The end of my 'reign'. Mhhh.. A most satisfactory experience for me. And how can I account for accomplishments, if any? Let's see:

1 & 2  The Section held together at ± 350 in the roster consisting of the faithful core plus a few new members and new subscribers to the Echo in 1990.
3  Leaders came through with a full summer of Sierra-ing.
4  The trips went well and no injuries or serious mishaps were attributed to those scheduled outings.
5  The Section's treasury remains reasonably solvent and expenditures for supplies and materials have been easily met.
6  There was a full slate of grrreat programs for the monthly meetings.
7, 8 & 9 Our newsletter continues to attain that sleek and professional look.
10 & 11 While conservation is not the Section's bag, it has done its part through the unflinching efforts of its Conservation and Trail Maintenance Chairs.
12  Summit register records, materials and inventory of canisters are in good shape.
13  There is an updated Peak List meticulously prepared by the Mountain Records and Peak List Chair [distributed along with this issue].
14  The Echo mailing and distribution has been efficiently handled — with dispatch.

Chair's Corner

15  Our Annual Banquet preparation just met the deadlines.
16  And, Council meetings were eagerly attended ..when they were.

Credit for the management of the Section's ongoing affairs in 1990 goes out to:

1 & 2  Karen Leonard, Secretary and Gerry Holleman, Membership List.
3 & 4  Bill Oliver, Vice-Chair for Outings and Richard Fritszen, Safety ("nothing to report" -- thanx anyway for lending your name to the post).
5  Mario Gonzalez, Treasurer.
6  Graham Breakwell, Alternate Officer and Programs (honest, he's for real!)

SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

January 9th
"Bears!"
Dick Graber,
PhD biologist-in residence at Sequoia/Kings National Parks speaks on one of our favorite Sierra critters.

February 13th
"Amne Machin"
Rich Henke
Well known explorer and guide on his successful Chinese Expedition

March 13th
"Chungste"
R. J. Secor
Effective management practices in setting up a Himalayan expedition.

Monthly meetings are held at the Glendale Federal Savings Building at 12191 Ventura Blvd. 1/2 block west of Laurel Canyon in Studio City. 7:30 PM. Refreshments served. Newcomers welcome!

PHOTO CREDIT: This month's Echo cover features a fine photograph of the first and only 3-time SPS list finisher, Doug Mantle! This picture of Doug was taken by Bob Hicks on top of a yet to be identified or listed Sierra peak. It was retouched and processed by Vi Grasso for publication.
As memorialized on the cover of this edition of the Echo, Doug Mantle finished the SPS list for the third time on 8 September 1990. This feat added to his already unique mountaineering accomplishments as the sole two-time finisher of all three lists. On the way he has also climbed the high points of all the western states (Alaska and Hawaii included) and the Mexican volcanoes in the Northern Western Hemisphere; Aconcagua, Huascaran, and Chimborazo in the Southern Western Hemisphere; Kilimanjaro and Kenya in Africa; Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn, and others in Europe; Mt. Cook in New Zealand, and such assorted high points here and there as the Grand Teton, Mount Ararat, etc. Many of his climbs have been on solo or private trips, but his love for the mountain milieu has been infectious as he led well over 100 SPS and DPS peaks (he was presented the Angeles Chapter's Chester Versteeg Award in recognition of his superb leadership record), and has gone out of his way to help many people towards their own mountaineering goals.

Surely this is a picture of an over-achiever! And, the sheer magnitude of Doug's mountaineering achievements would indicate to many a zealous, single-dimensional drive! Drive there indeed is -- to, up/down, and home from the mountains! But he's the antithesis of single-dimensional. While he was compiling these fabulous statistics he finished law school, entered practice and rapidly became a partner, then founded and built a very successful law firm of his own. Cultural pursuits aplenty also take a good deal of his time. Among these a particular delight to me is his capacity to recite Eliot's "Wasteland" and "Quartets", or Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner", as we chug up a long trail near the end of a hard (for me, at least) day. Pure poetry, by the hour! And then, in camp, he is a key participant in an attempt to bring a degree of civilized culinary and oenological sophistication, along with good conversation, to further the mountaineering experience.

Duane McRuer

(Chair's Corner, continued)

7, 8 & 9 Igor Mamedalin, Suzanne Thomas-Mamedalin and Jeffrey Solomon -- the Echo newsletter crew.


12 & 13 Barbara Reber, Mountain Records and Bill T. Russell (with his mathematical brains), Peak List.

14 Ron Grau, Echo Mailer.

15 David Underwood, Banquet Chair.

16 Divied up amongst Karen Leonard, Bill Oliver & Yours Truly, Council Reps.

Now, as to the remaining 3 pending and unsolved issues:

1. Mountaineering Insurance: With the Club's concerns over conservation and political issues, it gets further away (believe the sun and pluto are closer) from securing insurance for mountaineering interests. Perhaps the door is not completely shut, but the Club's clout keeps the peak climbing sections clinging to the fringes of its name and outings traditions.

2. Summit Registers: It arouses passions and misunderstandings -- and even occasional shrugs. Will the twine ever meet? As long as minds continue to be divided as to what's 'historical', what if anything 'decays', should registers be removed for 'preservation', and 'who's in charge, anyway' (SRC vs. SPS), it shall remain The Battle of The (Little) Titans.

3. Meeting Room: Management inquired into a possible change for the meeting locale -- to no avail. DWP [use fee] informed us that they already have 2 groups meeting there, don't want another. The Griffith Park Ranger Station facility [use fee] is not available on 2nd Wednesdays. None of the sites suggested in downtown or West LA were suitable, e.g., LA Teacher's Union Building said "no". Who wants to go to Councilman Wu's office? Union Bank downtown lacks free parking, etc. The current facility [no fee] offers a comfortable and adequate meeting room at Glendale Federal Bank in Studio; however, it discourages Orange County folks from coming to the meetings. What to do? Any good leads from anyone? Call or write to the Management with suggestions.

I am proud to have been of service to the Section in the various posts that I have held. Thank you all for keeping the faith in your Section!

Vi
The Committee held its fall meeting at Sierra Club Offices in San Francisco on Sunday, 30 September. Attendees included Chair Bruce Hope (formerly KndstVN), John Cheslick (LA - MTO), Bill Oliver (SPS), Owen Maloy (Toiyabe Chap.) and Robin Ingraham (Sierra Register Committee). The low turnout was disappointing, particularly the unexpected non-appearance of Board Director Sandy Tepfer. The following notes were extracted from the minutes.

Insurance: The insurance underwriters re-affirmed their position that it is within the scope of our current insurance coverage for the leader and the assistant leader to carry a rope and/or an ice axe for emergency purposes (but not for climbing). Beyond this, we still do not have insurance for climbing nor are we likely to obtain an affordable quote any time soon. Contributing factors for non-coverage include a reluctance on the part of underwriters to accept the risk, the premium cost if it were available, and the absence of a sizable mountaineering constituency within the Club (which has now swelled past 600,000 members). Therefore, although the SCMC remains committed to the restoration of insurance coverage, reality dictates that we move beyond defining our role in such limiting terms.

Registers: It was agreed that the SPS and the Sierra Register Committee have a strong mutual interest in this area as well as a strong mutual interest in adopting policies more in alignment. The latter group has been active in placing bolted, rectangular metal boxes similar to those formerly made for the Sierra Club. Failure to settle our differences leads to misunderstandings, public confusion, and the threat of preemptive Federal attempts to manage the “register problem.”

Access: By focusing so heavily on insurance, we have put ourselves at risk of missing opportunities to be active in defending the interests of the mountaineering community as a whole. The SCMC, as a Sierra Club entity, has a unique historical perspective from which to take an activist stance to resist unreasonable limitations on the right to enjoy the environment through mountaineering activities. Correspondingly, we also need to be more activist in support of alpine environmental protection issues.

Visibility: It was agreed that the SCMC has so far held too low a profile in Sierra Club affairs. This stance limited our effectiveness on the insurance issue, for example. In an effort to raise our profile and be better integrated with Club activities, the Chair will attend at least two Board of Directors meetings and perhaps one Council meeting during 1991. Allied with this effort, we will also seek increased visibility through participation in the upcoming Club Centennial Celebrations. Bruce has suggested that one or two national, week-long trips be sponsored in ’91 that involve climbing Sierra peaks associated with John Muir and/or very early Club Outings.

The Committee’s Spring meeting will be held in Los Angeles in April.

The SPS Management Committee subsequently accepted a compromise suggested by the Sierra Register Committee relating to the definition of “historic” registers. A register should not be removed, even if full, that is less than 40 years old, unless it is seriously weather damaged and in danger of loss. A register may be removed for preservation if it is 40 years or older and full. Further dialog is necessary regarding such matters as the location of the removed register and the possible return of a partial or complete copy to the summit.

SPS SPRING 1991 SCHEDULED CLIMBS

MAY
11-12 I: Kern Peak, Three Rocks
   Ron Jones, Bill Oliver

25-27 I: Sawtooth #1, Smith, Sirretta, Rockhouse
   Igor Mamedalin, Suzanne Thomas-Mamedalin

JUNE
1-2 I: Owens, Pilot #1
   Dave Petzold, Carolyn West

15-16 I: Rockhouse, Taylor Dome
   Dave Petzold, Carolyn West

22-23 M: Moses, N. Maggie
   Kathy Price, Bob Hartunian

29-30 I: Taylor Dome, Sirretta, Smith
   Charles Knapke, Barbara Cohen

JULY
3-7 I: Florence, Vogelsang, Davis, Foerster, Electra, & Rodgers
   Dave Petzold, Dale Van Dalsem

NOTE: Unfavorable snow condition may require cancellation of some of these trips.

The SPS and I greatly appreciate your [the leaders] coming forward to lead for us next spring. Special thanx to Dave Petzold for coming forth with 3 ventures into the Sierra. There is still ample time to consider additional trips for inclusion in the Echo. Ths SPS can sustain itself only so long as leaders such as yourself are willing to schedule trips. We are all in your debt.

-- Bill Oliver
10 YEAR SIERRA CLIMBING ROUTE INDEX --

1981 to 1990 Through ECHO Vol 34-5

by Ron Jones

I recently was asked to update the Sierra Climbing Route Index. I last compiled an index for base camp and climbing routes of Sierra Peaks for ECHOS through Volume 30 - 6 in 1986. It is now being updated through the ECHO of September - October 1990. There have been fewer and fewer climbs in the last several years to choose from. I have omitted some interesting writeups when they seemed not to include significant descriptions of the route. Also routes on un-named peaks are not included as they are difficult to classify in a conventional index format. I would appreciate receiving any corrections or additions to this index for future updating. I received three letters in the last 4 years and I thank Jane Edginton and Bob Hartunian for corrections to the last index which appeared in the 30th Anniversary issue which appeared in 1986. Future maintenance of this index is easy as it is on my computer.

For this list I have indexed all writeups from 1981. Peaks without writeups during this period will show the last route information listed before 1981. Earlier indexes will be found in ECHO volumes 30-6, 28-2, 20-8, and 14-2. There may be writeups which I have overlooked, and for these omissions I apologize. Please send me your corrections and additions.

Following the name of the peak there will be a series of several numbers; for instance: Alta 29-5/31-5. These figures mean that route information for this peak can be found in ECHOS vol. 29, issue # 5 and Vol. 31, issue # 5.

For your information the ECHO Volumes with number of issues each year are as follows (the SPS was founded on October 16, 1955):

1956 none
1957 Vol 1 - 6
1958 Vol 2 - 6
1959 Vol 3 - 5
1960 Vol 4 - 6
1961 Vol 5 - 6
1962 Vol 6 - 6
1963 Vol 7 - 6
1964 Vol 8 - 5
1965 Vol 9 - 3
1972 Vol 16 - 9 1982 Vol 26 - 7
1974 Vol 18 - 7 1984 Vol 28 - 7
1975 Vol 19 - 7 1985 Vol 29 - 7

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ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

ALTA PEAK
August 29, 1990
George Hubbard & Gene Mauk

After some 20 years of Sierra climbing, the appointed day arrived for Gene and me to lead our final peak on the list together. Having touted it as such in the schedule (with the teaser of many goodies at the post-climb bash), it was no surprise to us that 45 climbers showed up for the climb and 15 more for the party. After a half hour sign in and waiver signing ceremony, we started up the Alta Peak trail from the Wolverton parking area at 8:30 AM. Our concern about impending rain from residuals of a storm (I encountered snow on the road driving in late afternoon the day before!) readily vanished as the stormy conditions of early morning gave way to clearing skies as the day progressed.

The climb up the trail was routine and quite comfortable as old friendships were renewed and new ones formed. Upon attaining Panther Gap, we were presented with an outstanding view of the high peaks of the Great Western Divide, enhanced by a veneer of new snow against a background of deep blue sky interspersed with big fluffy clouds. After taking it all in for 20 minutes we proceeded along the ridge, enjoying the superb views continuously. The drama built as Gene and I decided at the 2 mile to go point that we would have our final rest stop at a point 10 minutes below the summit and lead together the rest of the way (after appointing 15 duly qualified rear leaders, of course!).

I was surprised that after beginning the final portion that neither Gene nor I felt any great sense of accomplishment; I remarked to him that it was like a denouement after all the adversity we had experienced earlier in the summer in our efforts to meet our deadline. However, we had vastly underestimated what was to come as relatively flat feelings gave way to an ever increasing sense of elation. To wit: as we approached the base of the summit block (actually, the summit platform, enough for 45 people!) we were greeted by mountain legends Doug Mantle and Duane McRuer who had unfurled a banner reading "Congratulations George and (continued on page 8)

Photographed on top of Alta Peak by Bill T. Russell

ROGUES’ GALLERY OF SIERRA PEAK LIST FINISHERS!
Frontrow: Gene Mauk, Dave Dykeman.
Backrow, left to right: R. J. Secor, George Hubbard, Doug Mantle, Duane McRuer, Bill T. Russell.

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Gene” that Evelyn DeChantillon had provided. At that point Gene and I stopped for a round of picture taking and solicitation of many climbers that helped us reach our goal over the years to join us in our final march to the summit. Carrying the banner, we finally arrived, arm in arm, to our long sought after goal at 12:45 PM.

The REAL fun began as round after round of hugs, kisses, and handshaking were intermingled with the satisfying sound of corks popping and the bubbly pouring. Our special event was well documented with uncountable photographs from what seemed to be 45 photographers. A special highlight was Pete Yamagata presenting us with a newspaper headline reading “Hubbard and Mauk Finish SPS List”. In 20 years of climbing, I have never felt more warmth and affection than I did at that moment from the many friends of long standing that I have climbed with over the years. Even more importantly, the feelings I experienced clarified for me why I climb: mainly because of the PEOPLE, with climbing as a means to an end. Consulting with Gene after the climb, he also experienced similar feelings.

We all enjoyed 1-1/2 hours of leisurely eating, imbibing six bottles of champagne and a few soft drinks, as well as every possible combination of group picture taking of the many elite climbers present: SPS list finishers, triple list finishers, former SPS chairmen, and the most exalted of all, former SPS chairmen AND triple list finishers: Bill T. Russell, Duane McRuer, and Doug Mantle. After Gene led all but about 2 from the summit area, I finally started down, not wanting to let go of this special moment in my life.

The descent was routine with all arriving back at camp by 5:00 PM. Even though group campsites were not available, John Secor and Doug Mantle had each obtained 6 campsites together so that we were all able to congregate in a single area. It was a good thing, because the spread of culinary delights filled at least 6 camp-tables! For those of you that missed it: the Holleman’s provided turkey, Dave Dykeman brought forth BBQ ribs, Duane McRuer and Doug Mantle (who else?) spread around liver pate and caviar, John Gibba spoiled everyone with fresh strawberries and ice cream, as well as table cloths and firewood. Other entrees included shrimp, chili, and many wonderful desserts. Of the many list finishing parties that Gene and I have been to over the years, this potluck was the best! After dinner, both Gene and I were presented with some great unexpected gifts and testimonials that we will never forget: a bottle of Dom Perignon each from Doug and Duane, a huge blowup photo of me that was signed by many from my long time friends from work, Dave Michels, a wonderful calligraphy summarizing my mountaineering activities from my climbing companion Evelyn DeChantillon, a personally embroidered shirt to Gene from his daughter Cindy White, bottles of wine and “NASA approved” win cooler from Mike Manchester and Vi Grasso, and finally an HPS shirt from Patty Kline, who was a bridesmaid at my wedding in 1966.

Speaking for both Gene and me (he reviewed this write-up before publication), this day was the highlight of our mountaineering experiences and made all the hard work of prior ascents seem worthwhile. We were especially gratified that both our families were there to share our special time with us and to meet our many wonderful friends. Thanks to all who participated for making this day one that will be the source of warm memories for many years to come – it truly marks our “Alamite” experience!

--George

George’s words describe the climb and festivities beautifully. I just want to emphasize that I, too, was deeply moved by the genuine friendship and camaraderie shown by all who joined us. That so many people would give so much of themselves to make it such a wonderful occasion is mind boggling. Thank you all very much.

--Gene

KERN PEAK
June 9-10, 1990
George Toby, Bill Gray

We took the Kennedy Meadows road from highway 395 to past the Blackrock Ranger Station and on to the end of the road at Black Rock Gap. Saturday 11 hikers, including several new faces, left the Gap at 7:35 AM. Our route took us past the very green and beautiful Casa Vieja Meadows, then on to Beer Keg Meadows, and then on to base camp at Red Rock Meadows which is at the junction of two small streams and an old log cabin. It looked like rain so we set up tents, ate lunch, and struck out for the peak. The 15 minute Kern Peak (11,510') top shows a trail heading North from camp then switch backs Northwest up the slopes. But the lower part of the trail is not there. It goes about 1/8 mile form Red Crock to a small meadow and then stops. We headed up the sandy wooded slope at 340° and the trail appeared again in about 1/4 mile. We took the trail to the saddle at 9,600' then North on the ridge all the way to the summit. Eight made the peak. Two hikers pooped out about 1.5 miles from the summit. We left them on the ridge with instructions to stay put. Fortunately they did. It started to rain shortly after we left the peak. Visibility reduced to 100 feet. Careful compass and altimeter work plus a lot of yelling by the gals found the two right on target. The rain stopped just before we reached camp. We enjoyed dinner and a great campfire.

It rained during the night but dawned with clearing skies. Two of our new hikers, Elizabeth Smith and Janis McKenna, insisted on making pancakes for breakfast. Their frying pan was too small and too light. One side of the first pancake was black and the other side raw. Also, they forgot a spatula. Would you believe – scrambled pancakes – that were gleefully devoured. We were back to the cars by noon. Most of us met at the Grumpy Bear in Kennedy Meadows for a great lunch (highly recommended), and an easy ride home. My thanks to Bill Gray for a fine assist and to our new hikers who all made the peak.

--George
OLANCHA PEAK
June 9-10, 1990
Patty Kline, Bob Hartunian

Our trip began at 6:30 AM at the Olancha Peak roadhead, Sage Flat. The early start was in anticipation of hot weather. Unfortunately we got 18 hours of precipitation, starting at 12 noon the first day.

The roadhead is as follows: Drive north on highway 395 to Little Lake. From there note your odometer and go 19.5 miles north to Sage Flat Road. Turn left (west) and go on this small road, keeping right at the road forks on the most heavily used roads. Go to the end at 5.5 miles. There is a sign “Pavement Ends” and 3.5 miles. The end of the road is a large bulldozed area of reddish dirt. There is no water or trees, but it very level for camping. The elevation is 5,800 feet.

All 20 people who signed up for the trip assembled at 6:30 AM, and after turning in their waivers, were ready to start. We hiked 7 miles to our camp at 9,500’. It accommodates a large group easily and is within sight of the trail. A nice stream runs between the camp and the trail. It dries up early in the season, although there may be small pockets of water which are spring fed uphill later on in the season.

We had an afternoon to kill in the rain at our camp. Olancha is far enough from other SPS peaks to make it hard to climb another one on Saturday. The vibrant green corn lilies along the stream went unnoticed in this foul weather. The party started at 4:00 PM. We got a nice fire going to dry out in. Too bad people were getting wet at the same time. This experience led Bob and me to the conclusion that we both needed Gore-Tex rain gear.

All night the rain was tapping on the tents. At about 6:00 AM it stopped so we all prepared for our climb of the most southerly Emblem Peak, Olancha. All but one person went on the climb. All got the peak who went on the climb. Here is a route description from the Pacific Crest Trail. From the highest point of the trail before it drops into Gomez Meadows, turn east towards the peak. It is about 1,500’ of gain. Make sure to angle in a northerly direction over the large class 2 boulders.

A peak with no view! This is what everybody saw because of the storm. We spent about 45 minutes crowning around on the top because it wasn’t windy. The little closet like building just off the summit has been removed as well as the nice rock cairn on the summit from the time I was up there 1 year ago. This is my 5th ascent, so I filled in the lack of view in my mind’s eye. The plunging 3-4,000 foot drop off from the top was filled with fog as well as the distant Owen’s Valley. It is interesting to note the top of Olancha Peak (12,123’) is part of the original erosional plane of the ancient High Sierra Range. It was a flat top like Mt. Whitney, Mt. Darwin, Mt. Abbot and many others. The glaciers were never here.

Besides me, only one other person had ever done the peak, Bruce Orenstein. Ken Jones had flown all the way from Seattle for the trip. After we signed the register Robby Heath brought out a buck knife and pretended to stab Ali Aminian. Ed Ross, who was Ali’s tent mate, thought he might have to carry off the whole tent himself. Carol Breyde was disappointed by the sea of fog.

When we got back to camp, the sky was clearing. We packed up and headed for the cars. This was leisurely trip. Everyone had a good time in spite of the weather. Those not already mentioned in the write-up were Mike Kelley, Mel Daybell, Matthew Bond, Cynthia Baldo, Bill Lien, Eleanor Carr, Ed Zdon, Rita Brinkman, Brian McLauglin, Kitty McLauglin, Anne Breen, and Fred Lucas.

I want to thank Bob Hartunian for his expert assistance and fun-filled spirit on this trip. This was my second SPS lead of Olancha Peak.

-- Patty Kline

MOSES MTN. & N. MAGGIE PK
June 23-24, 1990
George Toby, Ron Young

Two late cancellations reduced our group to 12 and Ron Young filled in as Assistant Leader in place of Bill Gray. We left the Shake trailhead and pack station at 8:15 AM for an easy backpack to a nice meadow camp just 100 yards south of the Tule River crossing. We set up camp and headed for Moses. There are many ways to do Moses, but none are very good. This is a heavily wooded area and you don’t see the peak until you are very close to it. Starting at the Tule River crossing, we took the trail 1/4 mile north to a meadow with a black snow marker 31E15. Then West up the forested slopes to the ridge, avoiding the brush. We thought we could run the ridge south to the peak. Impossible, too many canyons, pinnacles, etc. So we dropped down 300 feet and contoured south about a short mile until we were even with the peak, then straight up to the summit. There was some low 3rd class en route. Ten climbers made the peak. The return route was more or less northeast straight down some steep rocks and very dense forest. We hit the trail 1/4 mile below camp. The route up was probably the best way to go, just so you stay below the ridge. We were back to camp by 4:30 PM and a super happy hour that lasted through dinner and into campfire time. The wine flowed freely. Mary McMannus and George got a bit tipsy and had great fun trying to pump water. The water just did not want to go into the bottles.

Sunday morning we headed for N. Maggie at 7:30 AM. We climbed a little dry stream bed straight up from camp. It was great for a while but fizzled out into lots of brush. After a false summit we got to the saddle west of the peak and up to the top. Ten made the peak, but not the same ten as the day before. Ron led us down a better route. It avoids the saddle and goes northwest directly down to a large gully that was less brushy than the way up. It leads to the trail at the same meadow with the snow marker sign 31E5, 1/4 mile north of the Tule River crossing. This would be the preferred route both up and down. Far less brush. We were out to the cars by early afternoon for an easy ride home. My thanks to Ron Young for a fine assist. George, Mary Mac, & Ron Young enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Maitia’s Basque Restaurant. Excellent food and service. The best in Bakersfield.

-- George
WHITNEY CLEANOUT:
Joe Devel, Pickering, Newcomb, Guyot, Chamberlain, Hitchcock, Young, Hale, Whitney, Muir Tunnabora, and Russell
August 1989
Dale Van Dalsem

Rob Roy McDonald organized a week long pack trip over Cottonwood Pass to a base camp near Rock Creek Ranger Station in August 1989. I was privileged to be a part of this trip and made a few notes that may help future Whitney Cleanout aspirants.

Entry/Exit: Cottonwood Pass is certainly the way to go in, and probably out, also. A car shuttle, placing a car at Whitney Portal, would have made the exit from Guitar Lake on a moderate day of hiking rather than two short days, but if one adds the car shuttle times, going out Cottonwood Pass may be less elapsed time from Guitar Lake than Whitney Portal! Cottonwood Pass is only 1,520’ gain from Horseshoe Meadow parking to high point just west Chicken Spring Lake, then 2,000’ drop to camp before the Rock Creek crossing, totaling 3,500’ gain in and out. For Whitney Portal - Trail Crest - Guitar Lake, the numbers are 5,300’ gain plus 2,200’ drop for a total of 7,500’? [?]

Horses & Mules; are they desirable? Some of the eleven rode horseback one or both ways, and some of us hiked both ways. Most of us sent in one or two duffels/packs by mule. Horses were no faster; we arrived after the people on horseback. Most said they expended as much energy riding as they would have walking. The mules did enable us to pack in some luxuries, such as chairs, tables, lanterns, big stoves - and I sent in half a case of wine. Cost for one large duffel bag, in and out, was about $50 or $60, I think. Consensus: most would not use horses again to ride in or out; most would send in packs and duffels by mule; I wouldn’t. For those with back problems, the mule pack-in was a godsend, however!

Day 6: A five hour pack-in to camp between the Rock Creek Patrol Cabin and the bear box at the Rock Creek crossing. This cabin, strangely, is not shown on the 1988 Johnson Peak 7.5’ topo, but is on the 1956 Kern Peak 15’ topo. The cabin was staffed by a comely, sociable Park Service Rangerette nicknamed “M”, who joined our campfire a few nights, and took some heat from two of our more iconoclastic members.

Day 1: Rick Beatty, Sylvia Sur and I slogged directly to the summit of Joe Devel, hiked the class 2 ridge to Pickering, then the ridge to Newcomb and back to camp, about 11 hours. The ridge north from Pickering went class 2 with one class 3 move. Stick to the west side and look for ducks. However, when we reached the Newcomb massif, we encountered a rib that extends southwest almost to the flats near the lake in the cirque and had to lose most of our gain to get down and around the rib, not shown on the Mount Whitney 7.5’ topo.

Day 2: Beatty and I hiked to upper Crabtree Meadow then to camp at lower Crabtree Lake, a wise choice; upper Crabtree Lake did not appear to have viable campsites the following morning. We knocked off Guyot on the way, a 9-hour day or less. Start of the trail to Crabtree Lakes is difficult to find in upper Crabtree Meadow; we finally just forged across the meadow.

Day 3: We did Chamberlain via the 3,770 meter notch SSW of upper Crabtree Lake, loose class 2 with perhaps a touch of easy class 3. Fearsome lightining storm caught us as we boulder the talus blocks around upper Crabtree Lake on our way to slog up Hitchcock. We then packed up the John Muir Trail to Guitar Lake, where we camped near the inlet stream.

Day 4: Beatty and I did Young, Hale, Whitney and Muir AND we were back at Guitar Lake in 11 hours. First Young, then Hale, then drop down the chute at UTM 823488 and angle up to Arctic Lake and then almost to the Whitney - Russell saddle before going up the easternmost rib on Whitney’s north face. Not a good route. Big loose Ruth Armentrout boulders and lots of loose class 3, before looking into the Mountaineer’s Route for the upper third or fourth of the face. Best ascend the north face a rib or two further west! We did Muir in a snowstorm; it is class 3, but none but the most acrophobic should need a rope. A big duck on the Whitney trail marks the start of the route.

Day 5: Rick went back to base camp at Rock Creek while I bagged Russell and Tuna-boring. I hiked to the Whitney - Russell saddle, then high on the Russell side and contoured into the Russell - Carillon saddle (easy class 2 sidehillning), then past Lake Tulainyo for Tuna, then reverse to the R-C saddle and up Russell via the east ridge, class 2 and 3 with one move that might be termed class 4. Found a surprisingly easy route, barely class 3, off the south face of Russell: look down the notch just a few (40’) feet west of the east summit of Russell. A well worn staircase drops down into the talus fan of the largest south face chute. From the bottom, ascend this large talus fan to the headwall, then left (west) up the stairs. Back to Guitar Lake after another 11 hour day. Third or fourth time up Whitney, but Rick needed it and I need Muir. Russell was a double grudge peak: stormed off on 3-6-82 after Carillon, and iced up 5-14-89 while trudging back to camp in R-C saddle after getting Barnard and passing Tunnabora in snowstorm. Finally got 14 of 14* on Russell.

Day 6: Back to base camp at Rock Creek by early afternoon to help finish that half-case of wine - and out by noon on day 7. Thanks to Rick and Sylvia for hiking with me, and a special thanks to Rob Roy for organizing and coordinating this trip, which took a lot of planning and dozens of phone calls to everyone concerned. Get well, guy!

*NOTE on 14 over 14: The 11 listed Sierra peaks over 14,000’ (Can YOU name them all without looking at the list?) plus White Mtn. and Mt. Shasta plus Polemonium Peak (the 14,080’ + peaklet on the southeast side of the U-Notch, not the 13,962’ peaklet .3 miles southeast on the North Palisade 7.5’ topo). Polemonium’s claim to peak status is no more valid than that of Keeler Needle, 4,340 meters (14,239’ +) which has about 60 meter height above the notch between it and Whitney. Polemonium appears to have about 200’ of height above the U-Notch. Day Needle and the Horns of Williamson are the other peaklets over 14 in California. Only 4 of our 15 emblem peaks belong to the over-14 club!

-- Dale
MT. DADE & MT. ABBOTT
August 27-28, 1983
Graham H. Breakwell / Ron Jones

[The Editor had nothing to do with keeping this report from the Echo readers for seven years!]

An early wilderness permit application had provided a trip for ten. Thirty-five applied, twenty were turned down, three cancelled, one no show and for a day hike; this left us with eleven on Saturday and ten on Sunday.

After an unexpectedly cold night we set off from Mosquito Flat campground at 7 AM, reached Treasure Lakes where we camped that night, and set off for Dade (13,635') at about 10 AM. The weather was beautiful and despite hard snow, icy in places where steps had to be cut since we had no crampons, we reached the summit of Dade without much difficulty in time for lunch. Terry Rivera and Dick Akawie achieved their 6th and 185th (?) SPS peaks respectively. A stroll back to camp, with a little care taken on the icy spots, allowed us to enjoy the happy hour for at least three [hours?!]. An absolutely magnificent array of cheese, meats and canned fish helped us enjoy the sunset.

A visit from nearby campers at 9 in the evening informed us of their unretumed friends who had left for Bear Creek Spire at 6 that morning; tired footsteps through our campsite at 11:30 PM told us of their return - apparently delayed due to route finding problems.

An early start allowed an uneventful climb of Abbott (13,715'), having chosen the relatively easy northeast chute and ridge, reaching the peak at 11 AM. We had anticipated a leisurely break to celebrate Don Cook's emblem status but since the sun and blue sky were betrayed by a near freezing temperature we scurried down. We rejoined Eivor Nillson, Adrienne Knute and Rick Little at camp, who had sensibly stayed in bed and enjoyed the lake that morning, and reached the cars at 3:30 PM.

The Copper Kettle in Bishop supplied all ten participants with a hearty dinner before our long drive home.

WANTED!
NEW SIERRA ROUTE DESCRIPTIONS

R. J. Secor is writing a new guidebook to the High Sierra, to be published by Mountaineer's Books. It will cover the area from the southern boundary of Sequoia National Park to the northern boundary of Yosemite National Park. Please mail information on new routes (or corrected information on old routes) to R. J. Secor, 2366 Las Lunas, Pasadena, CA 91107-2510. The deadline is March 1, 1991.

CLOUDRIPPER
May 18, 1990
Ursula Slager
[A private affair.]

We called Campy the night before, and he interrupted his weeding and gardening activities to join us on an early spring morning for a day-hike. We got to South Lake by 6 AM and took the pipe line (rather than the trail which starts behind Parcher's Camp) which saved about 1/2 mile and considerable elevation. There were snow banks in the trees, but the trail to Green Lake was fairly clear. Green Lake was just about half thawed out. We took the trail up toward Baker Lakes, because it was free of snow and rubble albeit slightly longer than the direct route up the sceen. Then we left the trail and the remainder of the trip was mostly on firm snow. A beautiful, sunny and cool day.

We tried going around the peak 13,301' ridge on the right but found only loose rocks and steep ledges. Concluded that the fastest and easiest is to go over the ridge and down again, no matter how distasteful. The final 500 feet were on snow. Ice axes were not essential but added to our confidence and safety. The final summit ridge had some unpleasant ice and steep snow, which avoided by going down slightly to the right onto some friendly and dry rocks. After that, it was easy to regain the ridge and final summit. We were the first to sign the register this year. The view was absolutely spectacular. Bishop Lakes, below, and Bishop Pass were all still pretty arctic and frozen over.

By now there was a halo around the sun and sundogs in the sky, and we left the summit for a leisurely trip back down, while it got colder and nastier by the minute. Nevertheless, while Campy and Ursula managed to stay on top most of the time down, Don did a lot of post-holing in the softening snow. Never got any (much needed) precipitation. The outlet of South Lake shows the bottom rocks and you can almost walk across it.
STATE PK., MARION PK. & GOAT MTN.
June 30 - July 4, 1990
Larry Hoak
[a private enterprise]

This report covers a private climb of State, Marion and Goat on June 30th through July 4th 1990. The trip originated Saturday morning at the Roadend wilderness permit station in Kings Canyon National Park east of Cedar Grove. Since the permit station does not open until 7:00 AM, earlier departures from the trailhead are not feasible. We got underway about 7:30 AM and backpacked to Granite Basin arriving about 4:00 PM. There are ample camp sites at a stream crossing at approximately 9,920 feet.

The second day, a planned easy day, began about 7:00 AM and finished at 11:30 AM at the stream crossing in Glacier Valley near State Lakes. There are ample fine camping sites near the stream crossing. We elected to camp at Glacier Valley since State and Marion appeared to be feasible from that location.

The third day we climbed State and Marion. In our opinion, this two peak climb is a very major undertaking. Only those who are highly motivated, in excellent condition, and capable of moving in a quick sustained manner over a terrain featuring a mixture of second and third class rock climbing and snow climbing, depending on the time of year, should participate. After hiking up to State Lakes drainage, we turned right near the unnamed lake at 11,000' and climbed a broad chute up the northwest face of State directly to the summit. The beginning of the chute is moderate class three followed by much class two climbing.

A traverse of the northeast ridge of State brought us to a low point on the State Lakes drainage headwall. At this point, it is possible to down climb into the State Lakes drainage in a loose class two chute. This chute should be kept in mind as it will be used on the return from Marion to regain the State Lakes drainage. At this low point, we dropped about 100 feet and traversed right about 200 yards to the low point on an east-southeast tending ridge. We call the basin this traverse covered as the 'first' basin. It is important that this low point be hit as the descent into the 'second' basin to the north is on class two and three ledges mixed with snow fields. There does not appear to be any other feasible points of entry into the 'second' basin. After an easy traverse of the 'second' basin, we then climbed an east tending ridge via an obvious rubble filled class two chute near the north end of the 'second' basin.

The 'third' basin, adjacent to Marion, is subdivided into three parts with the third part, nearest the peak, being the largest and containing most of elevation loss. On must pick a route which will maximize the use of joint systems in the country rock to facilitate travel across the third part. When looking at Marion from the east tending ridge over looking the 'third' basin, one will see a scree band on the south flank of Marion to be traversed form the left to right to gain the chute to the summit. The northwest tending chute to the summit is a broad second class rubble filled affair on the south face. It leads directly to the summit.

The return trip retraces the route through the three basins to the low chute in the northeast ridge of the State Lakes drainage headwall. This detailed description has been provided to reduce false starts and uncertainty about the route since the climb will take 12 to 13 hours under ideal conditions.

The fourth day we backpacked from Glacier Valley to Granite Basin in about four hours. The summit pack was the assembled and Goat was climbed. The route went northeast from Granite Basin up the drainage to the headwall beneath peak 12,076'. At that point a chute of class two rubble with ledges below leads southeast to a saddle. The saddle, which is quite broad and gentle, leads to the north ridge of Goat and, ultimately, the summit. The north ridge is a mass of boulders and evergreens which produce a route finding exercise of easy to moderate difficulty. The ridge is traversed on the west side. The east side appears to be infeasible. The climb was completed by 3:30 PM and took about four hours.

On the fifth day we hiked out to the car from Granite Basin in about three and one half hours at a very fast pace.

Geoff Glassner and Larry Hoar climbed State and Marion. Larry Hoak climbed Goat.

MTS. BAGO & GOULD
Labor Day Weekend 1990
Jerry & Nancy Keating, Walt Wisman

Three days of virtually cloudless skies and two evenings of balmy temperatures favored 13 persons (six of them SPSEs) who participated in a scheduled Labor Day weekend backpack over Kearsarge Pass into Kings Canyon National Park.

Camp for the first night was at Charlotte Lake and for the second at the lowest of the Kearsarge Lakes. Only a one-night stay is allowed at either location, thus causing the relatively short move. Both sites had metal storage containers to protect food against bears.

Four persons climbed Mt. Bago (11,868') Sunday morning, while six others hiked to Glen Pass to gaze northward into the Rae Lakes Basin.

On Monday, the party divided into two groups with the first including five persons who climbed Mt. Gould (13,005') from Kearsarge Pass. Thanks to How Bailey and Luella Fickle for remaining at the pass until the summit party was safely off the rocky area on top.

Although this area of the national park is heavily visited, the Kearsarge Pinnacles, Bullfrog and other adjacent lakes, and the nearby high peaks of the Kings-Kern Divide make it well worth seeing again.

Congratulations, Doug! Although you have not made it to the cover of The Rolling Stone, you can serve as an inspiration to many young and old climbers beaming from the cover of The Sierra Echo! -- Editor.
NEW PEAK LIST
By Bill T. Russell

The 15th Edition of the SPS Peaks List is being mailed with this issue of the Echo. It has several changes and new features. Our new peak, Palisade Crest is added. Many new 7.5 minute maps are listed. All of the 15 minute maps have now been replaced by 7.5s. Index numbers have been assigned to the peaks and an alphabetical index of peaks is given. An alphabetical list 7.5 minute maps is presented together with the USGS code number that identifies the geographical coordinates of each map and hence the peaks on each map. The 15 minute map that covers the area of each 7.5 minute map is also given; some people prefer the small size and big coverage that they provide. Ruled boxes are placed in the left margin for those who like to record sequence numbers and dates of climbs. Elevations from metric maps have been converted to feet.

Editor: With the help of Suzanne Thomas and Bill Oliver a geographically ordered correlation between 7.5 minute and 15 minute topo maps has been updated and attached to the SPS Peaks List. This correlation was originally submitted by a faithful SPSer whose identify has been lost through the negligence of the current editor. If this person cares to re-identify themselves to the Editor, due credit will be given in the next issue of the Echo.

Note to Secretary: "..I am not sure how I signed the ..peak register on..but please make sure I have been given credit for this climb." Revise job description?

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Send all corrections & additions to Ron Jones
119 No Helen Drive,
Fullerton CA 92635
Doug: Having been the only guy that attended your 3 prior SPS List Finishers, I will do my *DARNDEST* to attend the 4th!
- George Hubbard
MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULT ANALYSIS
Suzanne Thomas & Igor Mamedalin

Along with the SPS ballot attached to the last month's issue of the *Echo*, a membership survey form was mailed out asking the following five questions:

- how many outings to the Sierra did you go on in 1990?
- how many of those were SPS sponsored outings?
- how many Sierra peaks did you summit in 1990?
- how many monthly SPS meetings did you attend in 1990?
- and, do you intend to attend the SPS banquet in December?

Ninety-five SPS members mailed in their ballots. There are about 350 SPS members and subscribers. A feeble response of less than one-third of the membership; national elections have a better voter turnout. Of those that mailed in their ballots, only eighty-nine responded to the questions. The response distributions to four of the questions are summarized graphically on the facing page. As for the last question, fifty-six respondents indicated that they intended to attend the annual banquet. As of the publication date, over 180 tickets have been sold for the banquet which confirms that the survey respondents are representative of the membership at large.

The survey responses contained one big surprise: the Sierra mountains draw SPS members to them on their own. The average SPS member went on 8 outings to the Sierra in 1990 of which only two were SPS sponsored outings. However, there was one odd response that may have biased this observation: one respondent went on 47 outings to the Sierra of which none were SPS sponsored and he/she managed to summit on only 11 peaks. Ah, the joy of surveying groups of oddball individualists!

The average SPS member summited on ten Sierra peaks in 1990; however, one individual managed to summit on 45 peaks in 20 outings (could this be Doug?). Another individual added an apology for not going out on any outings or summiting on any peaks because they had a baby. Will the chair please excuse this person?

Now, as for the SPS monthly meetings... the majority of responding SPS members did not attend any of the SPS monthly meetings. The number of respondents that attended the meetings on a regular basis corresponds to the number of people on the SPS Management Committee... they need to run the meetings. Well, can we improve meeting attendance? YES! There is a small positive correlation ($r^2 = 1.56\%$) between the number of peaks summited and the number of meetings attended. So, if you want to bag more peaks, attend more meetings! The correlation between number of peaks summited and banquet attendance is barely positive... so, we will spare words on that.

What have we learned? The SPS membership loves to hike and climb in the Sierra and hates to attend SPS monthly meetings, vote or answer surveys.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW EMBLEM

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<tr>
<th>XXX</th>
<th>John McCully (5/6/90)</th>
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<td>505</td>
<td>Jim Scott (9/13/90)*</td>
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NEW MASTER EMBLEM

| YY  | Dave Petzold |

NEW MEMBERS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Georgina Burns</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Garden Grove, CA 92644</td>
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NEW SUBSCRIBERS

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<td>6459 Mt. Aguilar Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego, CA 92111</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ron Banner</th>
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<tr>
<td>18911 Via Messina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irvine, CA 92715</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jack Robbins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>139 Stonewall Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley, CA 94705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(415) 845-3646</td>
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<tr>
<td>(415) 849-4039</td>
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<tr>
<th>Lasta Tomasevich</th>
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<tr>
<td>2610 Regent St. #202</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berkeley, CA 94704</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bill Whities</th>
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<tr>
<td>5310 Linda Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torrance, CA 90505</td>
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<tr>
<th>Dorothy Callison</th>
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<tr>
<td>1101 N. Raymond Ave.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fullerton, CA 92631</td>
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<tr>
<td>(714) 992-4967</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bob Hartunian</th>
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<tr>
<td>2901 W. First St. #32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Ana, CA 92703</td>
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<tr>
<td>(714) 953-7640</td>
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<tr>
<th>Jim Scott</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19225 Seabrook Lane</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huntington Beach, CA 92648</td>
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<tr>
<th>Jeff Solomon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Silver Fir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irvine, CA 92714</td>
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<tr>
<td>(714) 552-7237</td>
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<tr>
<th>Mathew Bond</th>
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<tr>
<td>H: (714) 846-5140</td>
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<tr>
<td>W: (213) 497-6204</td>
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<tr>
<th>Roger Coit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 2569</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego, CA 92109</td>
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<tr>
<th>Rich Henke</th>
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<tr>
<td>911 21st St. #D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Monica, CA 90403</td>
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<tr>
<td>(213) 453-8827</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bruce Knudston</th>
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<td>aka Bruce Hope</td>
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<tr>
<th>Rita Mattkovich</th>
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<tr>
<td>aka Rita Brinkman</td>
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<tr>
<th>Charles and Mary Ann Miller</th>
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<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 3566</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idyllwild, CA 92349</td>
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<tr>
<th>Bruce Parker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H: 388-7320</td>
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<tr>
<td>W: 965-6807</td>
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REINSTATED MEMBERS

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<tr>
<th>John R. Castel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12751 Matteson Ave. #7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles, CA 90066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(213) 390-4784</td>
</tr>
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**ADDRESS CHANGES**

Scott Bailey / Kris Hutchin
6311 De Barr Road
Anchorage, Alaska 41799

*Note from Jim Scott: "... only took 19 years [to get emblem]. I wonder how I'll look trying to finish the list — extrapolating from my current rate I'll be 96."*
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