

The Sierra



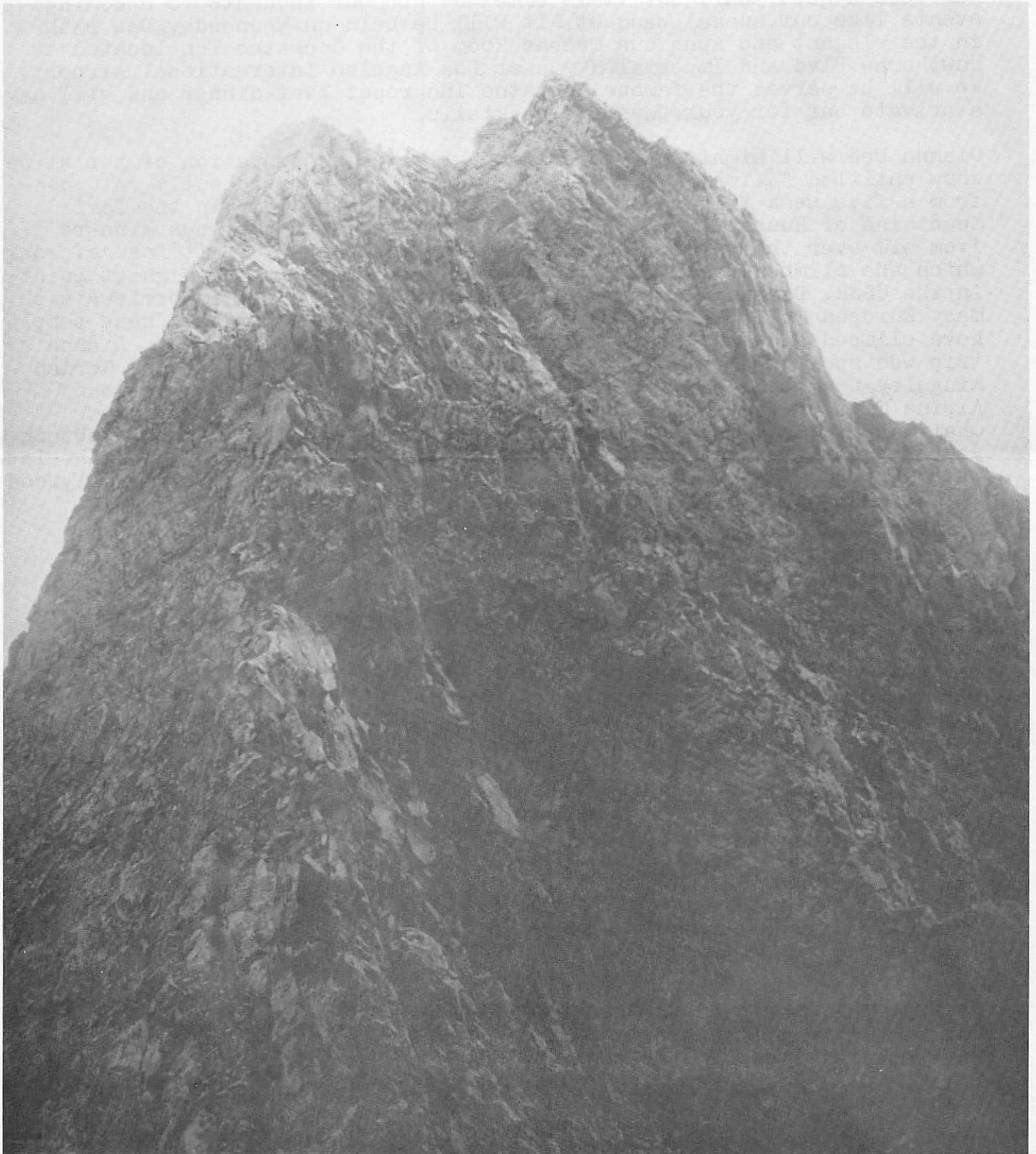
ECHO

VOLUME 22

OCTOBER

1978

NO. 6



Like white puffy clouds scudding past a Sierra peak, the summer season has moved swiftly by. Except for a few fall climbs the Sierra climbing season is over for another year. And what a year it has been. The Sierras were alive with rushing water. Greenery abounded everywhere. Still using ice axes and snow climbing in August and September, just outstanding. Our SPS Leaders rendered yeoman service in leading a wide variety of both scheduled and private climbs to satisfy all climbing appetites and abilities. Personally I enjoyed my best season ever with the SPS. Indeed it has been a good year. But it is time to turn our thoughts to upcoming events like our annual banquet. It will be held on Wednesday, Dec 13th in the elegant and spacious Queens Room of the Cockatoo Inn located at Hawthorne Blvd and Imperial Hwy near Los Angeles International Airport. We will be served the famous Cockatoo Inn roast beef dinner and will have a private bar for your favorite cocktails.

Dianna Dee will highlight the evening with the presentation of her slide show entitled "Climbing In The Soviet Union". Dianna recently returned from a five week trip to an International Climbing Camp in the Pamir Mountains of Russia, where she met and climbed with top mountaineers from all over the world. Her pictures include the 21,000 ft Peak of Four which she climbed, and the 24,590ft Peak of Communism the highest point in the USSR. Dianna also has some fascinating shots and interviews with many European climbers including the elite "Snow Leopards". These people have climbed all four peaks in Russia over 7,000 meters high. Dianna's trip was sponsored by the Sierra Club Mountaineering Committee, Norman Kingsley, Chairman. The National Geographic Society and the American Alpine Club were also involved in the trip. Dianna Dee is a former chairman of the SPS and a member of the American Alpine Club. To obtain your banquet tickets send \$10 each with a self addressed stamped envelope to Banquet Chairman, Joe McCosker, 11922 Otsego Street, North Hollywood 91607. Make checks payable to the Sierra Peaks Section.

GEORGE TOBY

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION	WINTER 1978-79	SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
Nov 4-5	Fossil Falls Rock Training	Ranschau / Hubbard
Nov 4-5	Moses, North Maggie	Russell / Smith
Dec 2	Rock Climb, Rubidoux	Mauk / Sparks
Dec 9-10	Rock Climb, Joshua Tree	Mantle / McRuer
Dec 9-10	Spanish Needle, Lamont	Rohn / Jones
Dec 13	Annual Banquet	Joe & Betty McCosker
Jan 13-14	Rock Climb, Joshua Tree	Olsen / C. Sale
Jan 20-21	Ice Axe Practice	Toby / Keating
Jan 27	Rock Climb, Rubidoux	Hicks / McRuer
Jan 27	Snow Training	Bradley / Rohn
Jan 27-28	Trail Peak	Camphausen / Burge
Feb 3-4	Ice Axe Practice	Ranschau / Sparks
Feb 3-4	Independence, Paiute Monument	Camphausen / Jones

COVER: This photo shows the upper part and summit of the north ridge of Devils Crag. The great amount of exposed climbing may make this the toughest peak on the list. Photo by Gene Mauk on Sept 2, 1977

РУССКАЯ ЖИЗНЬ

22nd Annual Sierra Peaks Banquet

2400 Sutter Street San Francisco, Calif., 94115 . Editor (415) 921-5561, Office (415) 921-5580
Контора открыта ежедневно с 8 ч. утра до 4 ч. дня, кроме суббот и воскресений

Vol. L

ВСТР

Вашингтон

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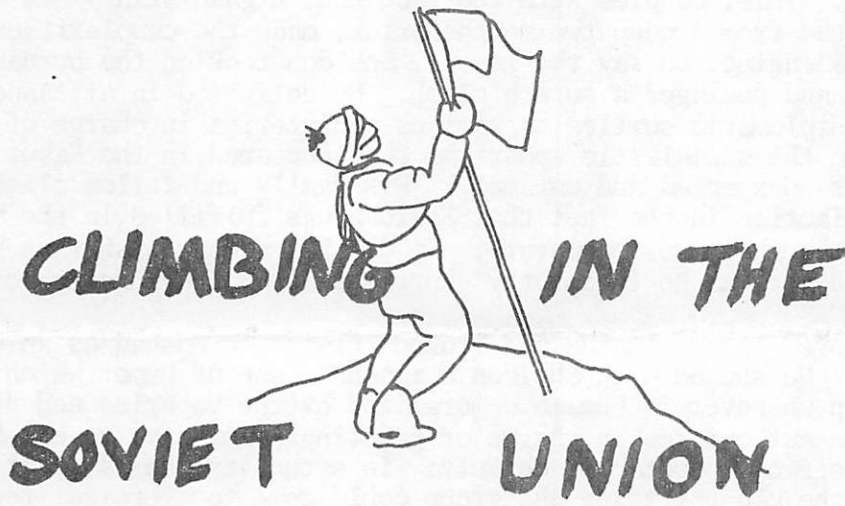
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ПО Вашингтон

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will be shown by Diana Dee at the Sierra Peaks Banquet Wednesday, Dec. 13, at the Cockatoo Inn, near the airport. (LAX)

To see the highest peak in all USSR, ... to see the Peak of the Four (21,000') which she climbed, ...

To enjoy the famous roast beef dinner, in the best possible company —OURS of course—

Send SASE and \$10 per person to:
Joe McCosker
11922 Otoe St.
N. Hollywood, CA 91607
(Please make check payable to Sierra Peaks Section.)

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оп. 39, № 6

"The man who, on such a dangerous enterprize, seeks the assurance of a safe retreat will not deserve to draw near to the Throne of the Gods."

- Günther Dyhrenfurth

In memory of Sheldon Moomaw and Kes Teter who died July 29th. on the summit plateau of Noshaq.

One way to know a man is to know his enthusiams, and about Noshaq, Sheldon was enthusiastic. He conceived the expedition and relished the details of bringing his dream to fruition. 24,580 foot Noshaq lies in the Wakhan corridor in northeast Afghanistan, a politically sensitive area as it borders Russia, China, and Pakistan. This, coupled with the fact that Afghanistan's new government had emerged from a coup two months prior, made the complexities of organization challenging, to say the least. Sheldon took on the bureaucrats with Messianic zeal and packaged a superb climb. He delighted in all aspects of the trip - from diplomatic sorties to various ministeries in charge of granting visas and permits to the socialistic aphorisms that appeared in the Kabul daily news. His death was unexpected and untimely. His family and fellow climbers can only take satisfaction in the fact that Sheldon was fulfilled in the manner of his death, even though it was premature; it was his ardent wish that he die in the mountains and not, as he frequently expressed it, "in a mundane accident on the 605 Freeway."

Kes Teter, too, loved the mountains and looked forward to Noshaq as an opportunity to fulfill himself. He shared with Sheldon a risqué sense of humor which provided levity for the group whenever it became demoralized by the vagaries and procrastinations of the Afghan authorities in charge of granting permission to climb. Kes became the group's official doctor by default; in actuality, he was a pharmacist, but since this was the closest thing the group could come to a medical technician, he was made ipso facto its M.D. In this capacity, he provided light-hearted medical care for the expedition's participants.

Kes and Sheldon were long-time climbing partners, and it is fitting that they should make their last ascent together.

The details of the tragedy appear in the newspaper clipping which follows.

"A tilted load will not reach its destination."
"You can't hold two melons in one hand."

- Afghan Idioms, Kabul Times

Sam Roberts, M. Omberg

Three young hikers caught near Lake Italy when tropical storm Norman swept the High Sierra earlier in the week walked to safety yesterday, and the bodies of four hikers who died of exposure were carried from mountain slopes by helicopter.

Two of the dead, taken from the 11,000-foot level of Mount Whitney, were identified as Arthur R. Bourne, 66, of Altadena (Los Angeles county), and his son, Michael Ross Bourne, 35, of Los Angeles.

The other two, a man and a woman who died at Lamarck Col, a mountain pass about 50 miles north of Mount Whitney, were still not identified. The coroner's office at Bishop (Inyo county) reported that neither was carrying identification papers.

With weather back to normal, district manager Michael Goggin reported at the White Mountain Forest Service station near Mount Whitney that 30 to 40 hikers had re-entered the rugged mountain area east of Whitney yesterday.

"We try to let people know the weather can cloud up again," Goggin said, "but if they are well prepared, they can ride out a storm."

That, in fact, is what happened in the case of the three young hikers reported missing in the vicinity of Lake Italy.

Goggin said the father of one of the youths had been concerned Wednesday when the party failed to come out when the storm struck.

"The boys did the smart thing," Goggin reported. "They stayed where they were and waited for the storm to clear."

"We sent a helicopter to look for them, but they got out on their own in fine shape."

Some other hikers caught behind swollen streams had more trouble.

"One couple in their late 30s had to swing across McGee creek on a rope," Goggin said.

A party of 28 Sierra Club members on the western edge of Kings Canyon National Park left on schedule yesterday morning — but only 23 of them completed the hike on foot.

Three older members were taken by helicopter to Cedar Grove on Highway 180 in Fresno county. None required medical care, and the airlifted members joined the rest of the party, drawn from throughout the nation, and drove out of the mountains.

LEADERS -- LEADERS -- ATTENTION -- LEADERS -- ATTENTION

The deadline for the March through July 4 Schedule is November 1

AT THAT TIME ALL TRIP WRITE-UPS MUST BE IN TO ME SO THAT
THE SPS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CAN REVIEW THEM

- * FINISH THE WINTER WITH A SNOW CLIMB!
- * Lead a Spring trip into the Southern Sierra or into
THE HIGH COUNTRY OVER GOOD CRAMPONING AND GLISSADING CONDITIONS.
- * Lead an early Summer trip before the MOSQUITOES come out!

A LIST OF "E" AND "M" LEADERS AND ASSISTANTS WAS PRINTED
IN THE JULY 1978 ECHO. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE LATEST
LTC AND ALTC GRADS. YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE!!

This will be the only trip solicitation for the next
Schedule, Spring and early summer, #220. Remember,
this is your Section. Your trips will make it success-
ful Give yourself a good choice of trips!

SEND ALL WRITE-UPS, DOUBLE SPACED
FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 27 OF THE CURRENT SCHEDULE.

MAIL BEFORE NOVEMBER 1 to

RON JONES

P. O. BOX 172

TRONA, CA 93562

Tel. 714/372 5740 home, 714/372 4535 work.

Help---The Echo Needs Input!!

If we are to publish The Echo through the winter months, we
MUST have inputs!!

Remember, leaders, that all led trips must be written up and
submitted. Also, we NEED MANY PRIVATE TRIP WRITEUPS!!!

Note--- preference will be given to TYPED, SINGLE SPACED
submittals.

Cartoons (small), cover photos (8 by 10 b & w glossy), plus
other items of interest to SPSers are also needed.
Send to the Editor (see back cover for address).

I thank you in advance for your contributions---the Editor.

INCREASE YOUR WORD POWER

Igloo: Substance used to hold an ig together.

Incongruous: Where U.S. laws are made.

Infidel: The Vatican is not inclined to believe infidel Castro.

Joyce, James: "Last night I chose to read a new book; it turned out
to be an unfortunate Joyce."

Kerchief: Gesundheit! Cashew: Peanut with a cold.

Lapse: What we get when we sit down.

SPS Membership Report
September 1978

New Members

933-6572 ANDREASEN, Gene 183 So. Orange Dr. Los Angeles, CA 90036	M 7-78	330-1295 TIDBALL, Larry 1428 Ameluxen Ave. Hacienda Hts, CA 91745 (714) 962-7935	12266430 M 9-78	397-4406 WARNER, Dan 11320 Matteson Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90006
10954398 BOYLAND, J.H. (Joe) 258 Hiram Ave. Newbury Park, CA 91320	M 7-78	(714) 962-7935 TIPTON, Nancy 10367 Slater No. 202 Fountain Valley, CA 92708	12586620 M 9-78	YOUNG, Joseph F. P.O. Box 75799 Los Angeles, CA 90005

Address Changes

FRANZEN, David G. 4805 Garland St. Anaheim, CA 92807	M 9-78	BROWDER, Hal C. Box 2236 Rural Branch Coarsegold, CA 93614
MACDONALD, Rob Roy 4116 Encinas Dr. La Canada, CA 91011	M7-78	FELDERMAN, Keith W. 30653 10th Ave. So. Federal Way, WA 98003

New Emblem Holders

377 FRY, Tom	8-78
378 FRY, Sally	8-78
379 RUSSELL, Richard	9-78
380 McMAHON, Jane	9-78
381 WARNER, Dan	9-78

New Senior Emblem

40 RUSSELL, William T.	9-78
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New List Finishers

10 MAGNUSON, Roy W.	8-78
11 MAGNUSON, Barbara	8-78

(714) 551-5495 MALOY, J. Owen 4591 Greentree Lane Irvine, CA 92715	10564450 M 9-78	883-2400 HUBBARD, George, W. 254 Cedar Heights Dr. Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
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443-9557 MATTHEWS, Mark A. 5319 Durfee Rd. El Monte, CA 91732	M 9-78	(916) 443-3207 MARCUS, David 531 21st St. Sacramento, CA 95816
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Items for Sale
Polarguard sleeping bag - \$50.00
never used, large size

780-3259 MCMANNES, Mary 6955 Kester Ave. No. 306 Van Nuys, CA 91405	13466637 M 8-78	OMBERG, Ed 3721 Watkins Dr. Apt. 6 Riverside, CA 92507
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North Face Toulumne Tent - \$35.00
inc. poles & fly
total weight 4lbs
Contact Mark Goebel -
W 480-42 H 820-1962

MILLER, Ron 706 Poinsettia Manhattan Beach, CA 90266	M 8-78	OMBERG, Mary 15116 Del Prado Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
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345-1211 NOREEN, Robert G. 5151 White Oak Ave. No.227 Encino, CA 91316	13203296 M 9-78	(702) 331-0244 PANNELL, William H. 5885 Foxtail Dr. Reno, NV 89502
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(805) 268-0397 SCOTT, Jim 35618 Anthony Rd. Agua Dulce, CA 91350	M 9-78	886-9315 PERKINS, David & Phyllis 20006 Superior Chatsworth, CA 91311
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Fifteen climbers left the Sabrina Lake trailhead at 8:30 Sat for Baboon Lakes. The backpackers parking area is now .6 of a mile from the trailhead. The trail to Blue Lake was partly obscured by snow. From then on it was all snow and we did not find the trail again. We arrived at Baboon Lakes for lunch and set up camp in the rocky area at the NE end of the largest lake. All were frozen. The group was overcome by the sudden urge for naps. G.Toby and D.Tracy hiked up the valley toward Thompson and scouted the climbing route. During the night a thunderstorm with rain, lightning, and terrific winds hit the area. It was amazing the tents stood up. Diana Dee was snug in her new bivouac sack, but it leaked a bit. Morning arrived with angry black clouds boiling over the Sierra Crest but no rain. No one except the leader expected the storm to clear. Nevertheless 8 set out for the peaks at 5:10 AM. We proceeded up the snow covered watershed, crossed over frozen Sunset Lake, and up the Thompson Glacier. All the clouds miraculously dissipated (at the leaders command of course) and we climbed the right hand snow chute over the col between Thompson and Powell. It is slightly higher than the left chute but much easier to negotiate on the other side. There is some difficult 3rd to 4th class rock on the S side of the left hand chute. Descending about 200 feet we turned East and contoured upward on the steep snow just below the cliffs to pick up the second snow chute and climb up to the summit plateau of Thompson. All 8 made the summit by 9:55. A rope was available but was not uncoiled. The high winds of 30 knots cleared the skies and we could see forever. Just beautiful. Keeping a wary eye out for possible avalanches, now that the slopes were in full sun, we retraced our steps back to the col. Cuno Ranschau reported avalanches in this area only 2 weeks before. Three slips required short ice axe arrests. About 200 feet below the N side of the col a steep snow chute leads WSW directly up to the summit plateau of Powell. We climbed both summits of Powell. As stated in the Climbers Guide the SW peak appears to be the taller. It had a tobacco can register. Five people made it up Powell. All returned to camp slogging thru endless nivee penitentes sun cups which collapsed knee deep or more under our weight. All arrived safely back at the cars by 7:00 PM. It was a long hard day, but very rewarding to those that had the courage to get up at 4:00 AM and start off into the teeth of abominable weather. I salute them and thank them for their trust in the leader. This was a strong SPS group and an excellent snow climb.



SHARKNOSE RIDGE, MUAH MTN., June 24-25

Jerry Keating/Walt Whisman

A joint SPS-Backpacking trip attracted 19 persons to the Horseshoe Meadow roadhead above Lone Pine, and a moderate pace allowed 15 participants to reach Sharknose Ridge (10,643') Saturday afternoon and 16 to ascend Muah Mtn. (11,016') Sunday morning.

The group first backpacked two miles to Mulkey Pass, then continued southward five miles along the Pacific Crest Trail to an established camp (with stream and corral) between Pt. 10,375 and the small meadow to the east. En route, 15 persons added 600 feet of gain and two miles of hiking to their day by ascending Sharknose. From the summit, the views of the vast meadows of the Kern Plateau were splendid.

On Sunday, the party backpacked cross-country across Ash Meadow, thence along a small stream to the saddle southwest of Pk.10,485. From the saddle, 16 persons did Muah roundtrip in less than 1½ hours. Then the group rejoined the PCT as it approached the Sierra crest. By 2 p.m. all were back at the cars.

The heavy snowfall of the past winter made this area particularly pleasant, there being drifts up to 2½ feet deep in shaded or north-facing areas at 10,100 feet. Although streams flowing through meadows are polluted by cattle droppings, we found more than enough seasonal flows on the higher slopes to satisfy our needs.

July 8-9, 1978

SNOW TRAINING/MT GILBERT

Leaders: Norm Rohn/
Gene Mauk

In spite of warnings from the Forest Service and other hikers about bad stream crossings and inaccessibility, thirteen snow enthusiasts had little difficulty in reaching the Treasure Lakes. Camp was quickly set up at the edge of still-nearly-frozen lake 10646 and we were off to the slopes south of the lake for four hours of roped travel, belaying, arresting, glissading and all those good things. The snow was great even though a little sun-cuppy in places.

A small campfire, sociability and a warm night prepared the group for a six o'clock start on Sunday. Where the rock was exposed and convenient, we followed it. Otherwise, we battled the sun cups and a steep snow couloir. Lunch on the summit of Gilbert was one to remember. Spectacular views of the Sierra in all directions -- emblem peaks jutting up to the south, west and north.

A pleasant hike out with some beautiful long glissades put us at the South Lake road head before five.

The enthusiasm and eagerness to learn of this group make leading a real pleasure.

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

COPY: Send to Editor, Cuno Ranschau, 12744 Lorne st, No. Holly., CA 91605. Priority will be given to typed, single spaced copy.

ADDRESS CHANGES TO: Barbara Magnuson, 19145-5 Haynes, Reseda CA 91335. The post office will not forward 3rd class mail.

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.

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
10624 Garden Grove Ave.
Northridge, CA 91326
"to explore, enjoy, preserve"

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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23930 VIA FLAMENCO
VALENCIA, CA 91355

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