

The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 23

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1979

NO. 6



Dear Editor:

I have just received the August 1979 Echo, and want to comment on the item on page 2 concerning the RARE II Study Area 5-047.

The item correctly notes that this study area has been divided; with one portion, A5-047, recommended for wilderness, another, B5-047, recommended for non-wilderness, and a third, C5-047 (not mentioned), recommended for further planning. It also notes that an adjacent study area, 5-046 (not B5-047) has also been recommended for non-wilderness.

Area A5-047 certainly deserves Wilderness Area status. It is roadless, and forms a link between the Minarets Wilderness on the north and the John Muir Wilderness on the south, thus forming a continuous wilderness from Tioga Pass to Kennedy Meadows, a stretch of nearly 150 miles. Furthermore, it blocks a possible trans-Sierra highway over Minaret Summit.

However, the argument that the effectiveness of this wilderness is negated because it is surrounded by non-wilderness is absurd. ALL wilderness is surrounded by non-wilderness! The only logical conclusion of this argument is that 1) there should be no wilderness, since it is negated anyway, or 2) that everything should be wilderness, and Columbus should never have gotten off the boat.

More specific arguments, based on the knowledge and on-the-ground experience of SPS'ers, would be better. For example, area C5-047 west of the San Joaquin River, might well be enlarged. Similarly, the Sherwin Lakes and lower Sherwin Creek area, in area 5-046, should be included in the adjacent Wilderness Area. However, the area between Minaret Summit, Agnew Meadow and the Devil's Postpile is not a roadless area simply because there is already a road in it!

Personally, I also like skiing, and I believe that areas needed for the expansion of the Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain ski areas (portions of B5-047), and the development of the Sherwin Bowl ski area (portion of 5-046) should be released for non-wilderness use. This is not inconsistent. I am for wilderness; I am not against development.

Rick Tahi

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

SCHEDULE OF WINTER ACTIVITIES

NOV 3	Spanish Needle	Mary McMannes, Walton Kabler
NOV 3,4	Fossil Falls rock climbing	Cuno Ranschau, Gene Mauk
DEC 1	Mt Rubidoux rock climbing	Bob Hicks, Duane McRuer
DEC 15-16	Fossil Falls rock climbing	Frank Meyers, Norm Rohn
JAN 19,20	Snow travel, Ice axe	Dave Vandervoet, G & P Holleman
FEB 2,3	Snow travel, Ice axe	Chuck Stein, Bill Bradley
FEB 23-24	Sierra Snow Camp and climb	Fred Camphausen, Ron Jones

COVER PHOTO: Pat Holleman, who always wanted to be a Cover Girl, shows her stuff rappelling off the north face of Thunderbolt. By Dave Vandervoet.

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
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JULY - AUGUST, 1979

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TO THE EDITOR, SIERRA ECHO

As part of an extended trip, 17-19 August 1979, we led an official SPS exploratory of Caltech Peak (13,832). Two routes were used. The route from the west, taking off from the base of Stanford, was reported as a nice exercise, grading into 3rd class as the ridge is approached via a chute. The main party made the climb from the southeast, starting near the Muir trail. A Class 2 route with excellent footing was followed past two lovely lakes and one sparkling waterfall. After the second lake, about 1 mile south of the summit, this route went up and over a 30 ft "wall" and a bit more of low Class 3, and then on to the summit. A very pleasant climb with attractive waypoints, but no technical difficulties.

The top of Caltech is the real payoff. The peak combines a nearly 14,000 ft height and an exceptional location, with the result that the views are nothing short of spectacular. The mountain is a topographer's ideal. Situated at the extension to the trench of the Kern, the entire basin of the upper Kern is laid out before your eyes to the west. The ever-expanding and deepening Kern trench can be followed to the south to the very edge of visibility, giving an unparalleled view of the entire Kern River valley. From this summit perspective the Kaweahs are seen in echelon on the west wide of the Kern, while Whitney and both Russell summits are similarly displayed on the east. These appear as gigantic guardian ridges to the Kern Canyon. On our day the visibility was so good that the Kaweahs seemed to be just next door, while to the far south we were able to pick out Angora and Coyote. To the nearer east are Tyndall, Williamson, and Barnard in a neat arrangement, and Diamond Mesa and Junction are just across the John Muir trail. The westerly view is a bit closer in, with Milestone, Midway, Table, and Thunder showing as a magnificent broadside. There is no other location as well placed for sensational views of immense scope from the east through south to west.

The downward trip was also made enjoyable by using a route which included some pleasant scree runs.

All present felt that Caltech Peak would be a worthy addition to the list, and we formally recommend that the SPS Management Committee place Caltech Peak before the Section membership on the forthcoming ballot.

There is an interesting connection between the SPS and Caltech Peak in that the peak's name was proposed to the Board of Geographic Names in 1961 by Dick Jali, the 1966 SPS Chairman. There are also sentimental reasons, for some of us, favoring Caltech Peak's addition. In spite of its small size, Caltech has many graduates who are or have been very much involved with the SPS, including at least four former SPS Chairmen.

DUANE McRUER AND BILL T. RUSSELL

TO THE ECHO EDITOR:

Frankly, the learned alums from CalTech have reverted to pranks. I scaled it once--I think. The only view is of the surrounding superior peaks. The pros don't mention the climb itself and that overstates its appeal. Its height is surpassed by that of the peak next to it. Most mediocre peak candidates offer a new area at least --- not so here. Honestly, I told Mac he must be kidding and I really do hope the membership thins more of the list than to consider this peak for addition.

DOUG MANTLE



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MT. SAN JACINTO

JULY 8, 1979

SID "SAN JAC" DAVIS

On July 8, 1979 I climbed San Jacinto for my 500th ascent, totaling 5,000 miles of trail and 250 miles of elevation gain.

If the man upstairs is good to me, I hope to have my 600th in two years.

On May 6, 1979, we organized Mt. San Jacinto History Association. I have enclosed an application for membership. Anyone who joins in the first year will be a charter member. I can't think of anyone that I would rather see as charter members than my Sierra clubbers. As a member of the association you may obtain a 10% on Tram rides and purchases of food, gift shop items, etc. When our membership increases to 100 this discount will increase to 15%. All publications which the association sells are available to you at a substantial discount.



Sid "San Jac" Davis

Mt. San Jacinto Natural History Association

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

The purpose of the Association is to promote the educational and interpretive activities of Mt. San Jacinto State Wilderness and State Park by:

1. Making educational and interpretive materials available to park visitors.
2. Acquiring display materials pertaining to the history or natural history of the area.
3. Developing and maintaining a suitable park library.
4. Assisting in the development and improvement of interpretive features.

Membership Application

Categories of Membership check one

Individual	\$5/year	()
Family	\$10/year	()
Institutional	\$15/year	()
Life	\$100	()

Name

Street

City

State Zip Code.....

Mt. San Jacinto

Natural History Association

P. O. Box 308, Idyllwild, Calif. 92349

Telephone: 714 - 659-2607 or 327-0222

Phone (.....)

If you possess a special interest, skill or talent that you would like to share with the association, please enter here:

.....

CONSERVATION NOTATIONS

RARE II: Immediately preceding the regular August business meeting, a letter writing session was held which generated 16 letters to local house members urging them to designate the entire area surrounding the San Joaquin Roadless Area as wilderness. If you could not attend the session, but would still be interested in helping to preserve this area, see the August issue of the Echo for all supportive information. Address letters to: Your Representative's Name, House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515.

At the same meeting, \$32.02 was collected to be donated by the section to the Conservation Committee to help purchase descriptive maps and flyers covering the San Joaquin Roadless Area.

MONARCH LAKES CLEAN UP: August 18-19 a group of 11 hiked into Monarch Lakes to clean up the area as well as climb Sawtooth Peak. About 30 fire pits were dismantled and at least that many pounds of garbage were packed out. The Forest Service responded to our efforts by writing a note to the Angeles Chapter, thanking the Sierra Club. The letter is to be printed in an upcoming issue of the Southern Sierran, and the S.P.S. will be identified as the sponsoring group.

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUMS will be held 8:00 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at 5670 Wilshire Blvd. The November 6th forum will feature Ron Doctor, member of the State Energy Commission, and will discuss energy policy.

TEHIPITE + 3

JULY 14-17, 1979

RON BARTELL

After a gasoline-induced delay and one wrong roadhead (we didn't have time to read the sign, being late already) Cuno, Doug, and I finally hit the Crown Valley trail SE of Wishon Dam at 9:30. A warm but uneventful stroll took us to lunch at Crown Valley, then the long gradual descent to the infamous Crown Creek, which we had to wade (although it was only about a foot deep). After a short break, we groaned up the steep, dusty 1600' climb to Kettle Ridge. Doug stayed behind to avoid the dust cloud, but was subjected to a cloud of gnats instead. We reached Blue Canyon at 6 PM, and camped just N of the trail's low point, about 16 miles and 3500' gain.

Sunday we were off at 5:30 and followed the trail up Blue Canyon to about 9600', where it veered east. About one mile from camp we saw a yearling bear ripping up a dead log. He was about 50 yards away, but too busy to rip us up. The canyon is very scenic, with a cascading stream and fine meadows. We ascended Finger Peak via the class 2 SSE slope, and took a short rest on top to admire the view, climb the class 3 summit block, and ponder our fate. Five thousand feet gained already, and the fun had just begun. Lunch was at the outlet of Lake 10,560+ in the Blue Canyon Lake Basin. After lunch we contoured S toward Saddle 11,046, but were again in a hurry and ended up at the saddle at 10,960+, 1/4 mile SW, instead. So we descended to the lake, and crossed Alpine Creek at about 10,000' instead of the desired 10,400'. From the lake to Tunemah Peak it was every man for himself, but we all reached the summit within a one-minute span via our different routes. The view 5,000' down to the junction of Enchanted Gorge and Goddard Creek was fantastic. ~~We left the peak at 4:20, and somehow got back to camp by 8:00, via the saddle N of Burnt Mtn and part of the old Tunemah Trail. Stats : 17-18 miles and 7500' gain.~~

Amazingly, I could still move the next morning, and the steep climb up to Kettle Ridge went well. We were moving slowly enough that our battered feet didn't bother us too much. We dropped our packs at 8,000' for Tehipite Dome, and traversed the forest and flies out to the dome. More great views from the summit, especially the Gorge of Despair. After the uphill climb to the packs we backpacked at a leisurely pace to Crown Valley Station, arriving at 5, and finally had time to relax.

The next morning we backpacked to the pond E of Spanish Lake, which was dimly visible through the haze of mosquitoes, dropped our packs, and followed the trail to Spanish Mtn. It was a fine clear morning, with views from Banner to the Kaweahs and Mineral King. The hike out via Statum Creek was pleasant - there were many flowers and fine meadows, one occupied by a champion bull. We reached the car at 1, washed the dust off in Wishon Reservoir, and were home by about 8.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE A LEG TO STAND ON

with Mary McMannes/Walton Kabler and an
all star cast

Who woulda thought after years of St. Patrick's Day conviviality of leaping bar stools in one single bound, that this particular March 17 I would be in 29 Palms, Ca. with a broken tibia and fibula??? Who woulda thought that the doctor would call in my immediate family (who weren't so immediate because they live in Cincinnati) and the local priest to tell me the dismal and dark news that I wouldn't climb for four months. As I turned my face to the wall and wailed loudly and longly...whoops! This story goes to the Echo and the other one goes to Harlequin Romances. So let's not belaybour the point any further. After alot of cajoling, coaxing, and cagouling Walton Kabler into climbing some Sierra peaks whilst I was still in the cast, we decided on the Tahoe areas. And so June 19 found us trekking the road that leads to the trail that leads to the summit of Castle. We passed a backpacker who stared in disbelief at the cast and the crutch that crossed my daypack. We explained, "Hey, we're peakbaggers!" (which should be an adequate explanation for unusual and outlandish behavior). He only shook his head and mumbled in French. I think he was a Parisian baudrier, so what did he know. Hobbling up to Castle wasn't bad, but when I looked at the 3rd class summit climb, I had my druthers. After a snack of druthers, I felt much better. Walton insisted on a belay, but I told him that since I had the cast I had better be the recipient. Halfway up, I got stuck but thank goodness I had a Dulfersitz in my pack and clamping that in, I did just fine. The view was great, and I was elated. However, there was no register on top (there wasn't even a registrar). Since I left my can of black spray paint at home, I dug around in the pack for a black jelly bean. By that time, Walton had found the soggy register (complete with the usual boyscout anatomical drawings). * * * After an omnivorous dinner at Donner Pass we looked forward to Peak #2. The road was blocked to Lola...so on to Rose. The gate was locked to the Rose road which would mean a lonnnng hike. Finally, we decided on Grayeagle Lodge for Elwell, an 8 mile hike. The trail was relatively easy with the exception of the mud bogs and boulder hopping. At the mud bogs...well, you've heard of peak bagging, but have you ever heard of cast bagging? (On with the baggie...off with the baggie..on with the bunny bootie...off with the bunny bootie!) After the proverbial streams in the trail, snowpatches; log crossings I could feel the summit was near. The sun was brilliant...Long Lake and the snowy Tahoe peaks appeared ethereal...I could feel the smiles of Muir-King-Clyde..the fatigue and aches had disappeared and cast or no cast I was running for the peak. Nature and the mountains had indeed been benevolent, and I have never tasted such sweetness in the Sierras. The climbs confirmed my highest suspicions that neither broken hearts nor broken legs need delay an attack of our favorite malady...Sierra madness.

WORD POWER

HEAD: You show me a man with a cool head and I'll show you a windy bathroom.

YOUTHFUL FIGURE: What you get when you ask a woman her age.

POLYGON: A parrot that has flown the coupe.

POLYNOMIAL: A parrot that missed dinner.

DOGMA: A puppy's mother. SENILE: What tourists do in Egypt.

GNATILY ATIRED: A well dressed mtnr who falls into a bug infested area out of sheer exhaustion.

CLONING: The art of celling yourself. CONVERGENCE: misleading maidens.

OVERHEARD: "I knew her intimately---but not well".

If your parents didn't have children chances are you won't either.

Irregardless of what anyone says, den't never use double negatives.

Being ambivalent is a bad thing---more or less.

Don't be a pessimist. It won't work anyway.

On a bright, sunny, spring day nine climbers left the parking area of Convict Lake to day pack Mt. Morrison. We ascended a shallow gully along the East side of Peak 10,858 then circled around the South shoulder. Morrison came into full view. We climbed the prominent snow gulleys that ran almost to the summit. A delightful climb. However our enthusiasm was somewhat dampened. A rock handhold came loose and Lynna Walker fell a few feet on her left arm. She was bruised but made the peak. Later that evening Walt Hill took her to a doctor in Mammoth for an X ray. It was negative and she continued on the trip. On the descent Asst Leader Gene Olsen was leading the charge when he broke thru the soft snow and fell into a hole. This aggravated an old injury to his ankle and put Gene out of action for the rest of the trip. Old Gene was last seen Sunday morn thumbing a ride to Bishop. It took all day but he eventually got a bus back to L.A. Don Sparks picked up as Asst Leader.

Sunday we hit the trail up Convict Creek. This is a deep and picturesque canyon; reminds one of Yosemite. There was lots of snow on the shady side and the creek was running high. The regular crossing was well under water. We crossed over on a huge snow bridge. It was safe enough then, but the thought crossed my mind; what would it be like when we returned. Had lunch at our campsite and headed for Mt. Baldwin. Somehow the route to Baldwin did not look right. We headed for the high point but as we got closer it was not the summit. You guessed it, Baldwin was to the South with a canyon between us. It was too late in the day to go after it so we opted to get it the next day. This meant we would not do Bloody as originally planned for the third day. Monday we made the summit of Baldwin handily staying mostly on the rock to avoid the hard snow. About 200 verticle feet of step cutting was needed. The sun worked on the snow and softened it just enough for a super glissade most of the way down. Just pure fun. On the hike out there was still that stream crossing to consider. I went thru all sorts of mental gymnastics figuring how to belay people and packs across the snow bridge. Did'nt need it. The snow bridge was there big as ever. We crossed easily and back to the cars by early afternoon. An enjoyable week end.

KERN PK

JUNE 16-17, 1979

JIM ERB/ DALE VAN DALSEM

We basically duplicated John Hellman's trip of June 1977 (Echo 21-4). The roadhead is 23 miles northwest of Kennedy Meadows, but is not shown on either the 1972 Sequoia National Forest map or the 1977 auto club map. The 1975 and 1978 national forest maps show the correct roadhead which is the road's end just east of Blackrock Mtn at an incredible 9000 ft. The road is paved for nearly the whole distance.

Nine participants (there were five no-shows) left the roadhead at 0730, arriving in camp at Redrock Mdw at 1130. Later we climbed the peak in 5:45 round trip via the easy south ridge. The summit provides a great panorama. Totals for the first day were 15 mi and 4000 ft. Sunday we hiked out the 8 mi and 1500 ft in 4:15.

The highlight of this trip was the multitude of lovely green meadows along the route, including Casa Vieja, Bear Keg, Big Hole, and Redrock. Drinking water was readily available past Casa Vieja. It was a pleasure to see the motorcycles and 4WD's gone from Casa Vieja Mdw now that the area is in the Golden Trout Wilderness.

WANTED: people to climb Mexican Volcanos Dec 15-24. Kathy Crandall
1025 E. Woodbury, Pasadena, CA 91104. (213) 794-6491

Doug and I had to cancel other plans and so joined Duane McRuer and Bob Hicks. Doug needed these peaks for the 2nd time and I needed the conditioning and D. & B just plain needed them.

We drove to Scotty's Spring on Fri. nite and on Sat. Doug was able to do the first two switch backs with the car while the three of us walked. From there we fought our way thru armies of gnats and finally got rid of them when we got to the end of the road in A.C. (the road was driven to its end that weekend by a 4wd, the boulder of previous years not being any obstacle now).

As we continued up the left side of the canyon, I heard rock fall on the right side walls. Since it persisted I stopped to look and finally saw a herd (Duane counted 26) of mule deer working single file up a steep scree chute. They had, no doubt, been spooked by us.

We set up camp at 10,000' and then went for Colosseum. We headed up a chute which brought us to the top of the ridge which runs east from the crest. We paralleled the crest and lost, thereby, some 600 or 700 ft. Eventually we were in the broadchute below Colosseum, headed straight up to the peak, making good steps in the snow (but don't look for them now as they may be gone).

We ran the ridge north staying well to the west side of the crest and finally wandered back to camp.

The strange thing about this canyon is that inspite of all the melting snow, there is no water!!! So we spent some time melting snow that evening.

Next am we went for Perkins by taking a broad, shallow chute north which tops out on the east running ridge which is north of Perkins. Following this ridge and the top of the crest goes very well to the peak. A brisk wind--from the west, of course, was blowing.

Then we angled down and across the slope of Perkins to the base of the east ridge of Wynne, up it--some class 3 at the top if you like--and then time out for lunch. After said break, Doug led a very good route on the ridge to Perkins (when in doubt stay right on top of the ridge).

Descending the eastern sloped bowl between W. & P. we set off avalanches on the now softened slope but, got to lake east of W. without difficulty. Then it was one more big grunt to get back up over the crest and back to camp in good time for evening amenities.

Next morning we merely packed out to the car, avoiding one rattle-snake enroute with everyone having gotten the peaks they wanted needed just-had-to-have!!!

WINCHELL, ETC.???

JUNE 16,17

C.RANSCHAU

After collecting 12 people at roads end, we were finally off and running at 10 'til 8:00. We were just able to find enuf clear space at Sam Mack mdw and set up camp. At noon we took off with nine headed for Winchell and two for Agassiz. Of the two chutes presenting themselves from the south, the right one is it. In the upper part--where the light and dark rocks meet--cross over the ridge left and continue up. It was a good group and we were on top shortly after 3:30. We could see that Doug and Greg had reached their objective first. The snow was compact and fabulous climbing & we were anticipating great cramponing on the marrow. We remet Doug & Greg below and continued on to camp.

The west winds continued to build and we suffered great gusts all night, allowing for little sleep. The worst thing being that they diminished only slightly in the am. Added to this the crest was now socked in with clouds and noone rejected the idea of tossing it in and we headed out to the cars.

The pain of our losses was slightly assuaged by a super malt at Austin's.

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

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