First SPS Webcast
Cloud Canyon: Whaleback, Triple Divide, and Glacier Ridge

Also in This Issue
Vagmarken History, New Members, Peakbagger
Comprehensive List, Lightning, Mt. Muah, Mystery Peak,
Passages: Dave Endres, Pat Russell

Hello, my fellow Sierra climbing enthusiasts! Welcome to a new year, I hope one that will allow all of us to return to explore (especially in SPS outings) the range that we hold so dear! The National Sierra Club has indicated that we may be able to return to a normal schedule of the trips in July of this year. They are going to allow a series of pilot outings, beginning in March. If all goes well, and the health authorities allow it, we should be able to resume our normal group activities in the summer. It seems like the pandemic has finally come under control, so we can look forward to some really great news! In the meanwhile, we must continue to do the right thing, avoiding large gatherings, doing social distancing, wearing face masks, staying home if sick, getting our vaccinations when allowable, and listening to what they tell us and do it.

This year, we are going to have a virtual banquet, on Sunday, March 21st. See information about the event on the web site and in this issue, and make sure to mark your calendar for the event. Our speaker will be Paul Garry, and his talk will take us to Antarctica for his ascent of the Vincent Massif. See the flyer in this issue about Paul’s program; it will be great! We have a new treasurer this year—Laura Newman—and I am stepping down as the chair to give the honor back to Tina Bowman, for her record fifth time! It has been a great experience for me, and I will continue to serve as the secretary.

Thanks, y’all, for the memories!

-Jim

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2021 Election Results

Sixty-six SPS members voted for the 2021 management committee via Survey Monkey, and three people used paper ballots. Elected to the committee were Jim Fleming, Laura Newman, Paul Gary, Alexander Smirnoff, and Tina Bowman. (See full listing of positions at right, and photos page 5.)

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2020 Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee

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

**Appointed**
- Archives: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com)
- Conservation Chair: Sharon Moore (justslm@earthlink.net)
- Echo editors: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmanchange.com), Beth Epstein
- Echo mailer: Tina Bowman
- Emblem Committee: Jim Fleming, Kathy Rich, Daryn Dodge, Ron Bartell, Bob Pickering
- IT Support: Greg Mason (admin@sierrapeaks.org), Harry Lagenbacher (admin2@sierrapeaks.org)
- Keeper of the List: Tina Bowman
- Merchandise: Patty Kline (patrickkline@aol.com)
- Mountain Records: Harry Langenbacher (register@langenbacher.org)
- Outings: Phil Bates (philipabates@gmail.com)
- Outreach: Jason Seiero (outreach@sierrapeaks.org)
- Safety Chair: Doug Mantle
- Webmaster: Joe Wankum (jbwankum@aol.com)
- Asst. Webmasters: Harry Lagenbacher (register@summitregister.org), Tina Bowman (tina@bowmanchange.com)

**Regional Representatives**
- San Diego: Joe White
- Central California: Daryn Dodge
- Northern California: Lisa Barboza
Mt. Vinson: 
Climbing to the 
Top of the Bottom 
of the World

Because of the pandemic, the banquet will be held virtually this year on Zoom. It’s free and very easy to use—simply click on the link below and follow the few, simple instructions. We’ll begin with a social hour at 7:00 then begin the usual banquet program at 8:00, culminating in member Paul Garry’s presentation on his climb of Vincent Massif in Antarctica.

Use this link—https://zoom.us/j/8172626379?pwd=MmpWMCtOdCt3dUs0NjNWNFYxakZOdz09—in your internet browser to join the virtual banquet. The meeting ID number is 817 262 6379 and passcode is 668969. You’ll see that Tom Bowman is the host. Be there or be square!
Welcome New Members!

Bill Carpenter
Bill has been backpacking since the 70s, when he was in a Boy Scout troop. He did his first fifty-mile backpack in the southern Sierra in 1979 (in the Little Kern River basin) and did the classic South Lake to North Lake loop with the troop in 1980. Since then, he’s been backpacking in the Sierra just about every year; and, as he got older, he started climbing more peaks. At this point, according to the Peakbagger site, he’s climbed 130 of the peaks on the SPS list, including thirteen emblem peaks. Kathy Rich and other friends suggested that he join the section since he loves peak bagging so much. As a member of the Sierra Club for thirty years, it was easy to sign up. Bill is seen at right on the summit of Sirretta with his daughter in May 2020.

Jeffrey Solomon
Jeffrey Solomon (seen below on Bear Creek Spire in 2017) has been reinstated as a member. Jeff first joined SPS in 1987, long after the likes of A. Smatko, T. Ross, and B. Lilley. He loved climbing with members for five years and was even a co-editor of the Echo for three of them. Then, he went away from SPS to focus on a family but continued to “dabble” in Sierra mountain climbing for the next three decades. So, ~ 100 Sierra Peaks later including all the 14ers and some technical climbs, Jeff wants to rejoin SPS members for more fun and adventure. Raising a family of two sons and loving to climb meant some compromises along the way: family hikes eventually turned into some world trekking and climbing (the Himalayas, Mt Kilimanjaro, Mt Fuji, the Haute Route, the Italian Alps, Laugavegur Trail, etc.), and then there were eight years of guiding scouts on summer backpacks in the Sierra. No doubt, Jeff is happy to come back to the SPS, long after the enduring likes of D. Mantle, T. Bowman, and Barbara Lilley.

FREE First Year’s Membership or Echo Subscription
New subscribers and members can receive their first year’s subscription for free! Download the Membership Application Form at http://sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/new-members#mr. Please contact the chair if you have any questions.
In addition to hitching to North Dakota, Keith earned his master emblem on Stanislaus Peak on July 21, 2020.

Bob Pickering
Bob, seen above on Mt. Whitney, has earned both his second and third Andy Smatko Explorer Emblems on Cirque Mountain on June 27, 2020, for #2 and on Cleaver Peak on October 24, 1999, for #3.

Daryn Dodge
Daryn Dodge (below on Goat Mtn. September 22, 2019) earned his second Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem on Polychrome Peak, August 7, 2020. All of the peaks on his second list are over 10,000’!

Greg Gerlach
Greg Gerlach, (seen here in on Rainbow Wall in a photo by Linda Sun) completed the Peakbagger Comprehensive Combined Angeles Chapter List on Santa Paula Peak on January 18th. See the article about this list on page 8.
Congratulations!

JD Morris
Now that JD Morris has been a member for a year, he has officially earned his emblem and master emblem on Mt. Clarence King on August 22, 2018 (seen at right), and Arrow Peak on August 24, 2019, both dayhikes.

Meet Our 2021 Management Committee!

Tina Bowman, Chair
tina@bowmanchange.com

Paul Garry, Vice-Chair/Banquet
vicechair@sierrapeaks.org

Jim Fleming, Secretary
secretary@sierrapeaks.org

Laura Newman, Treasurer
treasurer@sierrapeaks.org

Alexander Smirnoff, Fifth Officer
officer@sierrapeaks.org

Time to Renew!
Subscriptions to the Echo expire on December 31st. If you haven’t renewed, please do so! You can download the renewal form from the SPS web site here: https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/membership.

Also from Beth is a follow up on the Dyatlov Pass story that was initially covered several issues ago in the *Echo*: https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/scientists-may-have-finally-unraveled-mystery-dyatlov-pass-incident-180976886/.


Here’s a case study of treating someone who has fallen through ice: https://blog.nols.edu/2018/01/24/case-study-falling-through-ice-hypothermia.


Unfortunately, a canyoneering death occurred in Death Valley: https://apple.news/AYOS5RqyNbt1aGe02ZPuav5g.

Nepal is seeking to ban two climbers who faked an Everest climb: https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/01/world/asia/nepal-everest-fake-summit.html.


Left: Barbara Sholle speaking with Doug Scott about Baffin Island at the 2018 Banff Mountain Film Festival. Above: Machhapuchhare Peak in sunlight during a 2016 trek to Annapurna Basecamp (Photos by Dave Sholle).
The Peakbagger Comprehensive Combined Angeles Chapter List

By Tina Bowman

Kathy Rich recently wrote to tell me that Peakbagger has a new list, the Comprehensive Combined Angeles Chapter List, which incorporates the 705 peaks that currently (for the most part) are on the Sierra Peaks Section, Desert Peaks Section, Hundred Peaks Section, and Lower Peaks Committee lists. I write “for the most part” because Ron Bartell checked the combined list against the four separate lists and found four peaks in the combined that aren’t currently in the four separate lists: Edgar (DPS, suspended), Tehachapi (HPS delisted), and Little Pine and Santa Paula (Lower Peaks, both suspended).

Bob Burd was listed in Peakbagger as the only person to have completed the combined list until Greg Gerlach finished it on the suspended Lower Peak Santa Paula on January 18th this year, accompanied by Kathy Rich and Daryn Dodge. Ron Bartell is very close to finishing the combined list. Paul Garry and Vic and Sue Henney aren’t far behind. Kathy needs fewer than thirty to finish as well. You can monitor progress here: https://www.peakbagger.com/FRL.aspx?lid=5050&pt=prom.

Greg Gerlach on Rainbow Wall (Photo by Linda Sun).

Wear ‘em! Give ‘em!

SPS TEES

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By geographic area with Mountaineer & Emblem peaks highlighted

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For many of us, 2020 was a year of few outings, and most of those were closer to home and not in our beloved Sierra. While it’s been great exploring places closer to home, many of us really missed the feeling of summiting a high alpine peak in the Sierra, so we decided to start doing trip report webcasts as a way to share the stories of those who were able to get out. It took some time and effort to find a presenter and sort out webcast details, but eventually we had lined up Garrett McLean to present on February 23rd on a trip he took in the summer of 2020 to Cloud Canyon, climbing Whaleback, Triple Divide, and Glacier Ridge.

We had no idea how many people might log in to the Google Meet presentation, but as the advertised 7:00 pm start time rolled around we had a few people and decided to give everyone five minutes to chat and allow
stragglers to log in before starting. After a few opening remarks, we turned it over to Garrett to share with us his great photos and stories of a three-day trip into Cloud Canyon from the west side. Garrett’s climbing partners on the trip, Jeffrey Newgard and Victor Gomez, also joined in with their experiences on the trip.

After dazzling us with gorgeous photos and a great explanation of the routes for about twenty-five minutes, Garrett took questions, and we chatted about other climbing objectives in the area. For those that have climbed in the area, the presentation brought back great memories; for those of us who haven’t, I think it planted the seed for future trips. In all we had about twenty-five people join in—some long-time SPSers with multiple list finishes, some recent WTC grads, and lots in between. We plan to start making this a regular thing, so keep on the lookout for info on the next one and reach out to me if you have a trip you would like to share.

The link to Garrett McLean’s trip report and many more wonderful photos taken by Garrett and his partners is https://photos.app.goo.gl/nCiqKkBFsvCZ32ycA.

Clockwise from left: View from Triple Divide Peak (Photo by Garrett McLean). Jeffrey Newgard and Garrett McLean descending Glacier Ridge (Photo by Victor Gomez). Whaleback’s summit register (Photo by Jeffrey Newgard).
Reference the latest Echo [October-December 2020, 64.4], I have climbed the one hundred peaks on the Vagmarken Sierra Crest List. I completed this list on 28 August 1976 and was recognized in the Vagmarken Handbook, 4th edition, January 1987, as the first person to have done so. I also achieved these additional awards: 10-Peak Certificate, 47 Peak Award, Century Award (100 Peaks), first to earn the Winter Mountaineering Award, also one of the first of the International Award, and the Amelia Earhart Peak Emblem. I missed the 14-Over-14 Award for an unknown reason—I did ultimately climb the fourteen peaks. Also not gained was the 47 Pitch Award and the Century Rock Award (100 Rock Climbs) since I was a peak-bagger and not a rock climber during the early years of the society. Additional requirements were needed to gain each award besides climbing the specific listed peaks. For example, the “Golden Pickle Award” isn’t nearly so glorious, as the first winner earned this award by allowing his ice axe to fall from his pack 4,500 feet off the top of the Matterhorn in Switzerland.

The main Vagmarken peak list can be interpreted as being given in two sections: its “Standard Qualifying Peaks” listing, which gives all the qualified peaks in California with altitudes shown along with the climbing classes for the easiest routes and the name of their topographic maps—there are 551 such peaks listed. Plus, a “Class A Peaks” section, showing the names and elevations of peaks in the U.S. Western states, Canada, and Mexico that are judged to consist of summits which require a significant effort to reach or which dominate a particular area. There are 123 Class A Peaks on the list. As can be guessed, no member has climbed all 674 peaks on these lists and no award has been contemplated to recognize this accomplishment.

I call attention to the fact that the official name of the Vagmarken as recognized by its Rockwell International sponsor
varied over time: Rocketdyne Mountaineering Club 1964-1972, Vagmarken Mountaineering Club 1976, and Rocketdyne Mountain Sports Club 1987. The two dozen or so members climbed together often on weekends, and most, including myself, were also Angeles Chapter Sierra Club members. Vagmarken members, including members of their families, held a monthly meeting each month at a member’s home, usually in Reseda in San Fernando Valley. Most members were employees of Rockwell, including within its Rocketdyne division, but I was allowed to be a member as an outsider; I was a physicist with the U.S. Navy Department, living in China Lake, California, and I consulted with the company regarding a research study of mutual interest.

I was then known by my Yeti name of "Cloddius Maximus," and I contributed articles to the Yeti Yells newsletter under that name. I was the Yells editor for a time. I was Vagmarken Corresponding Secretary during the 1970s and obtained internationally known climbers to be speakers for several annual banquets, “Bankwets.” The origin of the Yeti mystique and mythological nomenclature was the founding member Gordon Palmer, who adopted his Yeti name as “Rufus T. Yeti,” and who listed his address as being in “Bad Bascombe Basin,” quite possibly near Tarzana. Vagmarken are also recognized for their successful projects, including by 1965 the renewal and replacement of old summit register containers on over 160 mountain tops. In 1967 the Vagmarken were successful in
gaining official government recognition of a new name, Amelia Earhart Peak, Elev. 11,982’, for a peak in Yosemite National Park. The Vagmarken lasted until spinoffs of the many divisions of its sponsoring corporation Rockwell International began in the late 1980s. Many former Vagmarken members continued climbing and peak bagging on their own, and some are still able to remain in contact with Cloddius Maximus during this 2020 Christmastime.

Editors’ note: Kathy Rich commented to Campy about the accomplishments of the climbers in his photos and asked if he was still in touch with his Vagmarken friends. Campy’s response follows.

Hi Tha’r . . . Quick note for Kathy that John Ford is really Wayne B. “Bud” Ford. We all called him Bud. Further info: Bud Ford died of a formerly diagnosed heart condition while climbing Pahrump Pk. many years ago. John Otter died of cancer at his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 2019. Stephanie “Steffy” Ford died of a long illness at her home in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, September 2019, while Ski and I were there together at our second home. We, with Steffy, Bud, and John, and also Tom Park, Westy Fletcher, and others, were close climbing buddies and had continued in contact as friends. Tom Park and his wife Donna are living in Agua Dulce, and they were responsible for befriending and introducing Steffy Ford to the Vagmarken in the club’s earliest days. This new friendship to peak bagging saved Stef from the bad fate of alcoholism and drugs, a path she was on when she by chance chose to move to Reseda from a state back east.

As noted earlier, not many Vagmarken originals are left; Westy and Suzanne still live in Tennessee. We remain in contact with the wives of several who have passed, and with a couple more recent members. Greg Vernon, in Ridgecrest, took over and continued running our climbing gear store Mountain High Ltd. before my retirement from the Naval Weapons Center and our move then to Bishop.
in 1988. My American Alpine Club friend, the Austrian climber of K2 Kurt Diemberger, became a member when I asked him to be the speaker at a Vagmarken “Bankwet.” He is my age and is still semi-actively climbing mountains in Italy as an Italian government mountaineering representative.

I had written: The Vagmarken peaks listing appeared in two sections of 674 total peaks: its “Standard Qualifying Peaks” listing... along with a “Class A Peaks” section. This huge listing wasn’t itself an award list, and we didn’t so much as joke about possibly climbing them all to call it an award—we had no Doug Mantle amongst us.

The particular award that I was first to attain was the “Vagmarken Sierra Crest List”, which is the 100 named peaks on the Crest between Bond Pass in the north and Walker Pass in the south. Other members have also finished the Sierra Crest List.

Editors’ note: As a Vagmarken, Ron Bartell was included in Kathy Rich’s correspondence with Campy, and Ron shared a few photos and stories and is quoted here.

I was a Vagmarken for a few years starting in 1976—they let me join although I didn’t work at Rockwell. I hadn’t even had a real job yet (started at Sperry Univac in 1977).

I started hiking with the Sierra Club in the Los Padres Chapter (Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties) when I was in high school and met Delores Holladay (who lived in Santa Barbara) on some of those trips. I moved to LA in the mid 70s and reconnected with her when I started going on SPS and DPS trips. In the summer of 1976 I was looking for more Sierra trips, so she hooked me up with the Vagmarken, and I went on several of their trips that summer. One of them was Clarence King/Cotter, where we ran into Linda McDermott’s group in Sixty Lakes Basin. While we were talking to them, Linda’s daughter Vanessa (about five years old) was filling her water bottle from the stream and caught a little trout when it swam into her bottle—that doesn’t happen very often!
Ron sent some photos from his Vagmarken climbs and challenged Campy to identify the people. He remembered them all. A few are printed here. Campy’s captions, with Ron’s notes follow.

Bottom, page 14: 24 Jun 1976 Rockatomic Stamp Club Can. Ron noted it was taken on University Peak. Above: 5 Sep 1976 L-R Bud Ford, Dan Levack, Eve Laeger. Ron said that this photo, and the one below, “are from a failed trip (due to weather) to do Norman Clyde and Palisade Crest—we settled for Mt Jepson, where the two misty photos were taken—that's Eve (Laeger) looking across to the Norman Clyde Glacier.”

Below: 22 Jan 78 Greg Vernon—Some of Us Called Him "Greggy Boy." Ron replied: Greggy Boy aka The Lone Yeti—photo was on Castle Dome.
they said I should hike with him because they thought I was young and strong enough to keep up with you. They also said you [Campy] liked to smoke a pipe while on the move.

I was told a different story about the Rockatomics Stamp Club than the one that Greg Vernon had in his SPS website article. [See that article by Daryn Dodge and Greg Vernon here: https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/vagmarken-list]. They (some of the Vagmarken, don't remember which ones) said that one of their members got pissed off at the group and formed the Stamp Club. It was a one-man club, whose purpose was to find as many Vagmarken register cans as he could, paint them with the RSC name and put them back on the peak. I came across quite a few of those in the late 70s and early 80s.

SPS Management Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 15, 2021
7:00 pm via Google Meet

1. Call to order at 7:05. Present were Jim Fleming, chair; Paul Garry, vice-chair/banquet; Alexander Smirnoff, treasurer; Jason Seieroe, outreach; Tina Bowman, secretary; Phil Bates, outings; Laura Newman, newly elected member; Dan Richter, archives; Joe Wankum, web master.

2. Standard business and reports.
   a. Approval of minutes (December 2020)—approved via email.
   b. Chair—no specific report.
   c. Vice Chair—banquet discussion. We have a 100-screen limit for number of people joining in on the Zoom banquet. We discussed breakout rooms, how to organize them, and whether we need them, which depends on how many attend. We can have a management committee member as a moderator for each room. Tina will ask for rsvps by March 14th. In the final email reminder, FAQs will be given to explain how Zoom works, how to do it, what to expect. For Q and A after Paul’s presentation, we can have a chat box or simply ask people to raise their hands to ask a question. Webinar format for the presentation? We will record the banquet to post on the web site, save for the archives. We also need to set up the program/timeline, including the stand-up/sit down routine.
   d. Outings—No outings until after July 4th at the earliest. People are planning private trips, but permits seem hard to get.
   e. Treasurer’s report—see attached report. We had a net loss of $587 in 2020. Alexander submitted his financial audit to the chapter on December 31st, when our balance was $9833.
   f. Emblem Committee Report—Keith Christensen earned his master emblem on Stanislaus Peak on July 21, 2020. Bob Pickering has earned both his second and third Andy Smatko Explorer Emblems on Cirque Mountain on June 27, 2020, for #2 and on Cleaver Peak on October 24, 1999, for #3. Daryn Dodge has earned his second Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem on Polychrome Peak, August 7, 2020. All of the peaks on his second list are over 10,000’! Greg Gerlach completed the Peakbagger Comprehensive Combined Angeles Chapter List on Santa Paula Peak on January 18th. Also, Bob Pickering has been asked and has agreed to serve on the committee (he prepared a list of all Sierra peaks in the GNIS database as a summit in the geographical area for the Andy Smatko Explorer Emblem).
   g. Outreach—Tuesday, February 23rd, Garrett will give his talk about climbs from Cloud Canyon. Jason posted the announcement on the SPS FaceBook page. We’ll see how many attend—might be an indication of numbers for the banquet.
   h. Archives—Dan has purchased banker’s boxes and files for materials he wishes to place in the SPS archives at UCLA. Joe Wankum will send Dan a thumb drive with old Echo issues and the old web site for the archives.
   i. Echo
      i. Deadline for next issue?—February 22nd
      ii. Hand over more issues to be scanned and uploaded to the website?—no report.
      iii. Move to HTML version (update)?—no report.
   j. Mountain Records—no report.
   k. IT—no report.
   l. Website—In the next couple of days Joe will have the links for all uploaded issues of the Echo live on the web site.
   m. Conservation—no report.
   n. Safety Chair—no report.

3. Old business
a. SPS Election results—elected were Jim, Alexander, Paul, Laura, and Tina. Paul will continue as vice-chair/banquet. Laura will become treasurer, Jim secretary, Alexander fifth officer (helping Jason), and Tina chair. Jason is willing to serve as outreach chair as an appointed position; Phil will continue as outings chair, Dan as archivist, and presumably Joe as web master. Tina will check with the other appointed members about their continuing.

4. New business
a. Next meeting date—Monday, April 12th, 7:00 p.m. via Google Meet.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Bowman, Secretary
In my thirty years of climbing Sierra peaks, I have been associated with several instances involving lightning that current readers may find beneficial.

Background definitions:
Flash and boom: Sound travels at about 1000 feet per second. So when you see a flash of lightning, start counting “one thousand one, one thousand two, etc.” until you hear the boom of the thunder. The number of seconds that you have counted will be a good representation of how many thousand feet away from you the lightning flash was.

A bolt of lightning consists of a dense collection of many electrons. When lightning strikes an object, there are so many electrons near the point of the strike contact that they are described as “flowing like water” by some experts.

Association 1: Larry, an SPS member, and I were attempting a day hike of Half Dome in the 1980s. As we approached the spot where the dirt trail begins the ascent of the rock and cables, we both saw the sign that said not to ascent the cables if it appeared that lightning could be approaching. After discussing the gathering storm clouds, we turned around. As we departed, we passed a group of four young men that passed us and were heading towards the cables. As we retreated through Little Yosemite Valley, the thunder and lightning started. Several days later, I read (in the LA Times?) about the four guys who had tried to take shelter on the summit of Half Dome when the lightning started. Three of them got under that big, flat rock that is on the summit, which has some space beneath it. Reconstructing the accident, the article said the lightning appeared to hit the top of the rock. The current of electrons flowed over the rock and onto the three men below. One was hit in the head and lost control of his body ("flopped around" is what I remember reading). The one guy who was not injured by the flow of electrons tried to save his friend, but the friend went over the edge and fell the 3000 feet to the rocks below. A second guy apparently had the electrons go from his butt to his feet through his legs. His blood in his legs apparently boiled and blew apart the tissue in his legs. At the time of the article, the speculation was that he would need his legs amputated. One of the four was not injured and went to get a Ranger and report the accident. I believe a helicopter landed on the summit of Half Dome and hauled away the injured climber. Larry and I commented on how smart we were that day to turn around.

Correction
In the last issue, we inadvertently gave the wrong credit for the photo accompanying Ken Jones’ “Too Close for Comfort” article, “Overconfident in the Oregon Cascades.” Credit goes to Ken’s wife, Karen Jones, not Ken.
Association 2: I was working at TRW in the 1970s, and a man in the next work area was going with a friend to climb a peak in the Sierra west of Bishop on Saturday and Sunday. His wife called me at work Monday and said that they had not returned home Sunday night and asked what she should do. I called the Forest Service in Bishop Monday morning and told the Forest Service that they were missing and where the two would be camping. The Forest Service called his wife and me back on Tuesday and told us that had found both men dead inside their tent in their sleeping bags. Both men had zipper burn marks on their body from their sleeping bag zippers. The Forest Service surmised that an electrical storm came in, the men got inside their tent and into their sleeping bags, and lightning had hit nearby their tent. The electron current from the lightning travelled down their zippers and disrupted the electrical signals in their hearts, and both died of heart failure. Fast forward to the 1990s when Bob and I were in Kings Canyon on a climbing trip when a big storm came in during the evening. We got into my Stephenson tent and our sleeping bags. We started timing the lightning flash/thunder and when the time got to one second (1000’ away) we got out of our sleeping bags and curled up on our insulated sleeping pads without any body parts touching the floor of the tent. To the best that we knew, lightning never hit near us that night.

Association 3: I was passing through an open forest on the approach to one of the northern peaks. I came to a large fir tree that had been recently hit by (Continued on page 26)

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Muah Mountain,
August 16, 2020
By Coby King

After my rousing but lengthy success on Olancha on July 19 (when I didn’t get back to my car until 10:00 p.m.), I decided to try a similar strategy on Muah. That is, I would drive up on Saturday afternoon, camp near the trailhead, and get an early start on Sunday morning.

On August 15 I drove to Lone Pine, and got a burger, shake, and fries at the venerable Frosty Chalet (it was a more expensive meal, at $15, than I remembered from the past, but it was as good as ever). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, I had to take it to go and eat it at a picnic table in the park across 395.

I finally headed up the Whitney Portal Road, turned left at Horseshoe Meadows Road, and made my way up. The temperature was about one hundred degrees when I left Lone Pine, and it dropped thirty-five degrees as I made my way toward the campgrounds and trailheads at the end of the road. Once I got up to the big saddle along the road, it became quite overcast and was even raining a little bit. I could hear thunder and see lightning in the distance. It looked like it was going to be an interesting night.

When I got to Horseshoe Meadows, however, I quickly found that despite the weather the two main campgrounds were completely full. There is day use and overflow parking near the Cottonwood Pass campground but there was no overnight camping there. I was just getting ready to sleep in my car when someone told me that the rangers were allowing people to sleep overnight at the day use overflow area. So, I headed over there, pitched my tent, and had a very enjoyable and restful evening.

I woke up the next morning at about 5:30. While it was completely overcast when I went to sleep, it was perfectly clear when I arose, and I even was able to see quite a few stars before the sun started coming up.

I left the parking area by about 6:50 and headed out cross-country toward the Round Valley marsh. I really didn’t want to get my boots too wet, so I ended up circling

Top: Approaching Muah’s summit. Right: Dawn at Horseshoe Meadows (Photos by Coby King).
around to the east and eventually crossing the creek and getting up to the trail which leads one up through a beautiful steep canyon to Mulkey Pass.

After a brief rest, it was southbound on the PCT. This was quite pleasant walking although I knew that since I was trending downward, I would have to make up that elevation on the way back. About two hours in at around elevation 9670’, I left the PCT and followed along Diaz Creek for a bit until just before five miles in and about two hours and ten minutes out.

There, I took a rest on a log under some trees. Soon after that I reached the place where I left the use trail and started climbing up along the Diaz Creek tributary that runs west of the peak. I stayed to the west of the draw, and occasionally found a trail and ducks, but they were generally unnecessary as the way is fairly clear.

As I neared the top of the draw, I started to see willow bushes to the left along the creeklet, which seemed like an impenetrable barrier. But there is a place where I could cross through without any bushwhacking, and I built a little bit of a cairn to mark the way. Once through the draw, a use trail took me up to a flattish saddle of sorts and then it’s an open cross-country climb up toward the summit area.

As I started to reach the summit area, I came upon a number of different and distinct sets of rocks. One option is to kind of go off to the right, while another option is to go to the left and surmount the first set, which others have done and I did as well. This was a mistake. Once I reached the top of that ridge and set of rocks, I realized that not only is it a false summit but that I had to climb all the way down to a little clearing between the next much larger set of rocks, which actually contains the summit area.

Even here there are ample opportunities to make mistakes. After considering my options I kind of went toward the center of the rocks and climbed up through some scrambly (maybe occasionally low third class) rocks and eventually made it up to the summit ridge and to the peak itself. I signed the summit register and then dropped straight down to the other side to the east and had a bite to eat under some trees.

It is now that I discovered that there is in fact a much easier way to make it to the summit without any scrambling whatsoever. If you follow my descent track, found on Peakbagger at https://peakbagger.com/climber/ascent.aspx?aid=1458810, you will see that if you go around the peak to the south that in fact it is quite easy to avoid all the rocks. The trick (on the descent) is that you then have to cut back to the northwest...
to avoid going down the wrong draw. I had to correct my course at least once and really make a beeline to the saddle that leads back to the spring-fed creeklet which leads back to Diaz Creek. Once I did this, it was an easy trek back down to Diaz.

I then made my way back to the PCT and then back north up toward Mulkey Pass. I really wanted to tack on Trail Peak and its 885 feet of prominence, but, unfortunately, the clouds were rolling in, and I heard quite a bit of thunder, some of it close, and even saw a bit of lightning. I changed my mind about ten times as to whether or not it was safe. Further, I was pelted with hail on two separate occasions. I had to wait a few minutes the first time and close to ten minutes the second time until the pea-sized ice pellets let up.

By the time I got back up to Mulkey Pass and took a rest, I decided that Trail Peak would have to wait for another day. However, the much closer Peak 10605 seemed a nice consolation prize. So, I decided to see whether I could quickly bag that one.

There is no trail, of course, but a fairly easy and open (if occasionally steep) route up to the summit area, where I found a ridge of rocks that were probably twenty or thirty feet high. I was able to climb to a notch in the middle of the ridge, but looking to the right where the dot on the map was, I saw too much exposure for my comfort.

Looking for a different path to the top, I retreated down to where I had come from, dropped my pack and found a relatively easy scramble from the foot of where the ridge of rocks starts. Up a

little bit of a scramble than a ramp, then another ramp, and soon I found myself on the top. No register, but a nice little consolation prize indeed.

Instead of returning back to Mulkey Pass, I made my way more directly down the canyon and met the trail that comes up from Horseshoe Meadow. The relatively open forest was thickly covered in pine needles which sometimes were a little slippery but more often provided good traction. Soon enough I was back to the use trail and even sooner back down to the Round Valley area. This time I took the trail all the way to the wilderness sign and then made my way from there back to the day use area where my car was parked. This avoided pretty much all of the wet areas and was fairly easy hiking.

Back at the car. I packed up and was on my way back to LA. A nice trip.

Top: Summit of Peak 10605. Right: View from Peak 10605 as the storm moves in (Photos by Coby King).
Outings

We’ve chosen the photo above taken by Mat Kelliher, 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.

Outings News

In the hope that outings can resume after July 4th, the national Sierra Club plans to conduct some pilot outings beginning in March. At least one will be a Griffith Park Section hike. If the pandemic and public health directives allow, perhaps we’ll see a more general opening of outings. Leaders, as Outings Chair Phil Bates notes, you can enter outings for the summer in Campfire now, listing them as “Tentative” until we receive word that outings may again be offered.

Although in-person gatherings are postponed until at least July 4th, when published again, 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

From the Outings Chair

By Phil Bates

Hello SPSers!

Hooray for 2021, I think. One thing we can all be happy about is the spring and summer climbing season is nearing. I hope you most dedicated and motivated SPSers are well into getting your trailhead permits and lining-up climbing partners. I’ve already noticed that the trail quota has again been reduced for some areas. My concern is that this further drop will lead to more hikers blowing off the permits, which could have unintended environmental consequences.

On another note, the projected and current winter snowfalls are pointing to a lower-than-normal snow depth, which could lead to an earlier start to backcountry activities. That being said, long range forecasts do point to more weather in March, so late snows could impact this suggestion, regardless of the total depth. For those of us that love backcountry skiing, we’ll take what we can get!

Last, there is talk about the Club sponsoring outings by this summer, but we have no official green light. Nevertheless, leaders please do submit your trips into Campfire, (Continued on page 21)
When upcoming trips are scheduled again, you can visit the SPS website for an up-to-date listing at [http://www.sierraclub.org/sps](http://www.sierraclub.org/sps)

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**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.fs.usda.gov/sequoia](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sequoia)

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

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

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

### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

**Web site:** [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 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.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki)

For general information go to [www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness_permits.htm](http://www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/wilderness_permits.htm).

### 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 Chair, continued**

so we can get them set-up and set to “Tentative.” It would be great if many of you can post your experiences to our SPS Facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/groups/366711653441263/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/366711653441263/) ) so we can be more informed and enjoy your adventures.

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**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.
David Bruce Endres
September 26, 1945-January 25, 2021

By Neal Robbins

David Bruce Endres, an Emeritus Professor of Clinical Pathology at the University of Southern California, passed away peacefully on January 25 as a result of a multi-year battle with esophageal cancer. He will be laid to rest on February 25, 2021, at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Hollywood Hills. He is survived by Karol, his wife of fifty-five years, son Todd, daughter-in-law Christina, and two grandchildren, Jacob and Julia. David is also survived by five sisters and one brother: Susan, Barbara, Laura, Mary, Marcia, and Gary.

David, or Dave as many of us knew him, was born in Muskegon, Michigan, on September 26, 1945, to Joseph Bernard Endres and Lois Arlene Endres. He completed his secondary education in La Grange, Indiana, and received his B.A. in biology and chemistry from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, in 1969. David received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Roswell Park Memorial Institute/State University of New York at Buffalo in 1976, and then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in physiology and biophysics at Colorado State University in Fort Collins in 1978. He went on to have a distinguished career as a clinical pathologist at the University of Southern California. David retired in 2017 as an Emeritus Professor of Clinical Pathology.

Dave was an avid outdoor enthusiast and a leader in the Sierra Club community for many decades. He graduated from the Basic Mountaineering and Wilderness Travel Course (BMTTC) in 1987 and returned under Chuck Wilson and subsequently Barb Cohen (Sholle) as an instructor for Group 3 out of the Long Beach-South Bay area. By the time BMTTC was reformulated in 1992 to become the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), Dave had taken over leadership of Group 3, a position he held for seventeen years. He also served as Area Chair for the Long Beach-South Bay area during his tenure.

As a Sierra Club outings leader for SPS, DPS, and WTC, Dave exposed many climbers to remote peaks across California. He had a strong passion for training the next generation of outings leaders; he initiated private snow mountaineering and leadership training events for leaders and advanced students as much in an effort to upgrade the skill set of the club leadership pool as to increase the pool of people he could climb with. He also planned and executed international climbs to places such as the Arctic, Mexico, South America, and Africa. Dave trained a whole generation of climbers at a time when there were only limited opportunities for such training.

By 2009, when Dave decided to step down from the Group Leader role
PASSAGES

Remembering Dave Endres

By Joe Wankum

Dave was active in WTC (LBSB) from the beginning. I don’t think he was that well known within the SPS but was on the Management Committee in 2008. I believe Dave and his wife went through BMTC near its end. During the time when mountaineering outings were not allowed, I took a private group (Continued on page 26)

Pat Russell

December 31, 1923—February 11, 2021

Pat Russell, a long-time member of the Los Angeles City council and its first female president, was also a mountaineer. She earned her SPS emblem (#302) on September 15, 1974, about two years after her husband, Bill T. Russell, earned his (#261). See the Los Angeles Times obituary here: https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-02-14/former-los-angeles-city-council-president-pat-russell-first-woman-dies.

Above: Pat and Bill Russell in the desert in the 1990s (Photo by Devra Wasserman, Sierra Club-Angeles Chapter Archives, courtesy Bob Cates).
This is a view of SPS emblem peak Mt. Williamson taken by Tina Bowman from the west side of Lake 3733 in Williamson Bowl. First to answer, but incorrectly, was Ron Bartell (he didn’t see the black stain mark—but corrected his answer later). First to answer correctly is returning member Jeff Solomon, who authored Mystery Peak challenges for the newsletter when he was co-editor of the *Echo*. Next, Lance Dixon also chimed in with a correct answer and then Phil Kohlmetz. Daryn Dodge answered next, but with the wrong peak. Thanks for participating, guys!

Remembering Dave Endres, continued from page 25

(including Dave) on an ice axe practice in Ice House Canyon, then attempted a climb of Gilbert but found the Johnson-Gilbert saddle unclimbable and an alternate route too icy for novices. Dave went back a few weeks later and climbed both Johnson and Gilbert, then went on to get his M-leader rating and to lead a WTC group for many years—and usually to offer his students a private ice axe practice and climb after WTC was over. In later years, he organized climbs to the Mexican Volcanoes, to Mount Baker (or was it some other nearby peak?), to Kilimanjaro. A couple of years after a bypass operation, he attempted a climb of Aconcagua but did not make the summit. He was an inspiration to many WTC students over the years and will be missed. (Neal Robbins and I assisted in Dave’s WTC group for a number of years.)

Lightning, continued from page 21

lightning. The bark from the tree was strewn all around the ground below the tree. Lying around the base of the tree were five dead cattle. I guessed that as the storm approached, the cattle got under the tree for shelter. When the lightning hit the tree, the electrons flowed through the moist cambium later of the tree bark, turning the water into steam and blowing the bark off of the tree. The cattle were either killed by impact with the flying bark or by the electron current when it went down the tree and through their bodies.
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!

Thanks to Ken Jones for our next Mystery Peak puzzle. He took the picture last Halloween evening; do you know which SPS peak it is?

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

 REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF THE ECHO

Please contact this email address newsletter@sierrapeaks.org for any problems with distribution of hardcopy or email versions.
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, or through regular U.S. mail (electronic format is preferable). 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, which includes the $10 subscription and a $15 donation to the SPS operating fund. Thank you for your support of the SPS. For new subscriptions and renewals or to apply for membership, fill out the subscription and renewal form or new member form that can be found on the SPS website under “Membership Requirements” at the bottom of the page: https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks/new-members#mr. Mail the form and your check to the SPS Treasurer, 11755 Entrada Ave., Porter Ranch, CA 91326; make sure to include your Sierra Club number if you are applying for membership. To subscribe or renew on-line, please email the form to the treasurer (treasurer@sierrapeaks.org). Then pay via PayPal for renewals using the email address treasurer@sierrapeaks.org. Note that first-year memberships or subscriptions are free. New applications received after October 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 are not tax deductible.

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

Peaks List Copies of the SPS Peaks List can be downloaded from the website here: 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 Jim Fleming: email secretary@sierrapeaks.org. Awards merchandise is available through Patty Kline at 20362 Callon Drive, Topanga, CA 90290, and include emblem pins ($20) and SPS section patches ($5). Make checks payable to SPS. All prices include sales tax.