CHAIRMAN'S CORNER
by Chuck Miller

It has been very gratifying to see the interest evidenced in the discussions of the program of the SPS so far this year. We have had record attendances at all of the meetings this year. In fact, someone even suggested we should recommend to the Angeles Chapter that the wall between the two rooms at the office should be removed and a folding door installed in its place so that overflow crowds such as ours could be accommodated without the necessity of using perisopes and loudspeaker systems to see and hear what is going on. Not only have a large number of members attended but they have also participated fully in the discussions. Many important questions have been before the section this year and it is only by full participation by a large number of the membership that the best answers can be determined.

A lot of credit for pushing the various phases of our program should go to the committee chairmen & their committee members. A lot has been accomplished.

To determine just where we stand in relation to our initial objectives and where we should place further emphasis, the management committee of the section is planning a meeting in May. Comments to me from any of the members concerning topics that should be discussed at such a meeting would be appreciated.

We are all looking forward to getting back into the Sierra next month. Let’s make our 1958 season the best yet.

SUMMER SCHEDULE COMPLETED
by Rich Gnagey

The SPS has a very active summer ahead with scheduled trips on 11 of the 17 weekends in the summer schedule. The list includes 4 of our emblem peaks, including 2 of the three most inaccessible ones, Kaweah and Brewer. These two trips are over our two three-day weekends this summer. All emblem baggers should have a field day.

For those who desire more of a "fun" weekend there are easy trips, including a car camp at Mineral King and an easy pack trip with no peak in mind to Lake Ediza and the Minaret country. Other easy trips are to Summit Lake, Mt. Dade, and Mt. Rixford.

The complete schedule follows:

June 14-15: Matterhorn Pk.
June 28-29: Summit Lake.
July 4-5-6: Mt. Kaweah.
July 12-13: Lake Ediza.
July 26-27: Mt. Sill.
Aug. 2-3: Mt. Dade & Bear Creek Spire (choice).
Aug. 9-10: Mineral King & Sawtooth Pk.
Aug. 16-17: Mt. Emerson.
Sept 13-14: Tunnabara Pk. via George Creek.

HEAVY SIERRA SNOWS HAMPER SPS JWR

Heavy snows in the Sierra this season forced the cancellation of the scheduled Needles Trip (Apr. 5-6) and "abbreviation" of the Domes & Land Knapsack (Apr. 19-20). See page 4 for the details.
PORTIONS OF THE TRAIL AND FOR SUNDAY'S HIKE.
ON SUNDAY WE SHALL DEPART OUR CAMP AND FOLLOW
A 4 MILE TRAILLESS ROUTE ACROSS A HIGH, WILD PLATEAU AREA TO THE 11,012 FT
SUMMIT OF MT. MUHL. AFTER ENJOYING THE VIEW OF OWENS VALLEY (8000', DIRECTLY BELOW) AND THE HIGH SIERRA JUST TO THE NORTH, WE SHALL RETURN TO CAMP, HOIST OUR PACKS AND RELUCTANTLY LEAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA OF SIERRA HIGH COUNTRY.

THIS TRIP WILL NOT PRESENT ANY TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, BUT IT IS A MODERATELY LENGTHY KNPACKSACK TRIP AND NOT RECOMMENDED FOR BEGINNING HIKERS.

SFS MEMBER PEG BARRY & LEE WEHLE WERE MARRIED ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 22ND, AT THE 1ST UNITARIAN CHURCH IN LOS ANGELES.

(NOW WE KNOW WHY WE HAVEN'T SEEN PEG ON AN SFS TRIP FOR SO LONG!)

THEIR HONEYMOON PLANS INCLUDED A TRIP TO DEATH VALLEY.

LIKE PEGGY, LEE IS A LIBRARIAN, AND HE WORKS ON THE UCLA CAMPUS. HE HAS DONE A GOOD DEAL OF HIKING, AND WE HOPE TO SEE THEM BOTH ON SOME FORTHCOMING SCHEDULED TRIPS.

CHARLOTTE PARSONS

SPS NAMING PEAKS JWR

SEVERAL PROMINANT SUMMITS IN THE SOUTHERN SIERRA HAVE BEEN CLIMBED AND NAMED BY THE SFS THIS SEASON. INCLUDED ARE TAYLOR DOME, ROCKHOUSE PEAK, Pinnacle Peak, The Saddlehorn, and Spanish Needle Peak. THESE NAMES HAVE BEEN FORWARD TO THE USBG FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION.

CARTAGO MTN. TRIP, MAY 24-25,
CHANGE OF PLANS by Frank Sanborn

DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSED ROUTE IS TOO ROUGH FOR THE MAJORITY OF OUR MEMBERS AND IS NOT ADVISABLE DUE TO A HEAVY POPULATION OF RATTLENAKES AT THAT TIME OF YEAR, WE HAVE CHANGED OUR "TARGET".

WE WILL MEET AT THE MT. WHITNEY TURN-OFF IN LONE PINE AT 6 A.M. SAT., MAY 24TH, AND CARAVAN TO THE CARROLL CREEK ROADHEAD. THE HIKE WILL START FROM THERE AT 7 A.M. WE WILL KNPACK SACK ABOUT 9 MILES TO THE HORSESHOE MEADOW AREA IN COTTONWOOD BASIN (9000') ON A GOOD TRAIL. WOOD AND WATER IS PLENTIFUL AT CAMPSITE BUT CARRY A CANTEEN OF WATER FOR THE LOWER
A surprise mountaineering examination was given to the astonished members who attended the March SPS meeting at club headquarters. The purpose of the examination was to arouse interest in the need for good mountain safety and training for SPS members and newcomers.

Through the generous cooperation of Bill Thomas in the San Diego Chapter, a copy of their basic mountaineering examination was obtained. Vernon Jones retyped ditto masters and then ran off over forty copies.

In general, there were more old timers than newcomers taking the examination. 21 people answered the 60 questions. The average number of questions found correct was 43, or 75%. With the exception of four questions, all other questions were answered incorrectly by one member or the other. The results of each individual examination turned in were carefully checked and tabulated.

No doubt the answers to some of the questions have reasons for argument. Some of the troublesome questions are as follows:

1. Which type of glass would provide the best protection for eyes against sun and snow glare? amber-smoked-polaroid-clear.
2. A compass needle shows you your location, turns when you turn the compass, should not be used near an ice axe, points to true north.
3. A first aid kit is carried by: the rope leader, yourself, your friend or spouse, everyone on the climb.
4. The most important factor in choosing a campsite is: wood, water, protection from wind, view.
5. The plunge step is used on: soft snow slopes, hard snow slopes, glare ice with crampons, steep rock pitches.
6. A climber should have a hot breakfast, eat three meals a day, eat two meals a day, eat continually.
7. The simplest satisfactory supper before a climb is: steak broiled in aluminum foil, mulled wine, sandwich, chocolate bar.
8. Muscle cramps are caused by: lack of salt, lack of oxygen, cold, fatigue.
9. It is not safe to use the ice axe wrist loop when: climbing on rock, dropping the axe would mean its loss, glissading, signing the summit register.
10. Not carried in a first aid kit would be: needles, gauze flats, splints, razor blades.
11. In an anchored belay with the climber below, the climbing rope should always: pass under anchor rope, pass through the eye of the piton, pass above the anchor rope, pass over sharp but solid rock.
12. If a climber is seriously injured on a steep class 4 mountainside, how in general must the rescue be performed: by a helicopter hovering near taking him aboard with rope, by tying him securely to a rope and lowering carefully, by lowering him in a special stretcher with numerous ropes, by carrying him down piggy back.
13. Most important in the self arrest is: dig in toes and other parts of body, keep vertical, hang on to axe, yell for help.
14. In order to make a 10 foot leap across a crevasse you should: get a good take-off point, take an advanced course first, be sure there is not another crevasse on the other side, be superman.
15. If lightning is encountered in the mountains: seek shelter in a cave if possible, discard all metal objects except compass and ice axe, stay in the deepest depression you can find, make as little contact with the ground as possible.

(Continued next page)
46. Repelling by alternate free sliding and braking is, compared to using continuous braking: less likely to burn your body, much more dangerous, generally preferable, better only for free rappel.

53. Accidents are usually caused by one big mistake. True or False.

60. If someone says to you: "In view of the various climbing accidents I've heard about, aren't you foolish to go mountain climbing?", how would you reply to this?

(It is interesting to note some of the 21 people taking the exam avoided this question. I believe a good climber should have a good sound answer available.) Here are two of the more interesting replies:

In the type of climbing I do, the rewards so greatly exceed the dangers that I consider the risk extremely small and well worth it.

If a climber is well informed and experienced, attempts climbs for which he is prepared, and takes safety precautions, he should be safer on a climb than driving along a freeway.

B.B.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

S P S SCHEDULED TRIPS

THE NEEDLES (8223'), Apr. 5-6. Cancelled due to excessive snow.

DOMELAND, April 19-20. by John Robinson

A raging Kern River (So.Pk.) and heavy snowpacks on access roads combined to deny the 19 Sierra Peakers and guests who showed up for the Domeland trip their objective.

Unable to drive any closer than 8 miles from the Kern, the group decided to kapseck in anyway. The meat of the day Saturday was spent hiking in not too difficult as it was mostly downhill. The Kern was reached by mid-afternoon. We decided to camp right there after taking one look at the raging torrent before us. Crossing with packs was out of the question.

Bill Sanders had lugged a rope and climbing hardware in and was reluctant not to use it. So Bill, along with Peter Hunt and I, decided to attempt a crossing and climb some interesting rock formations some distance west of the Kern. With a rope belay and some strenuous river bucking, the three crossed with equipment and gear wrapped tightly around their necks. At one point the river reached chest level. The fording was in vain, however, as the objective proved farther distant than originally believed. The three returned to camp after refunding.

In the meantime, leader Chuck Miller explored downriver quite a distance and found no feasible spot for the party to cross. So Domeland was given up.

Sunday morning most of the group explored down river several miles. In the vicinity of White Dome the stream enters a gorge with exfoliated granite on both sides—quite scenic and Yosemite-like. Several potential "river rats" expressed a desire to follow the Kern all the way down to the Walker Pass road at some future date. It should prove quite interesting.

With a long uphill pull back to the cars (8 mi.,2500') with packs, there was no time to explore the gorge.

The march back was "rugged" to put it mildly. Besides being uphill, it was hot. Never on an SPS trip have the cars been a more welcome sight.

In the future Domeland trips should probably be scheduled in the fall, when access roads are open and the river is low and fordable. It should be an easy and scenic trip then.
NONSCHEDULED TRIPS

SKI TESTS & ROCK CLIMBING LURE SPSers by Charlotte Parsons

During a one-day ski tour to the summit of Mammoth Mountain on Feb. 16, four Sierra Peakers passed the Fourth Class Ski Test and were admitted to membership in the Sierra Club Ski Mountaineers. They are Bud Bingham, Miles Brubacher, Dick Mosely, and Jon Shimmo.

When the April 5-6 SPS trip into the Needles area had to be called off because of snow and road conditions, several would-be backpackers decided to take to the rocks instead. Among those who attended the BOC boulder bust at Joshua Tree National Monument that weekend were Bill Sanders, Miles Brubacher, Bud Bingham, Peter Hunt, Vernon Jones, and Charlotte Parsons.

SIERRA SNOWSHOEING by John Robinson

On Saturday morning, April 12th, Sierra Peakers Bill Sanders, Andy Smatko, Doug Ingle, Al Finney, George Clinch and the writer drove to Glacier Lodge above Big Pine. Our objective was Mt. Alice via snowshoes, to get a good view of the snowladen Palisades.

The sky was clear, the weather warm, and the snowcovered terrain flat when we started out up the S. Fk. Big Pine Creek. As long as it remained level we were in high spirits, commenting how wonderful snowshoeing was and wondering why we hadn’t tried it before.

But after a mile the honeymoon was over. We picked a rather steep snow filled couloir on the south flank of Alice as our route and started up. Unfortunately, climbing in snowshoes was another story. After slipping and sliding around for a while everyone but Bill removed snowshoes and continued up a la feet. As the day grew hotter the snow grew softer and soon we were waist deep, a real grind. That is, all except Bill. With Bear Paw type snowshoes and his unique bird walk he soon left us way behind. The main party continued the struggle upwards until one of us stepped too close to a buried tree and went in up to neck level. That was our apogee. At 10000’ we stopped, ate lunch, took pictures (we could see Middle Pal & The Thumb well) and waited for Bill to return. Bill was having his troubles too, but he reached a ridge where he could look north and see Mt. Agassiz.

After locating Bill we started down. One enterprising member devised a “snowshoe glissade” which greatly expedited our descent.

Snowshoeing is fine on level ground, but for climbing it is impractical. We reluctantly agreed that for the High Sierra, we’re summer climbers.

NORTH SPANISH NEEDLE (7879’), April 13 JWR

This peak was climbed for the second time by Bud Bingham, Andy Smatko, Bill Sanders, and John Robinson. The route was up the east ridge from Sand Canyon. The last 1000’ was in snow, with a steep 70 degree pitch near the summit making it interesting. It took the group 4 hours 45 minutes to negotiate the 4000’ from the cars. We felt the peak was worthy of SPS qualifying status.

MITCHELL PEAK (Providence Mts.), March 29 by Bud Bingham

On the Sat. before Trudie Hunt led the successful DPS trip to Providence Pk., Vern Jones & Bud Bingham climbed Mitchell Pk., second highest point of the range. 3rd & 4th class climbing was encountered on the ups & downs of the east ridge.

While eating lunch on the summit, Bud sat on a 5th class cactus and fully got the point of the matter. This was the quickest he moved all day.

The descent was made by a canyon just south of the summit. Snow covered slab and numerous dry waterfalls proved more complicated than the east ridge. The climb takes a full day on poor rock.
MOPAH PEAKS (3675’), March 29  
by Dr. Andrew J. Smatko

After driving as far as possible on the road towards Mopah Pr. in the Turtle Mts., Bill Sanders, John Robinson, Peter Hunt, Al Finney, Rich Ganey, and I found a class 5 route with a short class 4 pitch up the SW side of the peak. From the summit South Mopah Peak looked inviting, so all of us except Al climbed it also. It appears to be slightly higher than its more famous neighbor. The desert floral display was at its beautiful zenith and with clear skies and ideal weather we all had an enjoyable climb.

PORTER PEAK (9100’), April 13  
by George Wallerstein

On Sunday, April 13th George Greenstein and George Wallerstein climbed Porter Peak in the Panamints by walking up Pleasant Canyon from the 2000’ level which was the limit for G.W.’s car. Mining roads lead up to 7000’, making the climb easy but dull. The scenery in this canyon is far from dull and includes the full range of Panamint topography from the highly colored rocks in the lower canyon to the open pinyon forest above and the views of Sentinel and Telescope still deep in snow.

PICACHO DEL DIABLO (10,136’), April 18-20  
by George Wallerstein

Over this 3 day weekend El Picacho del Diablo was climbed by Dave Rearick, Ron Bierstadt, Marshall Thiebaud, and George Wallerstein. They used what has become the usual route up Diablo Canyon to a camp about one mile below Cedar Camp. The famous waterfall was passed directly with no difficulties. The weather was very hot throughout, especially returning on Sunday when the rocks in the lower canyon were literally too hot to touch. * *

PERSONALS  
by Trudie Hunt

BUD BINGHAM ate a full course steak dinner at the Desert Inn in Lancaster on the way home from the Needles trip. "Good old beer and steaks!!"

CHUCK MILLER was unable to get his car started on the Domeland trip. His pushers were John Robinson, Fred Jensen, Bill Sanders, Will Benware, Tom Ammons, Peter Hunt and one unidentified person.

FRED JENSEN was unable to climb a peak one weekend in April.

CHARLOTTE PARSONS bought a new pair of Pivetta boots.

ANDY SMATKO gets out every weekend or so – on trips that is.

JERRY KEATING is expecting.

BILL SANDERS finally has a phone – Ludlow 7-7803.

The ELEVATION OF CLUB HEADQUARTERS as listed in the present schedule May 26, Wed., p.54 is incorrect. It should read 759.811 rather than 760.

On April 15th JOHN ROBINSON decided to climb the Grand Teton rather than Mount Blanc.

VERN and JO JONES took their cat on the Joshua Tree rock climb.

FRIDA WALBRECHT brought her brother, her camera, and a friend on the Rabbit Peak trip.

If you know of other items of similar interest & newsworthiness please do not hesitate to send them to the editor of the Echo. Irrespectfully submitted by Trudie Hunt who is finding it just as hard to keep up with an acre of Covina weeds as with fellow SPS’ers.