Like white puffy clouds scudding past a Sierra peak, the summer season has moved swiftly by. Except for a few fall climbs the Sierra climbing season is over for another year. And what a year it has been. The Sierras were alive with rushing water. Greenery abounded everywhere. Still using ice axes and snow climbing in August and September, just outstanding. Our SPS Leaders rendered yeoman service in leading a wide variety of both scheduled and private climbs to satisfy all climbing appetites and abilities. Personally I enjoyed my best season ever with the SPS. Indeed it has been a good year. But it is time to turn our thoughts to upcoming events like our annual banquet. It will be held on Wednesday, Dec 13th in the elegant and spacious Queens Room of the Cockatoo Inn located at Hawthorne Blvd and Imperial Hwy near Los Angeles International Airport. We will be served the famous Cockatoo Inn roast beef dinner and will have a private bar for your favorite cocktails.

Dianna Dee will highlight the evening with the presentation of her slide show entitled "Climbing In The Soviet Union". Dianna recently returned from a five week trip to an International Climbing Camp in the Pamir Mountains of Russia, where she met and climbed with top mountaineers from all over the world. Her pictures include the 21,000 ft Peak of Four which she climbed, and the 24,590ft Peak of Communism the highest point in the USSR. Dianna also has some fascinating shots and interviews with many European climbers including the elite "Snow Leopards". These people have climbed all four peaks in Russia over 7,000 meters high. Dianna's trip was sponsored by the Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee, Norman Kingsley, Chairman. The National Geographic Society and the American Alpine Club were also involved in the trip. Dianna Dee is a former chairman of the SPS and a member of the American Alpine Club. To obtain your banquet tickets send $10 each with a self addressed stamped envelope to Banquet Chairman, Joe McCosker, 11922 Otsego Street, North Hollywood 91607. Make checks payable to the Sierra Peaks Section.

GEORGE TOBY

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION WINTER 1978-79 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

| Nov 4-5 | Fossil Falls Rock Training | Hanschau / Hubbard |
| Nov 4-5 | Moses, North Maggie | Russell / Smith |
| Dec 2  | Rock Climb, Rubidoux | Mauk / Sparks |
| Dec 9-10| Rock Climb, Joshua Tree | Mantle / McCosker |
| Dec 9-10| Spanish Needle, Lamont | Rohn / Jones |
| Dec 13 | Annual Banquet | Joe & Betty McCosker |
| Jan 13-14| Rock Climb, Joshua Tree | Olsen / C.Sale |
| Jan 20-21| Ice Axe Practice | Toby / Keating |
| Jan 27  | Rock Climb, Rubidoux | Hicks / McCosker |
| Jan 27  | Snow Training | Bradley / Rohn |
| Jan 27-28| Trail Peak | Camphausen / Burge |
| Feb 3-4 | Ice Axe Practice | Hanschau / Sparks |
| Feb 3-4 | Independence, Paiute Monument | Camphausen / Jones |

COVER: This photo shows the upper part and summit of the north ridge of Devils Crag. The great amount of exposed climbing may make this the toughest peak on the list. Photo by Gene Mauk on Sept 2, 1977
22nd Annual Sierra Peaks Banquet

CLIMBING IN THE UNION

will be shown by Diana Dee at the Sierra Peaks Banquet Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Cockatoo Inn, near the airport (LAX)

To see the highest peak in all USSR,...
To see the Peak of the Four (21,000') which she climbed,...
To enjoy the famous roast beef dinner, in the best possible company — ours of course—

Send SASE and $10 per person to:
Joe M'Coyker
119 22 Obego St.
N. Hollywood, CA 91607
(Please make check payable to Sierra Peaks Section.)
"The man who, on such a dangerous enterprise, seeks the assurance of a safe retreat will not deserve to draw near to the Throne of the Gods."

- Günther Dyhrenfurth

In memory of Sheldon Moomaw and Kes Teter who died July 29th, on the summit plateau of Noshaq.

One way to know a man is to know his enthusiasms, and about Noshaq, Sheldon was enthusiastic. He conceived the expedition and relished the details of bringing his dream to fruition. 24,580 foot Noshaq lies in the Wakhan corridor in northeast Afghanistan, a politically sensitive area as it borders Russia, China, and Pakistan. This, coupled with the fact that Afghanistan's new government had emerged from a coup two months prior, made the complexities of organization challenging, to say the least. Sheldon took on the bureaucrats with Messianic zeal and packaged a superb climb. He delighted in all aspects of the trip - from diplomatic sorties to various ministeries in charge of granting visas and permits to the socialistic aphorisms that appeared in the Kabul daily news. His death was unexpected and untimely. His family and fellow climbers can only take satisfaction in the fact that Sheldon was fulfilled in the manner of his death, even though it was premature; it was his ardent wish that he die in the mountains and not, as he frequently expressed it, "in a mundane accident on the 605 Freeway."

Kes Teter, too, loved the mountains and looked forward to Noshaq as an opportunity to fulfill himself. He shared with Sheldon a risqué sense of humor which provided levity for the group whenever it became demoralized by the vagaries and procrastinations of the Afghan authorities in charge of granting permission to climb. Kes became the group's official doctor by default; in actuality, he was a pharmacist, but since this was the closest thing the group could come to a medical technician, he was made ipso facto its M.D. In this capacity, he provided light-hearted medical care for the expedition's participants.

Kes and Sheldon were long-time climbing partners, and it is fitting that they should make their last ascent together.

The details of the tragedy appear in the newspaper clipping which follows.

"A tilted load will not reach its destination."
"You can't hold two melons in one hand."

- Afghan Idioms, Kabul Times

Sam Roberts, M. Omberg
Nigel Climber Plunges to Death

By STEVE MITCHELL
Of the Daily Pilot Staff

Sheldon Moomaw Jr. of Laguna Nigel fell to his death late last month less than two miles from the top of the 24,580-foot Noshag peak in Afghanistan’s Himalayan range.

Moomaw, who signed with the Minnesota Vikings professional football club in 1966, was an 11-year resident of Orange County, where he lived in Corona del Mar and later, Laguna Nigel.

The body of the 34-year-old mountain climber was found by two Austrian climbers July 31.

Moomaw left Orange County June 28 with several friends to attempt to climb the imposing Himalayan peak in Afghanistan.

The college book salesman organized and led the seven-person expedition up the side of the mountain.

Moomaw and friend, Kes Tar of Evergreen, Colo., reportedly were too tired to make the final ascent, which was accomplished by four others in the party in late July.

Fellow climber Mark Goebel, who returned this month from the expedition, said Moomaw and Teter may have strayed off course in their attempt to reach the top, and became disoriented.

Teter is missing and believed dead.

CARTER CONGRATULATES TEAM Didn’t Use Oxygen in K2 Climb, Americans Reveal

BY BILL STALL Times Staff Writer

The first American ascent of 28,250-foot K2 in Pakistan was done without the use of bottled oxygen, team members disclosed Wednesday at the same time that President Carter was sending his congratulations to the expedition.

In Islamabad, Pakistan, summit climber Lou Reichardt, 36, of San Francisco said the decision to climb the final 1,800 feet of the world’s second highest mountain without oxygen “was forced on us because the equipment broke down.”

Reichardt and Jim Wickwire, 38, of Seattle became the first two Americans to reach the summit on Sept. 6. John Roskelley, 29, of Spokane, Wash., and Rick Ridgeway, 27, of Malibu climbed to the top the next day, also without oxygen.

Reichardt, Wickwire, Roskelley and a fourth, unidentified, member of the 14-member expedition reached Islamabad Wednesday and planned to leave for the United States today, Reuters reported.

They marched out the 125 miles from base camp ahead of the rest because of slightly frostbitten feet, the news service said.

In Washington, Carter’s office released a message in which the President called the ascent “an inspiration to all who seek to conquer not just the highest pinnacles but to master all that is worthy of mastery.”

“I know the people of the United States join me in saluting you for the skill, courage and stamina exhibited in climbing the mountain that is second in height only to Everest and perhaps second to none in difficulty,” Carter said.

The expedition was led by Jim Whittaker, 49, of Seattle, the first American to climb Mt. Everest in Nepal, in 1963.

Three young hikers caught near Lake Itla when tropical storm Norma swept the High Sierra earlier in the week walked to safety yesterday, and the bodies of four hikers who died of exposure were carried from mountain slopes by helicopter.

Two of the dead, taken from the 11,000-foot level of Mount Whitney, were identified as Arthur R. Bourne, 68, of Altadena (Los Angeles county), and his son, Michael Ross Bourne, 35, of Los Angeles.

The other two, a man and a woman who died at Lamarck Col, a mountain pass about 50 miles north of Mount Whitney, were still not identified. The coroner’s office at Bishop (Inyo county) reported that neither was carrying identification papers.

With weather back to normal, district manager Michael Goggin reported at the White Mountain Forest Service station near Mount Whitney that 30 to 40 hikers had re-entered the rugged mountain area east of Whitney yesterday.

“We try to let people know the weather can change up again,” Goggin said, “but if they are well prepared, they can ride out a storm.”

That, in fact, is what happened in the case of the three young hikers reported missing in the vicinity of Lake Itla.

Goggin said the father of one of the youths had been concerned Wednesday when the party failed to come out when the storm struck.

“The boys did the smart thing,” Goggin reported. “They stayed where they were and waited for the storm to clear.

“We sent a helicopter to look for them, but they got out on their own in fine shape.”

Some other hikers caught behind swollen streams had more trouble.

“One couple in their late 30s had to swing across McGee creek on a rope,” Goggin said.

A party of 26 Sierra Club members on the western edge of Kings Canyon National Park left on schedule yesterday morning — but only 23 of them completed the hike on foot.

Three older members were taken by helicopter to Cedar Grove on Highway 180 in Fresno county. None required medical care, and the airlifted members joined the rest of the party, drawn from throughout the nation, and drove out of the mountains.
LEADERS -- LEADERS -- ATTENTION -- LEADERS -- ATTENTION

The deadline for the March through July 4 Schedule is November 1.

AT THAT TIME ALL TRIP WRITE-UPS MUST BE IN TO ME SO THAT THE SPS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CAN REVIEW THEM.

FINISH THE WINTER WITH A SNOW CLIMB!

Lead a Spring trip into the Southern Sierra or into THE HIGH COUNTRY OVER GOOD CRAMPONING AND GLISSADING CONDITIONS.

Lead an early Summer trip before the MOSQUITOES come out!

A LIST OF "E" AND "M" LEADERS AND ASSISTANTS WAS PRINTED IN THE JULY 1978 ECHO. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE LATEST LTC AND ALTC GRADS. YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE!!

This will be the only trip solicitation for the next Schedule, Spring and early summer, #220. Remember, this is your Section. Your trips will make it successful. Give yourself a good choice of trips!

SEND ALL WRITE-UPS, DOUBLE SPACED
FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 27 OF THE CURRENT SCHEDULE.

MAIL BEFORE NOVEMBER 1 to
RON JONES
P. O. BOX 172
TRONA, CA 93562
Tel. 714/372 5740 home, 714/372 4535 work.

Help---The Echo Needs Input!!

If we are to publish The Echo through the winter months, we MUST have inputs!! Remember, leaders, that all led trips must be written up and submitted. Also, we NEED MANY PRIVATE TRIP WRITEUPS!!!

Note---preference will be given to TYPED, SINGLE SPACED submittals.

Cartoons (small), cover photos (8 by 10 b & w glossy), plus other items of interest to SPSers are also needed.

Send to the Editor (see back cover for address).

I thank you in advance for your contributions---the Editor.

INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER

Igloo: Substance used to hold an ig together.
Incongruous: Where U.S. laws are made.
Infidel: The Vatican is not inclined to believe infidel Castro.
Joyce, James: "Last night I chose to read a new book; it turned out to be an unfortunate Joyce."
Kerchief: Gesundheit!
Cashew: Peanut with a cold.
Lapse: What we get when we sit down.
New Members

933-6572
ANDREASEN, Gene
183 So. Orange Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
M 7-78

BOYLAND, J.H. (Joe)
258 Hiram Ave.
Newbury Park, CA 91320
M 7-78

FRANZEN, David G.
4805 Garland St.
Anaheim, CA 92807
M 9-78

MACDONALD, Rob Roy
4116 Encinas Dr.
La Canada, CA 91011
M 7-78

330-1295
TIDBALL, Larry
1428 Ameluxen Ave.
Hacienda Hts., CA 91745
(714) 962-7935
M 9-78

TIPTON, Nancy
10367 Slater No. 202
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
M 9-78

397-4406
WARNER, Dan
11320 Matteson Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

YOUNG, Joseph F.
P.O. Box 75799
Los Angeles, CA 90005

Address Changes

BROWDER, Hal C.
Box 2236 Rural Branch
Coarsegold, CA 93614

FELDERMAN, Keith W.
30653 10th Ave. So.
Federal Way, WA 98003

HUBBARD, George W.
254 Cedar Heights Dr.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Marcus, David
531 21st St.
Sacramento, CA 95816

(916) 443-3207

883-2400
MALOY, J. Owen
4591 Greentree Lane
Irvine, CA 92715
M 9-78

443-9557
MATTHEWS, Mark A.
5319 Durfee Rd.
El Monte, CA 91732
M 9-78

780-3259
MCMANNEs, Mary
6955 Kester Ave. No. 306
Van Nuys, CA 91405
M 8-78

345-1211
NOREEN, Robert G.
5151 White Oak Ave. No. 227
Encino, CA 91316
M 9-78

886-9315
PERKINS, David & Phyllis
20006 Superior
Chatsworth, CA 91311

New Emblem Holders

377 FRY, Tom
378 FRY, Sally
379 RUSSELL, Richard
380 McMAHON, Jane
381 WARNER, Dan

New Senior Emblem

40 RUSSELL, William T.

New List Finishers

10 MAGNUSON, Roy W.
11 MAGNUSON, Barbara

Items for Sale

Polarguard sleeping bag - $50.00 never used, large size

North Face Toulumne Tent - $35.00 inc. poles & fly total weight 4lbs

Contact Mark Goebel - W 480-42 H 820-1962

Patience, my ass!
I'm gonna kill somebody
Fifteen climbers left the Sabrina Lake trailhead at 8:30 for Baboon Lakes. The backpackers parking area is now .6 of a mile from the trailhead. The trail to Blue Lake was partly obscured by snow. From then on it was all snow and we did not find the trail again. We arrived at Baboon Lakes for lunch and set up camp in the rocky area at the NE end of the largest lake. All were frozen. The group was overcome by the sudden urge for naps. G. Toby and D. Tracy hiked up the valley toward Thompson and scouted the climbing route. During the night a thunderstorm with rain, lightning, and terrific winds hit the area. It was amazing the tents stood up. Diana Dee was snug in her new bivouac sack, but it leaked a bit. Morning arrived with angry black clouds boiling over the Sierra Crest but no rain. No one except the leader expected the storm to clear. Nevertheless 8 set out for the peaks at 5:10 AM. We proceeded up the snow covered watershed, crossed over frozen Sunset Lake, and up the Thompson Glacier. All the clouds miraculously dissipated (at the leader's command of course) and we climbed the right hand snow chute over the col between Thompson and Powell. It is slightly higher than the left chute but much easier to negotiate on the other side. There is some difficult 3rd to 4th class rock on the S side of the left hand chute. Descending about 200 feet we turned East and contoured upward on the steep snow just below the cliffs to pick up the second snow chute and climb up to the summit plateau of Thompson. All 8 made the summit by 9:55. A rope was available but was not uncoiled. The high winds of 30 knots cleared the skies and we could see forever. Just beautiful. Keeping a wary eye out for possible avalanches, now that the slopes were in full sun, we retraced our steps back to the col. Cuno Ranschau reported avalanches in this area only 2 weeks before. Three slips required short ice axe arrests. About 200 feet below the N side of the col a steep snow chute leads WSW directly up to the summit plateau of Powell. We climbed both summits of Powell. As stated in the Climbers Guide the SW peak appears to be the taller. It had a tobacco can register. Five people made it up Powell. All returned to camp slogging thru endless nieve penitentes sun cups which collapsed knee deep or more under our weight. All arrived safely back at the cars by 7:00 PM. It was a long hard day, but very rewarding to those that had the courage to get up at 4:00 AM and start off into the teeth of abominable weather. I salute them and thank them for their trust in the leader. This was a strong SPS group and an excellent snow climb.
SHARKNOSE RIDGE, MUAH MTN., June 24-25

Jerry Keating/Walt Whisman

A joint SPS-Backpacking trip attracted 19 persons to the Horseshoe Meadow roadhead above Lone Pine, and a moderate pace allowed 15 participants to reach Sharknose Ridge (10,643') Saturday afternoon and 16 to ascend Mauh Mtn. (11,016') Sunday morning.

The group first backpacked two miles to Mulkey Pass, then continued southward five miles along the Pacific Crest Trail to an established camp (with stream and corral) between Pt. 10,375 and the small meadow to the east. En route, 15 persons added 600 feet of gain and two miles of hiking to their day by ascending Sharknose. From the summit, the views of the vast meadows of the Kern Plateau were splendid.

On Sunday, the party backpacked cross-country across Ash Meadow, thence along a small stream to the saddle southwest of Pk.10,485. From the saddle, 16 persons did Mauh roundtrip in less than 1½ hours. Then the group rejoined the PCT as it approached the Sierra crest. By 2 p.m. all were back at the cars.

The heavy snowfall of the past winter made this area particularly pleasant, there being drifts up to 2½ feet deep in shaded or north-facing areas at 10,100 feet. Although streams flowing through meadows are polluted by cattle droppings, we found more than enough seasonal flows on the higher slopes to satisfy our needs.

July 8-9, 1978 SNOW TRAINING/MT GILBERT Leaders: Norm Rohn/
Gene Mauk

In spite of warnings from the Forest Service and other hikers about bad stream crossings and inaccessibility, thirteen snow enthusiasts had little difficulty in reaching the Treasure Lakes. Camp was quickly set up at the edge of still-nearly-frozen lake 10646 and we were off to the slopes south of the lake for four hours of roped travel, belaying, arresting, glissading and all those good things. The snow was great even though a little sun-cuppy in places.

A small campfire, sociability and a warm night prepared the group for a six o'clock start on Sunday. Where the rock was exposed and convenient, we followed it. Otherwise, we battled the sun cups and a steep snow couloir. Lunch on the summit of Gilbert was one to remember. Spectacular views of the Sierra in all directions -- emblem peaks jutting up to the south, west and north.

A pleasant hike out with some beautiful long glissades put us at the South Lake road head before five.

The enthusiasm and eagerness to learn of this group make leading a real pleasure.
The Sierra ECHO is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club.

COPY: Send to Editor, Cuno Ranschau, 12744 Lorne st, No. Holly, CA 91605. Priority will be given to typed, single spaced copy.

ADDRESS CHANGES TO: Barbara Magnuson, 19145-5 Haynes, Reseda CA 91335. The post office will not forward 3rd class mail.

INQUIRIES ABOUT NOT RECEIVING THE ECHO: Direct to Anna Lou Pinson 10624 Garden Grove Ave., Norhtridge, CA 91326.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE $4.00 per year due by March 31. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send to SPS treasurer: Mary Omberg, 4311 El Prieto, Altadena, CA 91001. New SPS applications received after October 1 are credited through the next year.

FAMILY SUBSCRIPTIONS: Only one ECHO subscription is necessary for members of a family residing at one address.

AWARDS: Emblem Pins ($7.50) and Patches ($2.00) are available from the treasurer.

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
10624 Garden Grove Ave.
Northridge, CA 91326
"to explore, enjoy, preserve"

SPS BALLOT INSIDE

78 (805) 255-0244
* MILLER, CHARLES B.
23930 VIA FLAMENCO
VALENCIA, CA 91355