

# The Sierra



# ECHO

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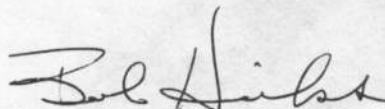


## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The year 1978 was an active one for the SPS. We engaged in more training outings than ever before. The snow, rock and navigation outings were well attended and would certainly encourage us to maintain that high level. A very successful Cascades trip was led that resulted in climbing four mountains in the north (Shasta, Hood, Adams and St. Helens). This type of "extended" SPS trip can only stimulate interest and enjoyment among SPS participants. Happily, another Cascades trip is in the making for the coming year.

All of the above reflects the need for active participation by SPS members. I feel one of the key goals for 1979 should be an active solicitation of new members and the re-involvement of some who have become less active. Perhaps a greater challenge is to actively encourage section participation from members who have not yet involved themselves in these activities. The SPS has something to offer the emerging climbers and at the same time the established membership can benefit by the contact with them.

This then is a challenge to us all and here's looking forward to a great year for the SPS.



There was a scientist who thought he had discovered the food that would make porpoises live forever. This food, he thought, was seagull eggs. He arranged with the state game commission, which had a state game farm along the beach, to try his experiment on their porpoises—to which they agreed. He spent a few weeks gathering seagull eggs, and when he had enough to start his experiment, he loaded the crates of seagull eggs onto his truck and drove the few miles down the beach to where the state game farm was located. When he drove through the gate, there lay a lion who had gotten out of his cage. Now instead of stopping, or honking his horn, or driving around it, he drove over the lion and killed it. He was, of course, hauled before the judge. And the charges brought against him?—For transporting gulls across state lions for immortal porpoises.

### IMPROVE YOUR WORD POWER

ARCADE: A fruit drink Noah served his passengers.

AVION: A bird that goes "Ding-Dong".

BULLDOZER: A sleeping male bovine.

CHETAH: An income tax specialist.

SYNTAX: The price you pay for making a mistake.

PARANOIA: "Here come the two psychiatrists who are going to examine you but, don't let that paranoia".

COVER PHOTO: Do you recognize this the finest 'stuff' in the Sierra? It's the Palisades in their wintry dress from Birch Mtn. By Tom Ross.



One hundred and forty three members and guests attended the twenty-second annual SPS banquet at the Cockatoo Inn on December 13. George Toby ended a successful year as Chairman by thanking the current year's officers and announcing that Bob Hicks will be Chairman for the year 1979.

Bob Hicks then introduced the other new officers: Gene Mauk, Vice Chairman, Ted Pinson, Treasurer, John Hellman, Secretary, and Bill Bradley, fifth officer and Council Representative.

Doug Mantle announced "this is what you really came for" and then conducted the drawing for door prizes. Thanks to Bob Hicks, Chuck Stein, George Toby, How Bailey, Betty McCosker, Norm Rohn, and Diana Dee, who solicited the awards, 17 door prizes were given out. The contributing stores and lucky winners were:

West Ridge	Sleeping bag	Alba Hall
West Ridge	Tote bag	Betty Wallin
West Ridge	Tote bag	Dick Akawie
West Ridge	Day pack	Natalie Stein
A16	Day pack	Ann Cavalieri
Sport Chalet	Day pack	Tad Goguen
Kelty Mountaineering	Day pack	Sally Israel
Sports Ltd	Day pack	Max Bowery
REI	Tote bag	R.J. Secor
Wilderness Experience	Tote bag	Anna Lisa Kingsley
Granite Stairway	Skiing weekend	Andy Smatko
Granite Stairway	Skiing weekend	Larry Kelbley
Kelty Mountaineering	\$10 gift certificate	Mary McMannes
Little Stones	\$5 gift certificate	John Hellman
Pacific Crest Mountaineering	2 pairs gloves	Bob Hicks
West Ridge	Day pack	Roy Keenan
GUM Department Store	Moscow Olympics pin	Don Holmes

George Toby urged everyone to patronize the stores that support our banquet and to mention the SPS when they buy from them.

Duane McRuer made a surprise announcement that three SPSers won awards this year. Paul Lipsohn won the Outings Leadership award, the highest leadership award conferred by the Angeles Chapter, for long term and outstanding leadership in furthering the Angeles Chapter outings programs. Among his achievements, Paul has been chairman of SPS, DPS, and HPS. Sam Fink also won the Outings Leadership award. Sam is an SPS member but he is better known for leading young girls up HPS peaks. This is the first time that there were two recipients of the Outings Leadership award. How Bailey won an Outings Leadership Service award for noteworthy service and leadership to the Angeles Chapter. The awards, with plaques to the winners, will be presented officially in February.

After a short break Diana Dee showed slides of her trip to the Soviet Union. Diana had outstanding pictures of her trip to the Pamirs, where she climbed 21,000' Peak of the Four, as well as shots of others of her group who climbed 24,950' Peak of Communism, the highest point in Russia. Chuck Stein provided two projectors with fade out-fade in controls, giving a truly professional touch to the program.

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION MARCH 1 - JULY 5, 1979 SCHEDULE

Mar 3-4	Pilot Knob, Lamont	Ron Jones, Marlin Clark
Mar 10-11	Rock climb practice, Joshua Tree,	C. Byington, Diana Dee
Mar 17-18	Black or Mary Austin	Doug Mantle, Mark Goebel
May 5-6	Perkins, Colosseum	Mark Goebel, Ron Jones
May 12-13	Tower	Duane McRuer, Chuck Stein
May 12-13	Diamond	H. McFadden, B. Reber
May 12-13	Inconsolable	Gordon MacLeod
May 19-20	Smith, Crag	B. Bradley, Ron Jones
May 19-20	Warren, Excelsior	H. McFadden, Ed Rose
May 26-28	Morrison, Baldwin, Bloody	George Toby, Gene Olsen
May 26-28	Tehipite Dome, Spanish Mtn	H. McFadden, Dan Warner
May 26-28	North Palisade, Thunderbolt	D. Van Dalsem, Chuck Stein
May 26-28	Trojan, Barnard	Sid Davis, Bill Higgins
Jun 2-3	Moses, N. Maggie	Bill Russell, George Smith
Jun 2-3	Baldwin, Red Slate	George Hubbard, Joe Vasilik
Jun 2-3	Langley	Ron Jones, F. Camphausen
Jun 9-10	Muah, Trail	J. Robinson, T. Amneus
Jun 16-17	Kern Peak	Jim Erb, D. Van Dalsem
Jun 16-17	Clark	Gene Olsen, George Toby
Jun 16-18 **	N. Palisade, Thunderbolt, Winchell	C. Ranschau, Jim Butler
Jun 22-24	Clarence King, Cotter, Gardiner	D. Van Dalsem, Jim Murphy
Jun 23-24	Mt Florence	J. Hellman, Ann Cavalieri
Jun 23-24	Agassiz, Goode	Mary McMannes, W. Kabler
Jun 29-Jul 2	Goddard, Reinstein	H. McFadden, Dan Warner
Jun 30-Jul 1	McAdie, Irvine	F. Camphausen, Ron Jones
Jun 30-Jul 4	Clark, S. King, Merced, Red, Gray	D. Van Dalsem, Norm Rohn
Jun 30-Jul 4	Virgin River Narrows	Steve Bein, Bob Hicks
Jun 30-Jul 5	Stewart, Lion, Triple Divide, Whaleback, Glacier Ridge	B. Russell, Don Sparks
Jul 4	Muir	H. Brummer, Kevin Sullivan
	** Apply <u>after</u> May 15	

E: MT. THOMPSON, MARCH 9-11  
(Alt. March 16-18)

Strenuous winter climb from Lake Sabrina roadhead. Join us for a third and hopefully final attempt.

Limited to party of ten (10). Please CALL Bob Boyles at (213) 378-6679 or Roy Keenan at (213) 328-3797 for details.

Book Review

A Climbing Guide To Colorado's Fourteeners \$ 7.50  
by Walter R. Borneman and Lyndon J. Lampert  
Pruett Publishing Company 3235 Prairie Avenue Boulder, CO 80301

A new (1978) climbing guide for those who seek the rewards of dragging one's self over not-too-harrowing routes to the exhilaration of 14,000 feet. An excellent book with a lot of interesting historical notes as well as excellent maps and route descriptions. A must for the dedicated 14'ers. Much more detailed than "Ormes" and with the latest changes in new roads etc.

Alvin B. Campbell



SIERRA PEAKS SECTION  
MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1978 & JANUARY 1979

NEW MEMBERS

Hull, Thomas 12946767  
2633 E. La Palma M 11-78  
Anaheim, CA 92806

Knapp, Charles  
1029 S. Union #18 M 11-78  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

(714) 552-7922  
Knutte, Krista  
13 Meadowsweet M 11-78  
Irvine, CA 92715

Heaney, D. L. 12447639  
1550 Tustin Village M 11-78  
Way #61  
Tustin, CA 92680

H: 396-1039 W: 648-5840  
Hall, Alba W., Jr.  
c/o Airospace Corp M 11-78  
Box 92957  
Los Angeles, CA 90009

(805) 642-1680  
Richards, David  
791 Via Cielito M 11-78  
Ventura, CA 93003

Jump, Pat 11489540  
3621 Telegraph Rd M 12-78  
Ventura, CA 93003

Boyland, Joseph E  
258 Hiram Ave. M 12-78  
Newbury Park, CA 91320

889-5975  
Danta, Randy 13746842  
1075 Triunfo Cyn Rd M 1-79  
Westlake Village, CA 91361

ADDRESS CHANGES

Labrecque, Richard  
1107 Cragmore  
Seabrook, Tex 77586

Dye, John  
1801 Hill St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Bloiland, Eric  
2506 Whittier Dr.  
Davis, CA 95616

345-1221  
Noreen, Robert G.  
18330-D Collins St. #36  
Tarzana, CA 91356

391-1375  
Mihaljevich, Daniel W.  
4021 Minerva Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90066

NEW ECHO SUBSCRIPTION

Healy, Brian  
500 W. Middlefield Rd #136  
Mt. View, CA 94043

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

#383	Hoeptner, Fred	11-18-78
#834	Jones, Mary Sue	12-13-78
#385	Pesante, Roland	12-16-78
#386	Bloiland, Eric	12-23-78

Need a weekday climbing partner?  
I do! Please contact me if you  
are interested.  
Mark Matthews  
5319 Durfee Rd.  
El Monte, Ca. 91732  
(213) 443-9557

FOR SALE:  
A-16 Expedition pack  
new \$100.00 Sell \$50.00  
Ben Preyer  
(h) 345-6231  
(w) 381-5353 ext.406

An even dozen climbers left the Meyson Lakes trailhead near Whitney Portal in perfect weather. A good trail gained 3200' in about 5 miles to a fine campsite near lower Meyson Lakes. It has superb views of Le Conte, Mallory and surrounding peaks. Saturday afternoon we headed for Irvine on a route suggested by Hal Compton who had climbed it before. We ascended to a saddle West Northwest of camp and more or less ran the ridges to the summit. It was a rough route with many ups and downs, some of them third class. Six made the summit. We descended by picking our way down several steep chutes, crossing over from chute to chute to avoid icy patches. It was an exhausting 6000 foot day. A better route might have been to climb the steep snow chute heading directly West up from Upper Meyson Lake. However it was more ice than snow and would have been a challenge even with crampons.

One person signed out early Sunday due to stomach upset during the night. Eleven headed for Le Conte. We cramponed up a prominent snow chute from Upper Meyson Lake to the base of Mt. Le Conte and the cairn marker described in the Climbers Guide. We traversed easterly for 200 yards and climbed the obvious series of cracks and ledges up the Northeast face to the summit. It was mostly third with a little fourth class. Two belays were set up, Nine people made the summit. We descended the Northwest face of Le Conte by a class three route that dropped down a prominent chute for about 200 feet, then ascended a 20 foot cliff, with one fourth class move; and on down a series of ledges back to the cairn. Two ropes were used for belays. This was an excellent climb; we sort of circled the peak by going up one way and down another. Many thanks for the assistance of Bill Higgins and Gene Olsen in route finding and belaying. Ted Pinson had to drop back to help Anna Lou with a foot problem and was deprived of making the peak. Eight made the easy rock scramble to the summit of Mt. Mallory and all hands were back to camp by 4:00 pm and back to the cars by 7:00 to cap off three peaks and a 9600 foot weekend. A very satisfying trip.

Mt. Russel & Thor Pk. Aug 12-13 Bill Bradley & Barbara Reber

Fourteen aspirants met at Whitney Portal Saturday morning for the backpack to Upper Boy Scout Lake. Travelling on the North side of the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek was a mistake. There is too much brush to fight. It is best to stay on the trail on the south side until a 12 foot high pointed rock is visible on the north side of the creek. Cross over here and start up the Ebersbacher Ledges which avoid the remaining brush.

Arriving at base camp under cloudy skies, we were just able to get the tents up when the rain started. Fortunately it only spit rain off & on during the rest of the afternoon. Four climbers, including the leader, decided to climb Thor. Jane McMahon led us up an interesting 3rd class route to the summit where we found that the register was missing.

A cold wind came up later in the afternoon and everybody was in the sack before dark. The wind continued all night and kept the tents flapping and the occupants awake. Dawn broke cold and cloudy but the weather improved as the day wore on. Marmots were very much in evidence around camp with food disappearing. Lynna Walker even lost some of her home-made yogurt.

There was very little snow around so ice axes were left at camp. Upon reaching the plateau below the Russell-Carrilon Co, the leader discovered he had left the rope at the last rest stop, which was some 400 feet down the steep scree slope. Recovering the rope, we continued up to the impressive Russell ridge which was negotiated by all without the use of the rope.

Twelve climbers made the West Summit, with two remaining on the East Summit. The trip down was uneventful for the most part and we arrived at base camp around 2:00 pm. Many thanks to Bill Gray for his assistance on the peak and also on the trip out.

B.B.



Eleven participants hiked in to Horton Lake Saturday morning and joined the rest of the Ossofsky Clan who had gone in a day earlier. In the afternoon fifteen started up the switchbacking mining road leading to the Mt. Tom ridge. MIKE and BILLY OSSOFSKY, taking pity on their mom and dad, decided to explore the Hanging Valley and Tungstar Mines, while the remainder of the group continued on up the ridge to the summit, where excellent visibility provided commanding views of the Owens Valley, Mt. Humphreys, Etc. The descent was made down a very cruddy chute leading to the Tungstar Mine which made for interesting exploring.

Saturday evening there was a noticeable loosening of tongues around the friendly fire (in evidence were beverages of the malt variety, extract of the grape, something labeled 150 prf., and last but not least, the notorious MC LEOD SPECIAL).

Sunday morning we had only four volunteers to do Four Gables. Granted, the hike in plus Mt. Tom had been a strenuous day, but you couldn't help but wonder whether Demon Rum wasn't reaping its grim reward. Sy Ossofsky was suffering from severe chest congestion (legitimate), so the assistant leader led the small group to Upper Horton Lake where the various options for the ascent were evaluated.

The route taken was as follows: From the eastern end of Upper Horton Lake, ascend a talus slope to the south, arriving at a small, unnamed lake at about 11,360 ft. From there contour around to the southwest and just before reaching the glacier, ascend a steep talus slope to the south, eventually reaching a saddle at 12,640 ft. on the main crest. From there it is a simple 1-1/2 mile hike along the west side of the ridge to the peak. Four made the summit and three continued on to do two more bumps on the ridge. The trip down was by the same route except a snow chute was utilized to avoid the loose talus on the steep slope above the glacier.

Everyone had a great weekend, including those who spent a restful, leisurely day around base camp.

BB

Middle Pallisade

Aug 18, 19, 20

Advertised as a leisurely trip, this went exactly as planned. Friday morning, ten climbers ambled slowly up to Brainard Lake where we had a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. lunch break. Arriving at Finger lake at 2:30, we made camp, slept, read, fished and engaged in ordinary madness the rest of the day. Very refreshed, we arose early and mosied up to the summit by 10:30 where all the participants enjoyed unusually clear views of Whitney, Williamson, Ritter, Banner and most of the peaks in between. After a long summit stay, we descended to camp by 3:30 with everyone willing to flake out. Refreshed again, Sunday morning we returned to the cars in the cool morning light and were home in time to clean up before supper. I think we demonstrated that a worthy peak climb can totally successful and very mellow at the same time.

Gene Gail

MT. LANGLEY by a Different Way 20-21 Aug '77 David Hammond

When my girl friend and I checked in at the ranger station at Lone Pine to get our wilderness permits on the Saturday morning, we were told they were not issuing any more for the Cottonwood Lakes area. It was the fishing season and there were too many fishermen there already! The alternative was to go over Cottonwood Pass and camp on the other side, on the southwest side of Cirque Peak.

The hike up Cottonwood Pass was new to us both and the views from the new Pacific Crest Trail (not on the topo) over the Kern Plateau made the hike to camp one of the most scenic I have encountered. After Chicken Spring Lake, the only suitable campsite with running water is that by the uppermost of the little lakes, a mile to the east of Siberian Pass, by the edge of the Kern topo.

Next morning we continued along the Pacific Crest Trail, turning north to Rock Creek, where we joined the trail going up the west side of New Army Pass. From there we took the usual rout up Langley, but did not make the summit due to gathering clouds and a lack of time. Just when we returned to our camp there was a hailstorm, and we hiked out to the car in intermitent showers.

When we go back again next year it will be before the fishing season starts on July 1st.

Mt. Goode, Mt. Agassiz

July 22-23 '78

Wild Bill Higgins

An enthusiastic crowd gathered at the South Lake trailhead--as a matter of fact, nobody even took off their packs to listen to my well-prepared speech. I took the hint, we introduced ourselves, and ten minutes later (give or take) we arrived at our Bishop Lake base camp. We then brought forth our map-and-compass heavies, who, after twenty minutes of intensive analysis, informed me that Mt. Goode was "one of the three peaks on the right." Fortunately, Sue Fritsch had climbed it before, and set us all straight.

The ascent itself took no time at all because half the party passed a snowfield on the left, the other half passed it on the right, and each tried to arrive at the other end first to prove their routefinding superiority. Upon reaching the final snowfield, Ron Brady, a specialist in high altitude stepkicking, flexed his muscles and took the point. By the time he fizzled, we were near enough that even Lex Rohn could finish the job and put us on top. The descent took slightly longer because it took all fifteen climbers to pry my fingers loose from the boulders and make me lead the steep, suncupped glissade. Everyone else enjoyed it immensely, except perhaps John Zamos (his arm should be healed by now).

That evening we enjoyed a hearty dinner followed by the usual champagne, red wine, white wine, and brandy snowcones. There was a full moon and the evening was as pretty as it could be.

The climb of Agassiz went entirely without incident; my role as Leader consisted uniquely of keeping Ralph Gabiner from littering the mountain with his mittens, which he insisted on leaving upon every third rock he passed. Agassiz is a fun peak that really affords a nice view. And not too difficult; even Keith Spreuer made it. A good trip on a beautiful weekend with really great people.

Leading this trip qualified me as an "M" rated leader, and I would like to thank Gene Andreason, who came out of Griffith Park to observe and assist. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to all the LTC volunteers who devote so much time and energy into a truly worthwhile program. I will try to do them credit every time I lead a trip for the Sierra Club.



Mt. Williamson, Mt. Tyndall - August 11-14, 1978

Mt. Williamson is a formidable looking peak when viewed from any direction. From U.S. 395, it's a prominent massive on the high Sierra crest. From the West, the route taken by our party, it presents a series of awesome aretes and chutes. The climber's guide warns: "The mountain is so complex that it is easy to get off route and into difficulty." Fortunately, I had the advice of others who had previously climbed Williamson from the west, so route finding presented no problems.

Five climbers met in Independence early Friday morning. A sixth failed to show up. (He had car trouble and joined us at base camp late the next day.) The drive to the new roadhead (south of the pack station and the original roadhead) is class two. The new roadhead reduces the distance to Shephard's Pass by about a mile. Except for a few tricky stream crossings, the trail is excellent. After a moderately strenuous nine-mile hike under cool, overcast skies, we made camp at Anvil Camp just as it started to rain.

Saturday we continued up to Shepherd's Pass. The slope just before the pass was still buried with hard snow and ice axes, or even crampons, would have been welcome. We made camp at an unnamed lake NE of Mt. Tyndall.

With summit packs, we started up the north ridge of Mt. Tyndall. The climbing was delightful but half-way up we had to abandon the ridge when it became class four. We dropped down to the NW slope and continued up talus to the summit. The weather looked threatening as the wind increased. We had an excellent view of the next day's route on the west face of Mt. Williamson. It didn't look easy.

For the descent on Tyndall, we chose a direct route back to camp down aretes and rocky terraces on the NE face. A long glissade on a snow patch was exhilarating. The wind persisted through the evening, which made cooking and dinner miserable. We fell asleep listening to our noisily flapping tents.

Dawn on Sunday was dark and gloomy. The wind had persisted through the night. The temperature had dropped considerably and our water supply stream had iced over. The horizon in all directions looked ominous. The top half of Williamson disappeared into black clouds. Prospects for a successful climb appeared bleak. But, we were there to climb Mt. Williamson and it wasn't actually raining yet so we packed our summit packs and proceeded cross country to the base of the mountain.

The black stained rock described in the climber's guide was easy to find. The stain is caused by water seeping over a ledge. We scrambled up the ledge to the right of the water stains. From here we could see an obvious route up a long, wide chute going diagonally to the left. The skies had started to clear somewhat so we started up the chute. Climbing was very enjoyable; mostly class two with occasional class three terraces. Loose rock in the chute was a danger but our group was adept and avoided kicking rocks on one another. We proceeded to a notch on the ridge at the top of the chute. One look down the precipice on the other side of the notch was all that was needed to motivate us to find a better route out of the chute. We traversed to the far right side of the chute and found a 100-ft. chimney leading to the top of the ridge. Climbing was nearly vertical but hand and foot holds were plentiful. One move was class four with some exposure. A belay was set up for this move and was used by some of the climbers. The top of the ridge leads to a broad summit plateau. From here an easy rock scramble brought us to the summit; easy, that is, except for the heavy breathing necessitated by the 14,000 foot altitude.

By this time the skies were almost completely clear and we enjoyed a magnificent view in all directions. The wind, however, had increased, making the summit less than pleasant. We signed in, took the usual array of photographs for the record and returned to the ridge above the chute. We had lunch out of the wind in the protection of overhanging rocks.

Since we had ropes with us, we decided it would be fun to rappel down the chimney rather than downclimb it. However, an unbelievably strong wind was coming up the chimney. Three times I attempted to throw down the rappel rope only to have it blown up over our heads. It was necessary for me as the first rappeller to pull the ropes down with me as I descended into the roaring chimney.

After the rappel, we plunged rapidly down the long chute, taking advantage of many pockets of scree. The cross country route across the basin of lakes west of Williamson seemed much longer on the return trip. We stopped for a pleasant interlude by the sunny shore of a beautiful lakelet, amidst fantastic mountain scenery. By this time the wind had almost died down. One final assault of a steep snow slope brought us over the last ridge to our base camp. We were a weary but proud group of climbers that evening. We were most fortunate that the weather, which was so threatening in the morning, cleared as the day went on.

The following morning, Monday, was picture perfect. There was no wind and the sun was warm. We broke camp and headed back over Sheperd's Pass. As we were descending the steep snow on the north side of the pass, a tremendous boulder and rockfall plummeted past us about 100 yards to our left. I breathed a thankful sigh; our traverses down the slope could well have put us directly in its path. It would have been instant death for everyone.

Somewhat unnerved, we proceeded down the snow slope and picked up the trail. The hike out was pleasant as the normal, beautiful August Sierra weather had returned. Upon reaching the cars, we received a rude shock. They had been broken into and robbed. Everything of value (and even some items of doubtful value) was stolen, including the beer we had been anticipating for the last five miles down the hot dusty trail. It's clear that nothing should be left in cars at the roadhead. It would be safer to cache items not needed on the trip a short distance up the trail. Despite the disgusting discovery at the end of the trip, we considered it to be a successful, exciting and enjoyable climb of "Big Willie."

George Neuner



Numerous last-minute cancellations reduced the number of participants to 14. We were at our campsite 1/2 mile West of Ediza Lake (above timberline) before noon. Ron Jones volunteered to lead 6 of our group, plus 2 guests, to Banner Peak. Their round trip time was about 6 hours.

A whistle in the full-moonlight woke the climbing party for a 5:15 AM start for Ritter's Southeast glacier route. Rocks and vegetation below the glacier proved to be a big assist in bypassing a somewhat steep chute containing hard snow in the early hours. Dissipated sun cups and previous climbers' footprints gave some aid on parts of the snow route; crampons would have made the early going a little easier.

The route to the summit proved straightforward, following suggestions of others to avoid the first prominent chute on the North side of the glacier. Farther up the glacier, past a large buttress, is a good Class 2 route to the North skyline and from there across the snowfield to the summit. All 13 climbers were on the summit by 9:15 AM; one of the party had become ill and chose not to climb.

The weather was sunny and windy; a great day to help Mary Sue Jones celebrate her emblem peak on her and Ron's one year plus one day anniversary. We were back in camp by noon and all were back to the cars by 4:15 PM.

#### PIONEER BASIN, Aug. 12-13

Jerry Keating and Elton Fletcher

It was sprinkling at the roadhead, hailing lightly at times on the peaks Saturday afternoon, raining lightly at camp during the night Saturday, and cold and windy all day Sunday. Things could have been worse, however, for this joint SPS-Backpacking trip into Pioneer Basin didn't cause anyone to get wet!

The backpack from the Rock Creek roadhead over Mono Pass to a lake at 10,400' required the participants less than five hours, delayed only by having to put on rain gear on two occasions. There were plenty of trees at the lake, but downed wood was sparse due to heavy use.

Eight climbers that afternoon climbed Mt. Hopkins (12,302') via its SE slope, then traversed NNWward to Pk. 12,408. Our intent was to continue another mile to Mt. Crocker, but we aborted at 5:30 p.m. due to a buildup of black clouds nearby and some fatigue in the party.

Although the cloudiness started breaking up as the morning wore on Sunday, cold winds discouraged further summit attempts, and the party returned the nearly eight miles and 2,000 feet of gain to the cars by 1 p.m. All agreed Pioneer Basin was a beautiful setting, but this type of trip deserved better weather.

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 Street, North Hollywood, CA 91605. Priority will be given to typed, single spaced copy.

ADDRESS CHANGES TO: John Hellman, 9465 Wilshire, #415, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. The Post Office will not forward third class mail.

INQUIRIES ABOUT NOT RECEIVING THE ECHO: Direct to Deanna (Pat) Holleman, 1638 Sixth Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE \$4 per year due by March 31. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send to John Hellman, 9465 Wilshire, #415, Beverly Hills, CA 90212. 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) are available from the treasurer.

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER  
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