The Matterhorn

Story Begins Page 17

View from the Schwarze Gondola area (Photo by Jason Siero)
Hello, my fellow Sierra Nevada climbers! I hope that all of you are safe and sound after the terrible fires that we have had recently. We can take solace in the peace our great mountain ranges bring us. I look forward to many wonderful outings next year! Speaking of outings, we had a great weekend on October 20th and 21st, climbing and dedicating Smatko Peak (unofficial name) in the Southern Sierra near Sherman Pass. Many thanks to Tina Bowman and Paul Garry for the leading and to Mark Allen for making the sign, which we placed on the summit just below the summit block. And thanks to the trip participants who made it a very special and colorful celebration of Andy.

I would like also to express my gratitude to the Emblem Committee for their tireless work on revising the description and qualifications for the Andy Smatko Explorer Award. They spent many hours in discussion and reviewing the document to make sure that it is clear and concise! I do hope to achieve this emblem myself someday and hope others will be likewise inspired.

Looking ahead, we have our annual Banquet coming up on Sunday, January 27th, at the Almansor Court venue in Alhambra. See the flyer in this issue and make sure to sign up for this very special evening of fun, camaraderie, and such! I look forward to seeing you all there and on the mountains in 2019! Have a safe and happy holiday season and be sure to volunteer for an outing lead or three in the next season. Be safe out there and take care!

Happy and safe climbing!
Jim Fleming, chair@sierrapeaks.org

We Need Your Stories!

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

In this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In this issue:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair's Column</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banquet</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member News</td>
<td>4-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Around the Web</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Tech: Gaia GPS</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smatko Peak Dedication Hike</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bart O'Brien Forty-Nine Year List</td>
<td>12-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Unknown Legend</td>
<td>14-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Matterhorn</td>
<td>17-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral King Dayhikes</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outings</td>
<td>24-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness Permits</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPS Treasurer's Report</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minutes</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mystery Peak Challenge</td>
<td>30-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2018 Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee

Elected
Jim Fleming Chair chair@sierrapeaks.org
Paul Garry Vice-chair/banquet vicechair@sierrapeaks.org
Alexander Smirnoff Treasurer treasurer@sierrapeaks.org
Laura Newman Fifth officer/outreach outreach@sierrapeaks.org
Tina Bowman Secretary tina@bowmanchange.com

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Echo mailer Tina Bowman
Emblem Committee Tina Bowman, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge, Ron Bartell
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Outings Phil Bates philjapates@gmail.com
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Webmaster Joe Wankum jbwankum@aol.com
Asst. Webmaster Harry Lagenbacher register@summitregister.org

Regional Representatives
San Diego Joe White Northern California Lisa Barboza
Central California Daryn Dodge Eastern Sierra Shane Smith
In 2013-14, Sophie Cairns attempted to climb the highest volcano on each continent in four months. Crazy? Perhaps. Each volcano presented unique challenges, from the bitter cold of Antarctica to the jungles of Papua New Guinea. And of course, as in all the best adventures, not everything went according to plan.

**Sunday, January 27, 2019**

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

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Dinner ▲ Drinks ▲ Discussion ▲ Good Cheer

Name_________________________________________  E-Mail_________________________________________

Phone_________________________________________

Number of tickets:  

TOTAL DUE = ______________________________________

Make checks payable to “Sierra Peaks Section”

Entree choice:  
(Please indicate total number of each)  
Fish  
Vegetarian  
Beef

@ $45 / each if postmarked by January 17. Ticket price increases to $50 each thereafter.

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

— OR —

You may order tickets electronically.  
Log on to:  
[http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sierra-peaks-section-banquet-tickets-3625159] (A $2.57 service fee applies)
Welcome new members!

John Martin

John grew up surfing in Southern California and taking camping trips with his family in national parks around the western United States. After taking a leave of absence from nature for over twenty years, he started hiking in earnest after taking WTC in 2017. His first visit to the Sierra for WTC experience trips was awe inspiring and has led to John’s joining both the HPS and the SPS in 2018. John is a significant way through the HPS list and plans on completing those summits over the next few years. He is also interested in pursuing the SPS Geographical Emblem as time allows, as it is a wonderful way to experience the beauty of the Sierra and the grandeur of California.

Kassandra Kasparek

Kassandra is a cancer researcher from Menlo Park who is terrified of heights and loose rock. Naturally, this has led to a lifelong determination to conquer every peak in the Sierras. Led by her fiancé Chris, she boldly goes where her fearful instincts suggest she shouldn’t. When she’s not curled in the fetal position to avoid being struck by lightning, she enjoys exploring breweries, painting, and petting cats.

Jason Seieroe

As a kid growing up in Los Angeles, Jason went to the Sierras regularly, visiting Yosemite Valley or fishing with his dad in the lakes on the east side many summers. He got into backpacking in 2010 and took WTC and AMP in 2013, joining the staff of WTC LBSB Group 2 in 2014. Since then he has continued to explore the mountains with friends and enjoy the peace, solitude, and adventure of the alpine backcountry.
Zara Kunkler

Zara started hiking and rock climbing with local peaks and crags in 2011. Her first Sierra peak was Mt. Whitney in 2016. Somewhere on the trail just shy of the summit, exhausted under the weight of her pack and gasping for breath with each achingly slow step, she fell in love with the High Sierra. Looking to expand her experiences and knowledge, she started doing local conditioning hikes with the Sierra Club in 2017 and enrolled in WTC and AMP in 2018. Zara enjoys waking up warm in her tent on crisp mountain mornings, feeling the awe of beautiful views from the top of tall things, and challenging herself in wild places. Her ambitions include completing all of the emblem peaks and improving her technical skills so that she can pit herself against more daring ascents. She is currently training to hike Kilimanjaro in spring of 2019.

Jennifer Jones

Raised in the wilds of Maine on lobster and cold, dark winter nights, Jennifer’s introduction to hiking in the Sierras came when she took WTC in 2017, where she learned valuable skills including the meaning of “only 400 feet more” and how to cook a decent backcountry taco. She joined WTC staff in Orange County in 2018 and also became an I-rated leader in 2018. She loves the passionate community of hikers and climbers she has met through Sierra Club outings and the close and incredibly supportive friends she’s made who teach and inspire her every day. She is looking forward to more extended Sierra trips in the coming years, to chipping away at the peaks lists, and to the pure joy of being in the mountains.

Tim Lawnicki

Tim grew up in Southern California and got into Sierra hiking through his university’s outdoor excursions program. It took him a while to catch the summit bug, but now he enjoys tackling mountains both across the world and close to home. Still, for Tim there’s little more sublime than cresting a wave of granite in the great Sierra sea. He looks forward to meeting and learning from his fellow SPS members!
Chris Guido

Chris was first introduced to climbing and backpacking at a young age by his parents in the late 1990s which led to successful completions of the JMT and Roper’s Sierra High Route. Since his early adventures, he has started focusing more on peak scrambling and moderate technical climbing throughout the Sierras. In addition to climbing the SPS list, Chris is interested in visiting climbing destinations outside of California including the Tetons and the Northern Cascades. While he’s not peak climbing, you will find Chris with his fiancée Kassandra either at the swimming pool or relaxing at home in Menlo Park.

We also welcome Derek Tse

FREE First Year’s Membership or Echo Subscription

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!

Bart O’Brien
Bart finished the list on Mt. McGee, September 23. See his story on page 12.

Kathy Rich
Kathy earned her Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem on Mt. Price, September 12th.

Anne Mullins
Anne earned her Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem on Smatko Pk., October 20th.
**Congratulations!**

**Tina Bowman**

Congratulations to Tina Bowman (at left on the podium) who not only climbs peaks, but competes in masters track and field. On September 7th, she competed in the World Masters Athletics Championship in Malaga, Spain, winning silver in the 300 meter hurdles for women 65-69. Congrats, Tina, you continue to amaze us. - From Mary McMannes

Why not follow in the footsteps of Roving Girl Reporter, Mary McMannes? Turn in your friends! We’d like to recognize the achievements of our members, so if you have news about others or yourself to share with your SPS family, send in a note to tina@bowmanchange.com.

**Around the Web  By Dave Sholle**

Editors’ note: We’re pleased to have a new feature in the Echo, suggested by Dave Sholle, who will be your correspondent for the column. It’ll be a list of links to the Web that SPS members may find interesting with a brief description for each item. If you see something you think would interest other members, please send it to Dave Sholle at dsholle@verizon.net.

Here’s the update about pro cyclist Adrien Costa who lost his leg in a climbing accident on Mt. Conness: https://www.bicycling.com/news/a24512791/adrien-costa-back-on-bike/

The Alpinist Podcast has interesting interviews: http://www.alpinist.com/p/podcast

Also at the alpinist.com website is a reference to an article in the Autumn 2018 Alpinist magazine issue 63, "Shawnté Salabet seeks the late guidebook author R.J. Secor’s most mysterious peak.” Unfortunately, the article isn’t available online, so you’ll either have to buy the issue, borrow it from someone, or go to a library that carries it to read the article. SPS members might enjoy the article, and Dan Richter and Asher Waxman are mentioned in it.

You might enjoy the interview with National Geographic photographer and mountaineer/skier Jimmy Chin: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/features/interview-photographer-climber-jimmy-chin-master-art-of-chill/

For those of you who have Amazon Prime Video, the video Searching for Nepal is about a former Peace Corps volunteer who taught science and mathematics in a small village in Nepal more than thirty years ago and lived with a family who took him in. He returns to see the family that had such a big impact on his life and to see if his teaching in the village had any lasting effect: https://www.amazon.com/Searching-Nepal-Phil-Deutschle/dp/B06WW632XB

Amazon Prime Video has numerous mountain and mountaineering videos online.
Gaia GPS

By Michael Chamoun

We all know peak bagging requires lots of off-trail travel where knowing if you’re going the right way is a time and energy saver. I think we’ve all had a trip or two where we’ve wasted time going up the wrong chute or aimed for the wrong peak. At least I know I have. Lots of times, frankly. There’s one item that has since become indispensable in the Sierra backcountry over the past several years for me, and that’s the Gaia GPS App on my smartphone. Although I still mainly reference paper maps, I use Gaia occasionally to figure out my precise location to make sure I’m in the right vicinity. Although there is a higher paid membership option that unlocks all sorts of different features (much too complicated for me), I use the $20/year option (or $60/five years) to download the area on digital USGS topographic maps on my phone and reference it on the trip. The best part is that it works on Airplane Mode (though you must turn on the GPS feature on your phone in Settings). Once I get the information I need, I close the app, saving precious battery. The areas you decide to download are stored on the App itself should you choose to reference them again in the future, or you can simply delete them. It literally takes one-to-two minutes before your trip to find the area you’ll be in, draw out a rectangle on how big a perimeter on the map you want, and download it. Once you’re in the backcountry, open the app, go to your saved files, click the map you downloaded, and push the “location” button. After fifteen-to-thirty seconds, your phone will pick up your GPS signal, and you appear on that map as a cursor. So if you’re looking for a map with a simple, user-friendly GPS program, look no further than Gaia GPS.

Below, left: High quality USGS Maps available where you can zoom in or out. Right: Create as big an area as you need to download by dragging the corners of the box. In Landscape or Portrait format. (Screenshots by Michael Chamoun)
Although the SPS led an outing for the dedication of the name Mt. Chester Versteeg on September 5, 1965, this outing may have been a slightly different first: an official SPS outing for the unofficial naming of Smatko Peak in the Southern Sierra. As you may recall, the SPS management committee tried for more than two years to name peak 8916’ officially for Dr. Andy Smatko, the first person to complete the SPS list on October 25, 1964, and a peak bagger extraordinaire. The proposal was eventually shot down by the Forest Service in its recommendation to the Board of Geographic Names.

Andy climbed this peak in September 1997, his last Sierra summit, a fine rocky outcropping visible from the Sherman Pass Road just south of the peak. Bob Burd, who transcribed Andy’s list of Sierra ascents into Lists of John from a copy provided by Doug Mantle, pointed out to me that this peak would be an appropriate one to name for Andy. The SPS had already named its Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem—climbing fifty or more Sierra peaks not on the SPS list—for Andy in recognition of his staggering list of ascents in the Sierra and elsewhere.

Our group met at the junction of the Sherman Pass Road and Bonita Meadows Road, where there was plenty of room for parked cars. At 10:30 we started the hike; I led us into some brush and over some logs, and Jim Fleming, carrying a sign and support post made by Mark Allen (who makes signs for HPS peaks and cheerfully made this one for the SPS), swept. Paul Garry, another leader, kept tabs on people mostly from the middle of the group. Unfortunately, Alexander Smirnoff, who had planned to lead...
also, was swamped with work. Joining us were Vicky Hoover, SPS list finisher #19 in 1981; Bob Burd, who dayhiked all of the SPS listed peaks and helped with the attempt to name the peak and for whom this was his first SPS outing; Anne Mullins, who finished her Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem (ASEE) requirements on Smatko Peak; Mary Jo Dungfelder; Gary Schenk; Dave Titus, who celebrated his one-hundredth peak and his one-year anniversary as an SPS member; Asher Waxman; and Keith Christensen. Joining us on the summit were Laura Newman and her husband, Ken Snyder; step-daughters, Alexa and Olivia; and Manny, the boxer. Delayed by a traffic snarl, they missed the start of the hike.

Smatko Peak, also known as the Great Punk’er by rock climbers in the general area known as the Pumpkin Patch because of the orange rock (thanks to Greg Vernon for this information), is a fun climb about five miles east of Sherman Pass. Though there are bolts on one face for fifth-class rock climbing, we opted to scramble from the south up some talus and through some brush to a notch between the two summits, using helpful information provided by Terry Flood, who explored the peak with Henry Arnebold and Jim Murphy in August 2015. A couple of easy class-three moves put us on the higher west summit with room enough for everyone. Many in the group also climbed the other, slightly lower summit, also just up from the notch. After placing an ammo box and SPS-register book to add to the small register left by Terry Flood, signing in, taking the group photos, we got out of the chilly breeze to have a party at the notch. Here we celebrated the dedication, Anne’s ASEE list finish, and Dave’s one-hundredth peak with champagne and other drinks (Anne made mimosas!) as well as all sorts of goodies. Jim Fleming placed the sign at the notch.

Eventually, we started down. Bob signed out to drive home to San Jose and Dave signed out to go meet a friend. Once we were back to the cars, Vicky went to our campground while Anne, Laura, Mary Jo, Asher, Gary, Jim, Keith, Paul, and I caravanned to Danner Meadow and hiked up Lookout Mountain, where there is no longer a lookout, though there was a little cement trace of one. Higher than Smatko Peak, it had great views north to Farewell Gap, the Kaweahs, Langley, Olancha, and more. A bit of road and often steep use trail took us to the summit, a peak that would be acceptable on a person’s ASEE list. On the way back, we got onto a different use trail lower down that put us even closer to the cars than the other. I think it was less steep as well.

Laura and family said goodbye, and the rest of us headed to Troy Meadow Campground for a nice potluck and gathering around the campfire, complete with marshmallows for toasting.

In the morning, Mary Jo and Gary headed out for Taylor Dome, and Anne, Paul, and Keith went to the Big Meadow area also for Sirretta and the Domelands Wilderness high point. Jim Fleming and I climbed Granite Knob, a short and fun hike and climb north of Smith Mountain. Vicky was on her way to help get out the vote for a democratic candidate in Hanford, and Asher was going to enjoy the fall colors on his journey home*.  

* Because of road construction expected to continue into December, we could not access the peak or campground from the east via Nine Mile Canyon Road, Kennedy Meadows, and the Sherman Pass Road. Instead we took Mountain 99 north form Kernville to the Sherman Pass Road and went east from there. It certainly made for a longer drive for those coming from the east side, one hundred miles from Highway 14 on Highway 178 and on to Kernville, then north, east, and to the campground.
When does a Sierra climber, peak bagger, or mountaineer morph from a wanderer, enjoying fine summits, afternoon naps in lush alpine meadows, and brisk dips in high country lakes, into a fanatic, pursuing a multi-page compendium of 247 mountains? For me, the date was clear: September 17, 2009. That morning, as I read through the Sacramento Bee, I encountered an article about a Davis climber, Daryn Dodge, who just became the sixty-seventh known Sierra Club member to complete the Sierra Peaks List. The article mentioned that more than sixty-seven climbers typically summit Mt. Everest each year. As I carefully read the article, I wondered, “How many peaks on the list have I done over the years?”

Later, I fired up my computer, went to the section website, and printed out the list. I was surprised to learn that there were a number of peaks on the list in my local part of the northern Sierra I had never bothered to climb. My favorite local peak, Castle Peak, I’d done about fifty times, but I’d never wandered out to English Mountain, Adams Peak, or Mt. Elwell. The list I quickly learned, was comprehensive, and covered wonderful peaks in all different sections of the Sierra. I was intrigued. Next, I grabbed a pen and put check marks next to the peaks on the list that I had climbed. When I had surveyed the entire list, I found that without trying, I had ascended 147 of the then 248 peaks. I quickly thought, “Wow, just one hundred to go. If I do ten a year, I can finish before I turn seventy!”

I had, of course, known about the list for years. I had seen lots of those little peak symbols in summit registers with numbers under them. I even climbed with list finisher #30 [Don Palmer] back in the nineties, and I enjoyed several rock climbs with another active young southern California climber who was pursuing the list and participating in the annual Sierra Challenge. My climbing background, however, was much less intentional. I just loved time in the mountains. I had ascended numerous Sierra summits, but they were peaks that were beautiful or historic, had a great rock climbing route, or just somehow appealed to me. Some peaks, like Temple Crag, Half Dome, Mt. Sill, among others, I had done multiple times by multiple routes. I thought of myself as a “climber” more than a “peak bagger.” As I got older, packs felt heavier, and my rock climbing involved repeating mostly easier routes I’d already done; the Sierra beckoned. The idea of
doing more exploring, seeing new areas, and climbing unfamiliar mountains took hold. The SPS List seemed like just the thing for an active sixty-something guy like me to pursue.

I didn’t commit all the way at first. I made a “starter list” of about thirty peaks. This included those I could day hike (like Kearsarge and Twin Peaks), all of the local peaks in the northern Sierra I hadn’t done, and some nice backpacking peaks my wife, Loretta, and I could do (like Kern, Virginia, Silver, and Tehipite Dome). I also included a bunch of the 13,000-foot peaks my buddy, Dave, was interested in climbing. We have been friends and climbing partners since 1974, and now, both retired, we were spending weeks together climbing and hiking.

After that fateful September morning, however, my focus became climbing peaks on the list. In the winter, I would study maps, sketch out trips, and recruit unsuspecting friends to join me on obscure summits like Spanish Needle, Rockhouse Peak, Gray Peak, and Isaac Walton. After an injury sidelined my buddy, I had to solo several remote summits. These included Picket Guard, Kern Point, Ruskin, Marion, Colosseum, Perkins, and several others.

One of the best things I did was to join the SPS Section and pay attention to their trips and activities. In 2011, I participated in my first SPS trip, a casual trek to Muah Mountain. It was fun to meet some new people, but I didn’t make any solid connections. In 2014, I joined Lisa Barboza’s large crew on a list finish ascent of North Peak. It was a fun celebration, and I met some great people.

Earlier that year, I had attended the section’s annual banquet in Los Angeles, and by this time, I was comfortable chatting and hanging out with the section climbers. I decided to join two ambitious trips in the summer of 2015. First, I joined Tina Bowman’s group heading out to Tunemah Mountain. It was advertised as a physical trip with twenty plus mile days. This was more than I usually pushed myself, but I figured I might as well give it a go. It turned out to be great fun. I paced myself by not joining the group on peaks I had already climbed, and I so enjoyed the crew on the day we did Tunemah. It was especially great to meet Tina; since that trip I have pestered her for much information about different Sierra peaks. Later that summer, I joined Neal Robbins and Jack Keifer’s trip out to the Whaleback. I thoroughly enjoyed the five other climbers on this outing, and we climbed three outstanding summits. It was another physical trip,
but the group made it all fun. The Whaleback is just an outstanding climb!

In 2017, I was down to just eight remaining list peaks. I soloed three of them, but I really didn’t want to go out to the Kaweaths alone. I wanted to spend five or six days out there and climb a couple of summits. I just felt it would be more fun to have a partner. Finally, I convinced a friend to join me, and we had a great time on Lion Rock. The fourth class, south ridge, as described by Secor, is a fun route. Unfortunately, it was raining early every afternoon, and we decided Red Kaweah would have to wait until 2018, when I hoped to finish my remaining four list peaks.

This past summer, the eminent birth of a grandchild, wildfire smoke, and complicated scheduling kept me close to home until August. I did, however, line up three friends to join me on my last peaks. The first, Red Kaweah, was my favorite. We left from Mineral King, crossed Glacier and Hands and Knees Passes, and camped high above the Big Arroyo. Red was loose and long, but the position and views are outstanding. It had been twenty years since I was on Black Kaweah, and it was wonderful to be back on that spectacular Kaweah ridgeline. Over the next three weeks, I spent thirteen days hiking into and climbing Emerald, Pyramid (south), and McGee. They were a great trio that culminated in my list finish on McGee. During this time, I got to take the boat across Lake Florence; we spent a couple of days camped on the shores of remote and untouched Lake 10,554, and we walked through the Evolution Basin in September without anyone around. As we hiked out of the Davis Lake basin, it felt really good to have reached my goal of summiting these peaks. My quest had taken me to several areas in the Sierra I had never seen. I met new friends and climbing partners, and I fueled my passion for time in the mountains. Sometimes, I spent a week climbing a single listed summit, but that was always okay. Despite my desire to climb all of the peaks, it was more important to be in the mountains. I think, above all else, this is the moral of the story. Climb the peaks, but enjoy the journey. We are so lucky to have these gorgeous mountains protected and accessible. I may be done with the list, but I am not done in the Sierras. I am working on my own list of Sierra peaks to visit next summer. I think I’ll start with Carl Heller, or maybe Cleaver Peak, or perhaps, Picture Puzzle. There are still so many. Oh, do I ever love the Sierra!

### Meeting the Unknown Legend

**By Michael Chamoun**

Licking my wounds after a failed attempt at the Angeles Crest 100-mile endurance run, I retreated to Onion Valley the following weekend to regroup and reassess. Finally getting to use a new awning that I attached to the roof rack of my car, I set up the camp chair and pulled out a book. I wanted to savor this time to get out of my own head. Only a few moments into my book, however, a stranger walked up to me.

“Hi, excuse me, do you have reception up here? I need to call my friend Michael and find out where to meet up.”

Eschewed from judging at this lack of planning, I looked at my phone and saw one bar of signal strength.

“Sure, here ya go.”

The man’s name I soon learned was Brent, and he was meeting his friend Michael and their friend and informal guide, Doug Mantle. My ears pricked when I hear the word guide, and after his phone call, we start to have a conversation on what they were planning on doing. A four-day overnight trip on which Doug would lead Michael and Brent up Deerhorn Mountain, East Vidette Peak, and possibly a couple others was in store. I was highly intrigued, and it made my plans seem rather boring and ordinary.

“So, who is this Doug?” I queried.

It was Friday, August 11th, 2017. Little did I know that the next day would be a small but important turning point in my outdoor life.

Almost forgetting the conversation I had had with Brent the previous afternoon, I planned to run up and down the Kearsarge Pass Trail for ten miles. Seeing as I did sixty the previous Saturday while occasionally urinating blood those final miles (hence why I dropped from the race), I figured it was a conservative number to start with. On the return, and second time over Kearsarge Pass, I unexpectedly ran into Brent and his group. I greeted him, and he introduced me to the others. Last and certainly not least was Doug, who, I learned the day before, had summited the highest peaks on each continent, including Mount Everest. Because I had returned from an expedition on Aconcagua in South America myself earlier that past February, hearing about Doug’s exploits naturally got my attention. His trimmed grayish-white hair, visor, relaxed demeanor, and brilliantly white-toothed
smile stood out immediately. As we chatted briefly, he was generous with his interest and curiosity about my trip to South America. Little did I know I was standing in front of a Sierra legend (though he would never admit that).

Nineteen days later, from the Bitterroots of Montana, I get my first of what would be many email exchanges with Doug:

“Hullo Michael: Even a cursory look at your Facebook page suggests you have been most everywhere, at breakneck speed—and are a talented photographer. Good show. Your perusal, if you bothered, of my page revealed, well, that I don’t use Facebook. . . . What might be of interest to you this Fall, and how freaky is your schedule? I didn’t say "freaky", but that word will do. If we did manage to get together, you could run a few hundred mile races on the odd days while I, old and creaky, yes, continued on, I suppose. . . do you have any particular Sierra peak aspirations? . . . How’s that for a clumsy intro?”

I reply: “I didn’t quite peruse your FB after you originally said you don’t use it much. But just knowing what you’ve done out there (and that’s probably only half of it) is enough for anyone. I very much look forward to hearing your tales. Frankly, I want to get up all of the summits of the Sierra at least once so I’m game for anything. . . . I’ve just read an LA Times piece on you back in ’93. I’ve been hoping to find someone like you with your life and local mountain credentials. What are your thoughts on the upcoming Sierra fall?”

Alas, my travels would end up taking me to Lebanon and Morocco that fall, so we never met up for a trip. However, we kept in touch and had our first of what would be many dinners together on November 8th at El Cholo in Santa Monica. At that dinner my jaw was agape when I learned he was working on his eighth go-around of the Sierra Peaks Section list in his forty-eighth season (now forty-ninth) in the Sierra. Being of the generation that read all those thrilling mountaineering books, I was also mesmerized to learn he had been guided by Rob Hall on Mt. Everest. I felt I was talking to a fictional character and could only stare in wonder and ask (too) many questions.

He also spoke about how in decades past SPSers would regularly meet at El Cholo in Pasadena and plan and discuss previous and upcoming trips. The slight melancholy in his voice made it sound like a time long gone as he explained how increased traffic and other factors decreased the frequency of those meetings to barely none. Now it was just him and me.

“So I’m the next generation?”, I queried.
“Oh heavens, no! You’re the SECOND generation after
me!”

At sixty-eight years young he still has the zest and zeal
to continue to pursue mountain tops locally and abroad. It
was exactly how I envisioned myself when I got older.
It’s been just over one year since we had that first
dinner, but I can honestly say Doug has not only become a
mentor to me but one of my best friends. His generosity,
humor, knowledge, and interest in others know few bounds.
Were it not for our regular emails and meetings this year,
my mountain pursuits would not have been as bold or
interesting.

This Sierra season has come to a close for me. I admit
that it was a successful one, set by my own arbitrary
standards. My goal of twenty new SPS peaks was attained in
late September, and I added a couple more over the last two
months (Doug has averaged an astounding forty or more SPS
peaks per year for the last forty-nine years!). Flipping
through the registers on those peaks I made it a point to see
if I could find Doug’s words from years past. What luck, my
very first SPS peak of the year, the oft-neglected Mt. Keith, is
where I found my first from 1986.

I’ve started on the journey to complete the list (only
once for me!), and I intend to see it through. I have Doug to
thank for that, for without his guidance and friendship I
wouldn’t have started on this life goal that is the SPS list. You
shouldn’t be surprised to learn that Doug has summited over
thirty SPS peaks this season, mostly alone, and has only a
handful left before he finishes the list for the eighth and final
time in what will be his fiftieth season in the Sierra next
year. And, yes, he is still out there as of this weekend.

Dare to Lead!
Spring Leadership Training
Seminar Set for April 2019

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

As home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet, the Sierra Club Angeles
Chapter’s many groups, sections, and committees sponsor thousands of trips ranging from beach
barbecues to mountaineering expeditions. You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by
attending a class offered in April, location and date to be determined. Deadline to register will be two
weeks before the seminar.

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

The all-day class costs $30. The application is on-line at https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/
www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/leadership-training-committee-and-outings-management-LTC-
app-100618AMR.pdf. At this site, https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/leadership-outings/angeles-
chapter-leadership-training-program, you can more about the Leadership Training Program and view
the LTC’s upcoming offerings, which are also on the Schedule of Activities page.

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

Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Anne Marie
Richardson AMLeadership@gmail.com
It all began as part of planning another Swiss Alps trek with my wife, Tonyce, about a year ago. Given the level of effort and cost to get into the Alps, it’s just silly not to stay and sample some of Switzerland’s finest peaks. So, I had a thought to ask some of my Club climbing friends to see if they would be interested in climbing the Matterhorn and Mt. Blanc. After a bit of time, the team settled to a committed few—Nile Sorenson, Jack Kieffer, Jason Seieroe, Julia Tock, and me.

After Jack, Becky Cummings, Tonyce, and I finished the Haute Route Trek (that’s a whole other story), we all converged in Zermatt, Switzerland, to meet the rest of the team and get into position to climb the Matterhorn, our most prominent and famous objective (Jack and I had stowed our climbing gear there nearly ten days earlier). John Wutzer in *Climbing* magazine gives great information about the mountain:

The Matterhorn (German), Cervino (Italian) or Cervin (French) is the 7th highest peak (4,478 M - 14,692 FT) in the Alps and boasts about having one of the greatest north faces of the Alps. The mountain derives its name from the German words Matte, meaning meadow, and Horn, which means peak. As one of the world's most easily identified mountains, it continues to inspire countless and stands as a visual center piece in the quintessential Swiss village of Zermatt. It's an immense rock formation and is an iconic emblem of the Alps, creating a formidable border between Italy and Switzerland. Its first and tragic ascent by Edward Whymper and party in 1865 set closure to the Golden age of alpinism. This massive mountain with its unique steep chiseled four-sided pyramid shape draws one in. Its majestic awesomeness calls out the climber in all of us, especially the average Zermatt tourist. ([https://www.climbing.com/news/matterhorn-madness-unmasked/](https://www.climbing.com/news/matterhorn-madness-unmasked/) [December 23, 2009])

As a warm-up, we climbed the snow and glacier-laden Breithorn (13,661’) proper and the Breithorn central peak. The conditions were terrific and gave us some degree of...
conditioning confirmation that we were seeking before climbing the Matterhorn.

The plan was for us to climb the Matterhorn via the standard or normal route, which is the Hornligrat route, July 11-12. The Hornli route climbs the iconic northeast arête (rated AD- and UIAA III), clearly visible from many positions in Zermatt. This is the same ridgeline that had been lighted from the hut to the peak for the 150th climbing anniversary a few years ago. The typical route trip time on the Hornli ridge is nine-to-twelve hours in good summer conditions. Amazingly, this route is climbed nearly all year around, but only by the likes of Ueli Steck.

Fortunately, the foot of the Hornli route is blessed by a beautiful 120+ bed alpine hut at 3,260m, where most climbers spend the night before the climb. The hut was upgraded some years ago in a multi-million-dollar expansion. Bivying is not allowed; however, some climbers get away with staying at the base of the hut.

The climb to the hut begins after a twenty-minute gondola ride up to Schwarzsee, which is at a beautiful rolling alpine plateau. The trail leading to the Hornli Hut is in good shape and punctuated by steel-pinned steps and gangways to get through the cliff areas. Our climb from the gondola to the hut (~2300’ gain) took a bit over two hours. In typical Swiss fashion, the trail is made to last. While it’s certainly possible to hike from the valley floor, it adds a lot of extra gain to the ascent to the Hornli Hut.

We all arrived at the hut not too long after lunch. The plan was to arrive earlier than required so we could chill, acclimatize, and have a short nap since the climb day would have an early start.
The guide/client ratio is 1:1 on the Matterhorn, by any route (the typical guide cost is about a thousand Euros). Having a guide is highly encouraged due to the difficult route finding, especially in the early morning dark. I witnessed a number of private climbers that were clearly off route, and it’s widely known that guides on the Matterhorn don’t give route guidance to non-guided climbers. Nile, Jack, Jason, and Julia had Italian guides from an outfit that Kurt Wedburg recommended (Peakshunter [https://www.peakshunter.com/en/]). Jason’s guide had never climbed the Hornli route, so he followed the other Italian guide. The Italian guides were selected as it is known that the young Zermat guides are ruthless about turning clients around if they can’t maintain their standard aggressive pace. I had a French guide whom I had used for some past advanced climbs and who had first climbed the Matterhorn for his twelfth birthday.

We all met our guides again for dinner and ate a wonderful and hearty multicourse meal. It’s surprising how good the food was at the hut. The routine is to go to bed soon after eating dinner to bank some sleep. Some of us slept well that night, while others barely slept at all, given the rapidly-approaching climb.

We awoke by 3:30 a.m. to have a very quick breakfast at 4:00 and departed at about 4:15. I was first out the door (about 4:10), and the others were close behind. The weather forecast was excellent with low winds, and the snow on the summit looked to be in good shape from the pictures the day before. We all roped-up in the hut, which was very convenient.

Temperatures were just above freezing at this altitude of 3,260m/10,700’, but we were all layered. About ten minutes after leaving the hut, we hit a climber’s traffic jam at the first small climbing face where there’s about twenty feet of fixed-rope. After waiting our turn, we climbed the small face, which was quite an awakening after our short night’s sleep!

Following this wait, we were into a kind of a moving queue, scrambling, climbing, and scaling varying vertical faces. As John Wutzer put it, “What was safe going for some was slow for others and in turn provoked what I would call, ‘climber’s
It was clear that there were climbers of mixed abilities. We climbed at a pace that caused sweat to pour from our foreheads in spite of somewhat low temperatures. I recall discussing with Jason after the climb how amazed we were at how much water poured from our foreheads for the first couple of hours.

There was definitely a drive by our guides and by us to get to the summit as fast as possible. In fact, guides use certain time markers to determine whether to turn a client around or not, e.g., getting to the Solvay hut in 2.5 hours. Another key reason to keep up the pace is not to get behind slower, less-experienced climbers at choke points and to limit exposure to rock fall from other climbers above. We all really tried to climb as efficiently as possible and not knock down any rock or, worse, slip and fall. I was usually close to out of breath at the fast pace, but, fortunately, breaks came when we were at a few waiting points or at some anchoring stations. At most anchoring stations my guide and I would literally just go over or around the others, which took great care not to step on other climbers with our crampons!

The sun began to rise around 6am, about two hours into the ascent. The early morning glow on the northeast face was brilliant. Daylight quickly made the entire mountain visible which, for me, was nice to see, but also daunting!
We reached the Solvay hut, an emergency refuge, a half-way milestone from a climbing perspective and the only other hut on this route. Here we took our first extended break of about fifteen minutes around two and a half hours into the climb at the hut.

We found ourselves climbing more or less alone at this point, which I thought was interesting because there were about sixty guides/clients in the hut during breakfast. It appeared that some of the other climbers had fallen well behind, but I knew that there were a few faster groups yet ahead of us. I brought along 1.5 liters of water as was recommended, but I was going through my liquids quickly. This concerned me, given how much I had sweated in the early morning.

After the Solvay Hut, it was clear the summit was getting closer, but there were some key faces and obstacles ahead. I was wondering how we would get on and off the upper face. A lot of key factors were in our favor—good weather, low crowds, low winds, and dry rock. The pre-planning of what to bring, what to leave behind was really important, especially the higher we climbed. After four-and-a-half hours of nearly continuous climbing, we reached the Swiss summit at about 8:15. Taking those last steps onto the summit ridge was amazing! There were pretty clear skies, and the Swiss, Italian, and French peaks decorated the skyline. I looked around me and saw crazy-steep drop-offs on all sides. The ridge was none too wide also. On the horizon was Mont Blanc, another objective we hoped to climb. I could see Zermatt way, way below too; the buildings were so small.

We had taken the Hörnli ridge to get to the summit, and the plan was to descend the same route. We took some pictures, got some
water, and ate a snack; then it was time to head down the steep snow-laden face. The snow on the face was rapidly warming, so it was high time to get down. I knew that the descent would be long, demanding, and tedious. I took on the task of securing our rope to numerous fixed points (steel posts), which helped break up the tediousness. We also did about five or six rappels on some of the more vertical sections. The descent seemed to be going just as slow if not slower than the ascent. I knocked down one very small rock, but no one was around to hear “rock.” As I became more tired and more anxious about getting down, I became even more focused late in the down climb. Very near the Hornli Hut is a metal plaque commemorating fallen climbers. I was not surprised because there are so many climbers and climbing accidents on the Matterhorn. As of 2018, the cumulative death total is over five hundred, making it one of deadliest peaks in the Alps.

On the descent, we mostly stayed on the Hörnli ridge with tremendous exposure, but then we would periodically drop down on the face. I actually liked the ridge a bit more. As I returned to the Hörnli Hut on the last section, I was SO hungry and dehydrated, but it was done! I returned just after 1:00 p.m. as hikers were eating lunch on a Hörnli Hut deck. My new rubber-dotted grippy gloves were totally worn out—so much for spending close to $100. The whole effort was the most challenging single day climb I had ever made to date, but it was well worth the time, effort, and cost. Unfortunately, and a bit unfairly, Julia’s guide turned her around a bit above the Solvay Hut. He and Julia were a little behind and out of communication with the rest of our group, and he mistakenly thought that the Italian-guided group (Jack, Jason, and Nile) had a goal to be back down to the gondola by 4:30 p.m. for the last ride down to Zermatt. He could have taken Julia higher and turned around when the others met them on their descent. Nonetheless, we all truly made life-long memories and have a wonderful story to share with others!
Some Notes about SPS Peaks in a Day—Mineral King Area

By Tina Bowman

Four peaks can be climbed as day hikes from the Mineral King area: Sawtooth (N), Needham, Florence, and Vandever.

How do I get there?
Exit highway 99 for Visalia on highway 198 and follow 198 east to Three Rivers, continuing 3.9 miles from the community center to the Mineral King Road, where you’ll turn right. There’s no big signage to indicate that this is the way to Mineral King, just the normal road sign at the junction. Follow this steep, narrow, very winding road through Cabin Cove, Silver City, and on to Mineral King, about twenty-five miles. It will take you roughly an hour to drive this section, so be prepared for that! Trailhead parking is at the end of the road. Note that in early season marmots chew on radiator hoses, fan belts, and such; people rig tarps and chicken wire to protect their cars (drive over the tarp or wire, pull it up around the vehicle). Consider bringing replacement parts—you’ll be a long way from service. Towards autumn, marmots don’t seem to cause problems.

For climbing the peaks, there are two trailheads. Sawtooth and Needham are accessed from the Sawtooth Pass Trail, either by staying on the trail or by leaving it at Groundhog Meadow for the use trail that goes more directly up to the Sawtooth Pass Trail again about 1500’ above. For Florence and Vandever, take the Farewell Gap Trail that starts by the pack station a little south of the Sawtooth Pass trailhead. Most people then take the Franklin Pass Trail to the pass and then go cross-country for Florence. If Vandever is your goal, stay on the Farewell Gap Trail to the pass, and then on to the peak.

Where can I camp before my hike?
Two campgrounds are in the area. Atwell Mill, before you reach Mineral King, has twenty-one sites (tent camping, no RVs or trailers). Cold Springs in Mineral King itself has forty sites for tent camping (no RVs or trailers). Both are Sequoia National Park campgrounds.

What about food storage?
Across from the Mineral King ranger station is a shed where you may store your food, toiletries—anything with a scent. Many bears have a happy home in Mineral King, so make sure you store all scented items in the shed. Make sure you label your coolers, bags, or boxes with you name and date you will be collecting your items.

Where can I eat if I don’t want to cook?
Silver City has a restaurant and store, a little more than 2.5 miles back down the road. Check for hours on your way in. Three Rivers has restaurants you might use on your way to or from Mineral King.

What else can I do in the area?
The Atwell and East Fork groves of giant sequoias are great to visit. The road goes through the lower Atwell grove, and the Atwell Mill campground is in a formerly-logged portion of the grove. From the campground, one can take the trail towards Hockett Meadow and hike through parts of the young East Fork (of the Kaweah River) groove. See https://www.nps.gov/seqi/planyourvisit/sequoigroves.htm for more information. A number of trails are in the area to explore; see https://www.nps.gov/seqi/planyourvisit/mkdayhikesum.htm for a list of the trails and descriptions of them.

If I want to backpack, where do I get a permit?
Permits are available at the ranger station in Mineral King, across from the Cold Springs campground.

Needham (L) and Sawtooth from near Sawtooth Pass (Photo by Tina Bowman).
Jan 12 | Sat | LTC
M-R: Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain: This navigation workshop is limited to individuals participating in the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd class terrain. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmets and medical forms required/group size limited. Send email/sase, SC#, class 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Jack Kieffer.

Jan 12-13 | Sat-Sun | LTC
I: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Ann (Pedreschi) Shields.

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

We’ve chosen the photo above 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 or via USPS to Tina Bowman.
Jan 26 | Sat  LTC, SPS, DPS, HPS  
M/E: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC mbrs with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone # to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-ldrs: Neal Robbins, Phil Bates, Jack Kieffer.

Jan 27 | Sun  SPS  
Sierra Peaks Section Banquet: Join us at the annual SPS banquet at Almansor Court in Alhambra. Social hour starts at 5:00, dinner at 6:30. This year Sophie Cairns will be telling us about her Seven Volcanoes project to climb the highest volcano on each continent in record time. See the SPS website and *Echo* for the registration form, or contact banquet chair Paul Garry for more information.

Apr 6-7 | Sat-Sun  LTC  
M/E: 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 mbrs 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, Phil Bates, Jack Kieffer.

Apr 17 | Wed  LTC  
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2019): 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](http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org) Registration opens at 8 am the Monday two weeks after the final previous class outing. Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Apr 20 | Sat  LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC  
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2019): 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](http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org) Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Apr 27 | Sat  LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC  
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Spring 2019): 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](http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org) Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

Visit the SPS website for an even more up-to-date listing of upcoming trips at [http://www.sierraclub.org/sps](http://www.sierraclub.org/sps)

Also, please check at [summitregister.org](http://summitregister.org) whether a peak needs a register book or pencil before you go on a climb.
Outings leaders, it’s never too early to begin planning outings for the next spring, summer, and early fall 2019. Note that trailhead permits are getting tougher to secure, so be sure to start planning for permits 120 days in advance of your ideal entry date.

Getting people into the outdoors is the most important thing we do. Truly, mountaineering is the heart of the Sierra Club. We had a nice list of trips last year; let’s have an even better one for the 2019 season! Leaders, please, if you are planning a restricted “M” or “E” trip, give extra lead time for the Mountaineering Oversight Committee approval process. Provisional leaders, please make sure that the Provisional Lead Committee has approved your trip before submitting your trip for publication. If you have any questions of concerns, do not hesitate to contact me at philipabates@gmail.com. [Thanks to former outings chair, Gary Schenk, for much of this paragraph.]

Some leaders might be interested in wilderness first aid courses for 2019 that have been arranged by WTC. The May 4-5, 2019, course will refresh your wilderness first aid and is appropriate for leaders who have already taken a twenty-four--hour course. It is not appropriate for provisional leaders. May 17-19, 2019, is a standard three-day course. Both are offered by Wilderness Medical Associates. The Wilderness First Aid Course will run May 3-5; get information at https://sites.google.com/a/wildernessfirstaidcourse.org/wilderness-first-aid-course/home and sign up early. These courses fill fast!

Phil Bates
Outings Chair, SPS
## 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](http://recreation.gov)

### INYO NATIONAL FOREST
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
PO. Box 9
Kernville, CA 93238
Phone: 760/376-3781 fax: 760/376-3795

Tule River Ranger District
33588 Highway 190
Springville, CA 93565
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](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

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### OUTINGS

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**OUTINGS**

Oct 26-27 | Sat-Sun  
LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (Fall 2019):
Anchors and Systems: 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](http://www.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org) Ldr: Matthew Hengst. Assts: Dan Richter, Patrick McKusky.

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**SPS Income Statement 11-18-2018**

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| **OVERALL TOTAL** | 932 | 845 | 620 | 290 | 160 | 60 | 193 | (371) | 12 | (2,317) | (58) | 482 |
SPS Management Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, October 15, 2018, 7:00 p.m.  
At Alexander Smirnoff’s Home

1. Call to order at 7:07; present were Jim Fleming, chair; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Laura Newman, outreach; Paul Garry, banquet; Tina Bowman, secretary; and Dan Richter, archivist.

2. Standard business and reports.  
   a. Approval of minutes (August)—Done via email.
   b. Chair—no specific report.
   c. Vice Chair—We have a flyer in the current *Echo*, which will be sent out also in December (with renewal form). Tina will contact Sophie about what she needs for her talk (projector, laptop), whether she’ll bring a flash drive, what her travel plans are. Tina will offer to house Sophie. Discussion of honorarium and covering travel expenses for the speaker. Tina will ask Tom to make up the program for the banquet (to be duplicated when we have a rough count of attendees). Discussion about awards for the banquet.
   d. Outings—no report.
   e. Treasurer’s report—Current balance of $12,573. A banquet payment should be coming due soon. Discussion of moving the account from Wells Fargo to US Bank and voted to do so. The Sierra Peaks Section management committee requests that the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee approve establishment of a financial relationship between the Sierra Peaks Section and US Bank.
   f. Emblem Committee Report—Bart O’Brien finished the list in September and probably has earned the Smatko Explorer Emblem as well, but he hasn’t sent in his lists yet. Discussion of the revision of the description of the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem with the suggestion from Paul that the peaks be west of highway 395 (that may have been in the description before but inadvertently dropped along the way). Paul also suggested that people might earn this emblem more than once, provided none of the peaks is a duplicate.
   g. Outreach—no report.
   h. Archives—Tina gave Dan a folder of materials from Ben Pryer, trip sheets and the like.

   i. *Echo*  
      i. Deadline for next issue is November 24th (Jan-March issue)
      ii. Laura has scanned all of Tina’s *Echoes* and will get missing issues from Greg Gerlach or Barbara Lilley or will go to the archives at UCLA to scan them.
      iii. Move to HTML version (update)—no progress.
   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. Smatko Peak dedication hike: it is scheduled for October 20th.
   b. Change in Policies and Procedures (Smatko Emblem): this was put on hold until the Emblem Committee finishes revising the emblem requirements and description. Tina will then forward to Jim and the rest of the management committee for approval via email, if done before the December meeting.

4. New business
   a. Discussion of possible people to nominate for the Angeles Chapter awards. Nomination are due November 1st. Those we considered for Outings Service awards have already received them.
   b. Next meeting date is set for Tuesday, December 4th, 7:00 p.m., at Alexander Smirnoff’s home.
   c. We need to look for candidates for the SPS elections. Tina will confirm that Mary McMannes and Don Sparks will serve on the nominating and elections committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Bowman  
Secretary

Minutes approved by email on October 25, 2018.
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

REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

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

Hal Browder’s photo is of Corcoran. No one solved the puzzle this time around.
Mystery Peak Challenge

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

Michael Chamoun submitted this splendid shot. How many peaks on the SPS list can you find in the photo? How about peaks not on the list? Bonus: can you name the lakes?

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

The Sierra Echo

is a quarterly publication of the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club’s Angeles Chapter. For more information, see the back of this newsletter. All questions, copy, and photo submissions should be directed to Tina Bowman, Editor, The Sierra Echo, preferably via email at tina@bowmanchange.com. Refer to the SPS Roster for mailing address. The Echo will also be available as a PDF download at the SPS website and via a link sent to all SPS members opting for this method.
The Sierra Echo is published quarterly by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter.

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

Deadline for all submissions is three (3) weeks prior to the publication date, i.e., Feb 22, May 25, Aug 25, and Nov 24.

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Subscriptions $10 per year, due by January 1, delinquent after March 31. Subscribing to the Echo is a requirement for membership in the SPS. A suggested donation to the section is $25.00, which includes the $10.00 subscription and a $15.00 donation to the SPS operating fund. Thank you for your support of the SPS. Submit new subscription applications and renewals to the SPS Treasurer, 1701 Paloma St., Pasadena, CA 91104; include your Sierra Club number. New applications received after Oct 1 are credited to the following year. Only one Echo subscription is necessary for multiple members of a family residing at one address. Contributions or gifts to the Sierra Club or SPS are not tax deductible.

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

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

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

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

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

Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter
Sierra Peaks Section
3250 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1106
Los Angeles, CA 90010

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED