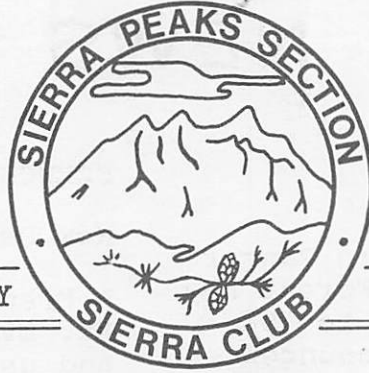


The Sierra



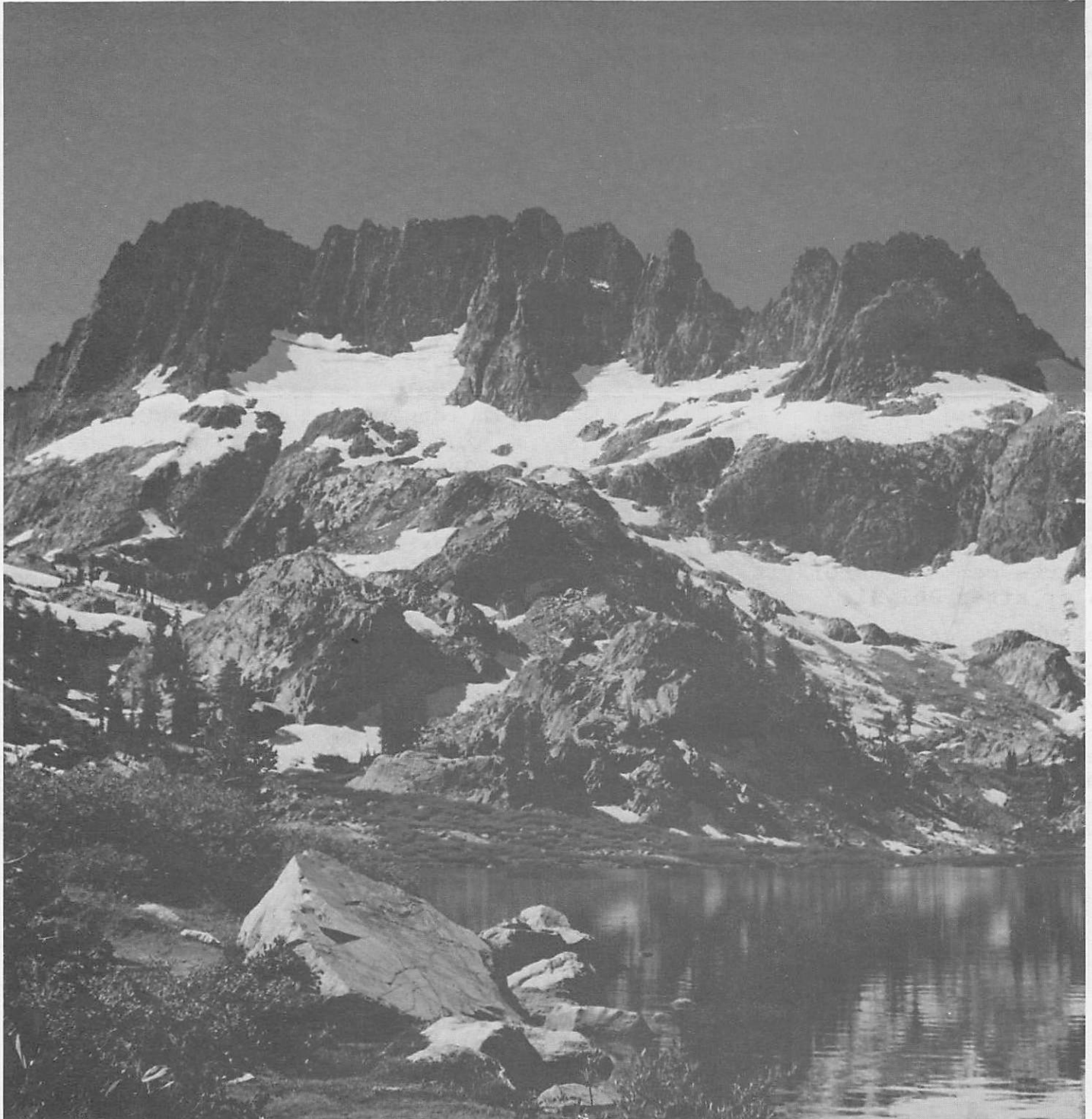
ECHO

VOLUME 18

JULY

1974

NO. 4



NEWS

WHITE MT. RANGER OFFICE OPENS ON NORTH MAIN ST.

The office of the White Mountain Ranger District of the Inyo National Forest has moved from 151 Grandview Drive to 798 N. Main St., Bishop, it was announced this week.

The cooperation of the local businesses will be appreciated in directing the traveling public to the new location. Summer office hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, seven days a week.

The public is also urged to make use of the Bishop Creek and Rock Creek entrance stations to obtain wilderness permits.

The Bishop Creek station is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days per week and the Rock Creek station is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from 6 a.m. Friday until 10 p.m. Saturday.

YOSEMITE CAMPGROUNDS TAKE RESERVATIONS

Campers at Yosemite National Park now pay campground fees and will be able to reserve campsites for visits starting on or after July 1.

Telephone reservations for drive-in campsites in Yosemite Valley or Wawona can be made by calling Park Reservation System, Inc., on their toll-free line at (800) 553-8425 or at (319) 363-0221. There is a \$2 service charge for a reservation. All other campsites will be operated through the summer on a first-come, first-served basis.

COVER PHOTO

This month's surprise cover photo was taken by Carl Smith of San Carlos. Beautiful Lake Ediza provides foreground for stately Clyde Minaret, shown here on the extreme left.

MORE NEWS

CAMPING FEES

A \$2.00/night camping fee is now being collected in 20 campgrounds on the Inyo National Forest due to a recent congressional amendment to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Campgrounds on the Inyo N.F. that will be under the fee system are as follows:

Mono Lake District

Upper Gull Lake Campground
Lower Gull Lake Campground
June Lake Campground
Oh! Ridge Campground

Mammoth Ranger District

New Shady Rest Campground
Old Shady Rest Campground
Pine Glen Campground
Reds Meadow Campground
Twin Lakes Campground
Coldwater Campground
Lake Mary Campground
Convict Lake Campground

White Mountain Ranger District

Rock Creek Campground
East Fork Campground
Four Jeffrey Campground
Big Pine Creek Campground

Mt. Whitney Ranger District

Greys Meadow Campground
Onion Valley Campground
Lone Pine Campground
Whitney Portal Campground

As in the past, no charge will be made for the remaining, less developed campground and picnic areas on the forest.

AUGUST 10-17

SFV-BUS

Trans-Sierra: Sequoia to Whitney Portal. Basically two groups. A moderately strenuous group will set a brisk pace and climb Kaweah & Whitney. A moderately paced group will fish, swim, photograph, observe the flora & fauna or whatever time allows. Or small groups may do their own thing using the bus only for transportation. A good opportunity to knock off those peaks situated well into the Sierras namely: Eagle Scout Peak, Mt. Stewart and the Kaweah family. Transportation approximately \$35.00 Reservations: Dick Ramirez

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6 JUNE - 24 JUNE
1974

KOPENEC, CHUCK 883-4389
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657-4299
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5421 W. 138TH PLACE
HAWTHORNE, CA 90250

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SOUTH GATE, CA 90280

573-9048
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S, SAN GABRIEL, CA 91770

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

** NONE **

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826-8666
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PULLMAN, WA 99163

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9053 WILLIS AVE.
VAN NUYS, CA 91402

343-3686
* KLUTH, PAUL
4747 CORBIN AVE.
TARZANA, CA 91356



ASCENTS



Mt. Bradley

April 27-28

Barbara Magnuson & others

The trip began at 7 a.m. Saturday morning when most of the climbers met at the intersection of the Onion Valley road and the road to Pinyon Creek about 1/2 mile west of the Symmes Creek Road. We caravanned the mile or so to the roadhead at 5800' and picked up two more climbers, including Fred Camphausen of China Lake who had not been aware of the SPS trip. We were happy to have him with us. Walton Kabler agreed to be assistant leader, as Roy Magnuson, the intended leader, had been unable to go on the trip. However, all members of the party were also of assistance to me at various times during the trip (including supplying me with lunch food because I left mine in the car). Although 20 people had made reservations, four notified me they couldn't come and there were two no-shows, Burt Reiff and Eric Long. Altogether, 15 of us started out at 8 a.m. up the sometimes faint trail on the north side of the creek. The trail stayed on that side except for a detour to the south side to avoid a rock promontory at 7600' elevation. Here we got off route for a while by following a trail to the south toward a branching canyon, but soon thrashed our way back across the creek and through the willows to the trail about 30' up the bank. We hit good snow at 8300'. Several people took turns breaking trail to camp at about 10,900', all arriving before 3 p.m. We had a leisurely afternoon melting snow and setting up tents. Somehow Ed Treacy and Maynard Brandsma found wood and we warmed ourselves at a small campfire as we watched a strange mini-storm approach from across the Owens Valley and then dump about 1/4 inch of snow on us.

Thirteen of us left for the peak at 7:45 Sunday morning. A large chute leads south from the bowl where we camped onto a broad, more gently sloping area which continues to the summit. Crampons were useful on the lower slopes but after 500 feet gain, the snow was fairly soft. Again, a number of people share the trail-breaking with me. A few clouds moved around us but broke up as we neared the summit, where we had fine views of Center Basin to the west and Williamson to the south. The summit, at 13,289' was reached at 10:30. The descent was uneventful until we were glissading near the bottom of the large chute. There we hit harder snow and several people had to self-arrest and then proceed under full brake. Two chose to crampon down when, as one explained it, they got cold feet. It was a good example of why glissading isn't always simple and fun, particularly for the inexperienced. Everyone made it down unharmed, except for a pair of skinned knees. We were out to the cars by 3:45 p.m.

Everything about this peak is outstanding. It is big, wild, and totally unspoiled. While not a difficult climb, the 8000 feet gain reminds one this is indeed a huge mountain. We met near the old Manzanar encampment and caravanned to the George Creek roadhead. This proved to be a good maneuver because the parking and camping at the roadhead is very limited. Some other vehicles were already in the better spots. The last half mile of the dirt road is steep, rocky, and narrow. Fine for Pintos and Datsuns, but big cars would have a rough time turning around. The hike in on the George Creek route was rather pleasing. It is rough, wild, and unspoiled with little evidence of man and no pollution. The on again, off again trail required some route finding and provided an opportunity to second guess the leader as to where it was. The creek was low and the many stream crossings posed no problem. We made camp in some tall timber just below the snow level at 9600'.

Sunday dawned beautifully clear and sunny, a perfect day for climbing. One person stayed in camp and 19 headed for the peak. Slightly over 5 1/2 hours and 4800' gain and all were on top. The last 3000' was nearly all snow. Shady parts were icy and required some step cutting. A few put on crampons. Enroute we met R. J. Secor and Sheldon Moomaw, who joined the climb. While lounging on the summit and soaking up the magnificence of the snow clad High Sierras, four heads popped up from the other side. One of them belonged to S.P.S. member John McKinley of Salt Lake City. It was pleasing to renew an old acquaintance. Aided by several long glissades the group was down to camp in short order and enjoyed a leisurely afternoon and evening. The hike back to the cars the next day was a breeze, but much to our surprise waiting for us on a rock at the roadhead was a Forest Service Ranger wanting to see our Wilderness Permit for 20 people. To the relief of all, the leader produced the permit and nobody went to jail. All went home happy.

OLANCHA PEAK - JUNE 1-2

D. Ramirez - P. Bruce

When the sun roasted me out of my bag at 6 a.m., I realized that June was too late for Olancha and the 8 a.m. departure time was quickly advanced to 7 a.m. Twenty eagerly hit the horse trail, wisely avoiding the cattle trail. There was no water till Whiskey Creek. Around April or May, one should be able to count on two to three areas of good water in some of the steeper draws. High noon put us at the end of Summitt Meadows where we took advantage of lunch at the tables. Being too early in the day, and the mosquitoes being bothersome, we continued up Monache Creek until it was a mere trickle. Large enough to give us good water (it was above cow pie meadow) and small enough not to support too many mosquitoes. I question the purity of the waters that drain from any of the meadows. There must be something in the grass that induces diarrhea in cattle. This spot provided good camping spots and ample fire wood. At night we all stood around the fire and chuckled at every one of Phil Bruce's jokes. I told one of my usual two. The new people thought I was a witty person, the Ombergs who must have heard it at least a dozen times, thought I was a bore. I was all set to tell the second one, when Al Toering got one syllable ahead of me and told it instead. I was crushed and the Ombergs had their biggest laugh of the evening realizing Al had stole my thunder. With that I retired.

OLANCHA.. cont.

A 6 a.m. start put us on the peak at 10 a.m. Not a fast pace, but we all stayed reasonably well together. We were back to our packs and out to the cars by 3. Nineteen of the twenty climbers met at Two Sisters restaurant in Inyokern. A nice buffet for \$3.50 - if you have a large appetite you can really make out. Two groups climbing Olancha weekends after this date either saw a bear or had one raid their packs during the night.

What can we do about making the mosquito an endangered species?

PETTIT, PIUTE, VOLUNTEER, June 21-24

.....Doug Mantle

Beginners were welcome to apply, but when I did the final screening even the other leader was excluded. Only Cuno Ransbau, Bill Feldman and I attempted the peaks via a new approach -- Twin Lakes.

We began well enough, going up Robinson Creek, almost to Barney Lake, then off on the overgrown trail which eventually hits Buckeye Pass. The suncupped snow and horrendous runoff made the going really tough as we pushed on to a point under Seavey Pass for camp, at one point requiring us to wade a waist-high stream.

June 22 was the longest day of the year. Off at 6:00 am. we hit pure swamp near Benson Lake, swam up Piute Creek (a wrong turn) to Doe Lake (Doe Lake?), worked back to Smedburg Lake by 3:00 pm and at last viewed Volunteer. We climbed it up the east face, traversed on that side to Pettit, then down west via Rodgers Lake to the swamp. Cuno points out that at this point, we made more use of logs than since our algebra days, but he's to be excused as the hour was approaching midnight. Amid cries of "it's stupid to go on" and "we'll never find camp", I determined we could not get Piute that night/day nor the next day and still get out Sunday night, we we all agreed to take an extra day. Oh yes, we came right to camp in time for a 10 o'clock bedtime.

Next day again saw us cross Seavey Pass and head down to 8,600 feet from which we moved west and up Piute, hitting the ridge 1/2 mile south of the summit. We returned, packed up and began the trek out. I believe this marked the first all SPS streak trip as we all doffed all at one crossing late that evening.

We returned routinely to find that Paul Lipsohn, who had come up with us, but gone his own way, all but had the national guard ready to swim in after us. I was upset that he so doubted my listmania as to think real misfortune had struck us, but his efforts objectively did seem reasonable. Fortunately, no action had been taken, so all was well.

Pettit, Piute, and Volunteer lie in perhaps the most beautiful area of the Sierra for lakes, domes, meadows and forests. Our conditions were terrible, but a trip in late July would indeed be rewarding. Our approach entails 15 miles and 3600' to Seavey Pass, a position easily comparable to the more usual Benson Pass Camp, and thus should provide the best route for these peaks. The writeup called out 45 miles, some gain. With our errors and some necessary detours, our totals probably were 60 miles and 16,000. Some gain!

Next time you have four days and want to plan a Sierra trip, just ask Diana Dee for a suggestion...

Nine climbers met at the Birch Lake trailhead Saturday morning. (Directions for getting there are similar to the new ones for getting to the Split Mountain trailhead--see this or the last Echo--and will be gladly supplied upon request.) The hiking route takes off along a jeep road which first goes west, then north for about 200 yds, then faintly goes west heading towards the gully to the right of Birch Creek. The road then heads slightly to the left of this gully; a side road turns right (north) into the entrance of the gully (which is located behind a very low hill which runs N-S). The road soon becomes a trail heading up the gully and then switchbacking onto its north ridge. Follow this trail; do not drop into Birch Creek. At about 8500' the trail will be one gully to the north of Birch Creek; at about 9000' the trail will be two gullies north of the creek. It then heads south across the next gully and down about 100' towards the main creek valley. Then it turns west along Birch Creek and heads up a broad valley. One may then either cross the stream and contour up the snow/talus on the right side of the final 1000' to the lake (which we did), or perhaps stay on the grassy slopes on the right of the stream (which looked like it might "go"). There are very few campsites at Birch Lake; there is a flat meadow about 200' below, which a larger group might prefer at a drier or snowier time of the year.

Four people climbed the Thumb Saturday afternoon. The route was class 1-2 because the 100' of 3rd class ledges were covered with snow.

Sunday at 6 we left for Bolton Brown. The snow conditions were beautiful up the steep slope to the plateau 1 mi SW of Birch Mountain. We then dropped down about 150' in a steep, cruddy chute just short of the pinnacle at the SW edge of the plateau. The 1 mi traverse to the snow slope heading to the summit was on semi-firm talus and took 1 hr. (Do not try to stay high; getting around the last few rock ribs should be done low.) We headed up the final steep snow slope (some guessed 45°) and got onto the ridge about 100' to the right of the summit. The rock below the ridge is rather rotten; the route would be much more treacherous with less snow. We were on the summit at 11. A new register container was placed there.

About June 1 Dennis Lantz had asked me for a recommendation for a neat four-day trip to do on or around June 8-9. So I suggested going over Taboose pass Thursday, climbing a few peaks, and then meeting us on top of Bolton Brown. I ignored all the clues I had accumulated about the snow conditions in the basins on the west of the crest. So Sunday morning found Dennis and Meridee Muell below their planned goal for Saturday night, having waded through waist-deep snow for two days at 1/2 mi per hour (maximum).

They set off bravely for Bolton Brown, and were within shouting distance when we arrived on the summit. The group had lunch; then I, R. J. Secor, and Lester Byington decided to wait, while the rest of the group led by Ron Jones returned to climb Birch. They placed a new register container there, and returned to the cars by 8 pm.

Meridee and Dennis reached Bolton-Brown at 2. It was her first Sierra trip and her first Sierra peak.

To make a long story short, we didn't get back to camp at Birch Lake until midnight. (Meridee has promised to write up their trip for the Echo.) On the descent she learned a few things they don't teach in BMTC--for example, how to plunge-step in the dark. (I learned that nobody will tell you that you're wearing your sunglasses at night.) We assured the undaunted although tired Meridee that this would probably be her most difficult trip; no SPS trip would seem hard after this.

Monday morning we walked out to the car. Fortunately, a Toyota Mark II wagon holds five climbers and their gear.

I wish to specially thank R. J. Secor for his assistance, and publicly apologize for getting him into trouble with his high school for the nth but final time.

PK. 12,064 (MT. LOVE), BOREAL PLATEAU, MT. LANGLEY
July 4-7, Jerry Keating

The relatively gentle high country south of the Mt. Whitney region provided new scenery for eight Sierrans who extended the Fourth of July into a four-day exploratory outing. Leaders Jerry Keating and Art de Goede promised the group time for fishing, but as many peaks (three) were climbed as golden trout were caught.

From the end of the Horseshoe Meadow Road, the group backpacked 14 1/2 miles Thursday over Cottonwood Pass (where we crossed a new section of the Pacific Crest Trail which runs from Siberian Pass to Trail Pass), across Big Whitney Meadow and up to Rocky Basin Lakes. A fine camp was set up on the rib that partially divides Lake 10,745. To our surprise, only four other parties were in the area and wood was plentiful.

Leaving Monroe Levy in camp so he could snooze until 11 a.m., the rest of the group summit packed Friday to the Boreal Plateau to admire a spectacular view of the Great Western Divide, the southern end of the Kaweah Peaks Ridge, the Sierra crest and Kern Pk. Another rewarding view was had down nearby Forgotten Canyon, which was visited (unsuccessfully) by two of our fishermen, Walt Whisman and Art. The most impressive panorama of all, however, was enjoyed by Barbara Reber and the author from Pk. 12,064. Atop the peak was found a register placed by the late Wally Henry in 1969, some scientific equipment resembling a lightning rod and an outhouse-sized shed obviously associated with the equipment.

Before returning to camp, the group visited Funston Lake and Johnson Lake. Both lakes held high promises of fish, but it turned out that early July is the spawning time there for golden trout and only three were hooked by Dick Ramirez and Art.

On Saturday, everyone backpacked up a ducked footpath to an 11,200+-foot col immediately north of Lake 10,745 and descended a grassy trough (good camp sites) to Siberian Outpost, from which we headed cross-country through meadowland and forest to the Army Pass Trail. From Old Army Pass, five participants climbed Mt. Langley under Art's leadership, while three others explored the 12,320+-foot easterly end of the New Army Pass ridge before descending to a wind-sheltered, wooded campsite on a knoll immediately east of the Long Lake outflow. Not satisfied with Langley alone, Rich Quackenbush and Doris Golden also climbed Cirque Pk.

Before returning to the cars early Sunday, the party backpacked over to the largest Cottonwood Lake, hoping to observe state hatchery workers taking eggs from the golden trout. We learned, however, that this activity was completed three days earlier.

With the exception of the Cottonwood Basin, the 40-mile loop covered on this trip is unfamiliar terrain for most SPSers, yet is highly scenic and not as crowded as are many areas to the north. With the Pacific Crest Trail expanding, there are additional opportunities for variations that might include Trail Peak. In any event, more trips to this very pleasant area are recommended.

NOTES ON . . .

This new monthly spot will feature up to date roadhead information, new routes up old peaks and other interesting comments. Your contributions are solicited. Ed.

DISASTER PEAK

Lt. Montgomery M. Macomb of the Wheeler Survey so named Disaster Peak and Disaster Creek because on September 6, 1877, his topographer W. A. Cowles, accidentally dislodged a big boulder and was severely injured. The mountain formerly was called King's Peak.

Tim Treacy

MT. SAN JACINTO

On Saturday, June 29, 1974, I took my grandson, Steven Davis, to climb Mt. San Jacinto. While the ascent was my 275th, it was Steven's first. I believe that he is the youngest person to climb the peak in one day- age 2.

Sid Davis

KERN PEAK

Off for the routine Kern Peak-Koip weekend, Ed Treacy and I discovered that the road beyond Kennedy Meadows now extends to Oso Meadows, from which Kern Peak may be day-packed, maximum round trip 25 miles, 5,500'. This is considerably less than via the Trail Pass approach often used by SPSers.

Doug Mantle

PRIVATE CLIMBS

CACHE PEAK (6700') 17 Feb 1974.....

Carl Heller

Recently Doug Warschauer and I climbed Cache Peak which may be the Southernmost named peak in the Sierra Nevada. At least some naturalists make Tehachapi Pass the southern boundary of Sierras and Cache is the first peak north of the highway.

We drove up Cache Creek past a gate with NO TRESPASSING signs but no lock to a locked gate about three miles from the roadhead. We walked to the end of the road and then broke brush across several ridges to the summit. I must say that on the basis of the vegetation, the Sierras end at Walker Pass. The Cache creek chaparral reminded us of searches in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. We returned by a different route using a nearly bulldozed road until it headed East and we went West back to our car.

THE BEGINNER AND BOLTON-BROWN - Meridee Muell June 5-10, 1974

I should have known, when the muffler fell off my MG. Likewise, I should have heeded the flat tire Dennis Lantz's Porsche developed in the middle of the Mojave desert, with no tool kit and an airless spare. Nonetheless, I continued on my first real Sierra adventure, which Dennis had described as, "easy-six-peaks/SPS-membership-in-four-days-and-two-BMTC-experience-trips-rolled-into-one".

The first day (and 5,000 feet) up Taboose Pass was splendid. We had to ford swollen Taboose Creek only twice, and rock, water, and snow only 30 percent obliterated the 7-mile trail. Compensation was flurries of flying flowers (violet and yellow butterflies), elder pines raising branch tips toward the immaculate blue sky, the sparkling icy tarn where we pitched the yellow Stevenson.

Time and hip-deep suncupped snow thwarted Day Two's plans to climb Goodale and Cardinal, and Striped Mountain taught me the SPS term, "crud". But...the sunset view of King's Canyon from Taboose Pass was gorgeous beyond words.

The third brilliant blue-gold day dawned unmarred over a John Muir Trail awash where it wasn't buried. Rivulets became rushing streams became frothing rivers. I can wring socks with the best, and we blazed up the basin at blinding speed -- our packs looking like Tobacco Road laundry lines; we made three miles in only 14 hours. There went the Ruskin climb.

The snow gods were kind the fourth day, and let us crampon up the 45° slopes so that we were only two hours late meeting Diana Dee. Scratch Birch.

Things BMTC never taught me: Plunge-stepping and ice-axe arrest in total darkness. How good hot grape Wyler's tastes when your trip runs a day over. About incredible people like Les Byington, Diana Dee, Dennis Lantz, and R. J. Secor, who carry your pack so you can go on, don't laugh at your inexperience, and campside, give you hot tea and the warmest clothes when you can't generate your own heat any more.

And Bolton Brown? My name is euphorically scrawled in a small tablet atop this, my first peak. Hang the sunburned tongue, the W. C. Fields nose and elephant ankles: my soul runneth over. Thank you, SPS!

EMERGENCY REPORT
Sierra Club - Angeles Chapter

This form is to be completed in duplicate at the scene of the emergency. One copy is to be taken out by the messengers reporting the emergency and given to the responsible rescue agency if rescue is needed. The other copy is to be forwarded by the Leader as soon as possible to: Sierra Club - Angeles Chapter, 2410 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90057

Description of emergency(facts, not opinions):

Date: _____ Time: _____ ()am/()pm Witnesses: _____

Location of emergency:

()Marked map attached Distance from roadhead: _____ mi Terrain complications(local and enroute):

Roadhead: _____ " : _____ hr

Injured/ill/lost person(most serious; for others give information on back of page):

Name: _____ ()Male ()Female Age: _____ Weight: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Whom to notify: _____ Relation: _____ Phone: _____

Allergies: _____ Medication taken: _____

Lost person situation: Where last seen: _____ When: _____ ()am/()pm

Probable location: _____

Clothing color and type: _____ ()Bloodhound sample available

Experience level: _____ How well equipped: _____

Type of injury/illness:

Location on body: _____

Other injuries: _____

Condition:	Overall	Pulse rate: _____ per min	Breathing	Mental state	Speech	Eye pupils
()Good	Strength	()Normal	()Normal	()Conscious	()Silent	()Responsive
()Fair	()Normal	()Shallow	()Stuporous	()Coherent	()Unequal	
()Serious	()Strong	()Labored	()Unconscious	()Incoherent	()Pinpoint	
()Dead	()Weak	()Bubbly	()Was ()Is		()Dilated, fixed	
	()Not detectable	()Not detectable	How long: _____			

Skin temperature	Skin moisture	Skin color	General observations:
()Normal	()Normal	()Normal	
()Hot	()Moist	()Flushed	
()Cold	()Dry	()Pale	
		()Bluish lips, nails	

First aid given: ()Controlled bleeding ()Treated for shock ()Artificial respiration ()Bandaging ()Splinting
()Warm fluids ()Other: _____

Assistance needed: ()None ()Medical ()Helicopter ()Carry-out ()Lowering ()Search ()Air-drop:

Equipment needed: ()Oxygen ()Backboard ()Other: _____

Other needs: _____ Technical complications: _____

()Special rush because: _____

Plans on-the-scene: ()Will stay put ()Will evacuate to _____ ()marked map attached

Other plans: _____

Personnel on-the-scene: Total number: _____ Novice: _____ Intermediate: _____ Experienced: _____

Medical qualifications: _____ Other special qualifications: _____

Equipment on-the-scene: ()Tents ()Sleeping bags ()Food and water ()Stoves and fuel ()Ropes ()Hardware
()Other: _____

Weather now(time: _____): Temperature: _____ Wind: _____ ()Rain ()Snow ()Sunny ()Cloudy

Weather trend: _____

Other problems: _____

Name of Leader reporting emergency: _____

Signature: _____

Names of messengers:

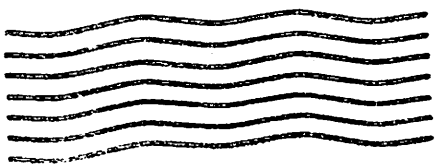
()Can lead rescuers to scene(in any case, brief rescuers)

Messengers to notify: (X)Either: ()Sheriff of County or ()Park Ranger as appropriate
and in all cases: (X) Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team for Sierra Club coordination (213)355-1414

Also: () Alert nearest rescue group:

() Other: _____

Comments(also use back of page for additional victims, sketches, helicopter site, circumstances, etc.):



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