At the June Management Committee meeting a number of issues were discussed. Among them were:

1. Banquet ticket price, photo contest/exhibit at the banquet. Mario Gonzalez will tell you the details.
2. The Committee adopted a policy to pay a minimum of $100 plus two dinner tickets to the person who presents the banquet program.
3. Adopted a policy to support two rescue organizations: China Lake Mountain Rescue Group, and Inyo County Sheriff's Posse. The Committee's idea of support was a nominal $25 each.

When this was announced at the general meeting, it drew more excitement than the Contra Hearings. The Management Committee was being accused from down right flagrantly squandering the Section's hard earned (collected) money, to being disgustingly cheap. The final verdict of the membership was, that provided, SPS is still solvent after 30 days, each of the organizations (two) shall be given a modest amount of $100.

4. The addition of Palisades Crest will be on the next ballot, and there is a good chance that it will be added. Therefore, opinion was expressed that an unworthy peak may be removed from the list. Recommendations are solicited from list finishers and near list finishers. Bill T Russel is heading this subcommittee, so send him the recommendations.

5. It was suggested that the present meeting location be changed to Santa Monica or Downtown LA. If you have any strong feelings about the location, please send me a post card.

This sums up the Management Committee's activities with the exception of the normal housekeeping chores.

PHOTO CONTEST!!!

All photos will be exhibited at the SPS Banquet
On December 14, 1988. A panel of Experts will select the winning entry To be awarded the Grand Prize!!! Send your entries to: Mario Gonzalez 117 So. La Fayette Park Place #7 Los Angeles, CA 90057 (213) 612-3047

"You're just exactly what we are—a 15-cent hamburger restaurant corrected for inflation."
McDonald's president Edward Rensi

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COVER PHOTO CREDIT: Hal Compton took this fine picture of Split Mountain, an emblem pe in 1975. Your photograph of the Sierra scenery or interesting climbing activity can appear on the cover of the Sierra Echo! Our supply is running low! Send your photographs for consideration to Associate Editor: Jeff Solomon, 16 Silver Fir, Irvine CA 92714.
SPS MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM SCHEDULE

For August, September, and October (please note the correction)

Wednesday, August 18, 1988 7:30 pm

Nevada Illimani: Bolivia from the Altiplano to the Selva. Climbing on Sajama and Nevada Illimani, followed by a trek into the upper Amazon. Presented by ANDY FRIED at the Glendale Federal, Studio City. Refreshments.

Wednesday, September 14, 1988 7:30 pm


Wednesday, October 12, 1988 7:30 pm

Pot Luck: Bring your favorite dish and stories. We will share the first and swap the latter. Glendale Federal, Studio City.
Since no responses were received to last month's Mystery Peak identification contest, we are making it easier for everyone -- this month we are publishing a legible photograph of the Mystery Peak (we hope)! Seriously, we apologize for the poor quality of the last Mystery Peak photographs -- technical difficulties. Here is Mystery Peak #4 -- let us pray to the Great Xerox Machine God for better results!

Mystery Peak #2 was supposed to be Split Mountain, guessed correctly by William Bueler. Here is someone who remembers the peaks they climb; he identified the peak despite the poor reproduction quality. Do we hear any responses from our list finishers?

Mystery Peak #3 was Mt. Williamson (unidentified)

Here are some questions to stimulate thoughts, discussion, controversy and hopefully generate a few responses:

1. Which peak affords the best view or vantage in the Sierra? Why?

2. Why do SPS climbers pioneer so few new routes on the listed peaks? Why do they generally stick to the "tried and true" dreary slog to the top?

3. Should pages in the Sierra Echo be numbered? Arabic or Roman?

Send your responses to the Associate Editor: Jeff Solomon, 16 Silver Fir, Irvine CA 92719.
ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS


Ten of us were waiting for our permit when the Mineral King Ranger Station opened. We all did the long trudge to Big Arroyo via Glacier Pass and Blackrock Pass. All ten made the fourteen miles and 4,000 ft gain with heavy, nine-day packs by dark. Our camp was about 200 yards south of the cabin for three nights.

Sunday was an optional day. Half the group rested while Nancy & I did Stewart & Eagle Scout: and Dan, Dave P & Wayne bagged Big Kaweah. Some advice on Stewart: the peak is not the ridge's high point, but is to the south. Leave trail at Kaweah gap, swing right and stay slightly east of and below ridge line for an easy ramp and slab route.

Monday, all ten did Black Kaweah. We followed the creek to lakes at west face, went right of main chute, back to side of chute, main chutes to summit area. Rock fall is always a problem on Black K, and careful risk management got us back to camp at dark. While we took a break at the big lake below the peak, Mario dubbed the leader "El Huevo Grande Leader"....I'm looking for a Spanish-to-English dictionary. In fading dusk, we met a lone, ghost-like steed on the trail: a white horse with a bell about its neck. It was on an appointed mission, and was not about to be reflected from the trail by mere mortals.

Tuesday & Wednesday: on to Nine-Lakes Basin, stowing excess supplies, Nancy, Dan, Wayne, Brian & 2 Dave's crossed Pants Pass. Nancy, Wayne & I did Kern Pt. All six did Pickett Guard Wednesday. No one wanted to return via Pants Pass, so we headed toward base via Colby Pass & Cloud Cyn....an ambitious undertaking. We spent the night short of base.

Thursday: all 10 climbed Triple Divide from Lion Pass. We feel the best route is a chute up to the ridge on the south side, just east of the pass, then follow on the north side of ridge to summit.

Friday was a lay-back day for the leaders. We left for Lion Rock with Mary Sue, Brian & Mario at 11. Wayne, Dave P & Dan did Eagle Scout Stewart while Wellington & Jon headed out. The group reassembled at the cabin site in Big Arroyo.

Saturday: we moved to Little 5 Lakes, climbing Lippencott en route and made a feeble shot at Eisen. Time ran short & we returned to Camp.

Sunday: we hiked out. Dinner at Matia's, the Basque restaurant in Bakersfield topped off a grueling nine days. Nancy had pushed herself so hard that she developed "rhabdomyolysis with acute renal failure and edema." I understand the cause is the muscles' consuming themselves, resulting in kidney overload. Part of the syndrome is edema. It's a condition encountered among marines on death-marches.

Participants on this grueling nine-day adventure were: Wellington Chiu, Dan Giardini, Mario Gonzales, Jon Lutz, Mary Sue Miller, Brian Othmer, Dave Petzold, Wayne Wurzburger and the leaders.
EIGHT OF US SET OFF AT 8 FRIDAY MORNING FROM NORTH LAKE. THE BACKPACK WAS INTERRUPTED WHEN THE FIVE STRONGEST OF US ANSWERED THE SIREN CALL TO EMERSON (RON CLAIMED TO HAVE ALREADY DONE IT, IT WAS NOT ADVERTISED, AND HE MUST BE HARD OF HEARING). FROM LAKE 10759 PAST LOCH LEVEN, WE HEADED UP KEEPING MORE OR LESS TO THE RIGHT RIB BUT NOT GOING PAST IT, AND HAPPENED TO HIT THE SUMMIT PERFECTLY.

FROM PIUTE PASS WE HEADED NORTH X-C AND, IN SPITE OF MUCH WHINING, MADE CAMP AT THE LAKE (12,000') JUST BELOW HUMPHREYS ABOUT 5 PM. OUR HAPPY HOUR WAS SWEETENED BY THE AUTHENTIC SUGAR CANE RON WENT TO HAWAII TO GET FOR US. THIS SITE ASSURES ACCESS TO SPECTACULAR SUNSETS AND A SHORT APPROACH HIKE.

OUR 7:30 START SAT MORNING WAS NOT TOO EARLY FOR BRIAN SMITH, WHO CAME IN OVERNIGHT, TO JOIN US. FOLLOWING ROPER'S REGULAR ROUTE, WE TOOK THE PROMINENT NARROW GULLY THAT HEADS THE TALUS Fan EXTENDING TO THE WEST END OF THE LAKE. BYPASSING A COUPLE OF CHOCKSTONES TO THE LEFT, WE MADE THE NOTCH SHORTLY PASS 9 AM. TRAVERSSING RIGHT TO THE GULLY BELOW THE SUMMIT, CLIMB THIS ABOUT 250' WHERE IT TURNS PRETTY STEEP. (YOU MAY SPOT AN OLD PITON WITH A RING. THE DUCK-LIKE DUCKS THAT LARRY TIDBALL RECENTLY PLACED HAD FLOWN AWAY!)

TRAVERSE OUT TO THE RIGHT AND THEN UP AWAYS TO AN LEDGE AREA BIG ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO GATHER WHILE THE LEADER LOOKS FOR THE 4TH CLASS PITCH. DON'T WASTE TIME LIKE I DID GOING TO THE RIGHT AND TRYING TO FORCE A 5TH CLASS ROUTE. IT'S EASY 4TH ON THE RIB JUST ABOVE, ON THE LEFT SKYLINE. AFTER THIS BELAYED PITCH, IT'S STILL 3RD CLASS TO THE SUMMIT IN LESS THAN 10 MINUTES. NOT WITHSTANDING THE REGISTER, JEFF SOLOMON MANAGED TO CONFIRM THE EMBLEM SUMMIT FOLLOWING NUMEROUS BEARINGS TO OTHER PEAKS NEAR & FAR. THE TOP WALKS NOT SO NARROW AS TO PREVENT THE 9 OF US FROM CLUSTERING SAFELY ON IT. (REGARDLESS OF HOW PRECIPITOUS THE SUMMIT, GRAHAM BREAKWELL WILL ALWAYS FIND A SPOT LARGE ENOUGH TO LAY DOWN AND NAP.) A SINGLE DOUBLE-ROPE RAPPEL (NOT ALL AT ONCE!) TOOK US FROM THE TOP OF THE MAIN GULLY BACK NEAR THE FIXED PIN. THE BELAY AND RAP WERE FAIRLY TIME-CONSUMING FOR 9 CLIMBERS; AND WE WERE BACK TO CAMP BY 3:45 AND REACHED PIUTE PASS AT 5:30.

FOUR SO-CALLED CLIMBERS CHECKED OUT AT THIS POINT RATHER THAN RISK FAILURE ON AN UNLISTED PEAK. A 30-MINUTE TRAIL LEADS TO MURIEL LAKE. THE THREE BRITS ON THE TRIP ALL AGREED THAT THE HUMPHREYS BASIN WAS REALLY RATHER LIKE THE ENGLISH LAKE COUNTRY. THE LAKE IS A GEM SET BELOW THE SHARP NORTH FACADE OF MURIEL PEAK.

RON, JEFF, BRIAN AND I HEADED OUT SUNDAY AT 7:30 AM AND SUMMITED ABOUT TWO HOURS LATER. (MIKE MIHALKA WITHDREW AS A FAVOR TO HIS BLISTERED AND FAVORED RON WITH THE LOAN OF HIS RIGHT BOOT.) OUR ROUTE FOLLOWED A USE TRAIL ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF THE LAKE AND ON UP THE CANYON LEADING TO LOST LAKES. WE THEN SCRAMBLED THROUGH MODERATE TO INTERESTING 3RD CLASS LEDGES TO GAIN THE PLATEAU YIELDING THE SUMMIT, WHICH IS ABOUT 1/2 MILE SOUTH OF THE N FACADE. WE WERE REWARDED WITH GRAND VIEWS OF HUMPHREYS BASIN TO THE NORTH AND EVOLUTION BASIN TO THE SOUTH. I SACRIFICED A LITER NALGENE BOTTLE TO HOLD A NEW REGISTER. THIS IS A PEAK WORTHY OF FURTHER EXPLORATORY CLIMBS, AND LIST CONSIDERATION.

WE WERE DOWN & OUT QUICKLY, REACHING THE CARS AT 2:15. OUR TRIP WAS ENLIGHTENED BY THE MANY MUIR-LIKE OBSERVATIONS OF STEVE THAW, WHO IS A VOLUNTEER GUIDE AT THE MUIR HOME IN MARTINEZ. OUR FUN GROUP ALSO INCLUDED DONN COOK AND BRUCE PARKER. SPECIAL THANKS TO RON FOR HIS GREAT SUPPORT ON THIS MY LAST PROVISIONAL LEAD, AND ESPECIALLY FOR HIS NOT HAVING TO WITHDRAW.

IF IT IS NOT OUT OF LINE, I WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE MY NEW E-RATING IN MEMORY OF CHUCK YOUNGBERG, WHO PASSED AWAY IN SEPTEMBER THE VERY WEEK BEFORE I RECEIVED THE PATCH. THROUGH HIS COMMENTS ON MY 1 EXAM A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN INCITING ME TO GO FURTHER. I SUBSEQUENTLY WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SPEND TWO SUPER WEEKENDS WITH HIM: AN E-SNOW PRACTICE ON MT. BALDY AND AN E-ROCK PRACTICE AT FOSSIL FALLS. CHUCK WAS ALSO ACTIVE IN BMTC LECTURES. HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED. THANK YOU, CHUCK. I WILL TRY MY BEST TO PASS ON WHAT YOU HAVE GENTLY HANDED DOWN TO ME, AND MORE.
Two last minute cancellations and two no shows reduced our numbers from 12 to 8. The Mineral King Ranger Station will not issue permits in advance and they do not have a night box. So we had to get our permit the morning of the hike. It is very difficult to get an early start in Mineral King. We hiked up the easy Farewell Gap Trail to the junction of the Franklin Lakes Trail. We dropped our backpacks in a nearby grove of trees and left Ruth Armentrout to guard them from marmots and other critters. The trail winds up what seemed to be an endless amount of switchbacks to Farewell Gap. Then it was an easy scamper up to the summit of Vandever. We returned to the packs and hiked up to Franklin Trail to a good camp on a shelf above Franklin Lake. There are only two campsites above the North shore of Franklin Lake. Both can accommodate 10 or more people, and both have steel bear boxes. The Ranger warned us about bears, but we encountered no bears. We all enjoyed a very festive gourmet dinner. Everyone shared a great variety of fine foods and wines. A large flat rock was used as a table, complete with table cloth and candles. We go first class. The weather was warm and beautiful. This campsite is 100 feet above the lake with a superb panoramic view. We enjoyed a very special evening of fine food and companionship.

Sunday six of us hit the trail to Franklin Pass and on up the class 2 rock scramble to the summit of Florence. A very enjoyable climb. Congratulations to Ruth Armentrout. She made the summit with no problems. Her injured leg has had a remarkable recovery. Gerry Dunie led us back to camp and out to the cars by early afternoon. My thanks to Gerry for filling in as assistant leader, and my thanks to all for sharing their food and themselves on this occasion.

George T.

TAYLOR DOME, SIRRETTA PEAK Oct. 3-4, 1987 Suzanne Swedo & Gerry Dunie

We met a Horse Meadow Campground in Sequoia National Forest on Saturday morning, drove to a livestock loading chute on the west side of Big Meadow a short distance north of the Manter Meadow trailhead (34E15). We followed this trail about a mile to the top of a gully, left the trail, skirted around the north side of a typical Domelands rockpile for our first view of 8774' Taylor Dome (formerly Miranda Dome. Does anybody know why?) We crossed a saddle and headed directly to the peak, which all 12 hikers climbed.

Upon our return to the trailhead, five people drove the dusty winding road to Cannell Point, one returned to L.A. for family business, and the rest went back to the campground.

The already sumptuous happy hour reached a gastronomic pinnacle when Dave Baldwin, to atone for his late arrival, brought a beautiful homemade apple pie and ice cream.

In spite of the previous night's debauchery, 12 hikers set off for Sirretta Peak (9771') on Sunday morning. We took the "new" trail; the one not shown on the topo (34E12) around the east side of the peak, then followed a use trail (though indicated by a large sign and marked by a ridiculous number of ducks) to the top where we enjoyed views of the Sierra crest from Mt. Whitney to Olancha Peak and beyond. We were back at the trailhead in time for lunch.
Due to a rash of late cancellations, a trip of ten was reduced to four: George Toby, Wayne Wurzburger, Martha Flores and Ron Eckelmann. Driving directions: From Main and Line Streets in Bishop, drive West on Line for 7.5 miles. Turn right on Buttermilk Road, a good dirt road. Go 6 miles to a county road marker sign (7S01) on the left shoulder and junction with a narrow dirt road. Turn right and go 0.5 miles to good parking in an aspen grove with a small running stream. The hike starts here.

Friday 9/25: This is an old mining road that goes about 6 miles north to Horton Lake and then on, part way up Mt. Tom. There is a locked gate about 0.75 miles from the aspen grove. Easy hike in to Horton Lake and a beautiful campsite. The aspen were starting to turn yellow. There are two cabins near the lake in good condition belonging to the Hanging Valley Mine Co. One was posted as an emergency shelter for hikers. We climbed up the drainage due south of Horton Lake and then up the West slopes of Basin Mtn. to the 13,240 summit. Returned to camp about 6:30. Fourteen miles and 5300’ elevation gain. A good day’s work. From the top of Basin we looked across the broad canyon to Four Gables. The U shaped cirque ended in a vertical head wall. There did not appear to be a route up the East side, but old Climber’s Guide said there was a route.

Saturday 9/26: Toby and Wurzburger decided to go for Four Gables. We ascended the drainage to Upper Horton Lake on a hit and miss trail. The climbed up the rocky U shaped cirque to within 100 feet of the head wall before a chute appeared on the right. You just could not see it until you were upon it. We climbed up the chute to another head wall, then crossed over to the left to another chute that led to the top of the ridge. Fairly descent class 3 rock, but loose in places. This put us on a ridge that is about the center of the Four Gables Peaks. The West side was an easy walk up. Decision time, there was a tall peak to the South and another tall peak to the North. Which one was the true Four Gables summit? After walking back and forth and considerable eye-balling, George decided the North Peak was the highest. We dropped down 250’ to a saddle, then up 650’ to the summit on class 2 rock. The register said this was the true summit at 12,925’. We returned to camp where Martha had a cheery fire going. That was a real neat route up Four Gables from the East side but subject to rock fall. Not recommended for a large group.

Sunday 9/27: All four headed up the mining road. It switchbacks up to the top of the ridge, with lots of rock slides and washouts. The road then circles around to the backside of Mt. Tom and ends at the Tungsten Mine. The place is abandoned with lots of mining junk laying around. Mt. Tom is a big crud heap with much loose rock and scree. Ron did not like the looks of it and headed back to camp. The rest of us made the 13,652’ summit easily by staying on rock and avoiding the scree. We were rewarded with marvelous views of the Owens Valley and the mining operations to the North on Mt. Morgan. Hiked back to camp and out to the cars by 4:30. We all met in Lone Pine for tostados at the Sierra Cantina Mexican Restaurant.

George T.

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!!! WANTED !!!

Commit your Sierra experiences to print! Prose, poetry, or photographs accepted! Leaders, it is your duty to spread the word of the wonderful trips you all lead and we all appreciate! Send in your trip write-ups today! We are getting low on our back log of trip reports. Send your copy to the Echo Editor: Igor Mamedalin, 24 Almond Tree Lane, Irvine CA 92715.
Our little walk began at the Mono Meadows trailhead of the Glacier Point Road at 7:30 A.M. on Saturday. The hike to basecamp at the crossing of the Clark Fork of Illilouette Creek took but 2.5 hours. The stream crossing of Illilouette Creek approximately 3 miles from the road head posed no difficulty due to the very low water level. In early season this crossing can be very difficult. The balance of Saturday was spent lounging around camp. While many will suggest the Clark Fork crossing is not a good place to camp, due to its distance from Mt. Clark, it does have the positive feature of not involving any crosscountry backpacking.

Sunday we arose at 5:30 A.M. and were off at 6:48 A.M. The traverse of the level country to the east of camp is burdened with much felled timber, and care must be exercised to pick a route to the base of the rise in gradient at the 3,800’ contour. The most direct route to the peak runs up the ridge between Gray Creek and an unnamed creek parallel and just north of the Mariposa-Madera County line. This route will carry the climber to the Clark-Gray ridge.

Upon reaching the top of the Clark-Gray ridge, we passed through a gap on the southeast ridge (Clark-Gray ridge) and on to the northeast face of Mt. Clark. We followed the northeast face route and climbed to the northeast summit ridge. We got within 50 horizontal and 15 vertical feet of the summit block before we were stopped by difficult ground. At that point we withdrew and developed a route which took us directly to the base of the summit block. We were again stopped by difficult ground 15 feet below the summit. The northeast ridge route was attempted, but a forth class crack stopped progress. At this point we declared a victory, had lunch, and returned to camp. The climb took 9.5 hours.

Monday we hiked out to the cars by 10:20 A.M. and had a leisurely drive home. The weather was nice with light thunder showers on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. There were three participants: Larry Hoak, Fred Camphausen and Terry Cavicchi. A good time was had by all.

--- PAID PRIVATE TRIP AND PRODUCT ANNOUNCEMENTS ---

NORMAN CLYDE AUTOGRAPHS: Original signed checks and photo of limited quantity.
   Autograph 1: signature plus name and address in upper corner - $45.00.
   Autograph 2: signature alone - $35.00.
   16x20 framed photograph available, limited printing of 100, at $200.00,
   includes shipping, 2 prints available.
   May be seen at the Bishop Chamber of Commerce or Dick Beach, 388 Sheppard Lane, Bishop CA. (619) 873-7478. Makes a great gift!

HAVE BOOTS, WILL TRAVEL: Rock Climbing, Backpacking, Kayaking, Alpine & Nordic Skiing, Yachting, and more! Call or write Tom Jenkins, P.O. Box 4838, Long Beach, CA 90804 (213) 439-3788. (No smoking/drugs/pre-teen kids). Tom is retiring from the Coast Guard. Work phone number (213-499-5542) will not be valid after June 30, 1988. This is NOT a guide service — just an open offer for cost shared trips. Hope to see many of you more often, on both club and private trips. THJ

JULY 24 SUNDAY - JULY 30 SATURDAY: Saunter John Muir style Enchanted Gorge via Echo Col and Ionian Basin. Strenuous cross country backpack to climb Black Giant, Charylids, Wheel, Finger, Reinstein & Scylla. SASE to SPS Leader Steven Thaw, 30 Woodside Drive, Moraga CA 94556.

SPS member moving east seeks climbing partners for class 3 climbs during August Sierra vacation. Have midweek permits for: 3/8 Ritter & Banner; 8/15 Emerson & Goethe; 8/22 Red Slate & Morrison. Call Joseph Boyland Jr. at (213) 920-8535. After May 31st contact at (617) 365-4188, 300 Park Terrace Drive, #306, Stoneham MA 02180.
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New applications received after October 1st are credited for the subsequent year subscription. 
Submit renewal applications to the section Treasurer. Only one Echo subscription is necessary for 
multiple members of a family residing at one address.

ADVERTISEMENT: Private activity announcements and advertisements are accepted at the 
following rates. Private trip announcements: $1.00 for the first 4 lines and $1.00 per additional line. 
Other advertisements: $1.00 per line or $25.00 for a half page space.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address change notices and new subscription applications to the 
section Secretary: Ruth Armentrout, 23262 Haynes St., Canoga Park, CA 91307. The Echo is mailed 
via 3rd class and will not be forwarded by the post office.

MISSING ISSUES: Inquiries regarding missing issues should be addressed to the section Mailer: 
Carolyn West, 5000 Centinela Ave., #302, Los Angeles, CA 90066. Extra copies of the 30th 
Anniversary Echo are available by sending $4.50 per copy to the section Mailer.

AWARDS: Emblem and senior emblem pins ($8.50), list finisher pins ($10.00), and section patches 
($2.00) are available from the section Treasurer: Al Conrad, 2311 Pickens Canyon Road, La 
Crescenta, CA 91214.