjects and he retained much of his memory for things he'd learned in the past and could be counted on to come up with interesting and relevant facts. However, his short-term memory was very poor, and he needed support for many daily functions. Physically he was not steady on his feet and needed help getting up and down. He could walk for short distances without a walker but anything longer would either tire him out or he would need support from a person, a walker, or a wheelchair. He had recently completed some physical therapy and was in the process of signing up for twice weekly exercise sessions for people with similar challenges at Huntington Hospital in Pasadena at the time of his death.

My Aunt Leta had been diagnosed with cancer prior to the time that RJ fell in April 2016. RJ was admitted to the hospital and then Leta herself was also hospitalized in order to receive treatment for her cancer. She was then moved to an apartment in a care facility in Pasadena. When RJ was released from the hospital, he joined Leta in the care facility apartment. This was in July 2016. In

August, after one of her radiation treatments, Leta fell and broke her hip and was once again hospitalized. She returned to the care facility with RJ a few weeks later. On Friday, October 7, 2016, Leta collapsed and died while in the facility with RJ.

**Conservatorship:** After Leta was gone, I worked with attorneys who had already been selected by Leta to do some legal work for her and, with RJ's approval, was named conservator for him because he was unable to manage his day-to-day care and affairs. RJ made it very clear that he wanted to return to live at the Pasadena home he had grown up in. So I coordinated with several people to get the house ready for his return. The work included building safety ramps, installing grab bars, and consolidating and purging some of the stuff that accumulates after a family occupies a home for more than fifty years. RJ was able to move home on Monday, March 13, 2017. He was very happy to be home. Whenever I spoke with him and asked him how he was, he would say, "Fine". And I'd ask him if he needed anything, and he'd say, "No," although one time he mentioned that he'd like some Cheetos. The caregiver got him some.

**RJ's Death:** On the morning of October 26, 2017, RJ collapsed at his home. He was being cared for by round-the-clock caretakers. The caretaker called 911 and help arrived within a few minutes. The EMT's were not able to establish or sustain a pulse, and RJ was transported to nearby Huntington Hospital. The ER staff at the hospital worked for 55 minutes to try to establish a pulse, but were unable to do so. The medical examiner concluded that RJ died because of the long-term effects of traumatic brain injuries. He had seen his

primary care doctor as well as a neurologist within three weeks prior to his death, and when he was seen, neither doctor noted that there was anything that would cause them to believe he was in any imminent danger.

Some of RJ's organs and tissue were donated, including corneas, skin and the pericardium, which is frequently used for people who have heart surgery. He and I never spoke about such donations, but I like to think that he would be pleased about helping people in such a way.

**Estate, etc.:** I am the administrator for Leta's and for RJ's estates. The legal aspects are ongoing. Because Leta, Jack, and RJ were so private about their business and out of respect for their preferences, I will not share any particulars. However, some useful and common-sense takeaways from their approach to investing are (1) live well beneath your means; (2) invest consistently and regularly in things with lasting value such as real estate and businesses that have a sound history with a good projection for future value; (3) once you have settled on an investment approach, stay for the long-haul, and don't be swayed by temporary market fluctuations. One added comment is that everyone should make clear in writing how he or she wants their estate handled, and such written instructions should be updated whenever there are life changes.

**When did I move to Colorado:** My husband and I bought a home in Florissant, Colorado, in May 2008. We spent time here each year afterwards and moved from California to Colorado full time in October 2013. I retired in May 2014 (I worked remotely by phone and computer for a few months), and my husband had already been retired since 2000.



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## *My Cousin RJ, continued:*

helping fellow sojourners on hikes and climbs whether he was climbing with them, or helping them by the information in his very detailed books/guides.

That being said, as a child and as an adult, he didn't have a lot of patience for people who didn't respect knowledge and who didn't take the time to understand the world and nature. He could be dismissive and impatient if he realized that someone didn't "do their homework" and didn't share his values. He would often decide that such people simply weren't worth his time.

He was interested in all kinds of things. The books in his house were on a wide range of subjects from science to philosophy to history, to, of course, mountains and climbing/hiking. Both of his parents were avid readers and on his mother's side of the family, most of the people are book lovers as well.

When I looked around RJ's home in Pasadena not long ago, doing a security check, I laughed when I went in his bedroom and on the wall in the walk-in closet was a poster of Humphrey Bogart wearing a trench coat and fedora, with the classic Bogart squint. It was another surprise to learn that RJ was a Bogart fan.

Although attention to detail was one of RJ's strengths, he was not a petty person, neither as a child nor as an adult. The time he spent on giant peaks seemed to put things in perspective for him, and ideas and ideals and principles were important to him. Although he was careful with money (an understatement!), he was generous with his time and energy when he believed the person or the cause was worthy.

My home in Colorado is at an elevation of 8400' and because of the mountains, I find myself thinking of RJ often. Also, whenever I see ravens, I think of him. He told me that he was fascinated by ravens, which are so

resourceful and ubiquitous, and he included the silhouette of a raven on his business card which said simply "RJ Secor—Author," and which listed his books by title. Ravens are a lot like RJ: smart, resourceful, clever, multi-talented, occasionally cranky, and eco-friendly because they clean up messes left by people and other animals. Ravens enjoy the company of other ravens but also spend time alone, often in high places, surveying the territory and making mental notes of useful details.



*Augie Medina sent this photo taken on June 23, 2003, by a passerby at Kearsarge Pass at the end of a trip led by Nile Sorenson and Tom McDonnell. The group had travelled from Onion Valley over University Pass to Center Basin, where they climbed Center Peak and Mt. Bradley. RJ Secor is at far left. Continuing clockwise: Paul Morash, Augie Medina, Joanne Andrew, Ron Campbell, Nile Sorenson, and Tom McDonnell.*

## Royal Robbins Memorial Celebration

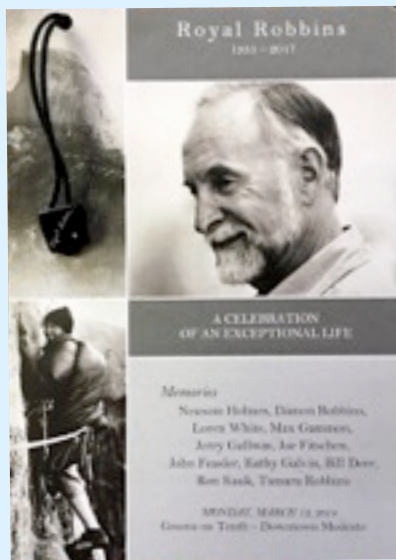
By Bill Oliver

I was privileged to attend the memorial and life celebration for Royal Robbins, March 12, in Modesto, his hometown. I connected with Royal and his wife Liz in 2011, related to the Sierra Club's honoring him with its Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award. Representing the Mountaineering Oversight Committee, I was unexpectedly honored to present it to him at the awards event in San Francisco.

As noted in an article in the July-Sept 2017 *Echo*, Royal (82) passed away at home on March 14, 2017. His early life was centered in LA, and his climbing career jump-started in 1950 when at age fifteen he encountered a Rock Climbing Section practice at Stoney Point. He was accepted into RCS membership about the same time as Barbara Lilley, and in their early careers they occasionally climbed together at Tahquitz and in Yosemite.

The gathering in downtown Modesto was packed with about five hundred guests. Many large photo posters were on the walls, plus displays of climbing gear and exhibits of memorabilia. Eleven remembrances were shared, just over half related to Royal's extraordinary climbing life. Both his kids spoke, Tamara and Damon, as well as climbers Jerry Gallwas, Joe Fitschen, Bill Derr, Ron Kauk, and Yvon Chouinard.

Other notable climbers present whose names I recognize include Frank Hoover, Don Lauria, Peter Croft, John Long, Mike Sherrick, Tom Cochrane,



Glen Denny, Mark Wellman, Vern Clevenger, Lynn Hill, Chris Jones, and Doug Robinson. Unfortunately, there were no large group photos taken of them.

Royal wrote a lot in notebooks. Tamara quoted from one: "Many people think 'rich' means money and material things, but true riches are inside of us and are unseen connections between us. True riches are love, gratitude, hope enthusiasm, optimism, friendship and joy."

All those attending shared a special afternoon together, uniquely and collectively remembering a man who touched and enriched their lives

in innumerable ways. As several speakers noted, I'm sure we all felt that Royal was there with us with his wry smile. No doubt he has brought "clean climbing" to a new level among the heavenly spires.

These links provide photos of the Farquhar Award ceremony plus the memorial service: <http://bit.ly/RobbinsSCAward> and <http://bit.ly/RobbinsMemorial>.

Update: the fourth annual Oakdale Climbers Festival in October will feature a special remembrance of Royal Robbins. Details here: <http://bit.ly/Oakdale2018>



Top: Memorial program, note the nut inserted in the upper left. Bottom: Attendees waiting for the start of remembrances (Photos by Bill Oliver).



# The Sierra Echo

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**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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