SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Sierra Peaks Section meetings are held in the Los Angeles room behind the cafeteria at the DWP, 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month. Department of Water & Power, 111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, Free parking on site. Please state you are attending a Sierra Club meeting.

September 8
John Robinson & Jerry Keating, founding members of the SPS will present a program on the early days of the SPS including pictures of the 1st SPS trip.

October 13
Mingo Morvin will present a program on Sierra Rock Climbing.

November 10
Rich Henke will present a program on his ascent of the No Face of Mt. Robson in the Canadian Rockies.

December 8
SPS Banquet – Speaker: Greg Epperson, rock climber and photographer from Bishop, California. Location: La Canada – Flintridge Country Club. Tickets $28.00 Send SASE to Barbee Tidball with dinner selection noted. Dinner choices will include chicken, fish or vegetarian entrees. See up-coming Sept/Oct Echo for detailed menu and more information on our speaker.

FRONT COVER
DIAMOND PEAK
Photo by Dave Sholle

ATTENTION ALL TRIP LEADERS:
Send in your trip write-ups and/or photos for the next publications of the Echo. We accept photos that accompany an article or tell a story without an article.

SPS Merchandise Available
Contact Patty Kline at the next SPS meeting or send your request to Patty Kline, 29362 Callon Drive, Topanga Canyon, California 90290.

T-Shirts $12.00 plus $3.00 shipping.
Colors – Ash, yellow, lt. Blue

Achievement Pins $15.00 each
SPS Patches $2.00 each
Make all checks payable to the SPS.

PEAK INDEX

Tower Peak
Mt. Ritter
Aconcagua, Argentina
Castle Rock Spire
Foerster Peak
Electra Peak
Bloody Mtn.
North Palisade
Giraud
Sonora Peak
Mt. Hoffmann
Tunemah Peak
Finger Peak
ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

Feel the exhilarating experience of rock climbing vicariously at the SPS Annual Banquet on Wednesday December 8th. Greg Epperson will give a slide show of his magnificent photos of rock climbing. These are no ordinary photos. Eppie, as he is often referred to, has been climbing for 20 years. Back in the days when the sport was evolving, many of the great climbers were in California. They were in places like Yosemite, Joshua Tree, Suicide/Tahquitz and The Needles. Eppie was there photographing and climbing with them.

Greg gives an artist’s interpretation of the climbing experience, catching the movement, emotions and facial expressions of the climbers on crux moves. These are not just commercially posed smiling faces, but the essence of this joyous sport. Epperson’s photos are frequently found in Climbing Magazine and many of the rock climbing textbooks. Last November his book, Rock Prints, a study of climbers in black and white, was released. You will be able to purchase this book at the Banquet. For you autograph hounds seize the opportunity.

At the First Annual Rock - Last April in Joshua Tree sponsored by The Access Fund, Greg donated his time giving rock photography workshops to raise money for The Access Fund. As most of you know this fund defends climbing in the non-wilderness and wilderness areas in the USA, including fixed anchors and slings in SPS territory.

Save Wednesday Dec 8th on your calendar for the SPS Banquet at the La Canada Country Club.

This climbing season is not yet over by far. I hope you are all having a peak-filled summer. The opening lines of Kubla Khan” come to mind as we climb those granite mountains and domes on the list. “In Zanadu did Kubla Khan, a stately pleasure - dome decree; where Alph, the sacred river ran,...Down to a sunless sea.” This is the work of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Happy climbing, 

Notes from Editors:

Time for apologies. For the past six months (really almost a year) Barbee has been swamped, buried, and crawling through lots of work pressures. As a result the Echo has been delayed and not always up to the quality we’d hope. Thanks for bearing with us these past few months. The rest of this year will be a breeze as Barbee’s work pressures have gone by the way side. Yeah!!!
SPS – Summer & Autumn Trips 1999

SEPTEMBER CONTINUED

I Sept 4-6 Sat – Mon Arrow Peak (12,959’) Ldr Carlton McKinney Co-Ldr Igor Mamedalain
M Sept 10-12 Fri – Sun Tower Pk (11,755’) Ldr Asher Waxman Co-Ldr Dan Richter
I Sept 11-12 Sat – Sun Smith Mtn. (9515’), Sirretta Pk (9977’) Ldr Jerry Keating co-Ldr Sid “San Jac” Davis and Nancy Keating.
I Sept 18-26 Sat – Sun Joe Devel Pk (13,327’), Mt Gould (12,300’), Mt Hitchcock (13,186’), Mt Young (13,176’), Mt Hale (13,494’), Kern Point (12,730’). Ldrs Mirna & Greg Roach

OCTOBER

I Oct 2-3 Sat – Sun Kern Pk (11,510’) SPS List Finish! Ldr Steve Eckert Co-Ldr Erik Siering
C Oct 2-3 Sat – Sun Yosemite Volunteer Project Ldr Keith Martin, Asst Virgil Talbot
Oct 4-13 Angeles Chtpt. Fundraising trip Ten Days in Paris Ldr. Maya Hyams World En. 800/972-8996
Oct 9 Sat Angeles Chapter Fund raiser. The Magic Castle. $41.00. Ldr. Fran Hirschman 714/879-6622
M Oct 16-17 Sat – Sun Clouds Rest (9050’) and more. Ldrs Doug Mantle & Tina Bowman.
Oct 18-27 Angeles Chtpt. Fundraising trip Rob Roy’s Scotland Ldr. Roxana Lewis, Contact Charter Travel 310/670-3884

DECEMBER

E/M Dec 3-4 Sat-Sun SPS/LTC Indian Cove Rock Workshop/Checkoff: This intern. & adv. workshop is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock will take place on Sat.Restricted trip. The group car camp will be at the Indian Cove Campground in Joshua Tree National Park. Send SASE, climbing resume and rideshare info to leader:Virgil Shields. Co-Ldr: Ron Hudson

JANUARY 2000

E/M Jan9 Sun SPS/LTC Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff. Same as Dec 3-4 except that checkoffs for M and E must be pre-arranged. Ldr. Virgil Shields, Co-Ldr. Dan Richter

See past editions of The Sierra Echo for detailed write-ups of trips without full write-ups. Trips previously described are listed without detailed write-ups in subsequent publications. Note all trips listed as MR or ER are restricted trips open to Sierra Club members only with the appropriate rock or snow skills.
**JANUARY CONTINUED**

M/E Jan 22 Sat LTC/SPS/DPS Local Snow Practice: For aspiring M&E candidates, rusty old hands, and those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Lack of snow may cancel. Send 2 SASE, SC#, climbing resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorensen Asst: qualified safety instructors.

**FEBRUARY**


E/M Feb 12 SAT SPS/LTC: Mt. Rubidoux Workshop/Checkoff same as Dec 3-4 except that checkoffs for M and E must be pre-arranged. Ldr: Virgil Shields, Co-Ldr: Dan Richter

**MAY**

M/E May 6-7 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff. For aspiring M&E candidates, rusty old hands, and those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Lack of snow may cancel. Send 2 SASE, SC#, climbing resume, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorensen Asst: qualified safety instructors.

**JUNE**

M/E June 3-4 Sat-Sun LTC/SPS/DPS Sierra Snow Checkoff same as May 6-7 trip. Ldr: Sorensen.

Plan your 2000 Spring and Summer SPS trips. Angeles Chapter schedule submissions are due the first week in November for March – July 4th.

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Howdy Fellow Climbers,

Below is the current register and container needs list. If you are planning a trip to a peak on this list and could help out by carrying a book and/or container, please let me know. Please continue to send in your register reports, even for those peaks not in need of a book or container. Thanks again for the help in keeping our records up to date and in filling needs. Unlisted peaks also often need containers and/or books; I'm building a list of such needs. If you are planning to climb an unlisted peak and wish to carry a small container/book, please let me know (562) 438-3809). Tina Bowman, Mountain Records Chair

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**FOREST PENALTIES**

Americans can scarcely understand the mind-set of earlier generations in Europe. We have grown up with so much personal freedom that we cannot fathom the lack of it in earlier generations. An extract from an 1836 publication lists a few of the penalties set for the use of forests in Nassau. The Duke of Nassau saw that these regulations were strictly enforced.

For taking a load of saw (dry/dead) wood—a child’s fine was 34 kreuzers, an adult’s 54 kreuzers. If the wood was green, the fine was doubled.

For having a load of dead leaves—a child’s fine 26-28 kreuzers, an adult’s 46-48 kreuzers.

For a load of green grass torn up by hand—a child’s fine 30 kreuzers an adult’s 46-48 kreuzers.

"I myself was one day told that I had become liable to be fined 18 kreuzers, because in a reverie I had allowed a rough pony I was riding to bend his head down and eat a few mouthfuls of grass."

The reason for the harsh laws—so that the grass and leaves would decay and fertilize the forest.

Submitted by Delores Holiday. Taken from: German Genealogist Digest, Winter ’91, p. 122.
SPS WEDNESDAY MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 1999
Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee Meeting
Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown Los Angeles
In Attendance: Patty Kline, Scott Sullivan, Keith Martin, Matthew Richardson, Dan Richter, Barbee Tidball, Barbara Sholle
Minutes taken by: Matthew Richardson
The meeting began at 6:50 P.M.

Minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.
Patty shared a letter which was received. Changes in wilderness permit policies have a negative impact on guides in the Inyo National Forest. They are asking for letters opposing the changes and supporting the role of guides.
The Chair also announced that Greg Epperson has agreed to be the speaker at our next banquet on December 8.
Patty passed on a message from Eric Siering. Because of low turnout, June will be the last Climber’s Social Hour.

In his Treasurer’s report, Scott reported $4,123 in checking, $901 in savings, for a total balance of $5,024. He reported that in response to the calls made to members in arrears, SPS membership seems to be catching up relative to last year. Committee members reported on their efforts to contact past-due SPS members. Most had finished their calls.

Keith shared ideas for future programs with the committee, and discussed possible scheduling.

In new business, Patty warned that the national Sierra Club is considering no longer awarding the Francis Farquhar Award for Mountaineering Achievements. Apparently there have been no nominations. The committee decided to ask Ann Kramer to look into the matter, and the Chair will submit a nomination. In response to a request from Eric Siering, the committee discussed possible nominations to the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee. None were yet proposed. Barbee Tidball proposed the La Canada Country Club for the site of this year’s banquet. The committee approved the site unanimously. Dan Richter inquired about the practice of giving a class rating for peaks with a separate rating for summit blocks. Most committee members felt that this provides useful information.
The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

May 12, 1999
Sierra Peaks Section General Meeting
Location: Department of Water and Power building, downtown Los Angeles
The meeting was chaired by Patty Kline, who began by calling for reports on recent outings. Dan Richter reported that at the last rock checkoff Tom Bowman and Paul Graff passed their “E” levels. He also announced openings available on an upcoming private trip he’s organizing to Baxter Pass. Matthew Richardson reported that his trip (co-led by Tim Keenan) to climb Bloody Mountain Couloir was forced to turn back because of stormy weather.

Patty asked this month’s three-part trivia question: Who was known as the “Old Gaffer,” what was his date of birth, and when did he die?

Patty described the changes in permit policies which are affecting guides, and passed on their request for letters of support.

It was announced that Greg Epperson will be the speaker for the SPS banquet, to be held on December 8 at the La Canada Country Club.

Bill Oliver won two carabiners by answering the trivia question. The “Old Gaffer” was Norman Clyde, who was born on April 8, 1885, and died December 23, 1972.

Keith Martin introduced the speaker, Bill Oliver, who presented a slide show on Mono Lake.
Sierra Club News July 26, 1999
Charges for Outings Policy

Fellow Leaders,

After a two+ year process to revise and clarify the ‘Charges for Outings’ policy (Outing Leader Handbook, Chapter 19), including several review cycles through the Group and Chapter Outings Committee, the Outdoor Activities Governance Committee, the National Outings Department, the Finance Department, the Department of Risk Management, and others, such as a request for comments by Sierra Club Outing Leaders, via the GCOC Newsletter and GCOC Outing Leader Listserv List Forum, a revised ‘Charges for Outings’ policy has finally been approved.

History and summary brief of the policy:

Several federal, state and local public land management agencies had initiated a review of outings that were being conducted on public lands under their control. As a result, several outings were prohibited because the land agency determined that the outings being conducted were actually ‘commercial’ outings but not meeting the requirements of commercial providers. In some rare instances, all future Sierra Club outing were then prohibited from selected areas. Many questions and comments were received on the existing ‘Charges for Outings’ policy and how to apply the policy in these situations.

In general, the Club considers local outings to be non-commercial and would like to avoid the appearance that an outing is a commercial venture. The Sierra Club does not prohibit Chapter, Group or Sections from conducting commercial outings as long as all federal, state and local laws, land management regulations and Sierra Club policies are followed.

The revised ‘Charges for Outings’ policy is intended to clarify the existing policy. It is intended to heighten the concern, and the potential impact to all Sierra Club outings if an outing does not follow all Sierra Club, federal, state, local and land management agency laws, regulations and policies. It is not intended to restrict local Sierra Club entities from conduction outings.

Group and Chapter Outings Committee (Sierra Club National)

Policy

Charges for Outings

May 22, 1999

Almost all outings are conducted on public lands—national, state, county and local lands. In many cases, there are different regulations governing non-commercial and commercial use of public lands. Different public land agencies have different rules, and some rules are interpreted differently by individual land managers. When an outing is considered a commercial outing, it can be subject to a variety of permitting, fee, insurance, and licensing requirements that the leader must satisfy. Accordingly, while commercial outings can be run, it is usually desirable to avoid commercial outings.

In general, the Club considers our outings to be a non-commercial use of public lands as exploring and enjoying public lands is a critical component of the Club’s mission. Accordingly, while it is allowable to charge outings participants for expenses incurred in the conduct of a Chapter, Group, or Section outing, these charges should generally be limited to reimbursement of field expenses so that the outing is not considered a commercial outing. In all cases, the outing leader should contact the appropriate land agency manager to verify that proposed charges are consistent with non-commercial use.

Field expenses can be considered those expenses that participants would have incurred had they gone on the outing on their own and include:
- Consumable food and supplies used on the outing
- Concessionaire expenses for services such as transportation or packing
- Lodging

The following factors can give the appearance that the outing is a commercial venture and should be avoided, unless specifically approved by the appropriate agency land manager:

- Charging for expenses such as leader wages, leader travel, leader honorarium, advertising, overheads, or equipment depreciation - Setting a price close to commercial charges or that is in itself high

There are two principal ways in which outings can be used as fundraising activities:

- Requesting a donation not part of the outing price. Solicitation of donations during the outing is acceptable and will not likely cause the outing to be considered commercial. Participants who are not willing or are not able to make a contribution cannot be excluded from the outing.
- Requiring a donation as part of the outing price. Where the donation required for participation on the outing causes the total price of the outing to be close to those charged by commercial outfitters, the outing is likely to be considered commercial.

In both of these cases, the appropriate land manager and potential participants should be advised prior to the outing of the fundraising component of the outing.

Checks paid by participants for trip expenses and/or trip fees should always be made out to the Sierra Club, not to the individual leader. Moneys received should be deposited with the entity’s treasurer. The leader must submit his/her expenses to the treasurer for reimbursement. Moneys received may not be withheld by the leader for the purpose of expense reimbursement. End of policy.

### SPS Membership Report

#### Roster Update

The following list of SPS members is printed as a supplement to the SPS Roster published with the May/June issue of The Sierra Echo. Note these names were omitted from the Roster due to late renewals, or they represent address changes, or new memberships that occurred since the Roster was prepared.

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FX(760) 872-1524  
Aznteer@aol.com

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(310) 305-8298
In Memory of CHARLES K. STEIN
1921—1999
R.J. Secor

I didn’t come to know Chuck Stein until relatively late in his Sierra Club career. He and his wife, Natalie, had miraculously survived a tragic automobile accident while touring New Zealand and after many months of convalescence he resumed his hiking with the Sierra Club. At this time my father had retired and joined me on some trips. My father typically told me that he would only hike a short distance (nowhere near the summit) before returning to the trailhead. I would always tell him to wait and see who was on the trip before making a final decision. If Chuck was at the trailhead I told my father: “You are going to the summit.” I knew that Chuck was going to the summit, albeit at a slow pace, and we would enjoy his company. On more than one occasion I gave him an upper belay on a class 4 pitch and despite his bad leg and one good eye he climbed it with more style and grace than the other more able-bodied hikers.

Chuck was able to tell a sound idea from a silly one, with a strong sense of fair play coupled with good humor. In the early 1980s the Angeles Chapter polled the groups, sections, and committees environmental matter. member of the brought this up at an decision and the

This poll was negative, so the Executive Committee polled each Conservation Committee to obtain a positive response. Chuck SPS meeting and those present passed a resolution opposing this way it was brought about. He stressed that he was not in favor of nuclear war but expressed his belief that this was an arms control matter, not an environmental matter, and to use environmental politics would be counterproductive to diminishing the threat of nuclear war. During the discussion someone said that the ExComm wouldn’t like this resolution. Chuck replied: “We don’t like the way the dice are loaded. We want new dice in the game.” A few years later I was proud to nominate him as a candidate for the Angeles Chapter ExComm and he was elected for 2 terms. He was also a BMTC instructor and was chair of LTC. And he was instrumental in the founding of the California Mountaineering Club.

One of my regrets is that Chuck never earned his Senior Emblem. He was only missing one peak from Area 13. But our attempts on this one peak provided me with the most memorable trips I had with Chuck. We once attempted Giraud Peak in late September. I made the mistake of sleeping in front of his car, with the vanity plate PEAKBAGGR, at South Lake. At o’dark thirty the horn of his car suddenly sounded! I must have leaped out of my sleeping bag in my sleep because I woke up standing thirty feet away! Chuck slowly pulled himself out of his bag, limped to his car, quietly cursing, opened the hood, and stopped the noise. Bill Oliver yelled across the parking lot: “Hey Chuck! Where did you get that horny car?” But we never made it to the summit of Giraud. The next year we made plans to climb Black Giant, with a long but gradual approach from the west. He had to cancel. The following year we investigated the possibility of hiring a horse to take him to Muir Pass, but Evolution Basin was off limits to overnight stock use. It was a sad day when he called me on the telephone, informing me of his decision not to pursue his Senior Emblem any longer.

Angeles Chapter Excomm elections.
Excomm election ballots will be in your October Southern Sierran. Please read about each candidate and vote. Ballots are due back by mid-November. Members of Excomm are responsible for issues that affect outings programs and the direction the various conservation efforts of the Chapter are focused. Make sure your vote as an SPS member counts. We need Excomm members who support outings and Sierra conservation issues.
The Los Angeles Times reported the following story of interest to all Sierra Club members:

Honor for a Little-Known Giant

Few Californians know the exploits of Dr. Edgar Wayburn of San Francisco, even though he has been one of the nation's leading environmentalists for half a century. Wayburn was not a breast beater or an angry confrontationalist like some of the movement's other leaders in the 1960's and 1970's. But this gentlemanly physician, a five-time president of the Sierra Club, was instrumental in fashioning landmark achievements, including creation of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Redwoods National Park in Northern California.

The White House has made a well-informed choice in selecting Wayburn, 92 as a recipient of the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. "We should pass on to future generations the opportunity to enjoy these places and not have them transformed into ordinary places," Wayburn said when he was notified of the honor. That legacy is more expansive today because of the quiet work of this committed man.

Besides their work with Golden Gate and the Redwoods, Wayburn and his wife, Peggy, played critical roles in the creation of the Point Reyes National Seashore. The doctor was also a tireless worker in the establishment of the national park and wilderness system in Alaska and was a colleague of such environmental giants as David Brower and Ansel Adams, fighting to save wild places from development and despoilment. California and the nation are richer for his dedication.

DON'T MISS THE SEPTEMBER SPS MEETING!....................................................

SPEAKERS JOHN ROBINSON & JERRY KEATING will be talking about and showing pictures like the photo above, taken in 1962 along the Bishop Pass trail before a climb of Agassiz.
Tower, June 25-26, 1999
Pictograph Rock and Big Kitties
Doug Mantle and Tina Bowman, Leaders

At 5:40 a.m. Friday, June 25, Doug led our grand group of seven from the Leavitt Meadows trailhead parking area to the Leavitt Meadows campground and across the footbridge onto the West Walker River trail. Beyond Roosevelt and Lane Lakes we had a number of stream crossings that we made with aplomb, until we had to cross the river itself at the lower end of Upper Piute Meadow. Doug, Mirna Roach, and Erik Stiering used the obvious trail crossing, which was fairly deep at the beginning for Mirna. Following Greg Roach, Herb Buehler, my husband Tom, and I went slightly up river to a sandy, mostly knee-deep or shallower, and moderately broad ford. We definitely moved quickly through that cold water, but then had lunch, despite mosquitoes, at the ranger's cabin and admired the collection of rocks and view. As we left the meadow, we encountered more and more snow, as predicted in Doug's trip sheet. We camped at a spot half a mile or less from Tower Lake (Doug caved into group resistance at this point) on a bench above the stream and one spot a little lower, stopping before 3:00 after fourteen or more miles and 3340' of gain. We had a great spot for lounging and dining.

Saturday morning we were off at 5:30, heading up to Tower Lake, where we found some delightful campsites free of snow, though most of us were glad we hadn't carried our backpacks up there. Just beyond the lake we put on crampons, and headed up the wall, exiting to the right on great snow and avoiding a cornice wannabe. We traveled on snow and rock onto the north shoulder and then around onto the northern end of the west side were winding through talus and runty trees, to the west-facing chute of ledges up to the top, a fun scramble, all free of snow. Our strong group was on top before 8:30 and lingered a long time picking out peaks and snacking.

Back in camp at 10:50, we packed up, ate, and started out before noon. We all crossed the river at the sandy ford this time and enjoyed the brief respite from mosquitoes afforded by the coldness of our skin from the water. Although we had planned for a three-day trip, five of us staggered all the way out to the cars by 7:00. Greg and Mirna, demonstrating sanity, camped partway out. For a trail going down river, it has a lot of uphill sections -- we had 4200' of gain for the day, almost a thousand of it on the backpack after the climb. Leavitt Meadow seems to go on forever, and just before the bridge, there's a hill for the final insult. We said our good-byes and thanked Doug for a fine lead.

Tom and I spent the night in Independence before wandering home. Erik had told us about pictographs in the area of Coso Junction, so we made the side excursion to see them. Going east on the road from Coso Junction 3.9 miles to an excellent dirt road, we turned left and went 4.5 miles to a gate to a mining operation. Here we turned left again on a good dirt road to the parking area at .4 miles. It's only on this last little bit of road that you'll find signs for Pictograph Rock. A well signed trail (five minutes or so?) leads to the huge boulder which has paintings of hands, antelope, people (perhaps), lizards (maybe), and strange lizard-like figures with antennae. Evidence of landings from outer space? Lots of obsidian chips festoon the ground. We thought the trip worthwhile, but then we also had a host of house projects waiting for us in Long Beach. Fascinating site or work-avoidance delay? You decide. We also stopped in Tropico at the Exotic Feline Conservation Center to see the jaguars, pumas, leopards, caracals, ocelots, fishing cats, and more. It's open 10 - 4:00 every day except Wednesday and is free -- take Rosamond Blvd. East several miles, turn night at the green sign for the Center (Tropico-Mojave Road) and left at another sign just below the old Tropico mine (sign onto a good dirt road to the parking area. The big cats and, if you are headed north, you can take the Tropico-Mojave Road up to Soledad Mountain and the Silver Queen Mine road back to Highway 14.

Notice: The SPS Nominating Committee is currently looking for candidates to run for the SPS Management Committee. This is a great way to get involved and to help the Section grow in the year 2000. Contact Ann Kramer or Barbara Sholle if you are interested in running. Elections are in the Fall — ballots will be in your September/October issue of The Sierra Echo.
Mt. Ritter (13,143') June 19-20, 1999
Or Third Time Is the Charm
Larry & Barbee Tidball, Leaders

In 6/24/89 I was chased off Mt. Ritter by a thunder and lightening storm, then on 6/26/93 the mountain kept dropping avalanches despite Jack Wickel and my desire to climb.....1999 had to be the year for success, I “needed” the peak!

The weather was perfect on Saturday and a group of seven climbers left Agnew Meadows trailhead just after 7:00 am for Lake Ediza. Our party included Larry, Nile Sorenson Ken Wagner, Mars Bonfire Joanne Andrew, Tom McDonnell, and myself. We camped above the lake with some of our tents on dry ground and others on the snow and settled in for a lazy afternoon napping, reading or hiking around the lake area. This was starting out as a very tough SPS trip.

Sunday morning we were up before the sun and heading towards the mountain. We put our crampons on as soon as we reached the major snowfield and headed up the southeastern route towards the summit. Climbing was steady and clean across firm snow to the upper gully. There we removed our crampons to climb over talus rock. The final approach was made without crampons on softening snow as we watched two climbers who had summited earlier glissade down past us.

Register signed and snacks consumed and we were ready to begin our glissade descent. Everyone was looking forward to some fast and fun sliding - even I who prefer to glissade slower. The trip back to camp was spent 2/3 of the time sitting down and riding the snow home!

We packed up and headed back to Agnew Meadows mid-afternoon. Once back to the meadow the mosquitoes were ferocious! Larry and I quickly said good-bye to everyone and after all cars were running we raced out of Agnew Mosquidow land. It was great trip with good climbing companions — despite the bloodsuckers at the cars and while hiking.
On the Beaten Path to Cerro Aconcagua (22,835’)
Feb 2-16, 1999
by Erik Siering

Last summer, Matthew Richardson and Nile Sorensen raised the idea of climbing Aconcagua, the highpoint of South America. The notion gelled as we bivouacked at the base of Norman Clyde Peak in August; our large SPS group had run out of daylight in descending the NE face. So Matthew, Nile and I chose to join the “select” estimated 4,000 climbers attempting to scale Aconcagua in 1999. It seems that less than a tenth are successful. Some perish each season due to poor judgement or inadequate skills.

The Ruta Normal (Normal Route) is a strenuous non-technical climb, though challenging due to the high altitude and the extreme temperatures and winds. The approach is from the Horcones Valley, through northwest scree and snow slopes, up the west side to the summit. At the outset, we’d decided against the Polish Glacier route due to the longer approach, icy conditions, and lower probability of success. We spent 3 of our 16+ allotted days on the mountain. Conditions were opportune despite snowstorms that kept us in high camp for two days. The accumulation of snow actually made the climb more enjoyable and scenic. We averted altitude complications by our conditioning and a deliberately paced ascent.

Our preparations began in earnest last October. Conditioning was maintained by scrambling up nearby Mt San Antonio as frequently as we could. A winter camp atop Mt San Gorgonio field-tested our gear. We approached Aconcagua well-versed, drawing on RJ Secor’s excellent book “Aconcagua: A Climbing Guide,” the first-hand experiences of many climbing friends, and information readily available on the Web.

In fact, all of our travel arrangements were made online. We thus researched our flights, and later contracted with David Vela’s Andesports for local support. Our ground costs exclusive of meals were $495 apiece, a reasonably good deal. We provided our own equipment and food for the self-guided climb. Nile negotiated by email with the guiding services to provide for our basic needs:
- transportation between Santiago and Los Penitentes, and to/from the trailhead
- lodging in Los Penitentes before/after the climb, two nights total
- mules to carry baggage to/from base camp, two mules each way
- white gas fuel and a climbing permit ($120 each), saving us a trip to Mendoza
- storage of equipment at the hotel and at Plaza de Mulas base camp

Our UAL flight departed Los Angeles on Monday afternoon, arriving in Santiago, Chile via Miami on mid-morning Tuesday. Chilean authorities assessed us each a $45 entrance fee. U.S. and Canadian citizens are special… our governments reciprocate the favor. The hired shuttle met us at the airport. We had seven heavy duffles between us. Matthew had extras for post-climb sightseeing in Chile. The van was to be private, but it also picked up four US climbers at the airport and in town. The others were attempting the Falso de los Polacos (False Polish) variation from the Vacas Valley.

It was a scenic drive through Santiago’s outlying areas, high into the Andes Mountains. Our efforts were unsuccessful in reviving the altimeter of Matthew’s new Suunto watch, which had inexplicably died. Prior to the tunnel at Paso de Bemejo (12,670’) that joins Chile and Argentina, we paused at the lakeside Portillo ski resort. This was guarded by sleeping Saint Bernards. The border control stations were time-consuming. At last, we were in Argentina for our first sight of massive Aconcagua. After photo ops at Puente del Inca and the climbers’ graveyard, we arrived at the Andesports hosteria. This is at the otherwise deserted off-season Los Penitentes ski area (9000’). We ate empanadas with dinner ($25 per person), packed our gear and fuel for the mules, and coordinated trip logistics with our hosts, David and Monica Vela. Two mules would carry our six duffels the next day to the Plaza de Mulas. We’d take two days to hike the Horcones Valley with light packs.

Here is a summary of our climbing itinerary, with statistics:

**Day 1:** Backpack through Horcones Valley, camp at 12,000’ (4.25 hrs, 12 mi, 2200 ft gain)

We casually set out at mid-morning from the trailhead (9800’). The Guadearque ranger checked our permit and registered trash bags that we were each given. We had to pack out all of our refuse. The lower Horcones was greener than the arid landscape I’d anticipated. Views of the towering peaks were inspiring. We passed the junction to Confluencia camp. Here we met exiting hikers, shell-shocked in appearance. They reported of high winds and a severe storm the preceding week. Tents had been leveled in the upper camps,
no recent successful ascents been made, and a Korean and a Croat had perished (fallen or frozen?) in the icy Canaleta, the 1300-foot 33-degree chute below the summit.

Somewhat chastened, we reached the unremarkable landmark of Piedra Grande (Big Rock). We made our camp further on, near the Quebrada Sargento Mas. A solitary boulder on the side of the valley served as our windshelter. The free-flowing glacier melt was full of red, muddy silt, thereby resembling coffee. We perfected a technique of pot-settled, coffee-filter strained, hand-pump filtered processing. During our water duties, a pair of Croats with bandaged, frostbitten hands passed by on a descending party of mules.

**Day 2:** Backpack to Plaza de Mulas, camp at 14,100' (4.5 hrs, 10 mi, 2200 ft gain)

It was a cool and clear morning. We passed campers in the desolate terrain at the site of Refugio Ibanez, before the pronounced rise in the trail. Near the ruin below Old Plaza de Mulas, there were dessicated carcasses of mules that had fallen from the precipitous switchbacks. Nile examined their bones and teeth (he’s an orthodontist). The Horcones Glacier came into view. We skipped the 0.5 mi side trip to the Hotel Refugio. Rodrigo, our base camp host, met us at the two Andesports tents. He kindly permitted us to use the large tent, usually reserved for guided clients, for cooking as well as storing our gear.

The services have established pit-toilet latrines among the colorful assemblage of tents. As a result, the bustling base camp is far cleaner now, in contrast to the befouled upper camps. The water source was glacier melt from above camp. Plaza de Mulas actually sits on a moraine atop the glacier itself. Water flow was clear in the morning, flouiry with silt later in the day. We filtered, but most did not without consequences. We had brought two tents, a NF Mountain 2-man and SD Stretch Dome 3-man. Only the light and cozy 3-man tent went to the upper camps. My new MSR Dragonfly stove was inoperable. It tested fine at home, but its pump valve had stuck, damaged during the mule carry. We relied on Matthew’s trusty MSR XGK. Our camp was adjacent to the Guadrepique and medic tents. Their weather report was simple, but accurate. They monitored Easter Island to the west in the Pacific, and forecast the conditions to Aconcagua three days later.

**Day 3:** Light carry to Camp Canada, camp at 14,100' (2.5 hrs, 4 mi, 2100 ft gain)

We backpacked supplies up the steep trail. At Canada, we met Jack from Jackson Hole, Wyoming. His partner Chris was ill from altitude although they’d been acclimatizing for over a week at base camp. Stronger climbers Tony and Scot, a Scots and Aussie respectively, were here too. There was snow. Water is otherwise not available.

**Day 4:** Heavy carry to Camp Canada, camp at 14,100' (3.5 hrs, 4 mi, 2100 ft gain)

We moved up more food and gear. Jack and Chris were advancing the next day, and told us we’d get their tent site. After returning to base camp, we visited the nose of the Horcones Glacier. We watched ice climbers and eyed the inclement weather higher on the mountain. Nearby icy Cerro Cuerno (17,920’) looks like an impressive climb. Incidentally, “The Stone Sentinel” is a book recommended for highly entertaining reading.

**Day 5:** Move to Camp Canada, camp at 16,200’ (2 hrs, 2 mi, 2100 ft gain)

Jack and Chris moved out and we set up. Canada is a small camp, with an open latrine beyond a rock outcropping. Watch your step! Spirited Brazilians came in waving their national flag, with an assortment of flimsy tents and recorded music. One fellow, who couldn’t speak English, read Secor’s guide. We slept lightly at altitude. Nile vividly dreamt that night of the business opportunity of a “pancake house” (IHOP?) at Canada.

**Day 6:** Heavy carry to Camp Berlin, camp at 16,200’ (4 hrs, 8 mi, 3000 ft gain)

Our plan accelerated by leapfrogging a carry to high camp. We first used our ice axe and crampons approaching unattractive Nido de Condores. Poorly placed tents amid the snow-covered detritus. Here we met Roger and Bob from Houston, Texas, who’d been acclimatizing on the mountain for weeks. They told us of their former teammates Bonnie and Ian. Bickering over control led to a parting of company before the past storm. From barren, windswept Nido the summit seemed near due to the foreshortening at altitude.

The nice, new Berlin Hut was built by the Pfalz German Alpine Club in Feb 1998. But it already had an enormous trash pile, and the roof was weathered and tattered. The three older small shelters, “Berlin,” “Libertad,” and “Plantamura,” were filthy and littered. Yet they were occupied. People will do anything to avoid carrying a tent. We passed an incoherent, stumbling climber afflicted with altitude sickness being led down on belay. We cached our gear, and spoke with descending summiters. A climber was seen working out by marching straight up the vast scree field known as the Gran Acarreo (Long Haul).

**Day 7:** Move to Nido de Condores, camp at 17,750’ (2 hrs, 2 mi, 1600 ft gain)
We left a duffle with the extra provisions at Canada. The Brazilians were playing Led Zeppelin as we departed. At Nido we reused the snow walls of a previous site, the best of the scuzzy lot. The Brazilians came in later in the day. We learned that the dead climbers’ bodies had been evacuated. It dropped below freezing in the sunshine by 2:00 pm.

**Day 8:** Move to Camp Berlin, camp at 19,000’ (1.5 hrs, 2 mi, 1300 ft gain)

Roger shared his camp with us near the Berlin Hut. It was the only snow and waste-free site. We melted snow and settled in, basking in the warm afternoon.

Day 9: Weather day at Berlin, camp at 19,000’ Weather forced a rest day. We rose early in anticipation, only to be greeted by a biting wind. It was roaring on the summit. The wind chill was well below zero. As we went through the motions of preparing to climb, we noted our numbing extremities and crawled back into the tent. We passed the day dozing, melting snow, and shoring up guy lines and rock walls to reinforce our tent.

Matthew and Nile spent time on their trip diaries. Besides the pair of Brazilians in the hut, we were alone at high camp. A feeling of isolation.

**Day 10:** Weather day at Berlin, camp at 19,000’

Another weather day, and so another rest day. Snow fell throughout the day and night, accompanied by howling winds. Feeling restless, I was enervated by the extended stay at high camp.

Matthew and Nile felt it was beneficial for the additional acclimatizing.

**Day 11:** Summit day from Berlin, camp at 19,000’ (10 hrs, 8 mi, 4000 ft gain)

This was our shot! It was a clear and calm morning. A balmy 60°F air temperature and several inches of new snow cover. Wind and snow had buffeted the tent during the night. It had been a
fitful sleep. We awoke to precipitation inside the tent: despite venting, condensation had encrusted everything with ice. So we were off to a ridiculously late start at 9:30 am. Nile’s motivation and Matthew’s optimism overwhelmed my lassitude.

We tracked virgin snow through the Piedra Blanca (White Rocks). At Independencia, we met the only two other climbers, from Oregon. They had traversed from the Vacas. We broke trail traversing the Gran Acarreo, and slowly pushed up the Canaleta. Our progress seemed imperceptible. I set a turnaround time of 18:00. Weather began to develop. Clouds boiled up from lower elevations to the southwest. Nile and Matthew contoured up to the right, then left to the ridgeline. I made up ground by cutting directly across the head of the Canaleta. This was shorter, but exhausting due to unconsolidated snow on the rocks.

At 17:00 I met Nile at the ridge, as he turned back 300 feet below the summit. The weather had intensified to a near whiteout. Thinking of his family, Nile opted to descend rather than risk the implications of the blizzard. Matthew continued ahead, summiting after the climbers from Oregon. He also lightened his load, tossing his cookies. I hurried to the top before my turnaround time. The Oregonians wished us a safe descent as they departed. Matthew and I snapped photos of each other at the summit cross, using his camera. I’d mistakenly left mine below at Independencia (hypoxia?). Matthew proudly displayed the lucky crystal from his girlfriend Annemarie. It had worked. I had my Wailer Ski Club banner.

At 18:00 Matthew and I descended to the Canaleta. The fresh snow made for tricky footing on the steep incline. At the traverse, we met a lone ascending American climber with a full backpack. We tried in vain to dissuade him of his insane notion to camp atop the summit. Oh well, we never heard of him again. The clouds broke at Independencia, where we confirmed Nile’s progress ahead of us by his glissade tracks. A beautiful sunset accompanied our arrival at Berlin by 20:00, shortly behind Nile. The Brazilians were our boisterous welcoming party. After a group photo and dinner, we crashed.

Day 12: Descent to Plaza de Mulas, camp at 14,100’ (2.5 hrs, 6 mi)

Our descent was awkward, as we were quite laden in retrieving our supply caches. We passed many unsmiling climbers trudging upward. There was now much more snow on the trails. Young Argentine climbers clustered about and greeted our arrival at the Andesport tent. They coaxed us for cheap deals on our gear, a tactic that draws on the customarily burned-out clients of guided groups. Matthew eventually sold a Nalgene bottle, and Nile parted with a Ridgerest pad. We cleaned up, and repacked our duffels for the next day’s mule carry. Matthew mixed us a tasty, effective TJ Pina Colada drink mix in celebration.

Day 13: Descent to Los Penitentes, hotel at 9,000’ (7 hrs, 22 mi)

We hiked the length of the Horcones Valley to the Guaraparque, passing through Confluencia camp on the secondary trail. It was a lovely day. The lenticular cloud formations were fantastic. They looked like a fleet of UFO saucers. It was also a sure sign of the fierce Viento Blanco (White Wind). We were pleased to be off the mountain under these conditions. We chatted with incoming hikers, mostly Americans, gauging their probability of success. I met Germans that had helped construct the new Berlin Hut. Matthew and I debated Allende and Pinochet, to Nile’s annoyance and spurring him to hike out faster. We capped our climbing experience with a pleasant dinner at Los Penitentes.

Castle Rock Spire (7,600’+) attempt

By Ron Hudson

I wanted to do this ascent because of the technical and physical challenge of this impressive blade of rock. One time I asked R. J. Secor what was the hardest peak in the Sierra (by its easiest route) and the answer was "Castle Rock Spire". Of course there are other pinnacles and spires, such as the Lost Arrow, but what is really a peak is a subject for debate elsewhere.

My climbing partner, Joe King, and I started at the Hospital Rock parking area (2800’) near the southern entrance to Sequoia NP. We used directions in Secor’s book, Sequoia and Kings Canyon Climber’s Guide, and an article in Rock and Ice. We hiked the road ½ mile to Buckeye Flat CG, then took the Paradise Creek Trail. Went over a permanent bridge over the Middle Fork Kaweah River and proceeded up Paradise Creek about 1 ½ miles to where the trail departs the river and follows a side canyon on the left. We checked that canyon for a half mile but saw no distinct trail on the left.
So we left the trail about 150 yards from where it departed Paradise Creek up the side canyon. There are many game trails, but the route is basically head straight up the sleep slope. It was very green; many wildflowers in the mainly open forest. Up above, keeping on the ridge top and then along its north side avoids brush. We traversed and went upward to the saddle (5000'el.) located 300 yards NNE of point 5170T on the 7.5' topo. Up high on the way to the saddle there is about 150 yards of considerable poison oak, but otherwise it is mostly avoidable, or only 6-12 inches high. It was just starting to leaf out. I wore jeans (just for the hike in and out) and washed off with Fels Naptha soap afterward.

From the saddle the old trail is then mostly visible and is followed for 1.5 miles (but took two hours with stops) to where it intersects the rocky gully that drains the area between the Fin and Castle Rock Spire. There are a lot of obstacles - fallen trees and erosion on this route that hasn't been maintained and barely used for perhaps 40 years. A trail is shown on an old 15' USGS topo that I have. There were no sign of humans; just deer and bear tracks. There is a large cairn at the trail-gully crossing. Come back 150' and take the ridge up about 1000' in altitude to about 100' below the lowest headwall below the Spire base, and there is a huge boulder and campsite, still in the forest. Plenty of wood for a fire. We camped there; it had taken 6 1/2 hours from the car, carrying 35-40 pound packs. Included was 30 pounds of climbing gear: 2 ropes, a large rack with friends, hexes, double sets of stoppers, and 50' of slings for rapelling.

I had seen snow below the Fin from an airplane 10 days earlier, so we brought one ice axe. We started at 6:00 the next morning, but found a long, long tongue of hard snow and ice that really needed axes and crampons. We then climbed along the sides of the icy gully and placed pro every 30 feet or so. But it still took 4 hours to get up the ice - 6 pitches of leading and following. We didn't start climbing from the notch just S of the Spire until 11:00. Then the first two "fourth class" pitches took us hours, placing pro and finding our way across the blocks. We started the aid pitch not until about 3:00 pm and still had 4 pitches (about 400 vertical feet) of climbing to go. I knew we wouldn't make the summit but wanted to try some of the difficult climbing to see what it was like. It was hard and slow. It took me 45 minutes to get up the first 30 feet of the main aid pitch - a 5.10 vertical crack and 5.11 roof. I hadn't done much aid before and was slow, but I liked it and would have continued if we had enough time.

We then turned around and retraced our route. The snow was much softer at the end of the day. Joe with the ice axe was able to down climb the snow unaided. I was lowered or belayed ahead of him down the 1000' feet of 40 degree snow. The last hour was by flashlight through the brush, back to camp at 10:30 pm. The next morning we packed out; it only took 4 1/2 hours to the car. The weather was good the whole time: 30's at night to 60's during the day.

The scenery from up there was really impressive. The 1200' high broad face of the Fin loomed across the gully from us reminding me of the Apron in Yosemite. We looked across the River Canyon to Moro Rock. There are other spires, Sleeping Beauty Tower and Amphitheater Dome nearby. And no other people around these seldom climbed crags. One could easily spend a week exploring and a climbing in the area. The next time I would plan to sleep right where we start climbing. And bring ice ax and crampons or climb later in the season. Also, it may be faster (even though harder) to do the 2 lower pitches that Miguil Carmona and Alois Smrza pioneered instead of the 2 traverse pitches. Another approach route, for the more southerly Castle Rocks formations is from the Mineral King road - from Atwell Mill campground and the Paradise Peak trail. Paradise Creek was a real paradise with its wildflower display, large trees, and pools and falls of the creek.

**SIERRA BIGHORN SHEEP NEED PROTECTION**

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep have been given immediate endangered species status under an emergency listing till 12/12/99 and a permanent listing has been proposed. The listing was the result of petitions filed in February by National Parks Conservation Association, the National Resources Defense Council, Friends of the Inyo, The Wilderness Society, and the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation. (See March/April issue of *The Sierra Echo*). Show your support for the proposed permanent listing, contact Carl Benz of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at carl_benz@fws.gov.
Foerster Peak, Electra Peak
July 16 – 19, 1999
Scott Sullivan

Elena Sherman and I picked up our permit at the Tuolumne Meadows Permit Station, which now opens at 7am. I thought it opened at 8, so it was 8:15 before we hit the trail. We parked by the permit station since I didn’t know you could drive a half-mile to a closer parking lot near the lodge. We hiked in approximately 17 miles and 3000’ of gain to where the Lyell Fork crosses the Isberg Pass trail, dragging into camp a few minutes after 8pm.

Due to our late arrival and long first day, we left the next morning about 7:30, later than planned. We followed the north side of the Lyell Fork, passing both lake 10217’ and the two lakes at 10400’ on the north side. From here we left the drainage and headed directly to the small lake just below lake 10997’. At this point we broke out ice axes and headed mostly on snow up the north west bowl of Electra. We eventually climbed out to the west ridge near the summit, which was reached at 2pm. This route is class 2. There was no register, but fortunately Tina Bowman had provided me with a register to take. The canister was still there. Rodgers seemed too far to get back to camp in daylight so we decided to leave it for another time. We returned the same way to camp.

The next morning we retraced our steps up the Lyell Fork, but crossed the creek with some difficulty at approximately 9500’. We headed south to the first saddle immediately east of Peak 11210’, then traversed onto the northwest ridge of Foerster. The greatest difficulty encountered was class 2. Once on the summit, lassitude started to set in. Although Florence was beckoning, we lounged for an hour and a half on the summit, then headed back to camp to get a start on the hike out. On the way down, we found a much better crossing just below Hutchings Creek.

Split over two days, the hike out was much more enjoyable. We also had to contend with lots of mosquitoes, including a few even on the summits. All in all it was a pleasant first Sierra trip of the year for us.

Bloody Mountain
September 19 – 20, 1998
By Patty Kline

This was an SPS Intro Trip led in conjunction with Wilderness Travel Course (WTC). Joe Wankum, a great guy to lead with, was my assistant. The group met at 8:00 am on Saturday at the Convict Creek Trailhead. It is located under a mile N of Convict Lake next to a large paved parking lot. The Convict Lake Road turnoff is off of Hwy 395, 10.4 miles N of Tom’s Place and 4.4 miles S of the Mammoth Lakes turnoff.

I led the group past the N shore of Convict Lake (7580’) up the spectacular Convict Canyon with groves of trees and exposed rock cliffs. About 3 miles out the remains of concrete pilings from 20 years ago were all that remained of the bridge that had been built and rebuilt. You are on your own here with make-shift boards. Several people took a hand across the worst part. Early and midway in an El Niño year such as this, it would be impassable to most people. 5 miles from the trailhead we arrived at Mildred Lake at 9900’. Here the group had lunch before crossing a well built bridge and then ascending the switch backing rail in a little over 1 mile to the shelf containing Lake Dorothy at 10,275’. Here the trail continues going right or N to Lake Genevieve and Edith Lake. We took the left branch to Dorothy. Another 1 ½ miles found us at the very scenic S end of the lake and level spots to camp for our party of 15 in the trees. The blue of the lake and the volcanic red of the mountains made a great backdrop for our happy hour. A food contest with first, second and third prizes were given to the best entries. First prize - a post card of SPS peaks was won by John Brunton for his special Italian bread. Jason Lynch won baby wipes as second prize for his completely intact large cherry pie. Bruce Rotty won a small box of cigars as third prize for his tequila shooters. Statistics for the day were 8 miles and 2600’ of gain.

Sunday about 7:30 am we left for the peak. Three participants signed out and hiked to the cars that morning due to bad knees, etc. The remaining 12 of us did the peak. It is
interesting to note the first ascent was by Norman Clyde on July 3, 1928. Using the Lake Dorothy and Lake Genevieve trails, we got to the Edith Lake trail. We eventually went cross country climbing, the S side of Bloody Mountain up to the SE ridge to the top at 12,544'. This is listed as class 2 on the SPS List and various climber's guides, but I found it to be class 1. On top while enjoying a great view of Ritter, Banner, the Minarets and other peaks, Bruce and several of us smoked the cigars he won. A shorter way down to camp was found that connected to a trail at the S end of Lake Dorothy right by our camp. This trail wasn't on the maps I had. The round trip from Lake Dorothy was 4 miles with 2400' gain.

The total statistics for the weekend were 20 miles and 5000' of gain. The participants were Ed Morente, David Cairns, Rich Gnagy, Sufang Chen, Bruce Rorty, Isabel Labrada, John Brunton, Cheryl Gill, Steve Denzler, Rita Cwalina, Marianne Grossman, Jason Lynch and Gary Bowen. It was a really nice weekend.

North Palisade (LeConte route) & Giraud
July 29 – August 2, 1999
By Scott Sullivan

Lacking good beta on the conditions on North Palisade, we opted to be prepared for the worst. Each person lugged helmet, harness, rappel/belay device, ice axe, and crampons in addition to the group equipment consisting of a 150' 9mm rope and a small rack consisting of five small chocks and three medium cams along with the requisite slings and carabiners.

At 7:30am Craig Haeussler, Elena Sherman, and I hoisted our heavy packs and began the trudge toward Bishop Pass. We reached the pass shortly after noon and stopped for lunch. By 1:30, we were headed for Palisade Basin via Thunderbolt Pass. The traverse from the Bishop Pass trail is not bad, but the last 400 vertical feet is over big class 2 boulders and was very tedious with our heavy packs. We crested the pass and quickly dropped approximately 400 vertical feet on the other side under threatening skies. Camp was made at the first decent water source in the drainage emptying into the north side of Lake 11523 at 5pm. We chose to camp high to avoid the mosquitoes we heard.
infested Barrett Lakes and to be higher up for our attempt on North Pal. It rained for about a half hour starting about 10pm.

The next morning we left camp at 6:30am and traversed to the base of our chute. The correct chute is easy to identify by viewing the large (~500ft high) white cliffs on the west face of North Palisade. The chute that divides two right (southernmost) cliffs is the one to climb. We climbed the class 2 talus until reaching a point where the chute is completely filled with rock slabs. After climbing the first slab, we began our search for the catwalk on the left side of the gully. Craig investigated a higher upward slab that appeared too difficult to match the route description.

We down climbed perhaps 100 ft to an outward and downward sloping, extremely exposed, wet ledge. The cliff walls at this point are marked by black water stains. Not knowing if this was the catwalk or how difficult it might be, Craig led this section on belay. Part way across he found our first duck, and we realized we might actually be in the right spot. The climbing here is easy, but we felt the exposure merited a belay. Elena followed second on the now fixed line, clipping around the protection Craig had placed. I was belayed across last and cleaned the pitch.

We continued for a few more feet along a sandy ledge until a duck marks the place to turn right into a wide gully. We climbed up this gully over increasingly steep class 3 terrain. The pitch immediately before we reached the ice was steep and Craig belayed Elena and I up it. On top of this pitch we found the first rappel sling. Next up was a very narrow, icy gully leading to the first chockstone. Craig led this chopping steps, but Elena and I used our crampons. We didn’t belay here, but the next pitch looked substantially harder and we established an anchor to belay Craig who once again took the point. This pitch was by far the crux of the climb and included mixed ice and rock as well as a very difficult move around the second chockstone.

The climbing became easier as we reached the top of this chute and turned left (north) into a broad chute leading to the summit area. We climbed directly north toward the ridge, then turned east to join the summit ridge just to the south of the summit. Most of this section is class 3. Craig led the final 50 feet over class 4 boulders to the summit, which the whole group reached by 3:30. We hastily signed the register and snapped a few photos. Clouds were all around us, and a light snow was beginning to fall.

We hurried down the way we came, belaying the summit area. As we were down climbing the broad chute below the summit, we had our first of two scares. I pulled a rock about my size loose and sent it tumbling down the mountain. Fortunately all of us were able to avoid its path.

Back above the second chockstone with clearing weather, we rappelled to a point immediately below the first chockstone. Hear we had the second scare when the rope got wedged between rock and ice as we were retrieving it. Fortunately Craig was able climb part way up the pitch and free the rope. Next we rappelled the icy section that we had cramponed up, and rappelled again on the steep pitch below that. All three of these rappels had existing slings left by a previous party.

We continued down climbing back to the catwalk, which we belayed as on the way up. Another couple hundred feet of class 3 brought us safely into class 2 talus. The pace accelerated as we hurried down the chute. At the bottom we stowed our climbing gear and hurried off toward camp, which would be difficult to find in the dark. There are lots of small cliffs across this section, making navigation difficult. We reached the gully below camp and climbed back up a small amount and staggered into camp at 8:30, just before dark.

The next day we were still tired from North Palisade, but started anyway for Mt. Sill. After an hour of hiking it became clear the we were not moving very fast and that Sill was a long distance away. We opted to spend the morning exploring Palisade Basin. Many of the Barrett Lakes we found teeming with tadpoles and frogs. Stops were also made to examine our previous days route and bolder on the cliffs and rocks. We ate lunch and returned to camp at 1pm.

Next we packed up camp and followed a high series of ramps several hundred feet above Lake 11523 and eventually winding down to Lake 11468. We rounded the south side of this lake and headed northwest up to the flatter area east of Knapsack Pass. Here we picked up a nice use trail that went west toward the pass. On the other side of the pass the going was tougher as the trail frequently disappeared. However, we still reached our camp at the second large lake shortly after 5pm. Knapsack Pass is somewhat easier than Thunderbolt Pass, but we felt the added mileage makes it a tossup.

In the morning, Craig hiked out while Elena and I climbed Giraud. We ascended the ridge southwest from camp, the followed it toward Peak 12265. As the ridge steepened, we traversed into the drainage. We opted to climb the more solid rock close to Peak
12265 rather than the loose looking crud heading to the saddle between Giraud and Peak 12265. Even though this rock was solid, we lost a lot of time finding a class 3 route to traverse to the northeast side of the saddle between Giraud and Peak 12265. We descended the south side of this saddle about 400 ft, then traversed upward onto the south flank of Giraud. We reached the summit via the class 2 south face. We returned via the steep and loose class 2 route from the southwest side of the pass between Giraud and Peak 12265.

We camped at the same place and hiked out the next day in 5 hours.

Sonora Peak (11,459’), Mt. Hoffmann (10,850’)
July 31 – August 1, 1999
By Pete Yamagata

Having picked up on an article in the August 1999 issue of Sierra Heritage magazine about Mt. Hoffmann, which is roughly said to possess the best view in Yosemite National Park taken in a brief time period for visitors (John Muir), I enjoined Rose Certini to accompany me in our high passes loop this weekend.

We took Highway 108 from Oakdale to drive east past the informal roadside memorial for the three Yosemite sightseers. Their disappearance in February was well covered by the news media, and resolved in a highly unfortunate way. Their rental car was found burned here near Long Barn, with the killer caught only after confessing to dispatching a park naturalist.

Coming to the signed St. Mary’s Pass Trailhead just a mile or so west of Sonora Pass, I chose to make my fourth ascent of Sonora Peak via the description in Gary Suttle’s California County Summits. From the pass, a use trail takes off up the peak. It crosses a wide, gently sloping, sandy field, solid with pennroyal, then becomes more distinct while heading up the peak proper. A wildflower aficionado would have a great day with all of the blooms, using a macro lens for close-up photography.

My associate had become rather leisurely-minded, so we topped out after 3 hours (2 miles, 2,000’ gain). The view of the northern Sierra is rather all-inclusive, with Mt. Rose to Mt. Ritter visible.

After dinner in Bridgeport and camp ($7) in Lee Vining Canyon, we drove to the May Lake Trailhead Sunday morning, and took the 1.3-mile trail to May Lake and its Sierra High Camp. One comes to the lakeshore, then, for the peak, turn left (west) to follow the unsigned trail to the top. It climbs through a talus field, then up through scrubby pines to the final 200 feet, where the trail enters class 2 terrain. The guides don’t mention this class 1 trail that comprises 95% of the route. One ambles directly up the natural staircase of granite slabs to reach the rocky summit, marred only by the radio facility. An empty metal box marked SRC and Mt. Hoffmann lay detached and partially bolted on a nearby slab. I placed a large register book with nesting cans upon learning the intent of another hiker to leave a piece of paper.

Tower Peak, the Sawtooth, the summits about Tioga Pass, the Clark Range, Clouds Rest, Half Dome, and the Cathedral Spires of the Valley mark the extent of the view. The Coast Range was discernible today above the layer of Central Valley smog.

The one way distance for Mt. Hoffmann is about 4 miles, with 2,000’ gain.

Hoffmann, Mount (10,850)

“Climbed a peak over 10,000 feet high which we called Mt. Hoffmann, and had one of the sublimest views I have ever had of the Sierra.” (Brewer diary, June 24, 1863, in BL.)

Charles Frederick Hoffmann (1838-1913), born in Germany, came to California in 1858. He was a topographer and geographer with the Whitney Survey throughout its entire existence, 1860-74.

(Excerpts from Place Names of the Sierra Nevada – From Abbot to Zumwalt by Peter Browning, Wilderness Press 1986.)
Conservation Work Benefits All Climbers

By Kath Pyke

Activism in Bishop
The Bishop climbing community has pioneered efforts in conservation activism in an exemplary way on California’s East Side. The result has been good news for climbing access and also for the protection of natural resources.

Recent publicity in climbing magazines, guides and websites about the fantastic bouldering at the Happy Boulders and the Buttermilks, combined with the traffic at more established areas like the Owens River Gorge, led to a surge in visitors, particularly during the winter and spring months. Recognizing the potential of working proactively, some of the key players in the Bishop climbing community came together with resource managers to look at the task of preventing and mitigating impacts, in some cases just as soon as the use of an area had started.

The Happy Boulders comprise 1,000 problems in a fragile desert environment that is the subject of a BLM-proposed wilderness study area. Climbers’ efforts with the BLM to date have include defining parking areas and trail access, identifying alternative low-impact camping sites, and volunteering for trail work. East Side climbers have also set up a survey program with the Eastern Sierra Audubon Society to identify raptor sites, and have agreed on a selective publicity policy designed to protect sensitive petroglyphs.

One of the unusual aspects of the conservation program is a volunteer “rock ranger” program whose members are leading efforts to educate climbers and other visitors on minimum impact recreation techniques.

Efforts at the Buttermilks
James Wilson, owner/manager of Wilson’s Eastside Sports (the only store in the region supplying climbing gear and guidebooks), and Mick Ryan, who is responsible for publishing much of the recent climbing information to these areas, have played key roles at the Buttermilks. Wilson, a member of the Audubon Society since he was nine years old, is a staunch environmentalist.

Both men could be said to be gaining financially from their climbing-related businesses. However, both attempt to mitigate the impacts of their businesses by encouraging the responsible use of the land, both by their actions and words. Wilson is of the opinion that you can’t stop the flow of information and climbers, but that you can modify behavior to lessen impacts.

Between them, Wilson and Ryan have produced user-friendly and environmentally-friendly climbing information, which is well supplied at Wilson’s store. The information reflects the views and the latest efforts of the BLM, and is revised as changes in access and management occur. The store also serves as a focal point for the climbing community, holding slide shows and fundraising events to put money back into protecting the climbing environment. The most recent had 130 attendees.

The Bishop area’s recent increase in bouldering and climbing activity is taking place on top of California’s predicted population explosion from the present 33.7 million residents to 49.4 million in 2020. Consequently, the BLM is preparing for a huge recreational onslaught on the East side of the Sierra, known as the last vestige of wild California. Climbers have to play a part in developing a recreational and environmental management plan to make sure that the area retains its aesthetic and ecological values that are its main attraction in the first place.

Another part of the picture is the forward thinking and cooperative attitude of the BLM in Bishop. By making staff available to listen and work jointly on issues, a whole string of the BLM’s initiatives have been carried out, as resource managers and climbers pool knowledge and resources. That the work at the Happy Boulders has been so successful is a tribute to the open-minded and progressive attitude of all parties involved.

The result on the East Side is that if everyone continues to keep working together, the BLM will continue to be satisfied that climbing is compatible with management of an area for semi-primitive wilderness values.
Tunemah Pk (11,894) and Finger Pk (12,404)
Official SPS trip (co-listed with the PCS) 23-26 July 1999
By Steve Eckert

We got a couple of calls from people who wanted to train for an expedition or scout some other trip in the area, even a couple of people who didn’t realize how far in the peaks were, but in the end it was just Steve Eckert (leader and scribe), Erik Siering (co-leader) and Eric Lesser (brave participant). I can’t decide whether to be frustrated about all the cancellations or glad that people knew their limits. Both, I guess.

We met at the east end of the Wishon Dam spillway for the short drive to the Rancheria trailhead. (Driving directions with a map and GPS waypoints are, or soon will be, on the web at http://www.climber.org/Resource/trailhead.html with other trailheads.) We chose Rancheria (waypoint PACK00) over the Woodchuck trail (waypoint WISH0) because it’s 800’ higher and about the same distance (but it has a little bit of uphill on the way out). There are no trailhead quotas here, and a ranger told me on the phone that no permit was required.

The hike in was surprisingly nice, with good shade and good trail along a dry ridge to Crown Pass (PACK14). The woodchuck/rancheria junction (PACK08) is extremely vague and we marched a few minutes in the wrong direction before figuring out there had even BEEN a junction! The trail to the pass wanders a lot more than indicated on the 7.5’ topo, so it’s probably a bit longer than you think (the John Muir Wilderness map seems more accurate).

We hit our first real mosquitoes at Halfmoon Lake, and they continued all along the North Fork of the Kings River. The trail down here is hard to follow at places (between PACK17 and PACK20), but the excellent shade makes the low elevation temps bearable even in mid-summer. Most of the people we met were week-long backpackers carrying lawn chairs and/or fishing poles. Van Dalsem wrote (in 1990) that everyone who comes here wishes they had come a different way. Most people hike out a different route than they hiked in... but we actually think we got it right! Waypoints are below, and we went out the way we came in. The pack in was about 20 miles, with 4200’ of gain, 12 hours.

We camped two nights at the 10200’ trail “junction” for Portal Lake or Crown Basin (PACK23). There is a sign, but no apparent trail to Crown Basin. The use trail to Portal Lake is well worn, and we saw a bonfire somewhere up there our first night. We were also charged by a dozen horses in Crown Basin! The horse packers use this place more than the backpackers, and unfortunately bring their high impact lifestyles such as campfires that are too big and too high to be legal, trampling the meadows, etc. Still, it’s remote enough that the damage is not overwhelming.

Saturday Lesser decided to rest up in camp while Siering and I headed off for Tunemah. I’ve heard that Tunemah is a Chinese profanity, and below is a quote purporting to explain it. If you climb this crud heap you’ll probably curse the route in, but the actual climbing isn’t too bad if you choose your route carefully. From Crown Basin, we hiked up easy slab/tundra terrain (TUNEM0), crossing the 11k saddle in Kettle Ridge (TUNEM2). We intended to stay high, but wound up dropping to 10.3k before climbing back up to another 11k saddle (TUNEM5), back down to 10.2k, and finally up to the peak at 11.9k. Ugh. The last grind up to the peak is best done close to the cliff (go only as far south as you need to get around) followed by a long side hill to the summit. The ridge is boulders with pine shrubs, the side hill is reasonably good sand between boulders.

Siering took off near the cliffs, and topped out at least 20 minutes before I did. The view is OK, but Finger is better. Still we had plenty of time so I forced him to hang around on the summit and we took some long breaks on the way back. We ran up in 5 hours and took over 6 hours to return, leaving Finger for the next day. (Our Tunemah dayhike had 3700’ of gain to the peak, 5200’ total for the day, 11 miles round trip.)

Sunday morning we took a side trip past Midway Lake to Cathedral Lake, intending to climb the north side of Finger’s west ridge to a pass Siering found in Secor’s book. Well, it turns out that’s NOT where the pass is, but the valley is beautiful and I’m not sorry we visited it. There were barefoot tracks in the sand by the lakeshore, but the cirque seemed deserted. We side hilled back around the west end of the ridge and climbed to the correct saddle at 11.6k (waypoint FINGR2). Dropping a few hundred feet, we headed for the west side of Finger’s south ridge, gaining the ridge at somewhere around 12k with a few class three moves required. The return route was down the sandy SE face, crossing around the south ridge at 11k (FINGR4).
and over the same 11.6k saddle to Midway, Portal, and our camp.

Finger is the better peak by far! The sheer north cliff tempts one to trundle, the register entries are few enough to let you know you've gotten somewhere unusual, and there's less up-and-down to get there and back (Finger was only 6 miles and 3300' of gain round trip).

Back in camp in the early afternoon, we packed up and headed down the trail. A long grind got us back to Crown Pass (with almost half the miles and 1100' of the uphill behind us) before dark. There was water and flat sand near waypoint PACK13, so we crashed and finished the 11 mile walk out in about 5 hours the next morning.

I'd like to thank Erik Siering for helping me get closer to finishing the list (as of this writing only 9 peaks remaining!), and Eric Lesser for hanging in there while we cracked the whip on the long backpacks. Hopefully the route details above and the waypoints below will take some of the mystery out of these remote peaks... add a few days to your schedule and this area could be both beautiful and relaxing.

Postscript, from "Place Names of the Sierra Nevada", by Peter Browning:

"There was once a 'Tunemah Pass' and a 'Tunemah Trail' - long abandoned. It was the latter that gave birth to the dreadful name, as a herd of sheep belonging to Frank Dusy and Bill Coolidge was forced down a precipitous trail into Simpson Meadow, in 1878.

"Two Chinese herders - appalled by the awful chasm confronting them - worked to a point of exhaustion by their desperate efforts to force the massed and balking sheep onward - cursed the sheep, the dogs, the trail and all other related factors, in the most forcible epithets known to the celestial vocabulary. Above the bleating of the sheep and the barking of the frantic dogs, from the enveloping clouds of dust, there repeatedly and wrathfully resounded 'Teu-na-mah-ne! muck-a-hai! Yeu-nicky-shee-fut! Teu-na-mah-ne! Teu-na-mah-ne!' - a thousand times... Peck and Nye (Dusy's head packers) agreed to call the sheep plunge 'Teu-na-mah-ne'.

"And what does it mean? It means something as horrible as 'You sleep with your grandmother.' It might even mean something worse than that. Consult your local authority.

Gee, I don't know, perhaps I just violated a couple of obscenity laws! Steve Eckert

CONSERVATION 2 LINERS

Barbee Tidball

- Water Savings As Americans we have shown the MWD, DWP and all other water utilities that we can save water. The average user today consumes 20% less water than they did 10 years ago. These water savings have come from using more water efficient products and becoming more water conservation conscious. Representative Joseph Knollenberg - Michigan has introduced HR 623 designed to repeal the part of the 1992 Energy Policy Act that related to water efficiency standards for toilets, showerheads and faucet aerators. The repeal is gaining support and may pass. As Californians we know that HR 623 will have detrimental affect on the efforts of the Southern CA MWD to reduce water usage from the Colorado river and the DWP from the Sierra. Passage of HR 623 could also open old battles for dams, like the regularly defeated Auburn Dam. Write your Congressional representatives and urge them to vote NO. Saving water is environmentally and economically sound. For more Information contact Friends of the River (916)442-3155 x212 or at www.friendsoftheriver.org.

- Sierra Nevada – Forest Protection Campaign "Protecting the ancient forests and associated watersheds of the Sierra Nevada Range" Sierra Nevada is a coalition of more than 50 local, regional and national groups working to protect the Sierra. The group is currently touring with a slide show to promote preservation of the mountain eco-system. The
slide show was been shown at the California Native Plant Society and the 20s & 30s Section of
the Sierra Club meetings in July/August. The slide show illustrates the important issues
regarding protection of the Sierra. The focus of the presentation is not only on the beautiful
mountain tops, but also on the foothills, watersheds, and meadows. Bob Brister, the Outreach
Coordinator noted a number of interesting facts on the use of the forested lands. Of interest
were the following statistics:

1) There are 8 times as many miles of logging roads as there are miles of interstate highways.
2) Only 4% of the wood products we use come from our National Forests.
3) The vast majority of protected and roadless lands in the Sierra Nevada are the mountain
tops. While these are important areas the protection is miss-leading since important
forested, wildlife and watershed areas are often left unprotected.

The group is supported by a number of Sierra Club Chapters in California. To join or for more
information mail $25.00 (or more) to Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign, 915 20th
Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, phone (916)442-3155, web http://www.sierraforests.org.

Show you’re support for the Sierra – Write the U.S. Forest Service
Write Sierra Nevada Framework, U.S. Forest Service, 801 I Street, Room 419, Sacramento,
CA 95814.

Following is a sample letter prepared by the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign.

I am writing to comment on the future management of the national forests in the Sierra Nevada.
Only 9% of the original ancient forests remain in our national forests of the Sierra Nevada. I
ask that you protect our public lands by

1) permanently protecting all remaining ancient forests in a reserve system linked by corridors
2) permanently protecting the remaining roadless areas and obliterating roads that have
   outlived their usefulness
3) adding all eligible rivers to the National Wild and Scenic River System to protect native fish
   and amphibians
4) protecting all native species from adverse activities such as logging, road building, mining
   and grazing.

Please add me to your mailing list to receive notices about forest management planning
decisions.

Sincerely,

Forest Service Sierra Nevada Framework

Draft
Environmental Impact Statement
The Forest Service is about to release a draft
DEIS for the management of the entire Sierra
Nevada. The new management plan will
address everything from fire management to
private cabins, weeds to
logging, recreational
uses, grazing and roads.

That's Trellisorus
Alpinum - Don't pull
It Out!
"The new plan, formally known as the Sierra Nevada Framework for Conservation and Collaboration would for the first time treat all the Sierra forests as a single unit. This is not the agency's first attempt at a regional blueprint. The Clinton administration in 1997 rejected a previous proposal, saying it did not adequately protect wildlife and would permit excessive logging. The year before, another plan was withdrawn before public release because it was at odds with a major scientific survey of the Sierra region" Los Angeles Times July 27, 1999. The Forest Service is under intense pressure to protect the environment and they do not want to be sent back to the planning table again. Our input will be very important during the 90 day comment period as this plan will affect all other existing and proposed management plans. If you would like to follow the progress of the draft plan's preparation log in at www.fs.fed.us/snfs. The web site includes a wide array of information on the plan. The DEIS was to have been released in July, that date has been again extended.

- **Recreational Fees** In reaction to the American Recreational Coalition a new group, the **Public Access Coalition** has been formed opposing the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (RFDP). The new group includes Yvonne Chouinard, Patagonia; Jason Robertson, American Whitewater Association; and Armando Menegal, Access Fund. The group represents individuals and organizations in the recreation industry that oppose the RFDP. One of the groups efforts has been to bring to the public awareness Disney's involvement in the Adventure Pass program. Disney is reportedly responsible for assisting in the design of the Adventure Pass via public and private partnerships.

- **Roads in our State Parks** A number of the peaks we climb like, Maggie & Moses are accessed through state parks. These parks are being threatened by development. Senator Tom Hayden has introduced SB 1277 to prohibit the construction of roads through our state parks, which do not have park purposes. This bill will not affect roads built for fire protection and utilities (roads that can also be environmental "problems") it will protect the parks from highway and development expansion. Two recent road issues have a risen. One is in the Chino Hills State Park, the park was designed to preserve ridgeline to ridgeline views, but the Foothill toll road has been proposed through the middle of the park. The other is the San Onofre State Beach where the toll road is also proposed. These issues affect Southern CA State Parks, but with the increasing development in the Sierra Foothills, these types of roads issues may soon be affecting the Sierra. Please write your CA state Senator now to support SB 1277.

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### Shopping Finds

On our last trip to the Sierra (climbed Cloud Ripper) we stopped in the Bishop ranger station to pickup our permit and left with lighter wallets. First I saw some wonderful cards by Greg High. He paints using acrylics, scenes of the Sierra and Inyos. I purchased scenes of Emerald Lake, White Mountain, wildflowers, Rock Creek, and Lamarck. When I got home I looked up Greg High via his web site and found that he has a number of paintings as well as the cards available. You can find his work by stopping by the ranger station or contact the artist at P.O. Box 460404, Escondido, CA 92046 and on the web at [http://hometown.aol.com/HiSierraHi](http://hometown.aol.com/HiSierraHi).

Then being the book buyers we are I scanned the book selections and found a couple new publications. Of possible interest to Sierra climbers is *Mine in the Sky, The History of California's Pine Creek Tungsten Mine*and the people who were part of it, By Joseph M. Kurtak 1998.

Your next time through Bishop......I recommend the shopping at the ranger station.

Barbee Tidball
Published six times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter.

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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 for each additional line. Other announcements and product/service advertisements: $1.00 per line or $25.00 for a half page space. Reach out to our climbing constituency and place an ad today! Send copy and check made out to the SPS, to the Editor.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes to Matthew Richardson 333 Sycamore Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. The ECHO is mailed via 3rd class mail and will not be forwarded by the post office.

PEAKS LIST: Copies of the SPS peaks list can be obtained by sending $1.00 and a SASE to the section Secretary: Matthew Richardson, 333 Sycamore Ave., Claremont, CA 91711.

MISSING ISSUES: Inquiries regarding missing issues should be directed to the section Mailer: Elena Sherman, 11277 Ryandale Drive, Culver City CA 90230.

AWARDS: All prices include sales tax. Emblem pins ($15.00), senior emblem pins ($15.00), master emblem pins ($15.00), list finisher pins ($15.00), and section patches ($2.00) are available from Patty Kline, 20362 Callon Dr, Topanga Cyn, CA, 90290. Make all Checks Payable to the SPS

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"To explore, enjoy, and preserve"

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