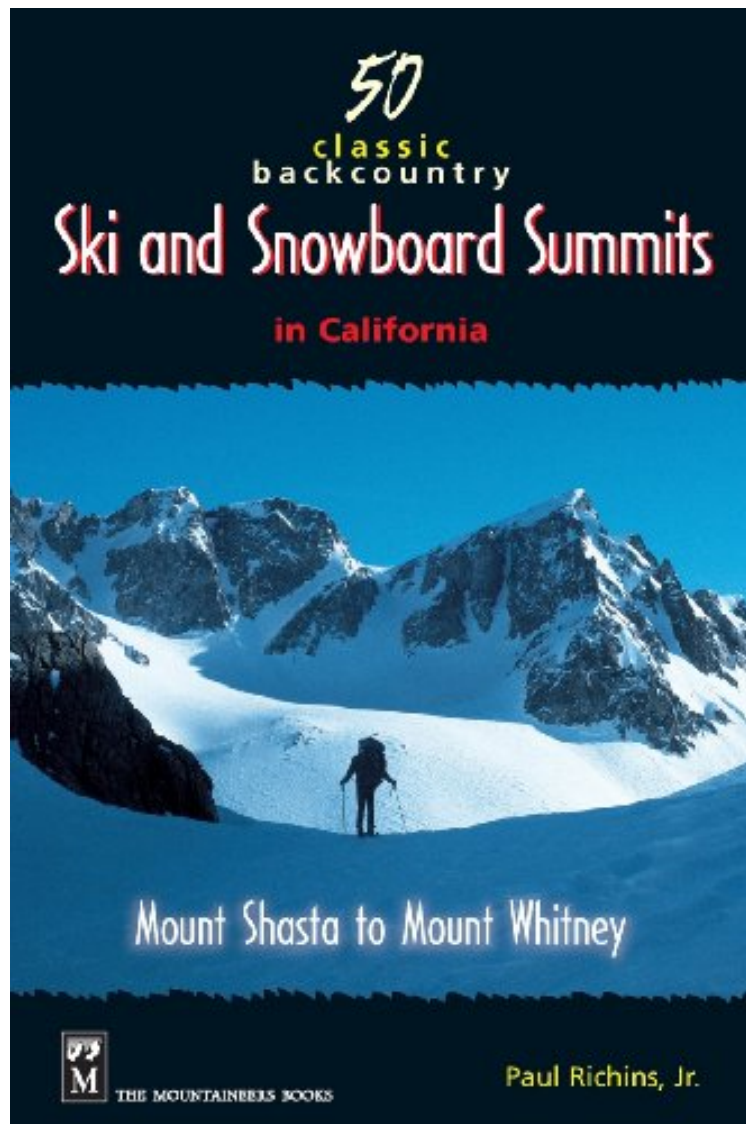


[Free] 50 Classic Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Summits in California: Mount Shasta to Mount Whitney

## 50 Classic Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Summits in California: Mount Shasta to Mount Whitney

*Paul Richins Jr.*

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**Paul Richins Jr. : 50 Classic Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Summits in California: Mount Shasta to Mount Whitney** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 50 Classic Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Summits in California: Mount Shasta to Mount Whitney:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This book is a fantastic resource, made better by its fair price.By T. Trichelf you are serious about skiing in California's backcountry, you may already have John Moynier's book, or even

Dan Mingori Nate Greenberg's book on the same topic. Both of those are also excellent, and while there is some overlap in terms of coverage, the overlap is surprisingly small. Ritchins' book is terrific for people who want to plan a long tour and really enjoy the process of stomping around the backcountry, while perhaps taking in a few long, steep descents (I think that Mount Darwin may be the stiffest descent in the book, and given that I've descended Darwin and enjoyed it, it can't be that hard). Moynier is more about The Rad and how not to get dead while going after it. Mingori Greenberg is even more oriented to The Rad, particularly single-day trips (I don't remember if they cover anything longer than a day -- maybe Feather Peak is in there). For most people, if you're honest with yourself, Ritchins' book is probably going to offer the most options, on both sides of the Sierra and up north to Lassen and Shasta. The latter two mountains are not covered in the other books and it's quite a shame, because there are few things as exhilarating as skiing the West Face of Mount Shasta on the 4th of July, harvesting a mile of vertical in nothing but a t-shirt. Lassen's NE Face offers similar thrills without the herds of Silicon Valley types plodding up Avalanche Gulch. I'm not sure if it comes through in my review so I'll just say it: Shasta is probably my favorite mountain in California to explore, partly because it is so massive, and partly because that chunk of the state feels like a totally different part of the country. That said, some other fine peaks further south (like the Thumb, west of Big Pine) are also exclusive to Ritchins' book, and well worth skinning in to explore. To make a long story short, if you are looking for a backcountry ski touring guidebook that includes some great descents and excellent camping suggestions, you should buy this book. If you're looking to supplement other Sierra-centric backcountry guidebooks, you should also buy this book. And finally, if you're looking for a guidebook to skiing Lassen and Shasta, you should consider this book, because the topos on the web aren't quite as informative as having one of Ritchins' maps in your hand. Have fun and be safe out there.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. More than expected By Nobelnd This book is awesome. It explains so many routes in California for ski mountaineering and is very informative. The only question I have is doubting if the author really skied all the routes because some of the description seen not came from the real trip but just imagination.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Classic By XCrement what can I say, this is a classic book for the area. There are more detailed ones now that show the lines of different runs and give GPS coordinates. But this is mostly a touring skiers book I think.

\* Covers backcountry routes from California's Cascade Range to the Sierra Nevada\* The most complete backcountry ski and snowboard information available in California guidebook\* Paul Richins, Jr., is an expert ski mountaineer with extensive experience 50 Classic Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Summits in California offers some of the finest ski and snowboard routes in California, ranging over a 550-mile span from the Cascade Range in the north, to Mount Whitney, to the Sierra Nevada in the south. Grouped into nine geographical regions, these summits represent the best of the best from well-known destinations to more remote areas to a sampling of the highest peaks. Historical anecdotes about each region round out the guidebook. Tours range from a half day to seven days, and while all can be completed on either snowboard or skis, the author makes specific recommendations for the best snowboard descents. Each trip description includes a complete narrative of the ascent and descent plus information on trip highlights, trip duration, level of difficulty, mileage, elevation gain, and access. The appendix includes a list of California's highest peaks.

Paul Richins did a terrific job of selecting and describing many of California's most recommendable routes in one of the greatest regions for ski mountaineering on earth. (Bela G. Vadasz, *Alpine Skills Int'l*) Paul Richins has written a splendid guide to places of white solitude and beauty, places few people ever see. The title of this book could well have been *Unknown California*. Richins takes us on a unique journey through the Golden State, and his enthusiasm enriches every page. (Steve Roper, author) About the Author PAUL RICHINS was raised in Weatherville, CA, and started hiking in the Trinity Alps at age 12. He has more than 35 years of wilderness experience backpacking, mountain climbing, ski mountaineering, and whitewater kayaking. A longtime member of the American Alpine Club and the Sierra Club, Richins maintains the Backcountry Resource Center, a website of valuable information for the backcountry skier, climber, or hiker wishing to explore the mountains of California, the United States, and Canada. For *The Mountaineers Books*, he has written *50 Classic Backcountry Ski and Snowboard Summits in California: Mount Shasta to Mount Whitney and Mount Whitney: The Complete Trailhead-to-Summit Hiking Guide*.