

# The Sierra



# ECHO

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NO. 2



Chairman's Corner : The climbing season for the Sierra's is almost upon us. Many of us have our sometimes secret plans for obtaining the elusive Emblem, Senior Emblem, "all the Mountaineer's peaks" and the most remote (at least to some of us mortals) of all "finishing the list". There are some who decry the game involved with goals such as these. I am not one of them. I find it hard to believe that anyone would drive 700 miles on a weekend, lose all that sleep, expend all that energy, for some kind of a score.

Isn't it more believable that this group we loosely call "climbers" do so because there is something special about the mountains? Something special that isn't quite the same for everyone. And fortunately for us, isn't anything at all for most people.

So we take our enjoyment from the mountains. Perhaps we can put forth a special effort to leave them in better condition than we find them. Good Climbing!

#### NATURE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

Register now for the Nature Knowledge Workshop, held in the San Bernardino Mountains May 18, 19, 20, 1979. This annual workshop has been a great favorite of Sierra Club members for the past nine years. Accommodations are in open-sided cabins with cots and mattresses, and hot showers are available. Meals are served in the stone lodge near a roaring fire. The program revolves around ecological field trips led by outstanding naturalists, through riparian, chaparral, and yellow pine forest habitats. Optional bird walks and geology walks are offered. Additional learning aids, books and hand lenses, are for sale. Evening programs include a movie, slide shows, and mini lab sessions on a variety of topics (nature photography, edible plants, Indian arrowheads, birds, etc. etc.) The atmosphere is friendly and warm. This is a weekend you will remember for a long time. Cost for the workshop is \$30.00. Adult Sierra Club members only, please. LTC credit is available. Make checks out to Sierra Club, and enclose a SASE, and mail to the registrar: Sandy Liebman, 23457 Styles St., Woodland Hills, Ca. 91367, phone (213) 347-5261. Reservation deadline is April 30. For more info call: Maianne Moerman (213) 836-3237 (evenings) or 477-5081 (days), or else, Jean Dillingham (213) 454-4752; call between 7-9 am.

JULY 21-29 SAT-SUN SIERRA PEAKS

E: SOUTHERN CASCADES PEAKBAG: Mt Shasta(14,162'), Mt Hood(11,245'), Mt Adams(12,276'), Mt St Helens(9677'). A repeat of last years 2500 mi, 22,650' gain unforgettable "experience" that the survivors raved about. Transportation privately arranged. Restricted to 10 participants; Mountaineers List, ALTC or leader's approval. Send 3 SASE's with resume of relevant experience and phone as early as possible: Leaders: VIRGIL TALBOTT and GENE MAUK.

COVER PHOTO: For the uninitiated this is a shot of Whitney from high over Russell. China Lake S. & R. have done many rescues here. Submitted by Carl Heller.



SPS TRIPS JULY-OCTOBER 1979

July 7-8	M	Keith	Greg Vernon, Dick Jali
July 13-15	M	Tyndall, Junction	Dan Milhaljevich, H. McFadden
July 14-15	M	Pilot Knob #2	Greg Vernon, Norm Rohn
July 14-15	M	Eisen	Sherry & Kevin Sullivan
July 20-23	E	North Palisade	George Neuner, Al Hill
July 21-22	M	Royce, Merriam, J. Caesar	Greg Vernon, Don Sparks
July 21-22	E	Corcoran	Bill Gray, Chuck Youngberg
July 21-22	M	Lone Pine, Mallory, Irvine	Larry Machleder, H. McFadden
July 21-29	E	Southern Cascades	Virgil Talbott, Gene Mauk
July 27-29	E	Stanford, Deerhorn, Ericson	Doug Mantle, Don Sparks
July 28-29	I	Crocker, Pioneer Basin	Jerry Keating, Walt Whisman
July 28-29	E	Sill	Dan Warner, Harold McFadden
July 28-29	E	Middle Palisade	Mark Goebel, Cliff Cameron
Aug. 4-5	M	Thor, Carillon	Don Sparks, Howard Stephens
Aug. 4-5	M	Koip, Gibbs	George Smith, Bill T. Russell
Aug. 9-12	M	Wallace, Haeckel, Huxley, Fiske	George Toby, Harold McFadden
Aug. 10-12	E	Gardiner, Cotter	Bill Gray, Diana Dee
Aug. 11-12	M	Hale, Young	Ron Jones, Gordon Ruser
Aug. 11-12	E	Russell, Carillon	Bill Bradley, Kevin Sullivan
Aug. 17-21	E	Jordan, Genevra, Ericsson, Stanford, Caltech	Bill Russell, Duane McRuer
Aug. 18-19	M	East Vidette	Fred Camphausen, Mark Goebel
Aug. 25-26	M	Sawtooth (mineral King)	Sherry & Kevin Sullivan
Aug. 25-27	M	Tyndall	Jay Titus, Ret Moore
Sept 1-3	M	Goddard, Reinstein	Dale Van Dalsem, Jim Murphy
Sept 1-3	M	Tower, Black Hawk	Doug Mantle, Cuno Ranschau
Sept 1-3	E	Humphreys	Bill Gray, Bill Birnbaum
Sept 1-3	E	Clarence King, Gardiner	Gene Mauk, George Toby
Sept 1-8	M	Kawah, Table, others	Fred Camphausen, Barbara Reber
Sept 8-9	M	Needham, Sawtooth	Diana Dee, Meridee Lantz
Sept 15-16	M	Matterhorn	Jim Maclay, Pete Lyman
Sept 15-16	M	Morrison, Bloody	Ret Moore, Jay Titus
Sept 15-16	E	Ruskin	Mark Goebel, Cliff Cameron
Sept 15-17	E	Clyde Minaret, Iron Mtn	Bill T. Russell, Jim Erb
Sept 22-23	M	Adams, Elwell, Sierra Buttes English	Greg Vernon, Bill Bradley
Sept 28-30	M	Striped, Goodale, Cardinal	H. McFadden, Barbara Reber
Sept 29-30	M	Baldwin, Red Slate	Jim Erb, Bill T. Russell
Oct. 6-7	E	McAdie, Irvine	Bill Gray, Dave Vandervoet
Oct. 6-7	O	Alta Pk	Dave Burdett, Pat Lavengood
Oct. 6-8	M	Ruskin, Marion	Fred Camphausen, Ron Jones
Oct. 14-15	M	Dicks, Tallac, Granite Chief Tinker Knob	Gene Mauk, Bill Bradley
Oct. 27-28	M	Harrington, Kennedy	Ron Jones, Fred Camphausen
Nov. 3-4	E	Fossil Falls rock climbing	Cuno Ranschau, Gene Mauk

NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE: The Goddard, Reinstein trip which is in the spring schedule as Jun 29 to Jul 2 is being rescheduled. It will be from June 30 to July 4. We may also get McGee. H. McFadden.

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION  
MEMBERSHIP REPORT  
FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 1978

NEW MEMBERS

534-1704                    13767718  
Winton, Hal                M-2-79  
24409 S. Meyler  
Harbor City, CA 90710

                              13195285  
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266 W. "B" St.  
Colton, CA 92324

822-9668                    11142281  
Van Dalsem, Jackie        M-3-79  
4143 Via Marina No. 1120  
Marina Del Rey, CA 90291

REINSTATED MEMBERS

795-5520  
Secor, R. J.  
2366 Las Lunas  
Pasadena, CA 91107

335-0036  
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1260 E. Sierra Madre  
Glendora, CA 91740

(714) 581-8036  
Ruser, Gordon  
23015 Via San Juan  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

NEW ECHO SUBSCRIPTIONS

Sanborn, Frank  
17200 Fitzpatrick Lane  
Occidental, CA 95465  
Granted free lifetime subscription  
in recognition of services in  
founding SPS.

888-7659  
Baker, Richard  
24140 Lupin Hill Rd.  
Hidden Hills, CA 91302

ECHO SUBSCRIPTION ADDRESS CHANGE

Healy, Brian  
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768-4499  
Stein, Michael  
7951 Via Latina  
Burbank, CA 91504

799-1550  
Icen, Stan  
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So. Pasadena, CA 91030

Brumer, Harry  
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Sierra Madre, CA 91024

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Vernon, Gregory  
202 B Mitcher  
China Lake, CA 93555

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Banner, Richard D.  
104 Spruce St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93304

Campbell, David T.  
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243-2532  
Conrad, Allan  
139 S. Belmont St. No. 208  
Glendale, CA 91205

361-6636  
Sparks, Don  
10411 Kester  
Mission Hills, CA 91345

Ross, Tom  
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Independence, CA 93526

Jane McMahon  
1516 West First Street #213  
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# Minarets wilderness trailhead quotas set

New trailhead quotas will affect certain trails this summer in both the John Muir and Minarets Wildernesses. Quotas will be in effect for the first time for trails into the Minarets Wilderness out of the Agnew Meadows-Reds Meadows area, and for the Duck Pass trail out of the Mammoth Lakes Basin.

According to Wilderness Management Plans recently completed, the land can support a known number of visitors. When excessive use occurs within the Wilderness, opportunities for solitude decrease, vegetation is damaged, erosion accelerated, and chances for water pollution increase.

To correct and prevent these problems, trailhead quotas will be in effect this summer from June 16 - September 15 (except for the Mt. Whitney and Cottonwood Lakes Trails where the limits will be in effect from May 25 - September 30) at the locations noted below.

Wilderness permits are required for all visits including day hikes. However, the quotas will apply only to overnight camping use.

Advance reservations for those trails with quotas will be accepted beginning February 1. Applicants are urged to request their permits by mail or in person although phone requests will be accepted.

Advance reservations are advised, although some permits may be available on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the planned hike.

Permits will be mailed to applicants provided the application is received at least 14 days in advance of the planned trip. Permit applications should be mailed to the

appropriate District Ranger office listed below for the trails having quotas:

Mt. Whitney Ranger District, Box 8, Lone Pine, CA 93545: Mt. Whitney Trail (quota in effect 5/25 - 9/30); Cottonwood Lakes Trail (quotas in effect 5/25 - 9/30); Cottonwood Pass Trail (to Sequoia National Park); Robinson Lake Trail; Meysan Lake Trail; George Creek "Route" (open only from 12/15 - 6/1); Shephard Pass (year-round limit); Baxter Pass (year-round limit); Taboose Pass; Golden Trout Lakes Trail; Kearsarge Pass and Sawmill Pass (year-round limit).

White Mountain Ranger District, 798 N. Main, Bishop, CA 93514: South Lake (Bishop Pass); Lake Sabrina Trail; Piute Pass; Tamarack Col.

Mammoth Ranger District, Box 148, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546: Duck Pass; High Trail; River Trail; Shadow Lake Trail; John Muir Trail; Minaret Lake Trail; Beck Lakes Trail; and Fern Lake Trail.

For the convenience of backpackers, a shuttle bus will provide transportation to the trailheads in the Agnew Meadows-Reds Meadows area.

Mono Lake Ranger District, Box 10, Lee Vining, CA 93541: No quotas are in effect at this time.

Many opportunities remain to hike wilderness trails having no quotas. However, wilderness permits are still required and requests for permits for these trails should be mailed for, or stop by the Ranger District office that administers the trailhead.

## Pilot program to reserve National Park campsites

The National Park Service announced this week that it will initiate a pilot program of advance reservations for campsites this summer at three western national parks — Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and Sequoia-Kings Canyon.

A one-year contract has been signed with Ticketron, a nation-wide reservation company, to provide the service covering approximately 1,300 campsites at the three parks, according to Howard H. Chapman, Western regional director of the National Park Service.

Reservations may be made in person at over 150 Ticketron outlets in California, including department stores and sporting goods outlets, or by mail from throughout United States to the Ticketron Reservation Office, P.O. Box 2715, San Francisco, CA 94126, Chapman said. He emphasized that campsite reservations cannot be made by telephone.

Reservations also may be made in person through computer terminals at five NPS locations, Chapman added. They will be located at the three parks concerned; the Los Angeles Field Office of the Service, Room 2043, New Federal Building, 300 North Los Angeles St., Los Angeles; and at the NPS Information Office on the 14th floor of the Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco.

Campgrounds covered by the program for the summer of 1979 include the five Yosemite Valley campgrounds: Lower River (154 campsites), Lower Pines (179 sites), North Pines (90 sites), Upper River (124 sites), and Upper Pines (240 sites). Also included are Mather Campground on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon with 300 sites and 200 sites at Lodgepole Campground, Sequoia.

The contract is renewable at the option of both parties on a yearly basis for an additional four years and may be expanded to include campgrounds in other parks in the future, Chapman said.

Reservations may be made up to eight weeks in advance, starting March 30, for the period between May 25 and Sept. 3, except that some of the terminal outlets in the parks may not be operational until May 15.

Mail orders must be received in Ticketron's San Fran-

cisco office at least two weeks in advance so that they can be processed and the reservation ticket returned. "Neither the National Park Service nor Ticketron can be responsible for delays in postal service," Chapman cautioned. "Therefore, we suggest that, when possible, reservations be made well in advance." Reservation forms may be picked up at Ticketron outlets throughout the United States.

Chapman further noted that reservations can be made for a particular park and campground but not for specific campsites. A campsite is assigned when the visitor arrives at the campground for which he/she holds a reservation.

The daily use charge for campsites at Yosemite is \$4; at Grand Canyon, \$3; and at Sequoia, \$2. In addition, there is a one-time fee of \$1.75 for each reservation made. Holders of a valid Golden Age Passport (for persons 62 or older) are entitled to a 50 percent reduction in daily campsite fees, providing they present the Passport when making a reservation in person. On a mail request, the Golden Age Passport number must be shown on the reservation form. It also must be in possession of the camper while occupying the campsite.

The length of stay at a reserved campsite is limited to seven days in all campgrounds under the system, and requests for consecutive reservations will not be honored. A maximum of six persons may occupy any one family campsite.

Pets will be permitted only in Upper Pines Campground at Yosemite and at both Mather in Grand Canyon and Lodgepole in Sequoia, Chapman said.

### UNSCHEDULED TRIP:

Snowshoe of N. Dragon, Glenn, & Kearsarge pass loop. Bag: Black, Rixford, and/or Bago. Phone Dale Van Dalsem. Dates: June 9-10.

I had it all arranged with Don Sparks to do this area in a more leisurely manner and then there were rumors that I would have to work and when the smog cleared, Don was on another trip. And when Doug called, it had to be whittled down a little, and with apprehension in our souls we sailed off across Florence Lake and headed up the San Joaquin, caught the J.M. trail and hung a left.

We arrived at Marie Lake about 2:15 and I set up my tent under threatening skies. By this time I was suffering with a good case of kneesles, but I wanted to get something anyway and we set off for Hooper. We had to wait out the lightening and accompanying loud noises, but finally got the summit at 5:00--it goes with two short moves around the back side--and then back to camp.

It looked like an extra day for sure, but after Doug had a few Pina Coladas, he looked casually at Senger and said "let's go for it". "OK," says I, forgetting, momentarily, the pain. The sun cups were melting down and served as fairly decent steps but Doug got us into a bunch of class 3 which slowed us down and we reached the peak at 8:30. We signed in on the run, floundered down the snow in the gathering darkness and finally rediscovered camp after Doug stepped into the lake with--"Hey, we're at the lake"!!

In the am it went around Marie Lake and down past Sandpiper lake and up the west slope to Seven Gables--which goes very well (if you don't have kneesles--or ptoelio). A class 3 ridge run with extra exposure goes south and eventually you will reach Gemini--which needs a register. Gordon, could you please get one up there?! The view of 7 G summit is fine with this view of the overhanging summit block.

We got to camp under lowering skies--wouldn't you know it rains every day in August. Below Sally Keyes Lakes we caught the shortcut trail back to the valley but you can forget about finding the beginning of it from the bottom end, it doesn't exist.

We got back in time to catch the last boat back across the lake. And poor, poor, poor Doug had to drive all the way home while you-know-who was zonked out in the back seat.

## March snowpack survey shows conditions normal

Results of the early March snowpack survey show conditions normal for this time of year in the Eastern Sierra watershed which supplies a major portion of Los Angeles water, the city Department of Water and Power announced this week.

Paul H. Lane, chief engineer of water works and assistant manager, said heavy winter storms during February substantially increased the snowpack in the Owens River and Mono Basin watershed. Water from the Eastern Sierra normally accounts for 80 per cent of the city's supply.

the city will have adequate water, the DWP is still stressing the need to use water wisely as part of a continuing conservation program."

March snow survey data shows snow water content ranging from 80 per cent of normal in the Cottonwood Creek area to 105 per cent of normal for Mono Basin reporting stations. In the Mammoth Pass area, the snow course had a normal 36 inches of water content.

Along with the normal snowpack conditions, Lane said the 1979 spring fishing season at Crowley and Grant Lakes should be excellent.

"With normal snowfall during March, we expect the April to September runoff tributary to the Owens River and Mono Basin drainage areas to be about 418,000 acre-feet of water," he said. "The near record runoff of 1978 has allowed us to again fill these two important reservoirs after two years of drought." "By opening-day in late April, we expect Crowley Lake to be about 80 per cent full."

### INCREASE YOUR WORDPOWER

MOUNTAIN RANGE: A Bluet-for example.  
 MOUNTAIN MUSIC: A hard rock band.  
 CAMALOT: A place to park a dromedary.  
 BACTERIA: Rear entrance to cafeteria.  
 MACHIAVELLI: I know a tailor who will Machiavelli good pair of pants for \$30.  
 MEDITATION: The guru refused to let the dentist freeze his tooth because he wanted to transcend dental medication.  
 MELANCHOLY: A dog that won't eat anything but cantaloupes.  
 MENAGERIE: The equator is a menagerie lion running around the earth.



There's nothing wrong with doing Morgan in the summer, while everyone else is doing more "interesting" peaks. It offers very good views, being the highest peak in the area, and provides a beautiful lake - Francis Lake - and a nice stream on the way up. We liked it.

Abbot was also a very fine day hike, via Mono Pass Trail and Ruby and Mills Lakes. The stream between the two lakes was especially picturesque, cascading over innumerable small steps. We had good snow right to the base of the peak, and were able to follow the usual route without any problems. The 3rd class seemed easier than I had remembered it (which is unusual; at my age things seem generally more difficult than they used to be .....

After descending Abbot we tried for Mills, but were stopped right at the entrance to the main gully by ice and water on the large chockstone.

-HM

East Vidette and Center Peaks    Sept 2-4    Chuck Stein and Duane McRuer

The SPS scheduled this trip again over the Labor Day weekend. It satisfies Area 8 requirements - and includes a Mountaineers Peak. Fourteen participants found the Onion Valley road head at the appropriate time even though I failed to mention it in the write-up (Mac phoned everyone). Some of us had a good breakfast at the Onion Valley Store.

It was a mixed group with list finishers, Senior Emblem holders, almost Senior Emblemers to others who hadn't bagged enough peaks to become members of the SPS. As a result, keeping the group together slowed the tigers down to pussycats. At the top of Kearsarge Pass, Mac led six up Rixford (a bonus peak) while Jon and Bernie Petitjean led the remaining eight to the good campsite on the Muir trail just south of the Fresno County line cattle gate. The weather was cool and cloudy, but cleared up for the night.

Sunday, eleven of us were atop East Vidette via the 3rd class east ridge by 10 a.m. as the cloud coverage increased from 20 to 75 percent. On the way down we had intermittent showers, but made it back to camp before noon. After lunch and much debating eleven of us headed towards Center Basin. Seven climbed Center amid rain showers that fortunately held off allowing a safe climb.

Again, it cleared up for the night permitting a few of us to sleep under the stars. Reveille, 6 a.m. and rain arrived simultaneously at dawn. Five started early hoping that the showers would be intermittent enough to permit us to bag Gould on the way out. As it turned out there were few showers, just steady rain from light to heavy, and no chance to do anything but return to the roadhead and dry out in front of the fireplace at the Onion Valley Store. We all were headed for home by 2 p.m.

On the way out, we noticed enough hikers going with what appeared to be insufficient gear to survive the storm and unfortunately, this did prove fatal to some on the Whitney trail.

The Onion Valley Store is open weekends thru Labor Day. It is run by a couple who teach school, so I would guess it wouldn't open before Memorial Day weekend, if that early; the hot breakfast was good, inexpensive and beats eating in the parking lot.

How an attempt at HUMPHREYS  
leads to INDEPENDENCE

Aug 12-13

Mihaljevich, McFadden, Machleder

We had heard the Big H was easy, so we took one 150 ft. rope, some hardware and slings, and ambled up towards Piute Pass, aiming to knock off Emerson on the way. But the weather failed to cooperate, and we had to race a possible white-out to the top of Emerson, which we reached only after crossing two or three 3rd class gullies. (Emerson is rated 2nd class on the SPS list, but certainly seemed 3rd class to us. And I believe it's listed as 3rd in the latest Climbers Guide) The weather steadily became worse and it began to rain, so we decided to camp just short of Piute Pass.

It was cold and windy the next morning, with light rain and black clouds on the horizon, so we reluctantly gave up on Humphreys and walked back to the car. We decided to try a smaller, easier peak - perhaps Independence would do. We drove to Bishop, reviewed the possibilities in Schatts, then moved down to Onion Valley. Then up the west side of Independence, and onto a little 4th class before hitting the summit from the NW ridge. We descended via the easier south ridge.

In retrospect, our chances of climbing Humphreys that day were probably very slim, though the weather cleared and the Bradley/Reber party climbed Russell that afternoon. Dan and I later learned on Jim Erb's September trip that Humphreys is not so easy, even in perfect weather.

-HM

CLARENCE KING

Sept 8-10

Mihaljevich, McFadden, Warner

Well, it was showdown time for this haughty peak, and we were determined. Two of us had failed miserably early in July, having turned back at 11800 feet, but this time it would be different we said, as we stalked out of Onion Valley, grim-faced, axes drawn. Excellent weather saw us across Kearsarge and Glen and then into camp SW of Fin Dome, and a perfect evening bode well for the following day.

Saturday dawned clear but windy; by 10 AM we were looking up at the peak from the saddle. Not so bad; pretty broken up, we thought. As we approached more closely, we decided to follow a route which seemed to be taking a direct course up the south face. At one point we explored to the right to take a look at the east face ledge route, with its breath-taking 1000 feet of almost vertical exposure - this route was rejected as being too risky. During this reconnaissance we missed the chimney route which some groups have used (about 15 feet from the east face). About 20 feet west of the chimney we proceeded directly up on low 4th class to a sort of triangular cul-de-sac, which was bounded by vertical slabs narrowing to a one foot slot at the top. Here we stopped and pondered, as the cold wind started to bite in.

There was hardly any exposure, but it was a tough little problem, that cul-de-sac. I tried and slipped. Warner looked doubtful. Even Mihaljevich, whose usual estimate of any climb is "it's easy", wondered if it could be done. But finally he tried it and, with a chock and much grunting, slipped through the slot and disappeared. After a time he returned; "The rest looks easy", he said (or something to that effect). So we struggled out of the cul-de-sac, then quickly headed for the 'bowl' just beneath the summit block to escape the chill wind and have lunch. We now felt relieved and confident.

Mihaljevich led the way up out of the bowl to the platform just beneath and to the south of the summit, doing an elegant belly crawl along a diagonal crack. Warner followed and, with the aid of a shoulder stand and lower belay, reached the top. Mihaljevich and I then mantled up, using an upper belay. We were elated. Even the increasingly frigid wind failed to dampen our enthusiasm, as we congratulated each other on the climb. But eventually numbness set in, so we quickly vacated the summit, using two rappels to reach 3rd class territory - and then we bid goodbye to Clarence King.

The weather turned bad that night, with rain and sleet accompanying the high wind. The next morning the peaks and passes were hidden by sleet and clouds. One sleeping bag was half soaked, and only enough food for a day and a half remained. A debate about what to do ended when the sleet let up and the clouds began to lift, and we struck out for the John Muir, in light rain. When we reached the trail the sun was out in patches, and later it turned into one of the more beautiful Sierra afternoons in memory, with a brilliant sun alternating with majestic silver clouds.

-HM



MILESTONE TABLE  
GREAT WESTERN DIVIDE AUGUST 1978

DAVE VANDERVOET

Most climbs of peaks on the Great Western Divide are made from the east; in fact, the register mentions several groups of people who have climbed Milestone, Midway, and Table in a single day from the east. However, equal if not more interesting and challenging routes exist on western approaches to Milestone and Table. The description of these routes as used by various combinations of Geof Glassner, Bob and Ella Holelton, and Dave Vanervoet is given below.

Milestone: From Lake 11523', the climber views the north side and west ridge of Milestone. The west ridge consists of many chutes, all beginning at the skyline. Our route was up the second chute west of the summit; the chute appears s shaped when seen from lake 11523'. The chute was a mixture of 2nd and 3rd class and we exited left near the top of the chute just past a large buttress which separates the first and second chute west of the summit. A short traverse leads to the base of the Milestone which is enjoyable class 3.

Table Mtn. This route was one of the most enjoyable climb either participant has experienced. The climb involved snow, ice, and 3rd and 4th class rock. From our camp at Colby Lake, we crossed over to Talus Lake and entered the Table Creek drainage via a high saddle at 12,160' northeast of Talus Lake. The route, which begins where the west ridge of Table Mtn intersects the main north-south backbone of the Great Western Divide, is reached by contouring from the above-mentioned saddle. Begin climbing the eastern-most chute in the west ridge which is clearly identified by a large fan of scree and boulders at the bottom. The chute is about 20' wide and we found it filled with snow which probably remains all year. Climb to the top of the chute, by-passing a 9' wall about half way up. When the chute ends, drop down 150' to the right to a second chute and continue to the summit plateau. Mark the entrance to the chute at the top so you can find your way back.

In addition, our group climbed the Whaleback by two different routes. Both routes start at the 10,400' level on the creek just east of Whaleback. The most direct route diagonals across the east face towards the summit following occasional ducks. A few wellplaced ledges keep the route from terminating before reaching the summit. The second route climbs from the creek to the low point on the skyline via class 2 scree/boulders and drops over the west side. An obvious series of ramps and chutes lead up toward the summit. Three chockstones are encountered: with a little work they can be circumvented but, the last one is the most difficult. Run the ridge to the summit.

MILESTONE/MIDWAY/TABLE/THUNDER (AUG 17-21, 1978)... BILL T. RUSSELL  
DUANE MCRUER

Ten of us left the Shepherd Pass road head at 0700 on Thursday and had an uneventful climb over the pass. We hiked across the Tyndall Creek Basin to the lake which is west of the Muir Trail and about 1/2 mi east of lake 11440. We made a good camp beside a small stream on flat ledges to the east of this lake.

On Saturday we were under way by 0645 and hiked down to the Kern River, where we were joined by Bob Emerick, and then up into the Milestone Creek Basin where we camped at a good spot near the western edge of the upper lake at 11280+ ft. We donned summit packs and started the climb of Milestone at 1020 and were on the summit by 1245. We climbed up the scree slope from the northeast which is route 1 in the Climbers Guide (Roper). Some of us enjoyed climbing over the chockstone in the left-hand notch at the top of the scree slope while others went to the right, descended perhaps 40 ft, and then climbed up a small chute to the west ridge and thence to the summit. All eleven completed the climb. We found no register but left a new book in a plastic sack. A container is needed.

After leaving Milestone, two people returned to camp and the remaining nine made a choice regarding Midway. We could have traversed downward several hundred feet and crossed over the east arete of Midway to the 2nd class northeast slope. Instead we decided to make an exploratory climb of the south ridge and southeast face. This started out as easy 3rd class but became more difficult as we moved up. At about 20 ft below the rim of the summit plateau Duane, who was leading, decided that he needed consultation. I climbed up to him and agreed that we were into about class 4.14. I was able to make the crux move and was soon on the summit plateau. I then belayed the others up and all agreed that we had had a real adventure. We descended via the easy northeast slope.

On Saturday one person with laryngitis stayed in camp and two people departed because they had to work on Monday. Eight of us were under way to Table Mtn at 0640. We hiked northwest up fine granite slabs and broad ledges past the lake at 11840 to the south-southeast escarpment of the plateau. The instructions in the Climbers Guide (Roper) for route 3 are valid. We did probe a bit to find a class 3 route on the left (west) of the "brown ledge". We climbed on the left side to a point higher than the start of the brown ledge(s) and then traversed slightly downward and eastward to and along the ledge(s) past a vertical rock face to the obvious 3rd class area leading up to the plateau. About 150 ft below the rim we passed through a crawl hole under a big rock and above this it was an easy scramble to the rim. We were at the summit on the north side of the plateau by about 1000. We descended by the same route, broke camp and hiked back to the Kern River and then north to a camp spot at the outlet of the large lake at 10900 about 2 mi east of Thunder Mtn.

Sunday by 0645 all eleven had started westward up the lovely basin to Thunder. We climbed up the southeast talus slope to its very top which, in fact, is the south summit of a short knife-edge ridge. We passed through a shallow notch, down perhaps 20 ft, around a corner on the north side of the south summit, crossed the notch between the south and middle summit on an "airy bridge" (Climbers Guide-Voge), traversed about 50 ft on easy but exposed ledges across the face of the middle summit, and then climbed up about 20 ft to the summit block area of the north summit. I climbed the hard class 4 jam crack on the southwest of the summit



block, losing some skin in the process, while Duane climbed directly up the south nose of the block. Jim Erb placed some real chock stones in the jam crack and Duane and I belayed people up and then down these two routes on the block. Except for the summit block, the climbing is moderate class 3, but the exposure is considerable. We did belaying at the south summit and used a fixed rope for the traverse across the face of the middle summit. We returned to camp by early afternoon and then hiked back to our Thursday night campsite at the lake east of the Muir Trail.

On Monday Don Sparks left early and bagged Tyndall on the way out. The rest of us slept in and did not start until 0700. The trip out went fine and we reached the cars by 1500. We were not hampered by snow or ice, but Duane and Bob Hicks are to be thanked for carrying ice axes in case we found a problem. The weather was beautiful on all five days. The mosquitoes were plentiful at midday but were not a problem in the evening. All in all, it was a most enjoyable trip to a beautiful region with four worthy peaks.

Private Trip (AUG 26-28).....NORTH PALISADE.....JANE MC MAHON

At the expense of one dinner and three bottles of wine, I finally managed to con Rusty Russell into leading this trip. I also managed to persuade Dan Warner and Sean Butler to join us. Phil Snyder's slide presentation and route description succeeded in psyching out all members of the group. Nevertheless, the four of us left the parking lot and with the help of a sympathetic friend made a car shuttle to the trail-head and avoided an extra mile walk.

Pleasant weather prevailed during the hike in and allowed intermittent previews of the "U"-notch. Realizing the importance of time, we camped as high on the glacier as possible. After using ice axes to level the suncups, we settled down for Rusty's gourmet dinner of butterfly porkchops, tossed salad with homemade dressing, applesauce, dinner rolls, brownies, and wine.

We departed camp at 6:20 a.m. the following morning. Noticing the ice in the chute, we were concerned whether or not the route would go in the time available. Suncups delayed our arrival at the bergschrund until 7:20 a.m. We decided the best route into the chute was via the right side next to the rock. Dan Warner ascended the ice wall, established an upper belay, and brought up the rest of the party. We roped into a party of four and ascended the chute avoiding most of the ice by use of a rock and snow route on the right.

The "U"-notch was gained at 9:50 a.m., and we began an ascent of the fourth class chimney or "open book" under the leadership of Sean Butler. Sean established the first belay position about 130' above the "U"-notch and then began the second, shorter and final pitch to the ridge. A traverse of the west side of the ridge brought us to the summit at 2:15 p.m. pursued by two fast-moving parties. Summit conditions were excellent and allowed spectacular views.

A 3:00 p.m. departure brought us back to camp at 7:20 p.m. after two rappels to the notch and one past the bergschrund. A wine and homemade brownies celebration/dinner feast followed after a decision was made to hike out the following morning.

J.M.

P.S. The return to terra firma at Sam Mack Meadow brought forth feelings of mirth manifested in different forms. One nymph was sighted in a classic meadow romp, while other bug-eyed participants basked in sunshine and warmed tired bodies.

D.W.

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