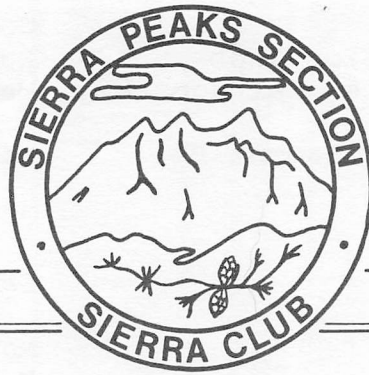


The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 18

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER 1974

NO. 6



CALENDAR

Nov.	2-3	Mt. Silliman	Goebel, Secor
	2-3	Owens Pk., Pilot Knob	Russell, Ory
	9-10	Spanish Needle, Cartago Pk.	Magnusons
	9-10	Rock Climb	Lantz, Rosenzweig
	23-24	Sawtooth Pk., Lamont Pk.	Ranschau
Dec.	16	Banquet	
Jan.	25-26	Rock Climb	Lantz, Rosenzweig
Feb.	8-9	Mt. Corcoran	Mantle, Goetz
	15-16	The Thumb	Dee, Ory

JAN 25-26 SAT-SUN SPS-LTC
Rock climb practice: Fun in the sun at Joshua Tree N.M. Safety techniques and skills practice for beginners thru advanced Sat, climbing on Sun. Limited group for LTC checkout Sat. only. Send SASE to leader by Jan 15 for trip sheet and car pool data. Give your experience and aims to aid planning for instructors.
Leaders: Dennis Lantz and Uncle Tom Rosenzweig.

PARK SERVICE CANCELS RESERVATION SYSTEM

WASHINGTON (AP) - Ending a trouble-prone two-month experiment, the National Park Service announced Wednesday it is abandoning - at least temporarily - its reservation system for national park campsites.

A spokesman said the Park Service is allowing an interim contract for the reservation system to lapse today.

But campsite reservations made on or before Aug. 29 will be honored even after that date, he said.

Beginning Aug. 30, all national park campsites will be available again on the first-come-first-served system unless previously reserved.

Press-Telegram (PM)
Long Beach, Calif. Thurs.
August 29, 1974

The fall color has had its' fling...the crisp air presages the coming snows; and yet, maybe one more trip... Cover photo by Carl Heller.

NEW MEMBERS

Mary Bihl
508 New Hampshire
Los Angeles 90004

Jim and Pat Butler
754 S. Highland Ave.
Los Angeles 90036
931-4458

Frances Cleveland
815 Sea Gull Lane
Newport Beach 92660

Geoffrey A. Godfrey
3414 Gale Way
Ventura 93003

Jack Grams
4477 La Crosse Ave.
San Diego 92117

Tom Jeter
15520 Wilmaglen Dr.
Whittier 90604

Jack Koshear
8819 Guatamala Ave.
Downey 90240

Meridee F. Muell
5521 N. Astell Ave.
Azusa 91702

William H. Pannell
3710 Pine Ave.
Long Beach 90807

E.C.Sidinger III
212 Quincy ST. No. 308
Long Beach 90803

Mike Wilkinson
1820 Barry Ave. No. 1
Los Angeles 90025

ADDRESS CHANGES

Jurgis A. Gedaugas
42½ Saint Joseph Ave
Long Beach 90803
821-3122

Mark Goebel
1632 Barry Ave.
Los Angeles 90025
682-2024

ADDRESS CHANGES

Dick Jali
3504 S.E. Henry St.
Portland, Ore. 97202

Charles Hopper
1700 Firethorn Pl.
Oxnard 93030
805-488-1711

Bruce Masson
13 Arco N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87120
714-846-9467

Richard Reimer
1212 N. Broadway No. 204
Santa Ana 92701
916-756-9629

John Vitz
221 21st Pl.
Manhattan Beach 90266
964-2263

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Dave Gladstone
2118 Yale
Phoenix, Ariz. 85006
602-267-7410

Steve Smith
2906 Gill Ave.
Bakersfield 93306

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

Paul A. Bloland
David F. Burdette
Jim Erb
Doris Golden
John Hellman
Frances Hoover
John E. McDermott
John E. McKinley
Anna Lou Pinson
Pat Russell
Dale W. Stein

THE SIERRA ECHO is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. EDITOR - Paul Lipsohn, 9152 E Olive St, Bellflower, CA 90706. MAILING - Marian Furst, 1827 Oxford, Pasadena, CA 91104. SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$3 per year. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send remittance before March 31 to: George Toby, SPS Treasurer, 9337 Rubio Ave, Sepulveda, CA 91343. COPY DEADLINE - Tenth of every month.



ASCENTS

GREAT WESTERN DIVIDE June 30-July 7 Doug Mantle

This was really the Kern Point-Picket Guard leisure trip, but the participants, eleven at some points, lost sight of this. Instead, most concentrated on the Kern Amphitheatre's Mountaineer Peaks which indeed proved worthwhile, (even though one leader wasted most of his precious Kern Peak time going up them a second time).

Of all the climbs (sixteen peaks fell among us) only several merit a route note: Table can indeed be climbed up the north chute, but the 45 angle of snow suggests proper equipment and an early trip such as ours (late season = pure ice); A rope is useful on Thunder for the final summit; The treacherous slopes of Picket Guard may be ascended solo with pack.

River crossings were treacherous and prevented most from climbing the trip's true objectives, and indeed resulted in one injury which occurred late in the trip, but which did not disrupt activities, thanks to a lot of bullet-biting. A rope for such crossings is an excellent idea, as is wearing boots sans socks across. Wish we'd thought of these.

My thanks to George Hubbard for trying his darndest, Cuno Ranshau for his concern for the group and Dave Gladstone for being prepared, and to all the others for the good spirits which really did make this an enjoyable outing.

MT. LANGLEY.....July 13-14.....Paul Kellow

The scheduling of Mt. Langley was purposely done to make up for getting chased out of the Cottonwood Lakes area after being deluged by rain all night Saturday last year.

This time, following the same itinerary, we climbed Cirque Peak an Saturday afternoon, made camp adjacent to the beautifully tended grassy banks of the inlet stream to High Lake, and on Sunday trudged to the summit of Mt. Langley.

The route departed slightly from the usual class 1 to pick up a little rock scrambling on the south east approach. Very enjoyable.

However, as you might have guessed, no more than fifteen minutes after leaving our camp en route to the cars, rain and sleet, thunder and lightning descended on us and helped to usher us on our way!

There were only four of us on this trip. A couple of people had to cancel, including Roy, who had to work on the weekend. Saturday we had a leisurely walk up to Sunset Lake from the Lake Sabrina roadhead. After Blue Lake the trail becomes obscure in places, but with luck and some help we managed to find most of it. We spent a lazy afternoon, having determined that we could expend the least total effort for the weekend by going up to the col between the two peaks and climbing both from there. This we attempted on Sunday. We did Powell by going up to the right (a steep crud slope), dropping about 50 feet on the other side, then climbing up to the plateau on our right. Turning right on top, we soon reached the summit. We also climbed West Powell.

Threatening weather and a probable late arrival at the cars caused us to abort the climb of Thompson. Not the most "successful" weekend, but a pleasant one, with congenial companions.

MIDDLE PALISADE

July 27-28, 1974Mark Goebel

Ten climbers and one fishing person left the South Fork roadhead Saturday morning and headed for the traditional Finger Lake base camp site.

The Saturday p.m. "Optional Activities" turned out to include a successful ascent of The Thumb via So. Fork Pass, an unsuccessful attempt on the face of Disappointment (the loose rock was even worse than described), and some successful fishing and relaxing.

The evening activities included, celebrating Tom Cardina's birthday, with only a slightly dented cake; discussing the merits of "Deep Throat" and Linda Lovelace; and the usual gab and smoke inhalation around the campfire. Actually, most of the gab was about "D.T." and such other such films, and so the entire affair must be rated X.

During the night we dodged rain drops and mosquitoes, but by morning the sky was clear and all hands headed for the peak. The third class route is exactly that, and continues from bottom to top. The only problem is the bowling alley effect due to the loose rock. However, with a small group and with careful climbing, the chances of making a strike can be lessened.

The descent, after a short summit stay, was marked with more X rated conversations, and a recitation from "Alice in Wonderland". Thinking that the altitude was beginning to get to the group, I quickly marched everyone back to the cars.

RED AND WHITE MTN.....July 27-28.....Paul Kellow

We left the McGee Pass trail where it dips down and comes within about twenty-five feet of Little McGee Lake. Jumped the outlet stream, went up the snow bank and began the pleasant hike up the northeast ridge towards the summit.

It was early Sunday morning and the five of us were treated to almost monotonous, always-to-be-expected perfect climbing weather. Beautiful, clear blue sky, and crisp, invigorating air!

After ascending the ridge, we were pleased to find the curved knife-edged ridge line that had to be traversed for the summit climb. From there on, it was merely up the rocks of the northeast face and onto the top.

The views are spectacular and the climb is short, easy, and well worth the effort.

CLARENCE KING (12,905 ft) AND MT. COTTER (12,721 ft.) 8/16/17/18

Friday morning, after picking up our Wilderness Permit at Onion Valley, Larry Goetz and I met 8 climbers who were anxious to test their conditioning carry long weekend back packs over North Dragon Pass. The Pass was long and hard for most, and Mary Sue Mead was downed for a short time by a scalp laceration from a falling rock, the size of a softball. After a late lunch stop at Dragon Lake, all the tigers set out to reach Rae Lakes so they could start on the elevation gain to the Sixty Lakes Basin. There was no stopping them until we reached the lakes at 10,800 ft. At that point, they had enough and a mosquito infested camp was made.

Early the next morning all hands started for the peak. We continued along the trail and met Ed Rose at a Sierra Club High Camp trip. At the point where the trail begins, a decided loss of elevation, and just before you reach the east ridge from Clarence King, one should turn west up the canyon toward the peak. Ascending to the saddle just south of Clarence King we climbed just below the ridge of the southwest face until the summit block was reached.

We had heard that the Keyhole was blocked by fallen rocks earlier in the summer and soon found this to be true. Using a few steps in an aetrier everyone easily reached the last move of the summit which was climbed with a minimum of assistance from the rope. Roy Ward placed a new register container which he carried and then a fine lunch was enjoyed during a beautiful day on top of the world. Our descent was begun with a 120 foot rappel and we were at our camp by late afternoon. Later that day, the lure of climbing a peak not on the list led six climbers to start for Glen Pass one day early.

Sunday morning only Roy and I were inspired to reach the heights of Cotter. The route from Sixty Lake Basin is straightforward; follow just below the eastern spur to the south ridge and on to the summit. Thus I completed climbing those peaks of the Sierras named for the members of the Brewer Geological Survey in the Sierras during the 1860's. Mt. Brewer, Mt. Hoffman, Mt. Gardiner, Clarence King and Cotter. Richard Cotter was the climber who accompanied King on the first ascent of Mount Tyndall in 1864. Roy and I honestly thought that Mt. Cotter was worthy of being added to the Sierra Peaks List. It has nearly the same splendid view as one gets from Clarence King except that one can also see the splendid south face of Clarence King, an additional Emblem Peak to add to Whitney, Split, Kaweah, Brewer, Goddard and North Pal, all visible from the summit. The view of both the Sixty Lakes Basin and the Gardiner Basin is better than from Clarence King. It requires a separate day of climbing . . . and would not be a feasible ridge hop from any other peak.

....Ron Jones

The anticipation and the planning of participating on a SPS trip is quite exciting.

The memories after such a trip are indelible and priceless --- in between it's a bitch.

(anon)

The SPS never scheduled its easiest emblem peak this way before. While this route takes the big peak out of the "ho-hum" class, there's no good reason not to lead it again, if properly done. Reading about it won't let you recapture the enjoyment of all who made the climb, but you might pick up some tips to help you do it or similar ascents yourself.

The Backpack - Stick to the Ebersbacher Ledges going up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek. Despite low water in mid-August and vastly-increased traffic in the last six years, the bushwhack in the creek bottom has as many false trails as a DPS peak and enough tangled brush to make an HPS leader weep bitter tears. Unfortunately, we learned this by trying the tempting-looking lowland route on the way out; don't do it.

The use trail everywhere else is easy to follow. Believe the ducks implicitly through the rock piles below the ledges and on the rock slab and brush route between Upper and Lower Boy Scout Lakes. When finally approaching East Face/Iceberg Lake, resist the temptation to go up at the two greenery-footed waterfalls. Press on toward the east face itself and turn uphill to the lake over the lower-angle crud that cuts further back into the plateau. Campsites are plentiful, though sometimes used as latrines. Though there are no trees, some sites feature large rocks to support a tube tent.

Planning the Route - We sat below the towering face Saturday afternoon, Mendenhall's guidebook in hand, and studied the route. There's so much of it! The usual one or two pitch climb doesn't prepare you for the size of this one. Memorize the route thoroughly: if you go astray you can scare yourself to death and get in real trouble.

The Climb - With Don Lauria on the lead rope, we moved onto the face. As he had promised, the actual climbing was easy and a dozen each slings and chocks handled the protection problem. Our progress was much slower than Don's, almost all of the delay being due to our lack of speed in setting anchors. Since the view down below your hardware is over 1,000 feet to the first bounce, each of us when leading a rope was very sure of his or her chock placements. Lots of practice is the only way to speed up the process.

The famous Fresh Air Traverse is a trivial move with non-trivial exposure; the bottomless chimney just beyond is much more fun. The only problem on the pitch is rope drag, so be forewarned. The most difficult move, though still no more than 5.4 or so, is a water chute beyond the Grand Staircase with only palm friction handholds. The grotty little chimney not far above looks fierce but goes easily, if awkwardly. And that's it. The top of the wall. You may want a rope for one 20-foot stretch in the third class above, but it's sort of an anti-climactic scramble.

We did not stay long for the spectacular sunset, nor to chat with the tourists whose minds were blown as we popped over the edge, but hurried down the Mountaineers Route toward camp. Sorry, Don, for making you late for dinner in Bishop that night, but thanks for a great trip.

Would we do it again? You bet! Especially 14-year-old SPS'er Ray Lantz, doing Whitney for the first time; he thinks it's the only way to climb.

Here and there bodies emerged from among the mass of cars parked in the circle at Onion Valley eventually to total ten. We informed them at this point of a possible change of itinerary -- that instead of Dragon and Kearsarge it might be Kearsarge, Dragon and Gould. We shouldered our usual burdens and took off for the north Golden Trout lakes. Within half a mile, one tripper was having problems and signed out - and then there were nine. Continuing our modest pace, we arrived at the lower lake and found adequate space for our small group.

At 12:00 we departed for the Kearsarge scree slope above us. Everyone was on the summit by 2:00 enjoying the insuperable weather. Time was spent viewing and naming all peaks in the vicinity. Eventually, we had to leave our front row seat and headed down another scree slope for home base. Then it was most everyone into the lake to remove the dust.

Next morning one couple opted out - and then there were seven. A good climb brought us to the summit of Dragon at 10:00 - that crack along the face does make this an interesting class 3. Down, up, down, and up in the vicinity of the ridge plus a few good moves with a flourish and Gould was ours and the best of the trip was done. Again it was fun to identify everything in sight.

Special thanks to Roy for assisting even though he has climbed these peaks two and three times before. Now to find another dusty scree slope with a lake nearby.

DISAPPOINTMENT..PLUS BALCONY AND MIDDLE PALISADE..Aug. 25...Carl Heller

We scheduled SPS climbers found a non-scheduled group of SPS'ers one day ahead of us on the mountain. We were thus able to get some first-hand information about the glacier and mountain to supplement my own 17 year old data. The glacier does seem to have changed in that time- particularly the bergschrund.

The present easiest route on the NE face now starts up 150-300' of very loose limestone. Balcony Peak (SE of Disappointment Peak) on the ridge is an easy 30-40 minute distance from Disappointment.

The group decided to traverse to Middle Palisade- based perhaps by one summit registrant who claimed a one-hour traverse. We took considerably longer and had to by-pass the intermediate peak. Our descent of Middle Palisade was also slow and we hiked out by moonlight and flashlight.

Participants were: Les Byington, Diana Dee, Carl Heller, Graham Stephenson and Jeff Warschauer.

TRIPLE DIVIDE, LION ROCK, GLACIER RIDGE (PEAK 12,416')

Aug 31 - Sept. 2Fred Hoeptner,
Gene Mauk

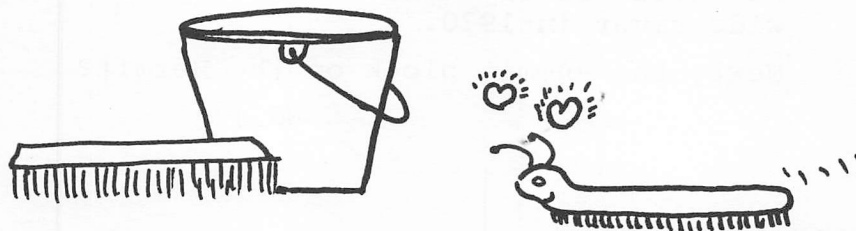
Three participants plus leaders started at 6:30 a.m. from the Crescent Meadow roadhead, Sequoia National Park for the 17-mile backpack along the High Sierra Trail and up River Valley. With the excellent trail we made good time and arrived in camp at beautiful Tamarack Lake at about 4 p.m. We established camp in full view of the approximately 150-foot waterfall which plunges vertically from a meadow east of the lake.

The following day the goal was Triple Divide and possibly Lion Rock if time allowed. The climb to Lion Lake, although involving tricky route-finding, went quickly and soon Lion Lake Pass was easily gained. From here the moderate third-class west ridge route was traversed to the summit. The ridgetop was essentially followed except where it was necessary to drop down onto the north slope to bypass three steep snowfields. I feel that this is undoubtedly the best route on this peak. Although the peak is listed as second class in the SPS peaks list, that route involves a very steep and loose chute, dangerous for a group. This year that route was still covered with snow; an ice axe would have been required and it would probably have been rated third class. Further, it is quite circuitous and requires an elevation loss. The third class south ridge route is considerably longer and more tedious.

While lunching on the summit, we inspected the third class east chute route on Lion Rock. The chute was filled with snow and appeared unclimbable without ice axes. We therefore returned to a point just below Lion Lake from which Lion Rock could be ascended. A talus slope was crossed to gain the west ridge, which was then followed to the summit. The group felt that this peak should be reclassified as class 3. Several moves in the summit area offer substantial exposure enhanced by loose, rotten rock. We reached camp just after sunset after a long day.

Since both peaks had been climbed in one day, the remainder of the group left Monday morning at their leisure while the two leaders decided to explore the high point of Glacier Ridge, peak 12,416'. To approach the peak we crossed Lion Lake Pass, traversed the easy west slopes of Cloud Canyon, maintaining as much elevation as possible still passing just below two rock faces and arrived at the lakelet just southeast of the summit. The peak is third class with a fourth class summit block which can be scaled without a rope. It was described by Jerry Keating in the October, 1973, Echo, and we felt it worthy of SPS peak list status. It is higher than Lion Rock, Mt. Stewart, and a number of other list peaks in the area.

Tuesday we headed back to the roadhead after two memorable days of enjoyable climbing amid unsurpassed scenery.



NORTH GUARD, BREWER, SOUTH GUARD, CROSSAug. 31, Sept. 1,2...

.....Ranschau, Murphy, Ellis

Upon walking into the house Friday pm, my wife handed me the phone - it was Kim Ellis. He unhappily announced that he was under the influence of pneumonia and hence could not assist us on this trip. Having climbed these peaks last year, I was not dismayed at the prospects of doing without his valuable assistance.

Saturday a.m., nine slightly apprehensive hikers met at the Bubbs Creek ranger shack wondering how tough the hike and climbs would really be. After picking up our permit, we were off and running. The true colors soon began to show and a short distance up the Sphinx Creek trail, one was signed out leaving a strong group of eight. Modulating hiking with rest and food brought us to camp at lake 10520 at 4:15. Next morning I discovered our non-participant had made it to camp at 8:30 the night before.

The 8 of us left at 6:15 for North Guard via the V notch. A good climb brought us to the summit before 10:00 and each one took his turn sitting on the canted obelisk summit block which overhangs the east face. Time spent in viewing plus a cautious down climb returned us to the saddle for lunch. The strength of the group is indicated by a mere hour's climb up to Brewer (1000 ft. gain). Then it was follow-the-leader (by some) up the west side of the summit block, pause for a picture or two and down the east side. Fine sport!!! Upon consulting his watch, the leader, in his cunning way, declared South Guard beyond the scope of this trip and we headed back down the north slope, over the V notch and back home (camp) arriving just after 5:30.

Cross Mtn. has three things going for it - 1) it's a good wake-me-upper (one hour climb from camp, 2) it is close to a real peak, that peak being 12893, and 3) ---gee, I just can't think of the third. A brisk hike brought us to the road head at 3:00. After opening Jim's car door I noticed that a mouse had gotten in and chewed a hole in a paper bag. When investigating further, I thought something moved and I leaped backwards in fright. Mountains don't scare me much but that phantom mouse psyched me out. I just can't seem to get it all together.

"A death march for the masochistically inclined," read the Schedule writeup. This flushed all sorts of wierdos out of the woodwork. (But none more masochistically inclined than the leader.)

The Magnusons called me Friday and said they would go as their own trip, if I didn't mind. They wanted to get both peaks and get back to LA early. I said I didn't and so would I.

Friday night a park ranger stopped us one mile from road's end in Kings Canyon. We'd passed all the campgrounds, he informed us, and weren't allowed to sack out at the roadhead. We went back four miles to Camp 4. 1 a.m.

Our meeting time was 6:30 at road's end. At 6:15 the Magnusons waved goodbye as they started up the trail. We obtained our permit from the ranger at the A-hut (open at 6 a.m.) and set out for the long slog at 7:10. By 11 we'd done the first nine miles of up-and-down and level and level and up-and-down, netting 1800' gain at Arrow Creek. Since my three consultants had been two-to-one in favor of going up the Creek, we did so, and with some bushwhacking completed the additional 4 miles and 3200' gain to the 10K' level on Arrow Creek by (sigh) 5 p.m. No sign of the Magnusons. Not a chance to do one peak in the p.m., but two of us took a bath in one of the creek's high-class-2 bathtubs. We chose to swim rather than climb a peak.

We had noticed that the moon shone brightly from 1 a.m. to sunrise. Doing the calculation backward from cars-at-9 p.m., I decided we needed to start at 4 a.m. Sunday morning. So we did. Having misread the Climbers' Guide, I took the group up the south ridge. We lost an hour circumventing the last 1/3-mile knife-edge between the false summit and the summit.

The Magnusons arrived while we were enjoying the fantastic summit views. They'd gotten to camp at the lowest lake on the creek at 2 p.m. Saturday and had completed their climb of Pyramid by 6:30. Not quite long enough to qualify for a death march, they said. They wished us luck as we started down. (After the topmost 100 ft, the west slope provided a beautiful scree run.)

We chose to climb the second peak rather than swim. We made up some time on the walk over to Pyramid, never descending below 10,800' and encountering nothing worse than some boulder-hopping and several isolated class-3 moves. We were on top at 12:15, and placed a new register container.

The descent to camp was for me an extremely pleasant experience. I felt good about making it to the top of both summits and I felt as though I were dancing down the rocks. After ages of trudging, my mind had returned to the freedom of the hills. It was super.

We left camp at 3 and were back to the main trail at 6. (Thank you, Horace, for leading the bushwhacking both up and down.) Darkness arrived at 8. The fast group got to the cars at 9. I was slow because my feet hurt all the way up to my knees; I made the roadhead at 10:30. People have criticized that last two miles of soft sand; but if it had been anything else, I couldn't have endured it.

The same park ranger came by our car as we were packing up and asked what we were doing. He was very impressed that we had gotten up at 5:30 a.m. Saturday after arriving at 1 a.m. I chatted with him for awhile, standing in socked feet on a double foam pad, while the car was being loaded and the Byingtons were washing up. We talked about climbing in the area, about conservation and impact, about how people put biodegradable soap in streams, about the very large groups on SC national trips, and about how backpackers tend to drive too fast going down from the roadhead.

We got to L.A. just in time for the morning traffic jam that didn't happen because of Admission Day.

PRIVATE CLIMBS

SEVEN GABLES LAKES REGION, July 20-28.....Jerry Keating

When tropical air surges over the High Sierra for an extended period, climbers usually get soaked and often they abandon their objectives. But with Andy Smatko in charge, even a nine-day trip conducted under such conditions can yield all of its targets. Such was the case in late July when Andy was joined by Bill Schuler, Barbara Lilley and Jerry Keating for an exploration of rarely visited peaks surrounding the Seven Gables Lakes. All told, 32 peaks were climbed on the trip, and three appeared to be first recorded ascents.

From the Union Carbide mill on Pine Creek, the four of us backpacked under threatening skies over Italy Pass Saturday and camped at about 12,200' on the pass' west slope. While Bill climbed Mt. Julius Caesar (13,196'), the others scrambled up Pk. 12,546 for a fine view of Lake Italy to the west.

Bill went off alone Sunday to do Mts. Gabb (13,711') and Hilgard (13,361'), while the others backpacked southwest to a fine campsite less than a mile beyond Coronet Lake. Climbed en route were Pks. 12,756 and 12,710, between which we backpacked, and Pk. 12,550. Only a few sprinkles interrupted an otherwise pleasant afternoon.

With everyone together Monday, we caught Pks. 12,287, 11,600+, 11,566, 11,760+ and, amidst heavy showers, another 11,760+. No records were found on 11,566, so we named it Jawb Pk. The best peak of the group, however, was 12,287, for its pinnacle offered a touch of Class 3 climbing. Camp that night and for the two following nights was set up just downstream from Seven Gables Lakes. There are trees in the area, but firewood is not abundant.

Tuesday was another hard, wet day. We ascended the snow chute between Seven Gables (13,075') and its north summit (12,560+'), then did both peaks. By dropping down Seven Gables' west ridge 1,000 feet or so, we found a Class 2 chute into the basin to the south, and from there we proceeded toward Gemini (12,866') in a rainstorm. Having done Gemini on a previous trip, Andy went up Pks. 12,400+ and 12,160+, while the rest of us were testing Gemini's slippery, lichen-covered rocks. The storm cleared, fortunately, and we enjoyed a fine view from Gemini, which would be a splendid addition to the SPS qualifying list. Upon learning from Andy that no record of ascent had been found on Pk. 12,400+, Bill promptly detoured to its summit.

Wednesday was yet another long, wet day. We four summit packed around Vee and Den Lakes, then climbed Pk. 12,831 via its northwest ridge. The name Den Pk. appropriately was given to this imposing summit, which is somewhat exposed near the top. Bill then left to solo Royce Pk. (13,253') and Merriam Pk. (13,077'), while the others endured rain and hail on Pks. 12,320+ and 12,530, both of which offered some Class 3 rock, before returning to camp. Pk. 12,320+, which Bill also climbed en route to camp, showed no sign of previous ascent and was named Quad Peak.

MORE



Thursday we backpacked up the Seven Gables Lakes drainage and kicked steps in the snow-filled chute leading to a 12,000-foot lake on Gemini's east flank. From the lake, Pk. 12,427 was climbed with a couple of Class 3 moves. The packs then were shifted to Aweetasal Lake, where Jerry took time out to clean up while the others knocked off Pk. 12,440 amidst ever darkening clouds. A few minutes later, with all four climbers heading for the top of nearby Pk. 12,432, a violent electrical storm erupted. Bill reached the cairn but didn't risk staying long enough to sign in. After holing up briefly to avoid being battered by olive-sized hailstones, he joined Jerry a few hundred feet downslope and they made tracks for the packs. Andy and Bobbie, meanwhile, decided to gamble on a let-up in the storm, but after an hour of waiting beneath some protective rocks they admitted defeat and headed downward with lightning continuing to flash and the hail depth building to nearly two inches. Water was running everywhere, and the regular streambeds were virtually in flood stage. Camp that night was located on a bench above Little Moccasin Lake and, thanks to Bobbie's having some stove alcohol along, we got a fire going to dry out our dripping clothes.

Friday morning found Bill and Jerry still drying gear, with Andy and Bobbie going back up canyon to finish off 12,432. In the afternoon, everyone backpacked down East Pinnacles Creek and up the Pine Creek Canyon trail to the point where the Merriam Lake outflow enters. Since they had not climbed it, Andy and Bill did Pilot Knob (12,245'), which is a very impressive peak from either Piute or French Canyons.

Another full day was planned for Saturday. We backpacked to Pine Creek Pass, then summit packed to Pk. 11,680+, which we dubbed Peninsula Pk. Its massive summit blocks and fine view make it a worthy climb. Next we climbed farther up the crest to the south pinnacle of Pk. 12,560+ but opted not to engage in the time-consuming technical traverse to the higher north pinnacle. Instead, we traversed southward along the crest, climbing Pks. 12,534 and 12,480+, the latter of which offered some Class 3 moves, and were named Peak of the Four Winds by Chester Versteeg.

Our last camp was about a mile north of Pine Creek Pass and only a few sprinkles enlivened the evening. From this camp on Sunday, we climbed Pks. 12,280 and 12,575 before tackling the north pinnacle of Pk. 12,560+. Although highly exposed Class 3, the latter summit goes well from the northwest and we were amused to see two climbers stopped on the slightly lower pinnacle to the southeast which we had visited the previous afternoon.

From camp, our return to the cars was quick and we were pleased that our ninth day was entirely free of rain. Looking back on the trip, the writer can only say a little precipitation never hurt anyone, but my advice to participants on extended trips is to take better rain protection, and be sure to have some fool-proof fire starter. Our rain protection, for the most part was inadequate, but at least we carried spare alcohol. What really saved us from major discomfort, however, was that the rain never continued beyond 8 p.m. Had the rain continued all night, as it can during tropical disturbances, we might not have been fit for the following day's climbs.

This past summer I was able to fulfill a long time wish and visit the Alps of Switzerland. The Jungfrau area was the first stop on my itinerary and though the peaks in the area were inviting, the weather was not cooperative. New snow and high winds would not allow any of the peaks to go during my stay. The next stop was Zermatt which is dominated from almost every point by the Matterhorn. The weather was clear and warm and I immediately contacted the Bergfuhrer Bureau to find a guide to accompany me on a climb of the Hornli Ridge of the Matterhorn. My spirits were at once dampened when I was told that the route was too covered with snow and ice, and therefore would not be led during my stay. The Rimpfischhorn and the Zermatt Breithorn were being done so I chose one of them as an alternative.

Since I had been rather inactive for a few weeks, I spent two days hiking in the Zermatt area to acquire some conditioning before a 4,000 meter peak. One day was spent climbing to the summit of the Mettlehorn (3406 m) which rises high above the west wall of the Zermatt Valley. The view from the top was spectacular, especially the precipitous east wall of the Weisshorn and the north face of the Matterhorn. The next day I checked in at the Bergfuhrer Bureau to arrange for a climb of the Rimpfischhorn and much to my elation was told that the Hornli Ridge would be led the following day. That afternoon I left for the 2 hour walk up to the Hornli Hut and climb the mountain the next morning.

I was up at 3 am and had the usual European "hard roll and strong coffee breakfast". Equipment for the day was crampons, wind parka, wool knickers, gaiters, wool shirt, a pair of leather gloves (for descending the fixed ropes), wool mittens and wool head protection. (no ice axe). We roped up immediately and were on our way at 3:30 a.m. My guide and I were luckily near the lead of the five or six parties doing the ridge that morning. In a few minutes we hit the first rock pitches and my guide cautioned me about ice and slipping; especially in the dim early morning light. No sooner warned of this hazard, I heard a scraping sliding sound and had a taut rope in hand with one Swiss Guide about ten feet below. Needless to say at that point, I wondered if I really wanted to be on this mountain at all. For the next hour or so, as we picked our way up the ridge, my guide was very quiet.

Most of the route up the ridge to the Solvay Hut was with both of us moving at the same time on good rock. Above the Solvay the angle steepened (Moseley Slabs) and more snow and ice sections were encountered which required a great deal of care. (Crampons were on at this time). Rock climbing with ten pointers was new to me, but it can be done although I felt quite awkward. The angle eases off at the Swiss Shoulder and then you proceed up the 40 degree north facing snow slabs. This section is protected by fixed ropes to the narrow corniced Swiss summit.

The next day was clear, punctuated by a stiff cold wind. The view was great-Mt. Blanc, Monte Rosa, Jungfrau area. The ascent had taken 3 hours and 20 min. with one formal stop to put on crampons. The descent off the summit was aided by the fixed ropes. This led us past the point where the 1865 first ascending party lost four of seven members 4,000 ft. down the north face. The descent was tedious and time consuming but we were back to the Hornli Hut by noon. We saw a number of significant rock falls down the chutes of the east face on the descent. This is one of the reasons for the early start and early return off the mountain. Elevation gain and loss about 8,000 ft.