

The Sierra



ECHO

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The March-April issue of the ECHO carried an item relative to the use of wilderness permits which has drawn hostile fire. The information given was wrong. It is not true that a permit obtained for a specific date may be used for a later starting date. It is obvious that this would be an improper use of a permit and the practice is to be avoided, period. I cannot emphasize too strongly that the SPS Management Committee is unalterably opposed to such activity. We have spent many years developing a good working rapport with the Park Service and the Forest Service. We must not ruin this relationship with printing of a few ill advised words. To all injured parties, I sincerely apologize for the words that inadvertently slipped into the ECHO.

GENE MAUK

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION SUMMER 1980 CLIMBING SCHEDULE

JUL	13	Thor	Korbut-Weberg, Sale
"	16-20	Devils Crags, McDuffie, Wheel	Murphy, VanDalsem, Camphausen
"	19-20	Excelsior, Dunderberg	R.Jones, M.Clark
"	19-20	Temple Crag	J.Hartunian, D.VanderVoet
"	19-20	Cathedral, Dana, Gibbs	G.Mauk, J.Adams
"	19-26	Kaweah Ridge, Great West.Div.	R.Moore, J.Titus
"	19-27	LeConte Cyn, Evolution Valley	G.Vernon, D.Sparks
"	24-27	McAdie, Corcoran	M.Lees, G.Toby
"	28-31	Ericson, Genevra, Jordan	J.Titus, Heaney
Aug	02-03	Russel, Carillon	B.Bradley, B.Reber
"	02-04	Starr King, Clark	C.Ranschau, D.Sparks
"	08-10	Seven Gable, Gemini	D.Mihaljivich, L.Machleder
"	08-11	Mendel, Goethe, Hermit, McGee	B.Russell, D.McRuer
"	08-11	Clarence King, Cotter	H.McFadden, D.Dee
"	09-10	Middle Palisade	M.Lees, G.Toby
"	09-10	Red Slate, Red & White	R.Hicks, R.Russell
"	09-10	Split, Tinemaha	R.Jones, M.McMannes
"	16-17	Temple Crag	Perry, Warner
"	23-24	Ritter	Christen, Warner
"	23-25	Lyell, Maclure	M.McMannes, W.Kabler
"	23-Sep 01	Kings-Kern & Great West. Div.	Secor, VanDalsem, Maloy
"	28- " 01	McDuffie, B.Giant, Chary., Herm.	G.Toby, G.Mauk
"	30- " 01	Tower	R.Hicks, D.McRuer
"	30- " 01	Arrow, Pyramid	T.Duryea, M.Goebel
"	30- " 01	Crocker, Pioneer Basin	Keating, Whissman, Fletcher
"	30- " 01	Lone Pine	Neuner, Hill
"	30- " 06	Milestone, Table, Thunder	F.Camphausen, B.Reber
Sep	13-14	Silliman (gourmet trip)	D.Dee, D.Lantz
"	13-14	Hale, Young	R.Jones, B.Bradley
"	20-21	Irvine, McAdie	J.Erb, T.Rutherford
"	20-21	McAdie, Corcoran	D.Mantle, G.Hubbard
"	20-21	Gibbs, Dana, Clouds Rest	M.McMannes, G.Vernon
Oct	03-05	Round Top, Mokelumne	B.Reber, F.Camphausen
"	25-26	University, Independence	R.Jones, F.Camphausen

COVER PHOTO: Our Range of Light is even whiter and brighter this year than shown in this 4-4-71 shot by John Arden.

Inconsolable Pk. The South Lk road on 12 May was snow-free to Parchers Camp. I hiked on firm snow to a campsite on the ridge N of Chocolate Lk. Webs were carried but not used. Inconsolable Pk (13,501') was climbed the same day via rock ledges and crusty snow L of the normal ascent route, then along the ridge. A short but interesting snow rib was passed over to reach the summit. Returned to car before nightfall. Solo trip, 5 1/2 mi o.w., 4600'. ("Campy")

Mt Williamson. The Climber's Guide describes a "very obvious black water stain" on the rock at the start of the Route #1 climb. We found black rock and ascended the chute, and by following directions carefully we were able to reach a point well below and on the wrong side of the summit. Investigating, we determined that the intended black stained rock was concealed under a frozen waterfall. Two of us decided to go back up. We crossed over to the intended chute and went up its line of snow and Cl. 3 crack to the upper plateau. A freezing wind made us leave the summit within a couple minutes. The cold snap brought 12°F chill during the night at our Shepherd Pass camp (17 Jun). Two of us climbed Mt Tyndall (14,018') on 16 Jun and P13,040' ("Polychrome Pk"), 0.6 mi E of the pass, was climbed on 18 Jun. Shepherd Pass is an allowed corridor thru the summertime sheep closure area and Mt Williamson's 14,375' summit may be climbed from W of the crest. This outlaw trip included: Tim & Melissa Duffy, Steve Langley, "Campy".

Olancha Pass. The "cow trail" from Sage Flat to Olancha Pass is dry, dusty, and mosquito infested in July. Is there a better time to go? For sure--during May/Jun or Sep/Oct--but then you take the chance of having to lock-step with 700 head of Owens Vly beef on the hoof being driven to or from their summer camp in the Kern River country. Monache Mtn (9410') was climbed on 8 July via Cow Crk and Monache Mdw, about 10 mi and 5200' gain o.w. On 9 Sep we went for Olancha Pk (12,123'). Cow trail didn't show recent trampling by cattle hooves and this was an ominous sign. Our camp this time was at the top of Cow Crk where water was still found but needed disinfecting. Olancha Pk is now more easily reached with the Pac. Crest Tr. cut thru. On Sun.: Alors! There came the cattle drive. Luckily, the 600+ critters ahead of us had been driven into the stockade at Summit Mdws just prior to our arrival there. Outlaw trip by "Ski" & "Campy".

Mt McAdie, Mt Irvine. Our camp was set at Meysan Lk on 30 Jul. "Candlelight Pk" (12,000'+, 1.5 mi NE of Mt Irvine) was climbed. On sun. we first ascended the snowfield to the Mallory-Irvine plateau, then went down a chute S of Mallory and traversed over to Arc Pass. Normal route on McAdie (13,760'+) required a rock scramble and snow climb in the chute. We then went over to climb Mt Irvine (13,770') from Arc Pass. Our return was by way of a prominent snow-filled chute leading directly to the lake from Mt Irvine. Scheduled SPS trip; Mt McAdie climbed by 15, Mt Irvine by 14. My thanks to Ron Jones for assisting. ("Campy")

East & West Vidette. Permit restrictions required us to hike partway up toward Kearsarge Pass Fri. evening. At Vidette Mdw we split into two groups to climb W Vidette (12,480'+) and Center Pk (12,760'). Ron Jones asked me how W Vidette should be done and I recalled something about the N ridge so that's what I advised. Long after we got back after the Center Pk climb the W Vidette people came dragging into camp. They related tales of horror. The ridge they followed was pinnacled and exposed and now there was grim talk of lynching "Campy". E Vidette (12,350') was an enjoyable climb on Sun. via its E ridge, which Mark Goebel led because he had climbed it before. We got back to Onion Val. at 4 pm. SPS scheduled trip (18-19 Aug) with 10 participants: 17 mi and 5500' on Fri./Sat. 11 mi and 4100' on Sun. My thanks to Ron Jones and Mark Goebel for their assist. "Campy"

Mt Ruskin & Marion Pk. This outing was scheduled for 3 days (6-8 Oct). The 7 of us went over Taboose Pass and reached our S Fk Kings River camp at 3 pm. We noticed that recent storms had left some snow on the peaks. Mt Ruskin (12,920') was climbed by its E ridge, necessitating at a point near the summit a long reach and a scuffle over the snow-free rock bastion. It is probably correct to say that this move is Cl. 4 if you are short. We traversed the peak and went for Marion Pk (12,719')(Joe LeConte's wife) by way of its easy ridge. Our return on Mon. was at a leisurely pace. SPS scheduled trip; the 7 participants climbed both peaks. Thanks again to Ron Jones. ("Campy")

There are times when it just doesn't pay to go into the woods. A variety of nuisances popped up on this trip to give credence to the above statement. The outing started out benign enough with a pleasant hike over Piute Pass and an enjoyable lunch at Summit Lake. The group was mixed with a few old timers to two non-climbers who came along for some hiking and photography.

The afternoon's itinerary included an optional climb of Mt. Goethe which was attempted by a majority of the group while the others remained near Piute Pass or headed toward our intended camp about a mile from the pass. Since there is a backpacker's route over Alpine Col, it is only natural to expect that a nice use trail would exist from Muriel Lake to the col enabling easy access to the peak. Well, it just wasn't to be. Big talus blocks lined the route to the col requiring an assortment of crawling techniques and resulted in several fatigued climbers at Alpine Col.

The direct route to the peak from here is a very enjoyable (and easy, despite looks) class 3 scramble. From the col, several pinnacles are seen on the ridge. A "sidewalk" goes across these and the "tough" move can be avoided by a 50' drop on the right. After this, it is class 2. The hour was rather late when the group arrived at the col due to the ruggedness of the terrain. The leader decided to do the ridge route and found three others willing to go along. Three others decided to terminate their efforts at the col due to fatigue while 4 others opted to avoid the class 3 and dropped 400'(!) to get onto the class 2 route.

About 15 minutes from the summit, a thunderstorm materialized out of nowhere. A fantastic display of lightning was seen near Mt. Emerson, some 5 miles away. The leader's companions decided to abort the climb and descend to the lake basin below. The leader reached the summit with the storm still about 2 miles away. On the way down, the other group of four were encountered. They reached the summit a few minutes later under very threatening skies.

The three who remained at Alpine Col retreated to the packs when the storm broke. The group which climbed the ridge reached the packs at 7:00 pm while the final four who had chosen the class 2 route reached their packs at 9:30(!!). The people who chose not to climb Goethe pitched camp where they were when the storm broke with the result that the group was spread out all over the place Saturday night with almost everyone being within visual contact. The driving rain in the Piute Pass area soaked some sleeping gear making for a miserable night for some.

Sunday morning dawned clear. 5 participants opted to climb Mt. Humphries while most of the others regrouped and made the very enjoyable, long hike across the Desolation Basin to Pilot Knob. The peak has excellent views due to its strategic location, has the original register with some distinguished names, is seldom climbed, but is otherwise undistinguished.

After an endless hike back to the packs, everyone managed to hike out to the cars without incident. However, upon reaching Bishop, one of the cars developed generator problems. 2 persons, including the assistant leader, spent an extra night in Bishop while a third hitch-hiked home.

Pyramid Peak - Aug. 14, 1979

Stan Icen

This fine and prominent Lake Tahoe area peak may be climbed from many directions. It can be done as a loooong, loooooong, loooooong, cross-country scramble from Dick's Peak and Jack's Peak. I did not do it this way. It can be done from Lake Aloha which is quite steep. I did not do it this way. It can be done from Twin Bridges on the south by way of Rocky Canyon. A preferred rout with lots of elevation gain. It was not done this way by me. It can be done from the southwest by way of Forni and Upper Forni Lakes, a pleasant, cross-country route. I didn't do it this way either. It can be done from Lake Sylvia by a prominent scree slope heading east. Again, I did not do it this way, either.

I did start on the Lyons Creek trail. From Highway 50, one drives up the well-graded fire road towards Wrights Lake. Shortly after reaching a saddle at BM 6767, the road intersects a Jeep Trail heading east and signed as Lyons Creek Trail. You can drive about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in a standard car to a trailhead parking area. From here, the trail easily wound its' way eastward. If your fortunate, you may have a clamorous choral of cowbell choristers chronicling your escapades as I had. I decided to wander off the trail at Lyons site and pick my way cross-country, following highpoints on the easy west ridge. This was quite pleasant. There are several ponds and isolated high meadows that make whiling away the time excuseable. As I approached the peak itself, I detoured south around some prominent rock outcroppings and soon found myself on the peak. There were at least six other people on the summit, which surprised me. I expected to see no one in the middle of the week. Descending, I went north off of the summit and passed one chute before I found one that would take me safely to Lake Sylvia. Or, at least to the Lake east of Lake Sylvia. The hike out was long but pleasant. It appears to these eyes, that the fastest and easiest routes are from Twin Bridges to the south, or from the scree slopes edging Lake Sylvia. The route I chose had 3,183 feet of elevation gain with a round trip distance of approximately 15 miles. This is in the Desolation Wilderness and a permit may be obtained at the Forest Service Visitor Center, which is located a few miles northwest of South Lake Tahoe, near the Fallen Leaf Lake turn off. The Fallen Leaf Lake Quadrangle is the only map you will need.

Also, while you are in the area, the Cook Book Restaurant in South Lake Tahoe makes a fantastic Spanish Omelette. Pope's Beach is a bargain for 50¢,, and there are some really excellent bike trails that follow the edge of Lake Tahoe. Motels are fairly cheap if you don't get too close to the Bright Lights and Cheap thrills of Stateline. Of course, if you like Bright Lights, and Cheap Thrills, Stateline will provide that too.

Individuals domiciled in vitreous structures of patent fragility should avoid employing projectiles of petrous formations.

The prudent avis who matutinally deserts its abode can certainly ensnare a vermiculate creature.

The portentuous advent of a maleficent horizontally propelled gaseous current is not the harbinger of a modicum of beneficence.

MT. KAWEAH/SAWTOOTH PK. Aug 31 - Sept 3, 1979 George Neuner

Six hardy souls congregated at the trail head in Mineral King early Friday morning. After waiting an hour for two female no-shows, we proceeded up the Sawtooth Pass trail. After an hour, we reached a stream crossing by a pleasant spot called Groundhog Hollow. Here the old trail leaves the main trail and follows the north side of the canyon. We took the new (main) trail which switchbacks up the south side through pine forests and leads directly to the Monarch Lakes. Although it is about 2 miles longer, the new trail is gently graded and provides considerable shade. (The old trail is not maintained and has many rocks and boulders on it.) Lunch at the lower Monarch Lake was a Pleasant stop.

Above the Monarch Lakes the trails rejoin and disappear into a scree slope. Remnants of the trail can be found occasionally, but for the most part it's tough slogging up through the scree. The trail's switchbacks have been pretty well obliterated by people descending directly down the scree. We headed toward Glacier Pass (not labeled on the old topo) one-half mile NW of Sawtooth Pass. We dropped our packs at Glacier Pass and five climbers traversed over to the SW face of sawtooth Peak without actually having to climb to the top of Sawtooth Pass. Climbing was pleasant class 2 as long as the scree slopes were avoided.

We took advantage of the scree on the way down. However, we descended so rapidly that we passed the elevation where we should have begun traversing back toward Glacier Pass and found ourselves amidst some 3rd and 4th class rock faces. After picking up our packs at Glacier Pass we descended the north side and camped at the first lakelet in a lovely meadow above Spring Lake. It was a hard day; 4500 feet of gain, most of it with full packs and the miserable scree required extra energy.

The next day was considerably easier. We hiked down to Spring Lake and marvelled at its beautiful setting - surrounded on three sides by spectacular peaks. At about 10,000 feet, a faint trail contours around the NE slope of Cliff Creek Valley and meets the Black Rock Pass trail at 10,200 feet. We hiked north past the Little Five Lakes, passing up some wonderful campsites. The trail which drops down into Big Arroyo Canyon is incorrectly shown on the old topo. It actually proceeds NW past lake 10,275 and drops down into the canyon about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of the stream coming from this lake. We set up camp where the stream crosses the trail in a forested hollow. We had plenty of time to go further, but we opted for a longer trek the next day with only day packs.

The third day five climbers arose at 5:00 am, hiked down into Big Arroyo and picked up the High Sierra Trail heading SW. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile past a tiny lakelet (again the map is wrong, it's really on the north side of the trail) we headed north and began climbing through forest on the south slope of Mt. Kaweah. With proper pacing the climb is enjoyable and exhilarating; mostly class 1 with some class 2 bouldering. Keeping to the aretes avoided most of the scree. We reached the summit at noon. The view from the top was awe inspiring in all directions.

Our descent was rapid, taking advantage of many scree pockets. Although we had an extra 600 feet of gain at the end of the day, we were glad we camped on the west rim of Big Arroyo rather than at the bottom, as it made the next day somewhat easier with full packs. Even so, the fourth day was gruelling - over Black Rock Pass and Glacier Pass and back to the cars. The descent from Glacier Pass down the scree was exciting. We descended so rapidly the pressure change bothered our ears. Gaiters were useful to keep stones out of our shoes.

Kaweah is a massive mountain deep in the Sierra. It's a long way in, but a fine emblem peak. Four days makes for a moderately strenuous trip. It could be done in three by omitting Sawtooth Peak. Five days would make a fine trip, allowing more time to enjoy the spectacular scenery and would make the long drive more worthwhile

George Neuner

MT. HUMPHREYS, SEPT 1, 1979Bills Gray and Birnbaum
 In a fit of caution the leader restricted the party to 10 participants, a decision made difficult to live with as the number of requests surged to 22. The forest service, however, preserved this caution by refusing to go increase the number on the wilderness permit. A 7:30 planned departure from the North lake roadhead on Saturday morning was delayed while the parking areas were searched for a possibly oversleeping Gordon Browne (such was our faith that no one would cancel without prior notification) but to no avail. The climb to camp was leisurely, in keeping with the three-day weekend plan, in spite of Larry Machleder's eager desire to hurry off and get in Four Gables. At upper Humphreys lake some mild cases of altitude sickness became wonderfully cured after an afternoon in camp and a good meal. Then our confidence in human nature was restored as Gordon arrived. He had had to work late and had driven most of the night after getting only one hour's sleep. A late rising (6:30) and a later departure for the summit (7:30) found two other groups also heading toward the base of the peak massif. However the other groups were taking south routes, as described in the Climber's Guide, whereas we chose to do the couloir behind the southwest arete - a route not described in the current Guide. Since we missed a planned traverse at the level of the col to the west of the main summit, we arrived on the small peak overlooking the col from the west. From here it was apparent that we might as well make ourselves comfortable and enjoy the scene, for there below us in the col were two groups, one of nine and one of four, arriving nearly simultaneously. Ah, Wilderness! How sweet thy solitude! But it is surprising to find so many capable of testing themselves against so worth a mountain. But...back to the climb. Our elevated view of the route presented a foreshortened perspective which make it look extremely vertical - definitely RCS-stype stuff. However, as is often the case, the route turned out to be much easier than it appeared. Most of the party were belayed up the 4th class pitch, and a relaxing lurch accompanied magnificent views in all directions. R.J.Secor reported of his Sept 1973 climb that he..."found a register book from 1936 that was only half full, a rare thing to find in an emblem peak". Well, R.J., times have changed. The last six years have recorded climbs which match in number of climbers the efforts of the first thirty seven years and have completely filled the register. Our group had to sign in on the inside back cover. Incidentally, a not at the beginning of the register says: "Please do not remove this register when full". A fourth party of two arrived on the peak, climbing from a southeasterly route. Of the four parties (and 25 climbers) now on the summit, ours was the only one to carry enough rope for the 150' rappel off the SW face, which we planned, but which all the other parties thought was a splendid idea... and would we mind if they rappelled off first, using our ropes! Without appreciating the cost in time, we agreed-- and so four hours later our last man (we were all men, unfortunately) completed his rappel, and we retrieved our ropes and headed down to camp- fortunately with time aplenty since we did not have to pack out that same day. We were greeted in camp by Eivor Nilsson who had a tentative date to meet the Petitjeans for a Monday climb of Humphreys. At 6 am Monday morning, while most of the camp slept, five climbers arose in the darkness. Since the Petitjeans had not arrived, Larry Machleder and Jon Lutz persuaded the not unwilling Eivor to go after Four Gables with them, and they departed into the west. The other two early risers were Jim Hamilton and Bill Birnbaum who rose for a pre-breakfast climb up Humphreys' approaches to retrieve the perlon rope which had been loaned to the party by Rita Gray, and without which we dared not return home. This was still resting at a high rest stop near the top of the main descent couloir. The rope retrieval party, spurred on by hunger pains, made super time and came puffing in, successful, less than two hours later to a breakfasting and applauding camp. In retrospect, the 3-day holiday, with the limited objective, was certainly not the typical SPS weekend--- no drooping heads on the drive home, and an 11 o'clock bedtime possible for all -perhaps a welcome change once in a while.

Adams, English, Ellwell, Sierra Buttes

September, 1979

Olsen, ***Sid Davis***, Akawie, Bradley, Vernon, Bartell, Lohr, Jump, and the BLM

The Northern peaks of the Sierra Nevada bring to mind the forested slopes of the Southern Appalachians. Missing were the brilliant colors of Autumn, but present were clear blue skies, cool mornings and evenings, and warm afternoons. Present also were throngs of campers, tourists, and hunters. A wilderness trip this was not, but it was for the most part a very enjoyable weekend.

A majority of the participants made a multiday affair out of the trip, climbing other peaks in the Tahoe area. One participant flew into Reno and another into Sacramento. Both were picked-up by other participants.

Navigational aids for this trip are AAA "Yuba and Feather Rivers", writeups by Hellman, Ward, et al (ECHO 20 #6), plus appropriate topographic maps, although roads and trails are inaccurate and may even be deceptive. Logging roads abound around English Mountain and some are even better than the main road.

Everyone spent Friday night somewhere off the Frenchman Reservoir road (there is a good campground at the reservoir) and met in Chilcoot Saturday morning. The road to Adams peak was easily located and followed to the parking spot. The road from Frenchman Lake is a less rugged drive and is recommended. A good dirt road goes up Spring Creek to a saddle at 7000'. Route is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and 1200' of gain. Mt. Adams is a typical "sagebrush country" peak. It has now achieved some order of dignity as Sid Davis captured his Senior Peakbagger's pin on its lofty summit.

From Chilcoot, Rt. 70 was followed to Blairsden, then South to Graeagle. There is a beautiful golf course here. Also restaurants. A real plush area. From here, a right turn onto Gold Lake Road was made. This is a wide, paved road. This was followed to the turnoff to Grey Eagle Lodge. The trail to Ellwell begins near the restaurant. The topographic map is inaccurate as to trail locations. Study the Forest Service map at the trailhead. The group hiked to Long Lake. From here, two of us took the direct route to the summit up class 2 talus while the rest of the group took the trail and arrived 20 minutes later. The summit was exited via a diffuse trail leading toward Smith Lake. In fact, the last two people in the group missed a turn in the trail and went to Smith Lake, resulting in an 80 minute delay. Use care on this trail-it's not on the map.

After everyone was back, Gold Lake road was followed past Salmon Creek campground. A well marked turnoff to Packer Lake was taken. The road is paved past Packer Lake. Pavement ends at about 7000' on a ridge leading to Sierra Buttes, 3 miles away. If one wishes, he may drive an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on good dirt road up the ridge. At the spur going into Packer Lake, there is a sign "Tamarack Lakes 1: Sierra Buttes 4". This is an alternate route: more gain but probably more scenic.

The group chose to camp at a Forest Service camping spot below Packer Lake. The whole area was pretty crowded, especially with hunters. Sunday morning sounded as if WW III had broken out in California. We bravely climbed Sierra Buttes and scampered back down. From here, the group took Rt. 49 to Rt. 89 and regrouped in Sierraville. Rt. 89 was followed to the Henness Pass road. This was followed to Weber Lake where a left turn was taken onto the Meadow Lake road: Horrible road! Past Meadow Lake, roads go everywhere. There are no signs. Good Luck! After one finds

CLYDE MINARET

SEPT. 15-16, 1979 BILL T. RUSSELL, JIM ERB

Fourteen of us met at the Devil's Postpile parking lot at noon on Saturday and hiked to Minaret Lake where we made camp. The next morning we were joined by Fred Camphausen and all fifteen climbed the minaret with no problems. We followed a route that I learned from the Magnussons.

We ascended to a point west of Cecile Lake at about 10,700' and at a bearing to the outlet of Cecile Pk of about 40°. From here we went up toward the peak about 300 ft, then left thru a moat at the top of a large snow bank for about 200 ft and then up a broad dirt chute for another 100 ft. Here we reached a very comfortable ledge which is perhaps 10 ft wide and leads up to the right (west) at a moderate slope for about 300 ft. The ledge ends at a couloir in a cliff that falls to the glacier below (west). Just before the ledge ends it crosses a steep chute which is about 20 ft wide and goes up south or southwest toward the summit. We went up this chute until it merges with the north face and then continued up the face and/or the ridge on its left boundary until we reached the top. It is good 3rd class climbing all the way with some loose rock. Our group was very skillful in the foot department and few rocks were dislodged. At the top of the face there is a wall of about 10 ft high to climb down after which it is an easy scramble of less than 100 ft to the summit.

We had a fine time on top in the autumn sunshine. A look through the register showed that our party of 15 was the largest recorded to have done the peak. We returned to Minaret Lake in the midafternoon and then hiked out. Part of the party returned to the roadhead and drove home. The rest of us camped at the SE end of Johnson Meadow because we had planned to climb Iron Mtn on Monday. Between darkness and midnight two bears infiltrated our camp three times, dragging off a pack on the first encounter, which we recovered. This harassment caused us finally to post a guard and to keep a fire going. I stood the first watch from midnight until 0200 and walked the perimeter looking for a bear to talk to, but they must have decided we were tough SPSrs as they did not return.

The next morning and in view of a whole set of circumstances, there was a strong consensus to scrub the Iron Mtn climb. Instead we had a splendid breakfast in Mammoth and a leisurely drive home. *Bice*

APRIL - MAY, 1980

NEW EMBLEM HOLDERS

#400 GOGUEN, TAD 4-80

NEW MEMBERS

684-2129 12881088
HARSH, SHERRY 4-80
1152 E. Mendocino
Altadena, CA 91001

NEW ECHO SUBSCRIPTIONS

256-3332
ACEVEDO, ADRIAN M.D.
5213 Townsend
Los Angeles, CA 90041

NEW ECHO SUBSCRIPTIONS

888-1504
WONG, VIC
4767 Topanga Cyn. Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

BOWEN, BOB
923 18th St., #D
Santa Monica, CA 90403

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ROBINSON, CATHY
No. 5, Kialowa
Newport Beach, CA 92663

ADDRESS CHANGES

(714) 375-8065
SMITH, STEVE
719 W. Leyte Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

SULLIVAN, KEVIN & SHERRY
C/O 9265 Verde Way
Las Vegas, NV 89108

DANTA, RANDY
Box 4447
APO, New York, NY 09633

JALI, RICK
9418-G 48th Ave. W.
Everett, WA 98204

Tollhouse Lake, proceed NW for about 200 yards and turn left on a crummy dirt road before a meadow. Follow this to its high point-about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Park here, point your nose toward English Mt. and climb. 3 miles, 1500'. The group followed the ridge all the way up. A fun route with good scrambling. It goes easier on the West, but not nearly as much fun. After getting down, Meadow Lake road was taken to Graniteville road, around Jackson Meadow Reservoir, and back to the pavement (thank God!) on the Henness Pass Rd. Meadow Lake road is awful - the dirtiest, rockiest road this author has ever driven. After reaching pavement, it was every man for himself. Best route home is Rt. 267 from Truckee to North Lake Tahoe, to US 50 to US 395, although a gambler subsidized dinner in South Lake Tahoe isn't a bad idea, either.

GODDARD & REINSTEIN Sep 1-3 Dale Van Dalsem & Jim Murphy

Jim wrote the Muir Trail Ranch (Address: 6-15 to 10-1: Box 176, Lakeshore 93634. 10-1 to 6-15: Box 3005, Ahwahnee 93601) and reserved the Florence Lake boat for 0700 Sat. (Normally leaves at 0800) & got us the big group discount from \$3.25 to \$3.00 each way. 20 intrepid souls drove the $7\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from L.A. (Last 20 or 30 miles is one lane, quasi-paved, 15 MPH max! and stumbled onto the boat to sign in. We lost one sign-out before lunch and 2 more just after lunch and a fourth person was dragging as we stopped about a mile & 400 ft short of Martha Lake in some woods on the East slope of upper Goddard Canyon about 5 PM, after 20 miles & 3500 gain. Dale had done his usual "Everyone goes" screening job. A roaring fire was soured by the usual tasteless jokes. Kraft-Ebbing would have been grossed out!

Off at 0635 on day 2, past the N shore of Martha Lake, East to the S. shoulder of Goddard (up a bad talus slope; should have continued E almost to crest before turning left) then up a class 1 slog on well-worn use trail to S. summit, dip down & up to N. summit (Cl 2 on the dip, otherwise this is a Cl 1 pk). 18 sighed in (for those of you keeping track, we gained one somewhere!) and enjoyed magnificent views. We could see 13 of the 15 emblem peaks. Matterhorn was outasite but there was debate on Olancha.

12 proceeded on to Reinstein. 10 reached it, via the east side of the N. ridge. Fun talus blocks to escape the dangerous NE chute. Back to camp at 3:10 P.M. Packed up & out $6\frac{1}{2}$ Mi to 1.5 mi short of Muir Tr. & camped at great site. Jack Parker & Randy Danta led super songfest, mostly solo & a capella, about another windless campfire.

Day 3 dawned warm & windless & we went for Flo Lk & Most Of Us got there at noon. 5 Tigers (released by Asst Ldr to go for it) were going so fast they didn't see sign to Flo Lk Boat Phone & insisted on stretching a 46 Mi weekend into a 52 Mi weekend, by walking the S shore. Alas, sanity prevailed & they slunk in at 12:45 to await the slowly returning boat. Mellow Mike Manchester drifted into the dock, recovered from his foot boiling and waited for his climbing partner, Geo "3 for 4" Hubbard who was off trying to get a fourth peak.

The boat came after 2, but we were all on road before 3 PM and, except for the Orange Cty contingent. home by midnight. --Dale

HOFFMANS THUMB --- SEPT 22, 1979

DICK BEACH

Located below the summit of Mt Hoffman, this impressive spire is seldom given the credit it deserves. First climbed by Jules Eichorn in the thirties, no more than forty have climbed to its table like summit.

At the age of 15 I walked the base in hopes of climbing this beautiful pinnacle, 17 years later Dave King and I walked up the pleasant trail to Mt Hoffman in hopes of climbing the thumb. There is no doubt where the summit of Hoffman is located, thanks to a twenty foot radio transmitter left by the park service. (John Muir would roll over in his grave if he knew.)

The Thumb is the perfect name for this mass of rock. By appearance it is larger on the top than at the base. There are several routes, all of which are at least 5.5. Each route requires about two pitches. Our day was clear and pleasant which enhanced the clean cathedral granite holds which all routes provide.

All good climbs have a classic move. This was no exception with the aid of an old fixed ring piton plus two slings you should supply, the move still remains awkward and difficult. The key, which comes from an old mountain proverb, "check which foot to start with". With a fine rappel pin on top, and "praise be", a classic old register, our stay on top was rewarding.

Coming down involves a 75 foot free rappel due to the overhang which surrounds the summit. I used the old free style rappele which takes longer to come down, and Dave used a brake bar which takes longer to set up---- so take your pick.

If anyone wants some of the most classic pictures, one cannot go wrong using Hoffman's Thumb and the fantastic view that this area provides.

BALDWIN/RED SLATE

SEP 29-30, 1979

JIM ERB/BILL T. RUSSELL

Fourteen participants met Saturday morning at Convict L. We backpacked 5 mi to a nice meadow campsite $\frac{1}{2}$ mi south of Mildred L, near a small tarn. We then climbed Baldwin, starting up a northeast-heading chute $\frac{1}{4}$ mi east of the tarn. We generally stayed on the 2nd class northwest ridge, then followed a trail up the west fact to about 11,900 ft, then up easy scree. We were back in camp by 3:30 after an 8 mi, 5200 ft day.

Following a rain-drenched night, we climbed Red Slate via L Wit-so-nah-pah and the northwest ridge. An inch of new snow added interest to the 3rd class pitch near the top, so we returned via the easy west ridge. We arrived at the cars at 4:15 after a 10 mi, 3600 ft day. In spite of ever-threatening weather, this turned out to be a pleasant fall trip.

Jim

ABOVE AVERAGE RUNOFF PREDICTED FOR SIERRAS

Forecasts issued by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) based on latest snow survey data presage some hazardous stream crossings for the climbing season ahead. April through July snowmelt runoff is predicted to far exceed normal in Sierra river basins as follows (100% is normal): Kern, 205%; Merced, 204%; Tule, 195%; Kaweah, 174%; Kings, 168%; San Joaquin, 164%; Owens, 149%; and Tuolumne, 146%. On the average the snowmelt will considerably exceed 1978-79 figures but will be somewhat below those of 1977-78.

According to DWR, satellite imagery shows the March 1 snowline somewhat higher than expected for the heavy snowpack. The relatively warm storms of January and February have produced this concentration at the higher elevations.

- - Fred Hoeptner

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