Chairman's Corner . . . . . . Ted Maier

In the winter, which is the slow season for the SPS, it seems a good time to reflect a bit on the purposes of our section. If our purpose were simply to get together as a congenial group and backpack and climb peaks in the Sierra, then we could still be doing this "outlaw" without the formalities and work involved in section organization. Wonderful informal trips were made before the SPS was formed. Excellent non-scheduled trips are still made by SPS members. Why then the fuss and bother of a section?

Our purpose is well stated in the front pages of the Angeles Chapter Schedule. The two key phrases are, I think, "To develop and expand interest and activity in the Sierra Nevada Range," and "To aid in the conservation and preservation of . . . . (Cont. on Page 2)

BASIC MOUNTAINEERING COURSE

The Los Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club will sponsor a Basic Mountaineering Course beginning February 14, 1963, at the Lemon Grove Playground Auditorium, Lemon Grove and Hobart Boulevard, Los Angeles.

The course will be free and open to the public. It will include a series of seven lectures dealing with clothing and equipment, weather, map reading, alpine camping, first aid, rock climbing, rope handling and snow and ice techniques.

The lectures will be given every Thursday night starting at 7:30 P.M. from February 14 to March 28. In addition, there will be three field trips to apply techniques covered in the lectures. Enrollment is open to anyone 17 years of age or older.

Schedule of Lectures

Feb. 14 – Introduction, Equipment, Camping, Cooking (Harvey Hickman)
Feb. 21 – Mountain Travel, Weather, Route Finding (Bob Greenawalt)
Feb. 28 – Winter Travel, Snow Climbing (John Wodberg)
March 7 – Rock Climbing (Ron Smith)
March 14 – Desert Travel, Desert Survival (Niles & Louise Werner)
March 21 – Glacier Travel, Climbing Dangers (Lothar Kolbig)
March 28 – Climbing Miseries, First Aid, Alpine Rescue (Jess Matter)

Field Trips

March 3 – Ice Axe Practice
March 16-17 – Desert Trip
March 31 – Rock Climbing
of the wilderness areas of the Sierra—". These are the reasons for our organization. These are goals that are most effectively accomplished by an organization. Without these purposes, the SPS would not be a vital growing group.

Our most obvious activity is the scheduling and running of trips. This, indeed, is an effective way of developing and expanding interest and activity in the Sierra. What might otherwise have been a small "outlaw" trip is now expanded to include everyone with the interest and ability to go. New members are attracted, greater interest is generated, more trips are scheduled. One might note here that peaks lists and emblem peaks serve a very real purpose in generating interest in climbing in the Sierra; they may not be the basic goal of the section, but they do serve the basic goals.

Scheduled trips bring responsibilities to both the section and the participants. The section must remember that the trip is scheduled "to expand interest and activity" and this implies welcoming and helping newcomers, even the somewhat ill-prepared. Conversely, participants should remember that they are joining a group activity; a beginner who foolishly shows up for a death march can't expect the trip to change just for him, nor should the tiger expect too much of an easy family hike. No one trip can satisfy all desires, so the SPS needs to have a widely varied schedule. There has been no dearth of hard and vigorous trips in the past nor will this type of trip be neglected in the coming year. The more leisurely hikes and family camps, however, have perhaps been a bit slighted. I hope that we will participate more in this area, particularly by joint scheduling with some of the other sections, groups which have been making these trips into the Sierra due to our lack. We cannot, of course, schedule trips to suit everybody in the Sierra Club. The Sierra by their very nature are demanding mountains and a hike there requires a level of effort that not everyone is willing to expend.

The publishing of the Sierra Echo is another major method of promoting our purposes. This is our main way of communicating between trips, of arousing interest and advertising activities. Getting this paper out is a great deal of work, work that is justified by its promotion of our section purposes.

The second of the two phrases, "To aid in the conservation and preservation of the wilderness areas of the Sierra" is a less obviously but no less surely served by the SPS. Before one wishes to preserve anything, he must appreciate it and be convinced of its value. The Sierra Nevada are looked upon by many people as a great pile of useless rock interspersed with lots of uncut lumber. The most effective way of making a man into a Sierra conservationist is to get him into the mountains, on foot, intimately seeing the country, drawing in smogless air, listening to nature, feeling the independence of a pack and sleeping bag, living a soul refreshing interlude in his otherwise overly civilized life. To know the Sierra this way is to want to preserve it. As long as the SPS continues to introduce new people to the Sierra, the conservation purpose of the section will be furthered.

THE SIERRA ECHO

Published bimonthly by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. Mailed to subscribers on even numbered months.

EDITOR: Ed Ostrenga, 705-A 9th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: $1.00 per year. Subscribing to the "ECHO" is a requirement for active membership in the Sierra Peaks Section.

REMITTANCE: Must be sent to the 1963 SPS Treasurer, Bud Bingham, 4337 El Prieto Rd., Altadena, Calif.

NEXT COPY DEADLINE: Monday, March 25, 1963. Please type articles double spaced and mail to Ed Ostrenga, 705-A 9th St., Santa Monica, Calif.
From the start, the Climber's Guide was a cooperative program. For the revision currently in progress further cooperation is necessary to make the "cook book" a better one. Plans are to publish the Yosemite section as a separate book, and to liven up the high Sierra with new sketches, maps, etc. Especially desired are corrections to existing material in the guide, and information of new routes on peaks or across country. Photos or sketches showing routes in the Sawtooth, Minaret, Palisades, and Whitney areas are badly needed. Material should be sent to Hervey Voge, 2237 Carleton St., Berkeley 4, California. Photos will be returned if this is requested. Hervey says he would also be glad to hear from anyone interested in doing manuscript work on chapters being revised. It is just the thing to lend satisfaction to a rainy weekend at home.

MORRIS PEAK
(Dave Evans)

"Hill 503", alias Morris Peak, didn't have a chance as it was assaulted, with no apparent casualties, from three sides on the brisk, clear morning of January 27. The OCCASIONAL PEAKS GANG from the Ridgecrest—China Lake area climbed it from Indian Wells Canyon on the north. The SPS group no. 1, or the seven o'clockers, made the long trek from Walker Pass on the west, while SPS group no. 2, or the eight o'clockers, sandy-footed it up from Walker's Well on the south. Altogether, twenty-four souls finally gathered on the summit, which is probably some kind of record for a January trip. After the necessary ceremonies, attendant to the placement of a register and its container, were completed and lunch dispensed with, the O.C. gang retreated to Indian Wells, while the SPS groups merged for a wild run down the Walker's Well route and then a mild stroll through a beautiful Joshua forest to the cars of the eight o'clockers, who then ferried the seven o'clockers to their vehicles parked on the pass. The latter operation was completed by one-thirty P.M., after which most everyone drove to White's in Mojave to contemplate another week of city life.

TREASURER'S NOTE

Some SPSers have renewed their "Echo" subscriptions prior to past mailing of the Nov.-Dec. issue. Upon receiving the attached remittance form they enclosed a second $1.00. Those doing so will be credited with an additional year's subscription.

Married couples both qualifying for SPS membership need only to send in $1.00 remittance. Those couples sending in $2.00 will be credited with a second year's subscription. If two copies of the "Echo" are wanted by couples, then the cost will be $2.00 per year.

A few SPSers have paid for more than one year's subscription in the past but apparently forgot this as another $1.00 was mailed to the Treasurer. Automatically this extends their subscription an additional year.

PLEASE NOTE - CHANGE OF ADDRESS

"Return Requested" appearing on the cover of the "Echo" costs the Section 12¢ for each copy returned. Members must keep the SPS Treasurer informed on address changes. The Post Office will not forward mail classified as fourth class. Returned copies shall not be re-mailed and further mailing of "Echo" will be discontinued until the Treasurer receives the needed information. 1964 subscription remittance will be due whether you received all 1963 copies or not.
The Southern California Trophy Co. no longer finds it economical to make our Emblem Pins on an individual basis and they will charge more if they are ordered this way.

In order to hold the cost down the Section is buying the Emblems in quantity and the price will be little more than in the past. By about February 15 the pins will be in the hands of the Secretary and Treasurer for distribution. The price will be $4.25 each (gold plate, button back type). To obtain pin, qualified members must submit their list of 10 emblem peaks climbed with approximate dates and enclose a check. It is not necessary for emblem members to own the pin.

RECAP OF THE 1962 SEASON
(John Robinson)

1962 was another successful year for the SPS. 22 scheduled trips (and 2 cancellations) resulted in a total turn-out of 442 participants for an average-per-trip of 20.1. This was slightly below the all-time average of 21.7, but credible in view of the foul weather that hampered several outings during the year.

Honors for the year’s top turn-out went to the joint trip with the Mother Loders to San Joaquin Peak (May 19–20) with 39 participants, and this in spite of cloudy, cold weather that weekend. In all, six trips saw turnouts of 30 or more. Following San Joaquin’s 39, there were 33 on Agassiz-Goode (June 16–17), 31 on the Matterhorn (June 2–3) and Williamson (June 9–10), 30 on Bloody-Baldwin (July 26–29) and Brewer over Labor Day. It is significant that 4 of these 6 trips were joint outings with the Mother Loders.

The Mt. Agassiz climb (June 17) saw 28 participants reach the summit, tops for the season in that category. 27 reached the Matterhorn’s craggy summit (June 3), 24 struggled the long way up Williamson (June 10) and 23 snow-climbed Mt. Goode (June 16). No other scheduled peak saw more than 20 reach the summit (only 18 of the 39 climbed San Joaquin).

The year’s worst turnout was the 8 who showed up Sept. 15–16 for the long trudge over Taboose Pass (6 for Arrow, 2 for Ruskin). Long death marches usually attract few customers. Taboose Pass seems to be anathema to SPSers; the last trip there (Cardinal Peak, 1956) saw only 5 show up.

The best month for trip participation was June, as usual, with an excellent 29.2 average, followed by May with 28.0. These two months regularly seem to be the most popular for scheduled trips. Participation noticeably slackened after this, except for a slight upturn in September due to the Labor Day outing.

April and May had the poorest weather. These two stormy months saw two trip cancellations (Stretta-Taylor Dome, N. Maggie-Moses), one partial failure (Indian Rock), and two bad weather climbs (San Joaquin, the Pyramid half of Pyramid-Rose). Only one weekend trip over this entire period enjoyed good weather—Cirque Peak on April 21–22.

SPS SPRING SCHEDULE

Feb. 16–17 - Harwood Party and ice axe practice. Lothar Kolbig will be our mountain guide this weekend. Bring ice axe, and if you have them, crampons. Central commissary. Call the Meiers for reservations, EX 8-0867.

March 3 - (Sunday only). A practice scramble up Strawberry Pk. in the local mountains. Miles and Maureen Brubacher and Ted Maier are the leaders. This trip is aimed at beginners looking for easy climbing practice and some instruction in mountain travel. Even oldtimers can enjoy the exercise.

April 13–14 - Spanish Needle and Sawtooth, a car camp and climb of two southern Sierra Peaks. Sawtooth is class 2 while Spanish Needle may hit high class 3. Bud Bingham and Tom Ammeus will lead these moderate scrambles.
SPRING SCHEDULE (Cont.)

April 27-28 - Lookout Mt. and Sherman Peak. Hikes will be a moderate backpack, weather permitting, in the Brush Creek region of the southern Sierra. Heavy forest, lots of wood and water are typical for this early in the season. The leader is Graham Stevenson.

May 11-12 - Independence and Kearse, two peaks ending Onion Valley, both east of the crest. These will be two beautiful snow climbs of only moderate strenuousness. Ice Axes are required. Camp Saturday night will be at the cars. Leaders are Andy Smatko and Arky Erb.

May 25-26 - Mt. Goethe. This backpack, led by Barbara Lilley, Tom Ross and John Peckham, is a joint effort with the Mother Lode chapter. It is a strenuous trip and snow climb penetrating well across the Sierra Crest. Ice axes will be needed for the first SPS scheduled climb of this peak.

June 8-9 - Domeland Exploratory. Don't let the exploratory fool you. This is a leisurely backpack with no scheduled peaks. Tom and Trudy Hunt intend to circle tour through the beautiful Domeland area from the relatively new Brush Creek road end at Big Meadow.

June 15-16 - North Maggie and Moses Peak, a trip that penetrates the Sierra from the western side. John Robinson and George Shinno will lead this moderately long backpack through the lush forests of the western slopes.

June 29-30 - Iron Mt., another strenuous snow climb with the usual ice axe requirement. John Robinson and Gene Gail will lead this backpack that starts from the Devil's Postpile area. Iron Mt. is a new trip for the SPS, a peak that should provide a grand northward view of the Minaret-Ritter Banner region.

July 4-7 - Triple Divide Peak. This is another exploratory trip, this time involving a long backpack and a somewhat technical climb. Triple Divide Peak is remote and dominant, and there are a number of lesser peaks in the area that may be climbed. John Wedberg is the leader of this four-day backpack.

NOTE: Winter and spring trips are always subject to changes due to weather or snow conditions. Don't rely blindly on the meeting time and place published in the Angeles Chapter Schedule. Call a leader and make sure. If you're somewhat of a beginner in Sierra backpacking, a discussion with the leader would be wise; some trips are leisurely and suitable for you, some are meant only for the strong experienced backpacker.

BEGINNER'S TRAINING TRIP - THIRD CLASS SCRAMBLE

The SPS is trying something new on Sunday, March 3, at Strawberry Peak in the San Gabriel Mts. Instruction in beginning mountaineering will be given, with special emphasis on equipment, conditioning, scrambling, and mountain travel. Girls are being specially invited. We feel that if we can get more girls out on our trips, the boys will come automatically! Any of you old SPSers who would like to teach some pretty young thing the ropes, come along.

We're meeting at the junction of Angeles Crest highway and the Palmdale turnoff at 10:00 a.m. Leaders: Miles and Maureen Brubacher and Ted Maier.
SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT TRIPS (1956-1962) (J. Robinson)

Almost seven years have passed since Frank Sanborn led a small group of eager knapsackers over Haiwee Pass, down to the raging Kern, South Fork and up a slight bump called Deer Mountain. That warm weekend early in May, 1956, saw the SPS, then a small just-organized section of 30-odd peak-baggers, initiate its varied program of weekend outings.

Since that fateful May weekend seven years ago, the SPS has sponsored some 147 scheduled outings (plus seven that were cancelled) that have resulted in a total of 3189 "man-trips", an all-time average of 21.7 per outing. 23 of these scheduled trips were destined for emblem peaks. 727 participants attended these emblem trips, resulting in a credible 31.6 average attendance on outings of this category.

June wins the honors as the month having the highest average trip participation over the past seven years, a healthy 27.7; May is in second place with 26.5, followed by July with 24.5 and, surprisingly, February with 23.5. February's high average is due mainly to good attendance at the annual Mt. Baldy ice and snow practice sessions (44 in 1961). The poorest month for trips is October with 14.3 followed, surprisingly, by August with only 17.5. Evidently Sierra Peakers are on vacation trips in August and are not around in large enough numbers to boost trip participation during this mid-summer month. Other months and their average turnouts are January, 18.5; March, 20.4; April, 20.2; September, 18.9; and November, a startling 21.4. September is saved from oblivion (13.0) by the annual good attendance on the Labor Day outings; November's surprisingly high average is due to the small number of trips combined with a couple of sensational (for that month) turnouts (Owens-1956-46; Summit Lake-1957-30).

Following are lists of the 10 top turn-outs on scheduled trips, the 10 most crowded summits on SPS trips, and seven trips that win "booby prizes" for the poorest attendance.

**TOP TEN TURN-OUTS**

1. S.Fk., Lone Pine Ck. (May 1960) - 66  
2. Olancha Peak (May 1957) - 61  
3. Siretta Pk. (June 1960) - 55  
4. Mt. Johnson & Gilbert (July 1961) - 50  
5. Mt. Lyell (Sept. 1957) - 47  
6. Owens Pk., (Nov. 1956) - 46  
7. Mt. Baldy Practice (Feb. 1961) - 44  
8. Mt. Lyell (Sept. 1961) - 42  
9. Olancha Pk. (May 1959) and Winchell-Pal Glacier (June 1959) - 41

**TOP TEN SUMMIT CLIMBS**

1. Siretta Pk. (June 1960) - 55  
2. Olancha Pk. (May 1957) - 50  
3. Mt. Lyell (Sept. 1961) - 42  
4. Mt. Johnson (July 1961) and Owens Pk. (Nov. 1956) - 44  
5. Mt. Darwin (July 1960) - 31  

**TRIPS WITH THE POOREST ATTENDANCE**

1. Mt. Givens (sub. for Baloon Dome, Sept. 1960) - 1 (leader only)  
2. Rock Creek Car Camp (July 1960) - 2 (leaders only)  
4. Peak 12,325, exploratory knapsack (July 1960) - 4  
5. Cardinal Peak, pack over Taboose Pass (Sept. 1956) and Tunnabora Peak via George Creek (Sept. 1958) - 5  

Note: 7 trip cancellations not counted.
Will the Big Tujunga Wash remain a desert gem in the City of Los Angeles and continue to provide a great educational outdoor classroom, outdoor laboratory for nature study, wonderful place for local hikes and recreation, or will its unique beauty and scientific worth be gouged out forever by letting it be used for gravel mining?

The City and County have long considered it for a natural reservation type park. It is so designated now on the County Master Plan, the official guide, as adopted January 20, 1959. If you want the City to buy it for the many advantages of open spaces and natural recreational and educational use, write Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Commission, c/o Mr. Hjelte, Room 305, City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif. Tell him the expanding city must have open spaces, actual "breathing spaces" in your own words, but do it now!

**JOINT TRIP PLANNED WITH MEXICAN CLIMBING GROUP**

Joint trips have become more popular with the SPS in recent schedules, and a somewhat more unusual trip has been planned for this summer. Seven members of the Patrol 22 of Socorro Alpino de Mexico are planning a joint trip with the SPS on July 13-14 and July 20-21 to the Sierra Nevada, the first weekend to be scheduled in the Palisades basin, probably up North Palisade and the latter is to be scheduled to the Banner-Ritter area, probably up Banner Peak.

This schedule has been worked out after considerable correspondence with this Mexico City group and has been approved by the Management Committee of the SPS. Coming from Mexico is Ramon Lopez, a mechanic and teacher of English; Marino Molina, an employee in FF, Nales de Mexico; Rafael Osornio, an inspector of quality at Singer Sewing Machines; Sergio Noguez, an officer in the Department of Mines and Oil; Juan Quintana Salvatierra, a pastry cook and driver; David Corona, self employed; Humberto Zuniga, a photographer. Mr. Orsonic has climbed in the Andes including Mt. Marmolejo. All of the party has considerable experience, not only in rock climbing but also on snow and ice.

It is anticipated that the Mexican group will climb in the Palisades region between July 14 and July 20. Members of the SPS are welcome to spend this 5 day period with the group. Ramon Lopez is the only member speaking English which he speaks rather fluently.

All of the members of the Mexican group as well as the Management Committee are looking forward to this trip as being an outstanding attraction which no one will want to miss, even those who have climbed all the mountains concerned.

**WANTED**

Used or unused mountaineering equipment. Call or drop a postcard to Graham Stephenson, 11969 San Vicente Blvd., Los Angeles 49, Telephone: GR 6-1269.

This is for the Mexican climbers. More details on this will appear in the next echo.

(G. Stephenson)
THE UNEASY CHAIR
Where Do We Go From Here????

For many years (in fact since its inception), the Sierra Peaks Section has been "held together" and managed by practically the same group of people, almost all of whom have been "peak baggers" and almost all of whom are no longer so. And I believe what is more important from the Sierra Club standpoint is that of those who yet remain "peak baggers", almost none of them contribute very much to the Section's volume of activity or to its future stability.

Everyone who is active or has been active with this group would find it a shame to see the SPS become weak or, worse yet, go out of existence because there are not enough people with enough stamina around to execute the activities. None of the most important purposes of the Sierra Club today require lists of peaks - especially emblem lists. David Brower recently made the statement that the purpose "to explore" has practically disappeared from the purposes as intended within the purview of the originators and founders of the Club. From the Club standpoint there is certainly more need for genuine interest, sustained concentration and good camaraderie in preserving the action and the dynamics of section activities. This does not mean that "peak bagging", "lists" and emblems all have to be all bad, but I have not read any arguments appearing in the November-December issue than convinces me that any of these things are necessary to the perpetuation of Sierra Club Activities of today and in the future. All of these things may be necessary for both the development and amusements of climbers because stamina in climbing is usually derived from a little "suffering" on previous weekends. Physical development, however, is not a purpose of any sort of the Club in part or in total. A list of qualifying peaks which certainly has some advantages as was well pointed out by John Robinson, but certainly the "emblem list" would appear questionable - in fact, juvenile in purpose, since it is commonly agreed that one thing that climbing has that other sports lack is its non-competitiveness.

I believe that all of the members of the section should carefully review club purposes as now being evoked and be sure in their own conscience that these purposes and only these purposes are those found in this section. If change in policy is due, then a change should be effected immediately.

Graham M. Stephenson.

NEW MEMBERS OF SFS (D. Evans)
Rob Goodin, Number 97 Tam Alpais Road, Berkeley 8, California

Hardy Jones, 3381 Springhill Road, Lafayette, California

Rob listed as his qualifiers Pyramid, Whitney, Muir, Brewer, Fin Dome and Mt. Clarence King. Hardy submitted Conness, Finger Peak, Lyell, Muir, Brewer and Whitney. We take this opportunity to extend a "Goodin Hardy" welcome to these two northerners and wish them many years of good climbing and fellowship with the Section.

NEW ADDRESS OF OLD MEMBERS
Charles and Mary Ann Miller
4556 Wellesley Way
Sacramento 41, California
SAN CORONIO WILD AREA USE STUDY

Everyone's help is requested in gathering statistics on winter use of this high mountain wilderness, which is one of the few places where there is good winter skiing, snowshoeing, hiking and camping without any commercial developments, resorts or roads. Anyone who has gone or is planning to visit the Wild Area this winter could be of great assistance by sending the following information:

a) Name and address, and date
b) Number in party
c) Type of activity and locations visited
d) Number of other people in the area
e) Any other comments

Send information to:
Neale E. Creamer
335 North Oakhurst Drive
Beverly Hills, Calif.

Phone: CR63253

SAFETY IN THE MOUNTAINS...From a New Zealand government bulletin...1954.

Careful Planning—When you have chosen your objective and route make thorough plans to ensure that the trip is practicable and safe. Have suitable gear and equipment, with emphasis on lightness and quality. Study a map of the area, and if possible include someone in your party who knows it, or have a talk with him. Before setting out make your plans known. Get the weather forecast.

Fitness—You must be properly fit for the climb and not lacking in stamina. Climbing and mountaineering demand first-class teamwork, and if one member is not properly fit it not only slows down the party, but also endangers their lives. The mountain, too, must be in safe condition. You should have at least three or four people in your party, but on a difficult climb a larger number is dangerous. Be prepared to render first aid.

Bushcraft—Good bushcraft is the result of keen observation, and this can be developed. In the bush leave clear signs of your route which you can easily recognize on your return journey. In case you should be in the bush when darkness falls be able to build a makeshift shelter and a good fire, even from green or wet wood. Should you lose direction and have no map and compass, remember that a stream eventually makes its way out, but the going is often much easier on the ridges.

River Caution—Be patient when you reach a flooded river. Look around for a good ford or, if the river is in extreme flood, wait for it to go down. One at a time on a rope is a good safe way to cross a river that is high at all. Remember that in the high country it doesn't take a mountain stream long to become a raging torrent. Never try to cross a flooded river on your own.

Knowledge—Know the drill with the rope, and take every opportunity to build up your knowledge of snow and ice craft. Always be alert to lurking dangers, whether they be in the form of concealed crevasses, avalanches, or sudden rockfall, and set yourself to avoid them with a good safety margin. A knowledge of the lie of the land is useful.

Balance—Much of the technique of climbing on a rock face or on ice or snow slope is based on correct footwork and an upright stance. The body should be balanced and movements controlled and rhythmical. The legs do most of the lifting. Tread lightly on crevasse bridges or on loose rock.

Experience—Choose your climb according to your experience. Don't be too ambitious, at least until you have some really good experience in all conditions. A mountaineer's progress to the heights should be steady and like the day's tramp, not too fast at the outset or quickened in a final dash to the summit. The experienced climber always keeps a careful watch on the weather and he does not go beyond the point from which a safe return can be made.