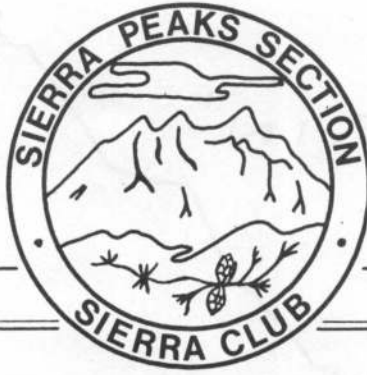


The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 19

JULY

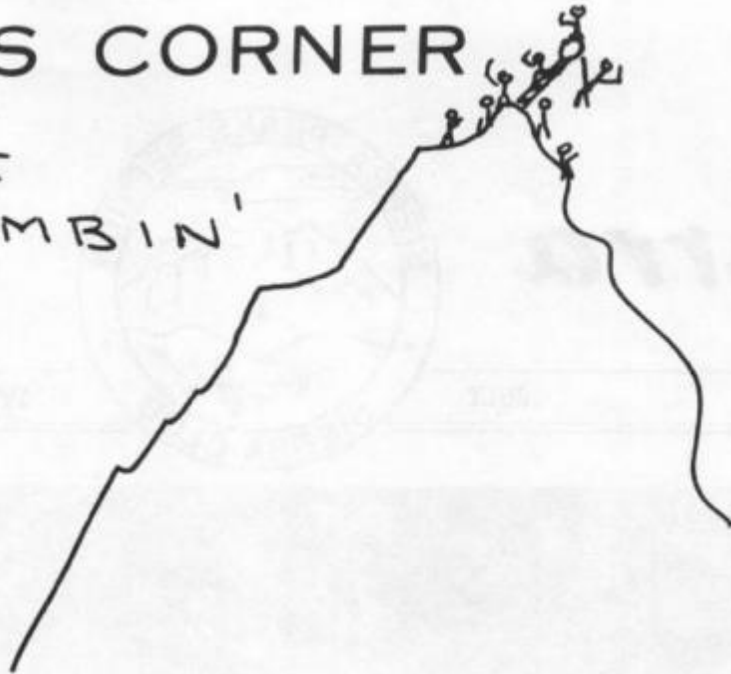
1975

NO. 4



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

GONE
CLIMBIN'



CHANGES OF ADDRESS

BEDOIAN, Carol and Jeff
8800 White Oak
Northridge, Calif. 91324

GODFREY, Geoffrey A.
3334 Saddle Drive
Hayward, Calif. 94541

NEW EMBLEM

George Davis

The trees play peek-a-boo amidst the clouds;
Spring showers move swiftly through the
valleys--in their wake lingers the delicious
taste of freshly laundered air...

Photo by Tom Ross.

Lament of a Seattle area climber:
"I'm unhappy at having participated in
the creation of wildernesses as I now
find it difficult to get permission
to use them. This is not what I had
in mind."

(MSR Newsletter, 3/75)

THE SIERRA ECHO is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.
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CA 91206. SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$3 per year. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS.
Send remittance before March 31 to: Duane McEuer, SPS Treasurer, 357 S. Meadows Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.
COPY DEADLINE - Twentieth of every month.

Every citizen concerned about the future of wildlife should be up in arms about the Interior Secretary's recent decision to transfer 2 million acres of our nation's finest publicly-owned wildlife preserves from the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The decision means that the Kofa Game Range, Arizona; Charles Sheldon Antelope Range, Nevada; and the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range, Montana will no longer serve the interests of wildlife first. They will be exposed to the "multiple use" principles practiced by the BLM. This issue has raged for 18 months with miners and stockmen on the side of BLM, and conservationists favoring the Fish and Wildlife Service.

LETTERS NEEDED NOW

It is imperative that you write the President today and urge him to overrule the Interior Secretary's decision to transfer these three outstanding units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Here is the address:

President Gerald R. Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

LTC LECTURE SERIES

Leadership Training Course (LTC) lecture series is to be given on Sat-Sun. Aug. 2-3 at UCLA. All introductory and basic lectures will be given except first aid and mountaineering medicine. The course is open to all members of the Sierra Club. To register, fill out an LTC registration form (these will be made available soon) and mail it along with one sase to the LTC registrar. All applications must be received before July 26, 1975. Enrollment is limited, so sign up early.

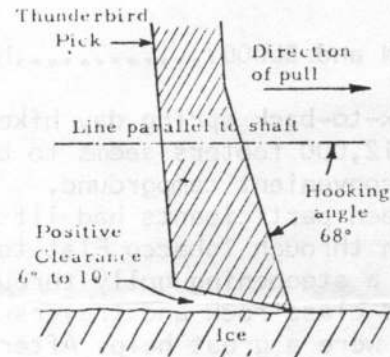
LTC Registrar: Greg Pihos
424 Tuolomne Ave.
Apt. 102
Thousand Oaks, Calif. 91360
(805)-497-4365

Pick Shape of Ice Axes

Hooking Angle

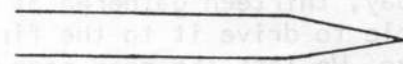
The basic concepts of the Thunderbird shape for general snow and glacier travel have worked out well. The hooking angle (68°) is fine for self-arrest, using the modern technique of allowing the axe head to rise a few inches above the users head, with the shaft more nearly parallel to the body. The good hooking angle of 68° enables the pick to engage without being forced in by the users weight, as in the old technique using axes like Nanga Parbat and Aschenbrenner (around 85°).

Some new owners of T-Birds tried the old technique of bringing the adze close to ear level with the shaft at 45° across the chest. This doesn't work with a T-Bird because the broad cutting edge acts as a weather-vane and drags uphill.

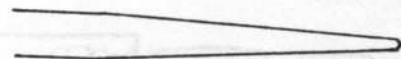


Wedge Angle

All the early T-Birds and Eagles were made with a 20° wedge angle. This is looking down from the top. We made them this way to improve the resistance to slicing through the snow in self-arrest.



Many users have written that they note that this blunter wedge angle tends to bounce out of ice when they sock the pick in above to use as a handhold. The remedy is to make the wedge angle more slender, say 5 to 6°, coming to a cutting edge which is about .080" thick.



For a while we will have both in stock; thereafter only the narrower angle.

If your axe has the 20° and want the 6° and you have a grinder, you can narrow the angle yourself. Work slowly, cooling the pick in water every two seconds of grinding.



ASCENTS



MORRISON and BLOODY.....May17-18.....NORM ROHN and DIANA DEE

Two back-to-back spring day hikes of these highly scenic and thoroughly enjoyable Sierra 12,000 footers seems to be the ideal way to do them. Convict Lake affords a very convenient campground.

Fifteen participants had little difficulty hiking around the east side of Morrison through Tobacco Flat to the small lake just south of the peak. Here we went up a steepening gully through deepening snow, gained a ridge, climbed a bit of third class rock and traversed a bit more snow to the summit. Alternating step kickers were a great help. After a short rest on the summit, snow flurries and increasing clouds suggested a descent. This was done a few hundred yards west of the ascent route through snow and a good deal of reddish rock. It may be the better route up as well later in the season.

All were back to the Convict Lake campground in plenty of time to drop over to Hot Creek for a leisurely soak in that great pool. The rest of the Hot Creek crowd was on its better behavior and even skinny-dippers were almost non-existent. A large part of the group suppered at the Convict Lake Lodge, but found the food mediocre and the wait for service interminable.

Sunday, thirteen gathered at the foot of Laurel Creek mine road at 7:30 and were able to drive it to the first switchback. Here snow necessitated the start of the hike. We left the road near the Genevieve Lake trail and climbed the north-east ridge of Bloody, crossing some talus. Again the summit views were great, particularly of Red Slate, Morrison, Baldwin and the still frozen upper Convict basin lakes. The trip down was a delight with at least three good long glissades and a short easy hike back to the vehicles.

Nine climbers met at 7:00 am at Scotty Spring for the annual "...attempt to prove this trip possible." All of our backpacks were put into Bill Stauffer's four-wheel drive vehicle; four climbers rode up the road, while the rest walked. It took the truck one hour to drive up the five miles of rough road, and the walkers two hours.

Leaving camp at 11:00, six of us headed for the wide, prominent chute at the head of Armstrong Canyon. On the way up we encountered the wreckage of a Navy Jet. From the top of the chute, Eric Schumacher and Tim Treacy turned north and climbed Perkins, while Tom Cardina turned south and climbed Colosseum.

On Sunday we found ourselves headed up the same chute again for the climb of Perkins. Going north along the west side of the crest, we crossed a number of loose, steep chutes before coming to the red and white summit of Perkins. We descended by going to the north and glissading down a snow gully on the north side of Armstrong Canyon.

This is a hard trip. An impossible roadhead, a dry canyon, and elevation gain on loose rock and soft snow added to the difficulties. It is far better to climb Perkins from the north rather than the south. I'm sure someone will lead this trip next year, even though these peaks are more "desert peaks" than "sierra peaks".

PRIVATE CLIMBS

SOUTHEAST BUTTRESS OF CATHEDRAL PEAK AND EICHORN'S NEEDLE

Sept. 1974.....Dick Beach

For anyone who has climbed in the Tuolumne Meadows region, Cathedral peak has probably been the classic peak to climb. My first ascent was at the age of six with my parents who had first done it in the late 30's.

The peak is beautiful from any direction, probably the most beautiful is the view from the Echo peaks, looking directly at South East Buttress.

Dave King and I had a few days to kill in that area so we had decided to do the Buttress route and finish up with Eichorn's Needle.

Morning started with day packs and hardware, heading up the Budd Lake fishermen's trail. The weather was surprisingly warm for a Labor Day weekend, many flowers still in bloom and numerous marmots sunning themselves.

The Buttress route of Cathedral has a series of variations all of which are very enjoyable. The route starts up on clean granite slabs, the rock is so nice that the entire region of granite is referred to by geologists as Cathedral Granite.

Dave and I moved quite nicely using only nuts. Our one tight pitch was a 60 foot crack with an overhanging ledge at the top. Being tall had its advantages because the final move involved hanging by your fingers, (and that describes it exactly), then mantling over the ledge.

I am sure somewhere on our route we took one of the more difficult variations; it seems obvious when we ended up just below the summit block. An interesting slide note was, we knew we weren't the first to do that pitch, because of a very old sling made of hemp rope found at the top.

MORE ...

After a quick descent along the ridge to Eichorn's Needle, our route once again became rather direct.

Eichorn's Needle (as the last Echo cover proved) is as beautiful as Cathedral but less climbed because it looks so spectacularly difficult from Cathedral's summit. The Needle only involves about two pitches of middle 5th, with beautiful handholds and nicely placed anchor pins which look like they date back to the first ascent. The summit has a convenient rappel pin but no register.

After a nice rappel our descent lead us to the Cathedral trail and back to the car by 5:00 P.M.

Our next day led us right back up the same trail to Budd Lake. Dave and I just were not in the backpacking mood, so we had decided on two one day climbs instead. This time our objective was the Echo peaks and Mathes Crest.

The Echo's are of the same granite as Cathedral. These small peaks range in variety of difficulty but all can be climbed with just a rope except one which involves considerable time and gear. One merely starts at one end and works himself to the other. The Echos are in parallel lines with nicely trimmed ridges connecting them.

Once again the Echos pose as a beautiful vantage point to look at Mathes Crest - plus a magnificent view in all directions. The spectacular knife arete of Mathes is only a half mile off by traversing to the northern end of the ridge. Dave and I worked our way about two thirds of the way on the ridge only to see the sun on the horizon. At this point the arete demanded more time and energy than we had.

The route is a straight forward one, involving fourth class friction on slabs. We didn't use a rope on the way up but sure as hell used it coming down.

Both days were loop trips leaving the car at the same parking lot (Cathedral). In the Tuolumne Meadows region these types of climbs are what make the area unique.

Driving back only to Bishop gave us enough time to dine out and kick back in thought on a healthy two days of climbing.

LAMENT ON LAMONT

What am I doing here?
That drop--it's sheer.
I'd rather be, I ought to be,
Home with a beer.
This climb was classed as two--no more,
Now we're into heavy four,
And on this ledge overlooking space
I'm fast becoming a basket case.
Ahead a slab and then a chimney,
There's moves up there that aren't in me
The climbers more with grace, élan
I pray with fervence--then hang on.
And "Don't use knees"--thanks a lot
I'll use whatever thing I've got.
After this I'm Hundred Peaking,
It's fun, not terror, that I'm seeking.
Oops, there's a hold I almost missed..
Damn that list!

Anon.

NORTHERN WIND RIVER RANGE, WYOMING..August 24-September 3, 1974..Ross Yeoman

Following some warm-up climbing in the Tetons, where we briefly met several SPS'ers, Mardi Hastings and I packed in to Titcomb Lakes in the Wind Rivers for some extended peakbagging. Two days were spent packing in to base camp, about 26 miles with heavy packs containing ropes and hardware in addition to the usual paraphernalia. The most direct (hence, also most heavily used) route to Titcomb Valley is from Elkhart Park roadhead, east of Pinedale, Wyoming, following the well maintained trail past Seneca Lake to Island Lake, then the boot track beyond to Titcomb, crossing many meadows which would be filled with wildflowers slightly earlier in the season, and very many lakes.

Most of the 13000' plus peaks in the Wind Rivers are accessible as one day climbs from a base camp in upper Titcomb Valley; we climbed Sacagawea, Helen, Gannett, Warren, Doublet, Dinwoodie, Woodrow Wilson, Henderson, and Fremont, all without bivouacs. With the exception of Fremont Peak, up which there is a use trail, all of these peaks involve enjoyable rock and/or snow climbing, although none were very difficult. The most difficult rock encountered was 5.4, on Mt. Henderson and on the west couloir of Woodrow Wilson. (We climbed up the wall on the north of the couloir to avoid hard ice). The area is reminiscent of some of the better Sierra climbing - the major difference being the presence of very large glaciers on this part of the Wind River crest - the most extensive the writer has seen outside of Mt. Rainier and the Canadian Rockies. Sacagawea, Helen and Gannett will go 3rd (low 4th?) class, if done by the easiest routes.

The writer's two most enjoyable climbs were seldom-climbed Mt. Henderson, a mixed rock and snow climb which affords a different view than that from the Continental Divide Peaks (ours was the eighth ascent of this mountain) and the 'Triple Traverse' of Mts. Warren, Doublet and Dinwoodie, which offers considerable fourth and low fifth class rock, as well as snow. The most unusual and spectacular climbing of the trip was the knife edge snow ridge between Doublet and Dinwoodie. With lighter packs we hastily packed out to the roadhead in a day to climax the trip later with our best Teton climb, Mt. Moran (the CMC route offers many continuous, enjoyable pitches of 5.1 - 5.2 rock).

Topos in the Wind Rivers are generally unavailable at sporting shops in Jackson or elsewhere..if you must have them, order from the USGS in advance. They are 7 1/2' series. We were able to navigate using Bonney's Guide to the Wind Rivers (new edition is now in print) together with the Forest Service Bridger Wilderness map series (write to Headquarters, Bridger-Teton National Forest, Jackson, Wyoming concerning these). Route descriptions and especially climbing ratings in Bonney's guide are unreliable; however, once the peak is found, the routes are not difficult to find. Only one 150' rope was needed for rappels, as none were long. Summit registers are often in poor condition or lacking - it would be a service to carry new ones. I heartily recommend the good climbing in this range, apparently largely ignored by SPS members - the only SPS name I spotted was that of Gordon MacLeod.

For the 'tigers' undertaking future assaults on Mt. Shasta, let the following be the yardstick of your uphill pace:

On July 3, 1923, Norman Clyde, then aged 33, made the trip from Horse Camp (8000') to the summit (14,161') in 3 hours, 17 minutes. He apparently also made the ascent the previous day to scout the route - trip leaders please note. Two days later, July 5th, he repeated the climb in 2 hours, 43 minutes, which works out to 37 feet, 7 inches, per minute.

On August 12, 1923, Barney McCoy, aged 33, a local rancher and hunting guide noted for his stamina, claimed a Horse Camp-Summit time of 2 hours, 17 minutes. Next year McCoy claimed a time of 2 hours, 17 minutes on August 28, 1924. McCoy's times were uncorroborated and were disputed as impossible by Clyde, among others.

The dispute stimulated a great interest and led to a race from Horse Camp to the summit on July 5, 1925. Six people entered. Clyde was not one of them, but David Lawyer, a 130 pound, 18 year old from Pasadena, did enter.

In the race, McCoy, most familiar with the mountain, set a fast pace directly up Avalanche Gulley. Lawyer, who like Clyde, had climbed the peak the day before to scout the route, took a different tack, ran into soft snow and got 3/4's of a mile behind McCoy. Nevertheless, he made up the distance and reached the summit first in 2 hours, 24 minutes, to McCoy's 2 hours, 36 minutes, McCoy having had to stop on account of sickness on Misery Ridge as a result of his fast pace. Lawyer's pace for the 6,161' was 42 feet, 7 inches per minute to McCoy's 39 feet, 5 inches. It was generally agreed that had Lawyer followed McCoy's route he would have been close to two hours.

The race was never held again and the Lawyer-McCoy-Clyde records still stand as the 'official' ones, whatever that may mean. Lawyer, who was working in the area for that summer never climbed Shasta again. He apparently was a hiker, rather than a climber, but the altitude obviously presented little obstacle to him.

.....Tim Treacy