ELECTION RESULTS

Ballots for the SPS Management Committee were counted at the November business meeting and the following five candidates were elected to serve during 1970: Fred Hoeptner, Ron Jones, Bob Mason, Eric Schumacher and Dick Sykes.

Officers will be announced at the annual banquet on December 4.

COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photograph is again furnished by the most generous Tom Ross. It shows Mount Thompson and its glacier with the rugged Thompson ridge in the foreground. The photo was taken from John Wedberg's Cessna on March 15 of this year.

CORRECTION

Apologies are in order. Seems your Illustrious Editor somehow goofed up names on last month's trip report entitled "Central Oregon Cascades." It wasn't Liz Cuadra's report at all—but Dick Jali's. The only people more surprised by the whole thing than Liz and Dick were Dick's two climbing partners! So, with a red face, I offer this correction. --Editor

NEW MEMBERS

Paul Kluth, 474 Corbin Avenue, Tarzana 91356, phone 343-3686.

Tom Naves, 1741 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra 90631.

NEW MASCOT MEMBER

David Keating, 11 years old, is the second mascot member in the family of Jerry and Nancy Keating.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ted Maier, 3133 Granville Ave., L.A. 90066, phone 398-0867.

Thomas Blackburn, 1323-12th Street, Santa Monica 90404, phone 395-2797.


Walt Weyman, Star Route, Marshall 94940, phone 663-1616.

NEW PEAK NAMED

The Board of Geographic Names has named Mount Warloy, 13,213', in Kings Canyon National Park, according to Art de Goede. The peak lies seventeenths of a mile southeast of Mt. Huxley. It is named for Chester H. Warloy (1889-1963), attorney, civic leader and conservationist who played an important role in creation of Kings Canyon National Park.

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Monday, December 15, 1969
CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Preparing this last chairman's column is one of my final tasks as the Sierra Peaks Section winds up another year. It has been a successful year, I feel, and one that has been surprisingly easy for me.

I would like to think our activities were run smoothly because of careful planning and coordination on my part, but I really believe our success is due to the dependable and competent efforts of all the officers and committee heads in the section. These people who put out the ECHO, make up our climbing schedule, obtain trip leaders, keep our records and conduct our activities are the ones who are responsible for keeping an organization such as ours going.

I am confident that the recently elected Management Committee for 1970 will also have a good year. Two members, Ron Jones and Dick Sykes, are carryovers from this year's Committee and will provide continuity. The other three members, Bob Mason, Fred Hœptner and Eric Schumacher, are new to the Management Committee but have been active on committees and as trip leaders for several years. With this experienced group to lead the section for the coming year, there is no doubt that the S.P.S. will continue to be a growing and vigorous organization.

--Bill Hunt--

MOUNTAIN RESCUE AND THE SIERRA CLUB

Eventually in the history of a mountaineering section there may occur a sickness or accident too severe to be handled by immediate self-help. Then the assistance of more formal rescue agencies will be required. It can be important for Sierra Club trip leaders to know several points of procedure, a little about what sort of help is available and what to expect from it.

The person who will be in charge of a formal rescue will be a park ranger—or a county sheriff if outside a park—and these should be the first contacts for someone going out for help. Both parks and counties have rescue teams composed of their own permanent, paid personnel, but the abilities of these groups to effect a rescue in technical terrain vary widely. Yosemite National Park rangers with the help of local, resident climbers probably have as high a competence as can be found anywhere. Some of the smaller eastern California county sheriffs have ground rescue teams with very little climbing experience. If a rescue problem occurs in a jurisdiction with insufficient capability, experienced teams from the California Region, Mountain Rescue Association can be quickly obtained if requested by the local authorities. Herein can lie a delicate situation if a sheriff, say, is not familiar with the CRMRA and is reluctant to call them. Perhaps the best approach from someone requesting help from such a sheriff is to vividly describe the technical nature of the problem but to use tact in pushing for an experienced technical climbing team.

If rapid evacuation is called for, most agencies have helicopters available. Usually these are small Bell helicopters chartered from a local commercial source and for which there is a charge of about $125 per hour. Some are supercharged, but most have difficulty with operations over about 12,000 feet. For higher elevations, military turbine helicopters are available without charge from the Western Air Rescue Center, Hamilton AFB, if requested by authorities in urgent cases.

Contact information for CRMRA teams and WARC is contained in the Mountaineering First Aid and Rescue card put out by the Mountain Rescue Subcommittee of the Mountaineering Committee. Detailed suggestions on all phases of a rescue are described and all Sierra Club climbers in California should have a recent edition. The Club office in San Francisco is also listed and should be notified soon in the case of a serious incident on a scheduled trip.

The need for outside assistance is reduced by the extent to which a group can do their own rescuing. A climbing section can easily practice improvised rescue techniques such as one-man back-carries, self-retrieval from a fall over an overhang, partner retrieval from same, litter-manufacture from a climbing rope, and carabiner brake and pulley systems. Advanced first aid is available from the Red Cross and most ski patrols have avalanche courses.
To summarize the steps related to rescue:

1. Learn improvised rescue techniques and have an adequate first aid kit on climbs.
2. Keep the Mountaineering First Aid and Rescue card information handy.
3. Become acquainted with the nearest organized mountain rescue team.
4. SPS trip leaders should follow the instructions given on the Leadership Instructions and notify the Section Mountaineering Chairman, who will, in turn, notify the proper Club officials. If in a national park, notify a ranger, who will contact a rescue unit. Otherwise, notify the local sheriff. If in the southern or eastern Sierra, call the China Lake Rescue Team directly, if desired, by phoning the Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake and asking the operator for assistance.
5. An insurance form is included in each first aid kit. This should be completed per the instructions. This very important step directly supports the Club's ability to respond in accident cases. The details of the accident should be described in an accurate, concise manner.

---John P. Thornton, SPS Mountaineering Chairman and Angeles Chapter Mountain Rescue Committee Chairman---

ASCENTS

Baldwin, Red Slate, August 23-24 . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Art de Goede

Twelve enthusiasts gathered at the Convict Lake roadhead for a weekend of beautiful weather and somewhat cruddy climbs. We forded Convict Creek at the trail crossing which packers had roped for safety. The crossing is actually about a mile above the location shown on the topo. At our campsite on a small rise between lush meadows, we found two individuals tearing down two cabins. The calcite mine on the upper reaches of Mt. Baldwin was being abandoned and the mining company was required to remove its "improvements," this being a wilderness area.

Everyone climbed Baldwin Saturday afternoon, then stuffed their pockets and packs with calcite specimens. This mineral is used in microscopy because it is transparent and bi-refringent.

All but one person climbed Red Slate on Sunday morning, to be met by an irritating wind on the final ridge. However, relative calm prevailed on top and we had fine views of the Abbott group and Mt. Humphreys to the south as well as the Mono Creek Recesses. Red Slate is in need of a new register.

** **

Sirretta, Taylor Dome, Rockhouse, October 18-19 . . . . . . . . . . . . . Ron Jones

Saturday morning 30 chilled car campers met at the north end of Big Meadow, located 18 miles up the Cherry Hill Road from the turnoff at Limestone National Forest Campground near Johnsondale. The temperature outside the cars was 16 degrees as we caravanned about a mile to a fine campsite located near the point where Salmon Creek enters Big Meadow. By following an easy trail, 27 hikers reached the summit of Sirretta Peak (9,977') by 10 o'clock. The temperature had warmed up to 24 degrees as clouds began to settle in.

After returning to the cars for a quick lunch the group set out for Taylor Dome via the Manter Meadow trail located at the south end of Big Meadow. Another easy trail led to within half a mile of Taylor Dome (8,774'). After a short, steep scramble, co-leader Marlin Clark brought the final climbers to the summit by three o'clock. By this time the temperature had dropped to 21 degrees, a snow squall had set in and there was a light popcorn snow falling. Snow continued to fall until seven o'clock when the skies began to clear.
Around a roaring campfire that evening a very sociable group toasted the climbing of a sixth SPS qualifying peak for: Diana Heiman, George Hubbard, Dennis Lantz, Paul Lipschm, Frank McDaniel and Tom Naves.

A bone-chilling eight degree temperature was recorded at 6:30 Sunday morning. By eight o'clock 15 climbers had set out for Rockhouse Peak on the Manter Meadow trail leading from the north end of Big Meadow. After crossing the meadow we headed cross-country directly for Rockhouse (8,383'), an obvious high point surrounded by many interesting and rugged domes and spires. The actual summit was climbed via several routes, all of which involve short pitches of minimal Third Class climbing. Fourteen climbers reached the summit where we enjoyed a perfect view of the snow-covered Sierra from Mt. Whitney on the north to Lamont Peak on the south. Skies were clear and the warmest temperature of the weekend was recorded--34 degrees. It was a fitting close for the 1969 climbing season.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

KETTLE DOME

Kettle Dome, on the edge of Kings Canyon, is a delightful climb which has apparently been neglected by the SPS. The fourth recorded ascent was made October 25th by the Loma Prieta RCS on a scheduled "Mountaineers Special." The smaller dome ("Spout") just to the south of Kettle was also climbed by our party. The route to the smaller dome proceeds up and to the left from the saddle between the two domes and is exposed Third Class.

As the "Climber's Guide" suggests, Kettle has some "finger holds sufficient to make an ascent possible." Note also the "finger hold" portion of the climb is extremely exposed. Ice was also present, so we climbed it Fourth Class. It was a moonlight ascent for part of the party. In keeping with SPS tradition, we placed a good register on top.

The Kettle party included: Les Wilson, Harold Elk, Lowell Smith, Margaret Young, Dana Smith, Louise Wilson, Bill Rausch, Mike Lee and me. The last five constituted the "Spout" party. Other ascents of the weekend (and the number of climbers) were: Tehipite Dome (2), Spanish Mountain (5) and Crown Rock (4). The Obelisk was also an objective, but it had ice on the Fourth Class ledges.

When the first snows hit the high Sierra peaks, the domes and rocks below 10,000 feet provide some delightful climbing.

* * *

MT. KILIMANJARO, AFRICA, March 17-21

In March of this year Lee Benedict and I flew to Nairobi, Kenya. After an excruciating day on a local bus full of Masai warriors, we arrived at the frequently-mentioned but seldom-lauded Marangu Hotel on the southern slopes of Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

The Marangu Hotel (address: Moshi, Tanzania) specializes in arranging "safaris" for tourists up Kilimanjaro. Rather than fight it, we decided to relax and be tourists for the five days of the climb. The entire route is on well-beaten trail, except for the final mile-and-one-half along the crater rim from Gilman's Point to Uhuru Point, the summit. The Marangu Hotel charges $50 for the entire five-day safari, which includes food, porters and guide. The money is worth it just for the tremendous neocolonial-imperial drama that the safari provides.

Not to degrade the mountain itself, however, I hasten to add that although Kilimanjaro is a huge crud-heap from a climber's view, it nonetheless is a beautiful and enriching five-day trip. You go up through rain forest, high desert and finally find icefields on the summit. The sheer profusion and infinite variety of wildflowers, terrains and animals are in themselves immensely rewarding.
The first day (starting at 4,500 feet) is spent entirely in rain forest walking up over first roads, then jeep tracks, then trail to the Mandara Hut at 9,000 feet. The next morning, watching the sun rise over the African plain, we were reminded why we had bothered coming all this way to climb. The African sky is unlike any other in the world, seemingly an infinite cauldron of light and colors.

The second day the trail rises out of the forest into high grassland and desert to the Horombo Hut at 12,300 feet, a delightful hut in an open, windy location. On the third day the trail climbs up to the barren volcanic plateau between the two peaks of Kilimanjaro, Kibo and Mawenzi. Mawenzi (16,890') lies to the east, a sharp, craggy summit offering Fourth and Fifth Class routes. We headed for Kibo, the higher peak, to the west, with the long, flat volcanic crater that is normally associated with pictures of giraffes in the foreground on travel posters. Kibo Hut, at 15,520 feet, is the last and highest hut. From there it is a long gravel wade on the morning of the fourth day up to Gilman's Point (18,635') and then on snow one-and-one-half miles to Uhuru Point (19,340'), the top.

The safari method obviously is not necessary for Kilimanjaro. It does save a climber the trouble of carrying any equipment except boots to Africa, if that's all he wants to climb. The hotel provides everything else. And of course, it is probably a lot more fun to do the safari bit, depending on your point of view.

***

EUROPEAN CLIMBING, July, 1969

In mid-July climbers from the Mother Lode Chapter—Adolf Baur, Bill Heyenbruch, Jack Bernard—and I, met at Schana, Liechtenstein with families of some of the climbers. During the next two months we toured, sat out bad weather and climbed in groups of two to four.

Ascents were made of VII Kreusberg and IV Kreusberg near Buchs, Switzerland, two of the Sella Towers and the Cinque Dita in the Sella Pass area of the Italian Dolomites, and Torre Delago of the Vajolet Towers and Catinaccio, also in the Dolomites.

After some sightseeing we then drove to Chamonix and climbed Mont Blanc from the Grandes Mules Hut. It took us about seven-and-one-half hours from the hut at 10,010 feet to the summit at 15,771 feet with only minor route-finding difficulties through the crevasses at one point due to starting the climb before it was possible to see where one was going.

After Mont Blanc we sat out a rainy week in the campground at Grindelwald. Then, in disgust, the part broke up. Bill and I drove to Grindelwald and took the cog railroad through the Eiger to the Jungfraujoch. To the horror of the people in the hotel, due to our lack of guide and late start (after 10 a.m.), we started for the Jungfrau. We were on the summit in three-and-one-half hours, equalling the time given in the climber's guide.

The next day we started for the South Ridge of the Eiger, but out of respect for a large cloud, we climbed the Monch instead. This climb is even shorter and easier than the Jungfrau.

The following day, September 4, we again started for the Eiger. But we could not find the route to the South Eigerjoch because of a snowstorm and whiteout. The 5th was clear and we got to the South Eigerjoch in respectable time. But the one-and-one-half hour traverse from the South Joch to the North Joch took us over seven hours of belaying up and down over soft, corniced snow on top of steep loose rock. After having done the hardest part of the route, we were forced to retreat again as time ran out. Two days later we finally got the Eiger by the West Ridge from a camp just above the Eiger Gletscher Station. This route took a little over six hours of steep and icy climbing with a descent through the traditional whiteout.

With our morale a little higher, we dashed back to Zermatt to attempt the Hornli Ridge on the Matterhorn. However, we got no further than the Hornli Hutte because of more typical Alpine weather.
The SPS is sponsoring standard and advanced Red Cross first aid courses for interested Section members. Training sessions were arranged by Chuck Miller. Approximately 20 SPSers will receive their Red Cross certificates upon completion of the course.

New emblem holders include Cliff and Maurine Myers who celebrated their emblems by indulging in a bottle of wine carried to the summit of North Pal. Earlier in the year Nancy Keating earned her emblem by climbing Matterhorn Peak. The anticipated celebration was in vain, however, as Nancy accidentally broke her bottle of wine after carrying it for 23 miles.

Following are the officers of previous SPS management committees, for those of you who are students of history:

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