

The

Sierra



ECHO

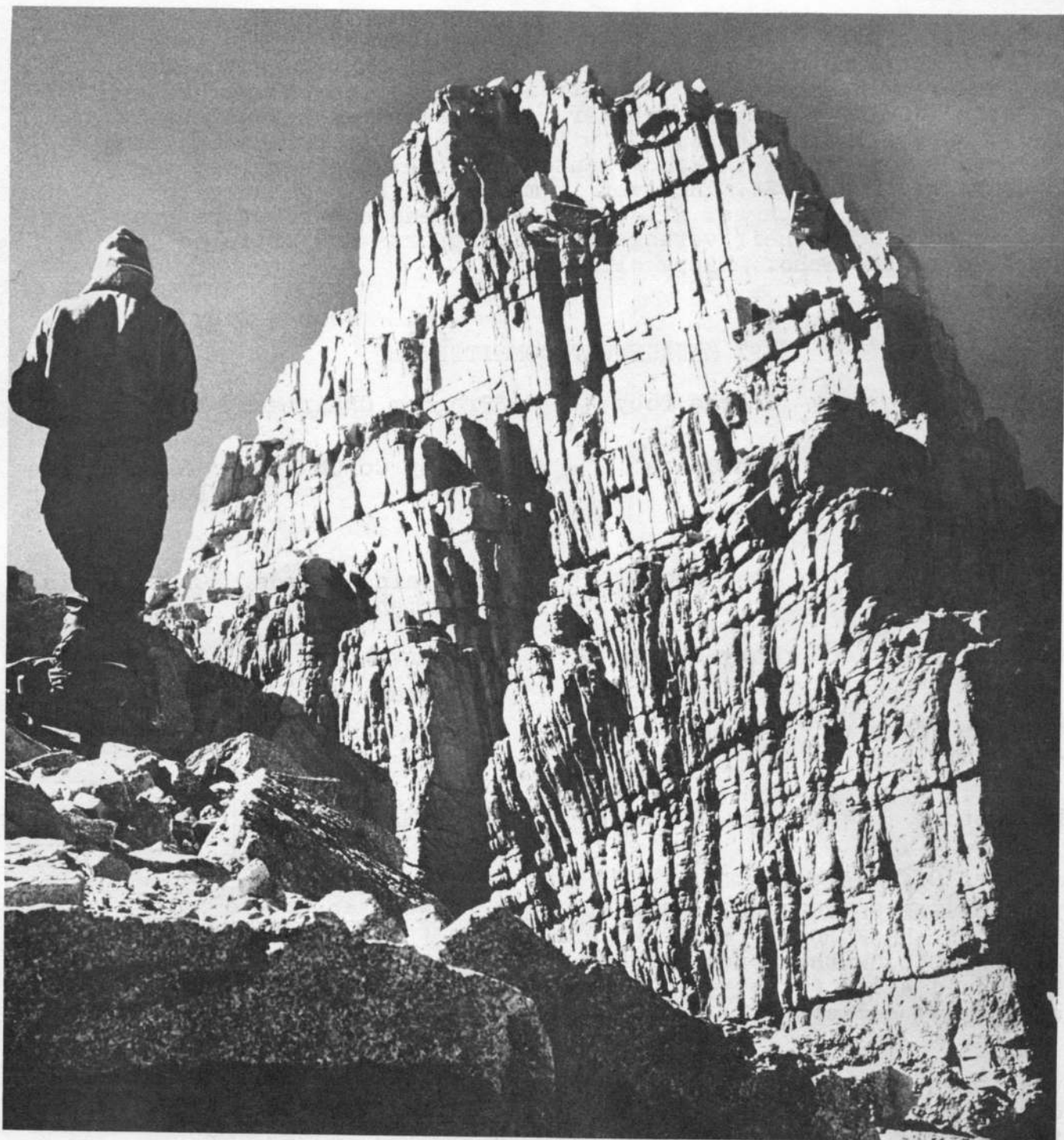
VOLUME 22

JANUARY

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1978

NO. 1



The transfer of authority to the 1978 SPS Management Committee and the organization is completed. The Committee has gone into action. Foremost on our activity list is preparation for a big Sierra climbing season. The recent rains in the lowlands and snows in the Sierras are encouraging. The drought appears to be ending and we can look forward to a beautiful climbing season. We will continue our traditional SPS training activities with rock climbing and ice axe practices, with an occasional navigation exercise thrown in. Mountaineering enjoyment with safety shall be the keynote.

The Committee will keep an eagle eye on our finances. The budget will be tight. The cost of publishing the Echo continues to climb. This is our main expense and we anticipate more increases. We are currently looking for a new printer. The Treasurer may not be a juggler but balancing the budget will be a good trick. Recognizing these conditions the 1977 Management Committee wisely raised the Echo subscription to \$4. However it may still be necessary to limit the number of pages. All trip leaders and contributors are asked to hold down their verbage on trip reports and articles submitted to the Echo. Happy climbing.

George Toby

SPS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman:	George Toby	*Program Chairman:	Barbara Reber
Vice Chairman and Schedule Chairman:	Ron Jones	*Safety Co Chairmen:	Doug Mantle Duane McRuer
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*Echo Editor:	Cuno Ranschau	*Echo Mailer:	Anna Lou Pinson

*Appointed Officials

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: All led trips must be written up and submitted for the ECHO. Priority will be given those which are typed, SINGLE SPACED, with narrow margins to maximize the print per page. This should allow for more private trip writeups which are hereby emphatically solicited!! Please do not be excessively wordy, thanks.

COVER PHOTO: The ancient, wrinkled, south face of McAdie as seen from the approach above Arc Pass. Photo by Hal Compton. Other climbers: Tom Cardina, Doug Mantle, Mark Goebel.

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION ANNUAL BANQUET

DECEMBER 14, 1977

Our twenty-first annual banquet was held at the Cockatoo Inn at Hawthorne and Imperial Boulevards. The 130 attendees began gathering for fellowship and cocktails at 6:30. Old acquaintances were renewed, past and future climbs were discussed, and Chris Jones, our speaker for the evening, was kept busy autographing copies of his book "Climbing in North America" which many people just happened to have with them.

After a delicious meal, our outgoing chairman, Bill T. Russell, introduced the new chairman for 1978, George Toby, who in turn introduced his new management committee: Ron Jones, Vice-chairman; Mary Omberg, Treasurer; Gene Mauk, Secretary; and Bob Hicks, Alternate Officer.

Our thanks to Betty Kabler, Chuck Stein, and Mike Stein for arranging for some excellent door prizes which were awarded as follows:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Recreational Equip. Inc.	Gift Certificate for Cletter Sac, \$33.50	Debbie Komishear
A-16 Wilderness Outfitters	Summit Pack	Fred Camphausen
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Chuck Stein-MSR Dist.	2 pairs of Climbing Glasses	Jean Marie Morfin Mary Biehl
Wilderness Experience Inc.	Day Pack	Jerry Sansing

We thank the donors of these prizes and remind our members that they are our friends and deserve our business whenever possible.

In addition to the above prizes, a mystery gift donated by Dianna Dee was won by Donna Nuener, and Andy Smatko was the recipient of a new supply of film cans which he will surely be able to use.

An outstanding program, "The Great Climbs; Classic Ascents of Europe and North America", was presented by Chris Jones, author of "Climbing in North America". This was one of the best programs we've seen, and we thank Chris for bringing it to our meeting.

The twenty-first annual SPS banquet was a great success because of the hard work of a small group of dedicated members. Our sincere thanks to all those and especially to Betty Kabler who once again acted as our banquet chairman and did a superb job.

Ted Pinson, SPS Secretary, 1977.

Dear SPS friends,

On December 23, 1977, I reached the summit of Cerro Pinacate, the final peak needed to complete the Desert Peaks Section list. As you'll see from the enclosed annotated list, this process of climbing desert summits began in 1957 proceeded at a very leisurely pace until early 1976. Since then I've done 56 of the 88 currently listed peaks.

Having completed the Sierra Peaks Section list in August 1972 and the Hundred Peaks Section list in October 1975, and having kept current on them, I am pleased to have all 602 peaks on the three lists. I'm also pleased to join the four triple list finishers, each of whom encouraged and inspired me: Andy Smatko (1967), the late Arkel Erb (1975), Gordon MacLeod (1975) and Barbara Lilley (1977).

It's been a long haul but fun, and I've enjoyed my many climbs with you.

Sierraly,

Jerry J. Keating

SPS Members Off to Afghanistan

An expedition being lead by SPS member Sheldon Moomaw has received the endorsement and recommendation of the American Alpine Club to attempt Noshaq (24,580') in the Hindu Kush during July and August 1978. Other SPS members of the expedition are Sam Roberts, Tim Treacy, Mary Omberg and Mark Goebel. Additional members of the group are former SPSer Kes Teter now living in Colorado and two Canadians Jon Jones of Calgary and Bernhard Ehmann of Kimberley, British Columbia. The group plans on leaving L.A. on July 1, 1978.

SPS Membership Report

77B - 5
November 77

New Members

78
CRANDAL, Kathleen
19121 Biddle Dr. M 10-77
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78 379-6177
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Crown College, UCSC M 10-77
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

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Woodland Hills, CA 91364

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78
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5313 W. 138th Pl.
Hawthorne, CA 90250

I

Mountaineers' List Additions

BUTLER, James 11-77
LABRECQUE, Richard 11-77
MUELL, Meridee 11-77
NEUNER, George 11-77
RUTHERFORD, Theresa 11-77
WILKINSON, Mike 11-77

Senior Emblems

#35 REBER, Barbara 9-77
#36 BARTELL, Ron 11-77

Emblems

* VERNON, Greg 10-77

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78 424-3168
MOREL, Barbara 10447364
3630 Delta Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90810

E

Miscellaneous

THOMPSON, Robert SC#11960030

DEVILS CRAGS, WHEEL MTN (AUG 5-8).....BILL T. RUSSELL
DUANE MCRUER

Seven of us -- Duane McRuer, Bob Hicks, Rusty Russell, Jim Erb, Theresa Rutherford, Eric Shumacher and myself -- left South Lake on Friday at 0730. We hiked over Bishop Pass, through Dusy Basin and down LeConte Canyon to the outlet of Grouse Meadow where we camped. On Saturday we crossed the river and went south up the hill over the bench at 8800 ft, and then traversed upward along the edge of the brush to intersect Rambaud Creek at about 10,000 ft. We camped in a nice place at the first small lake at 10,400 ft. In the afternoon we ascended Wheel Mtn, avoiding the crud leading to the saddle at 11,553 ft. by using a series of ramps to gain the ridge well north of the saddle. This is a talus hike with about 50 ft of 3rd-class at the summit spire.

On Sunday we were up in the dark and started for Devils Crag #1 at 0600. We ascended to the 11,553 ft saddle, then went up the talus to the high point to its east and down the other side into the adjacent notch. A scree gully goes down to the northwest from this notch. We descended this gully after the climb and we could have used it for our ascent from Rambaud Creek (there is much loose rock).

From the notch we followed the route described by Ed Treacy in the October 1973 ECHO. We also used valuable information supplied by R. J. Secor, Jon Petitjean, Frank Meyers and the Magnusons. The route traverses along the south side of the main ridge for about 300 yards into a broad (about 30 yds wide) chute with a whiteish rock bottom which is visible from the initial high point and from spots along the traverse. The traverse involves picking a way over several small intervening ribs and chutes, with some ascending and descending. The net elevation change is about a 100-ft drop. The broad chute has a near vertical head wall and a buttress on its right side with several prominent spires or teeth. The route goes up this broad chute for perhaps 150 ft and then up a high 3rd-class area to the crest of the right-hand buttress. From here it is a short, nearly horizontal, distance to the main ridge of the Crag. The main ridge is then followed on the crest to the summit. It has 2 or 3 short (about 15 ft) class 4 pitches where a rope is comforting.

We were on top by 1100 and enjoyed our success and the view. We retraced our path on descent with rappels in several places. We returned to camp by about 1700, packed up and hiked back to Grouse Meadow well before dark. On Sunday we made the long trek back to South Lake, arriving about 4:00 p.m. We had beautiful weather on all four days, fine hiking and climbing, and an enjoyable outing. Bob Hicks badly bruised his ankle on descending the Crag, but he kept up a good fast hobble in spite of the injury. Upon return to L. A. he found that he had more than a bad bruise; he had a spiral fracture of the fibula just above the ankle! He is a hero!

There is considerable loose rock lying about on the Crag and some of the main climbing rock is loosely attached to the mountain. Caution and care are in order. The climbing is not difficult, being 3rd and easy 4th class, but it is exposed. The two 9 mm, 120' ropes we carried were about right. I would suggest that individuals have swami belts, one or two biners, two slings, a rappel device and a prussic loop. There are a lot of horns, etc., for slings so chocks are not necessary.

Bill

July 22-24

Mt. Darwin, Mt. Mendel

Fred Hoeptner

Late Thursday afternoon I received a call from scheduled assistant leader Dennis Lantz that the combination of a dogsitting chore and a bad cold would prevent his attending the outing. Scheduled leader Meridee Muell had earlier cancelled due to a business trip. I reluctantly acceded to Dennis's pleas and agreed to act as leader.

Nine participants appeared at the North Lake roadhead at the appointed hour, including prospective assistant leader Bob Mason who also acceded. However, a freak slip near Upper Lamarck Lake forced Bob to turn back with an injured rib. I lost the trail at this point and only Barbara Reber's trailfinding skill and memory returned us to the right track.

None of the participants except me had climbed Mt. Lamarck so I decided to enjoy the solitude at the tarn just below Lamarck Col while the others bagged the peak. I was startled out of my meditations by a cry from above. Two backpackers had crossed the crest at a notch several hundred yards north of Lamarck Col and had been attempting to traverse back to the trail across a slope which appeared to be snow along their traverse route but which rapidly steepened into glare ice and rocks below. One had slipped and was lying on his stomach precariously just above the ice while the other would have joined the predicament in one or two more steps. I climbed to the ridge above them and tied the rope to a solid boulder. Using the rope as a handline I carried it down the snow slope to where I could toss it to the standing backpacker. I noticed that only about two inches of snow covered ice at that point. After instructing him how to tie in, I returned to the rocks above and belayed him down to the prostrate backpacker. The rope was too short for him to tie the other backpacker in; however, with the aid of a short piece of clothesline he was able to work the other backpacker up to a safer point from which I belayed each up to the rocks. My good deed for the day done, I then compensated by leading the group all the way down to Upper Darwin Lake to camp bypassing the much better campsites I later learned existed on benches several hundred feet above the lake.

We were off for Darwin at 6 a.m. Saturday morning. I understand that the approach is usually largely a walk across snowfields but this year snow was entirely lacking. We ascended the rock slope along the western edge of the Darwin Glacier about three-quarters of the way to its upper edge and then donned crampons for the traverse over the glacier to a chute leading to the ridge. The glacier was hard ice with no snow covering making crampons an absolute necessity. Although loose and cruddy, the chute presented no problem except for one icy section where a belay was set up. The traverse along the ridge went without difficulty and the summit of the Darwin plateau was reached just in time for lunch. Greg Vernon established a belay on the summit pinnacle. Noel Boykin climbed it from the front exhibiting considerable skill but the remainder opted for the easier backside route. During the exercise there suddenly appeared two climbers who had just ascended the north face route, the first fourth class climb for each. Obviously relieved to have completed the climb, they informed us they intended to return by the easier glacier route. Further questioning revealed they had neither crampons nor ice axe, had apparently never used either, and did not realize they were required. We decided to take pity on them and lend them our equipment. Noel Boykin volunteered to shuttle crampons and ice axes back across the glacier. We descended to the glacier, rappelling down the icy portion of the chute. Noel fitted the two climbers with crampons and started across the glacier encouraging them in what was obviously their first experience on ice. About halfway across one of Noel's straps unbuckled and he stepped out of the crampon onto hard ice. With an immediate

self-arrest in perfect form he saved himself from almost certain death or serious injury. This was a graphic demonstration of the need for proficiency with an ice axe. We've all practiced on snow; but how many of us have had to arrest on hard ice? (Proficiency in restrapping a crampon while standing on one foot on a 30 to 35 degree side slope is also a desirable skill.) All crossed the glacier without further incident. Then three participants signed out to climb Mt. Mendel while the rest returned to camp arriving at about 5 p.m. The successful Mt. Mendel group returned about 8 p.m. As one stands at the western edge of the Darwin Glacier looking at Mendel, one sees an obvious ledge running diagonally upward to the right. Their route followed this ledge and then reversed onto another ledge running diagonally upward to the left. This was followed by the ascent of an extremely cruddy chute, more difficult than the Darwin chute. They had difficulty surmounting a chockstone at the head of this chute which they felt definitely involved fourth class climbing. They rappelled this portion on descent.

The hike out the next day included an unplanned alternative route via Grass Lake. This may actually have saved some distance. The cars were reached about 2:30.

DONOHUE PK., August 20-21 Gordon MacLeod & Jerry Keating

An informal wedding reception and a persistent bear enlivened what otherwise was a routine scheduled trip to the delisted but nonetheless enjoyable summit of Donohue Pk. (12,023'). There were 11 participants, including two who were 1½ hours late in starting the backpack Saturday because their car got stuck in the mud Friday night at an unsuitable sackout location.

The backpack began at Silver Lake (7,223') on the June Lakes Loop and ended 10 miles later at the 10,100-foot level of the Muir Trail east of Donohue Pass. Among the tigers on the leader's heels was Ruth Erb. Also in the party were Ron Jones and Mary Sue Mead, who had been married the previous day in Yosemite Valley.

At camp, two bottles of champagne were consumed toasting the newlyweds before the singing began. Adding to the campfire festivities was a rather generous quantity of mai tais, wine and kahlua plus popcorn. All of this must have aroused the wildlife, for at 1 a.m. Sunday a large bear entered the Joneses' suite and made off with Ron's backpack. Ron subsequently found the pack on the far side of a nearby stream, the rear pocket having been torn and some oatmeal and powdered milk consumed. At 3 a.m. the bear returned and, either by pulling on the tieline or climbing the tree, broke a 20-foot-high limb from which the party's main food cache had been secured. Dick Agnos and Sandy Woodward each suffered damage to their stuff sacks, and several members experienced food losses.

The incidents delayed the nine-member summit party's departure from camp Sunday until 8 a.m., but the peak was reached in two hours via a saddle immediately northeast of the summit and the Class 2 north-east ridge. Donohue, although deleted from the SPS peaks list in 1958, offers a fine view of the Yosemite high country and the Ritter Range. While six persons returned directly to camp to prepare for the five-hour backpack to the cars, Gordon MacLeod and two others ascended neighboring Pk. 12,223 via its Class 2-3 west ridge. They avoided technical rock by staying just to the left of the actual ridgeline. On the summit they discovered a panorama excelling that of Donohue.

The remoteness of this area, even though near the Muir Trail, makes it worth visiting, even though several participants of this trip didn't arrive home until 3 a.m. Monday.

SPS TRIPS MARCH 1 THROUGH JULY 5, 1978

Mar 11	Rock Climb Practice	LaBrecque, Kabler
Mar 10-12	Mt. Thompson	Boyles, Keenan
Mar 18-19	Morgan #1	Goebel, Mantle
Apr 1	Rock Climb Practice	Birnbaum, Wilkinson
Apr 1-2	Matterhorn Pk	McCarthy, Mantle
Apr 8-9	Snow Training	Dee, Bradley
Apr 22-23	Rock Climb Practice	Dee, Byington
Apr 29-30	Bradley	Magnusons
May 13-14	Thor Peak	Erb, Schumacher
May 13-14	Baxter, Acrodetes	MacLeod, Colevins
May 20-21	The Thumb	Hellman, Pinson
May 20-21	Nav.Noodle, Homers Nose	Russell, Ye Olde Hands
May 27-29	Gould	Zaleski, Gray, Lochner
Jun 2-4	Brewer	Bradley, Butler
Jun 2-5	N.Pal,Sill,Gayley, Temple	C. Banner, Hicks
Jun 3-4	Sirretta, Taylor Done	Ward, Beverage
Jun 10-11	Pickering, Joe Devel	Magnusons
Jun 10-11	Morgan #2, Stanford	Dee, Stein
Jun 16-18	Winchell, N.Pal, Tbolt	Ranschau, Butler
Jun 17-18	Thompson, Powell	Toby, Banner
Jun 24-25	Humphreys, Emerson	Bruce, Brumer
Jun 24-25	Muah, Sharknose Ridge	Keating, Whisman
Jul 1-4	Clarence King	Butler, Bradley
Jul 1-4	Arrow, Pyramid, Ruskin, Cardinal	Vasilik, Hubbard
Jul 1-4	Brewer, N.Guard, S.Guard	Cervenka, Warner
Jul 1-9	So. Cascades Peakbag.	McRuer, Hicks

PRIVATE TRIP REPORT

JULY 2, 3, 4

COYOTE, ANGORA

GEORGE DAVIS

These two remote peaks have been rarely led and more rarely reported in the Echo. John Hellman, six stalwarts, and I determined to approach from the south rather than the Clicks Creek southwest approach sometimes used in the past. Loggers are pushing roads north from Lloyd Meadows and these roads will be approaching the peaks as consumption of "natural resources" progresses.

From the Blacktop 2+ miles north of Pyles' Camp we took ORV trail #32E12 to Jerkey Meadows, and on to Grey Meadow Station (good water). From there we went NE on 32E13 across the Little Kern through Burnt Corral and Round Meadows to where the Deep Creek Trail (32E06) parallels the creek in a generally northerly direction. The trail is steep and loose in places; packers use it to take fisherpersons to Coyote Lakes. The forest is beautiful, first growth Ponderosa, Douglas, white and red fir are all about. A small flow of slimey water was available in this dry year in early July. At about 7900' elevation the stream passes its practical origin, a beautiful spring to the left of the trail. Near here we placed our steep but uncrowded camp. We feared this might be the last available water. "Local report" (a packer) had it that the trail continued another mile north over a pass and a well signed trail led east to the ridge crest and on to Kramer Horse Camp where scant water was to be had. We chose to start that way with day packs on the second day. The uphill trail leaves the Deep Creek trail about a mile further north than shown on the Topo. The camp shows on the Forest Service map but not on the Topo which does reveal the trail moving easterly toward the headwaters of Grasshopper Creek. We found the route, as reported, filled our canteens near Kramer Horse Camp and took a long, steep dog-leg to the east. Best advice would be to run the ridge north from the pass over the ridge, avoiding the prominences, (10,237, etc.) by contouring to the east of them. From that same pass (9700') the ridge can be run south by east to Angora Mtn.

As one goes North toward Coyote Lakes the terrain opens up, moon-like scapes appear on both sides and a beautiful view of Farewell Gap is to the north. Nonetheless, Coyote cannot be seen from the pass; it was obscured by 10885 which John and his son Mark promptly climbed for inclusion in an upcoming guide to bumps over 10,000 ft. From here we ran the crescent-shaped ridge to the east which terminates in Coyote Peak. The southern summit supports the occasionally used register.

Back by the "ridge route" was easier, only a few down-trees to be hurdled. Tad Goguen "Scooted" over them. The ridge south from the aforementioned pass was easy and obvious to Angora. The northern summit is highest and closest. "Ugggh." By now everyone was almost out of water and tired. A long day already under our belts we took a trailless shortcut to the NW from the base of Angora. This is about at the second "D" in the word DIVIDE on your Topo. We soon picked up the trail, which has numerous switchbacks not shown on the Topo. From there to camp was a mile or more, all downhill.

On the way out on the third day, we took a shorter route. Deep Creek Trail south, as in our approach, but near where Deep Creek crosses 32E02 we went cross-country about a mile to Horse Bridge on the Little Kern. The Hockett Peak quadrangle shows an extension of the Deep Creek Trail to the south of 32E02 but "Local report" (Grey Meadow Ranger) advises that the Forest Service wishes it abandoned. No matter, we didn't find it anyway. Out by way of Jerkey Meadows. No water at Jug Spring.

Off for Basque food in Bakersfield on July 4. All fine Basque restaurants were closed at 6:00 when we tried them. La Providencia.

South Fork Pass and Environs -- Sept 24, 25, '77 By C.Ranschau

Five of us - Ron Bartell, Greg Vernon, Don Sparks, and Wendell Delano decided to discover SFP by a circuitous route and set out for Finger Lake. In the pm Don, Greg, & Wendell opted for The Thumb from Finger Lake to get an early look at SFP--I think. They told about how there are two chutes, the left one having an ice wall but, the right one being a horrible scree slope. They took the right (west) one and made the pass, hung a left and ascended quite a ways up the slope. The knowledge that going for the peak would catch them out at night turned them back just in time to reach camp at last light.

Next morning we tried to find a route that would make SFP more interesting so we headed for Middle Pal and followed up the moraine. The glaciers are very spectacular this time of the year--beautifully crevassed and sparkling in the sunlight. The minimum gear needed to overcome the glacier would be a leader with crampons and a 100+ ft of rope. The idea, of course, is that he lead the pitch (rather flat) and belay everyone else.

After the ledge, the route opens up and finally goes with steady 3rd class. Just above the white (actually light redish brown) patch the route crosses into the next chute right and continues with constant 3rd class. The summit was attained at 11:00 and after pictures of the Palisades we looked for a route to the south--the direction of SFP. The ridge of MP goes dipping down toward the notch but, to avoid high angle rock you have to get onto the east face. To keep it down to tuff 3rd we kept angling down and across the walls winding up about 300 to 400' below Disappointment. From there it is straight up to the peak.

After lunch we went toward Balcony peak and dropped down the west side until a narrow chute angles up left. Ron says it's suppose to have one 4th class move and we had to do a tuff chimney right up over a chock stone. We didn't like the next move either so Ron found a high angled route out to the left on the west wall which brought us out about 100' below the summit. Greg, Wendell, and I went for the peak and remet Ron and Don below. Ron had almost lost it on loose rock on the very last tough move and sat there pale and shaken.

Once having gotten it back together again, we headed for our final objective-SFP- which seemed sure to be achieved--and was. Narrow at the top it at once broadens to a wide scree slope, then narrows at the bottom and the talus is disgorged onto the ice. No special gear is needed here as dust and some rocks make for footholds on the shallow angled ice. Having conquered all, it was now for camp (5:30), car (8:30), dinner in BP and late, late (yawn) home, up early, to work(ugh).

The Sierra ECHO is published seven times a year by the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club.

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INQUIRIES ABOUT NOT RECEIVING THE ECHO: Direct to Anna Lou Pinson 10624 Garden Grove Ave., Northridge, CA 91326.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE \$4.00 per year due by March 31. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send to SPS treasurer: Mary Omberg, 4311 El Prieto, Altadena, CA 91001. New SPS applications received after October 1 are credited through the next year.

FAMILY SUBSCRIPTIONS: Only one ECHO subscription is necessary for members of a family residing at one address.

AWARDS: Emblem Pins (\$7.50) and Patches (\$2.00) are available from the treasurer.

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