

The Sierra



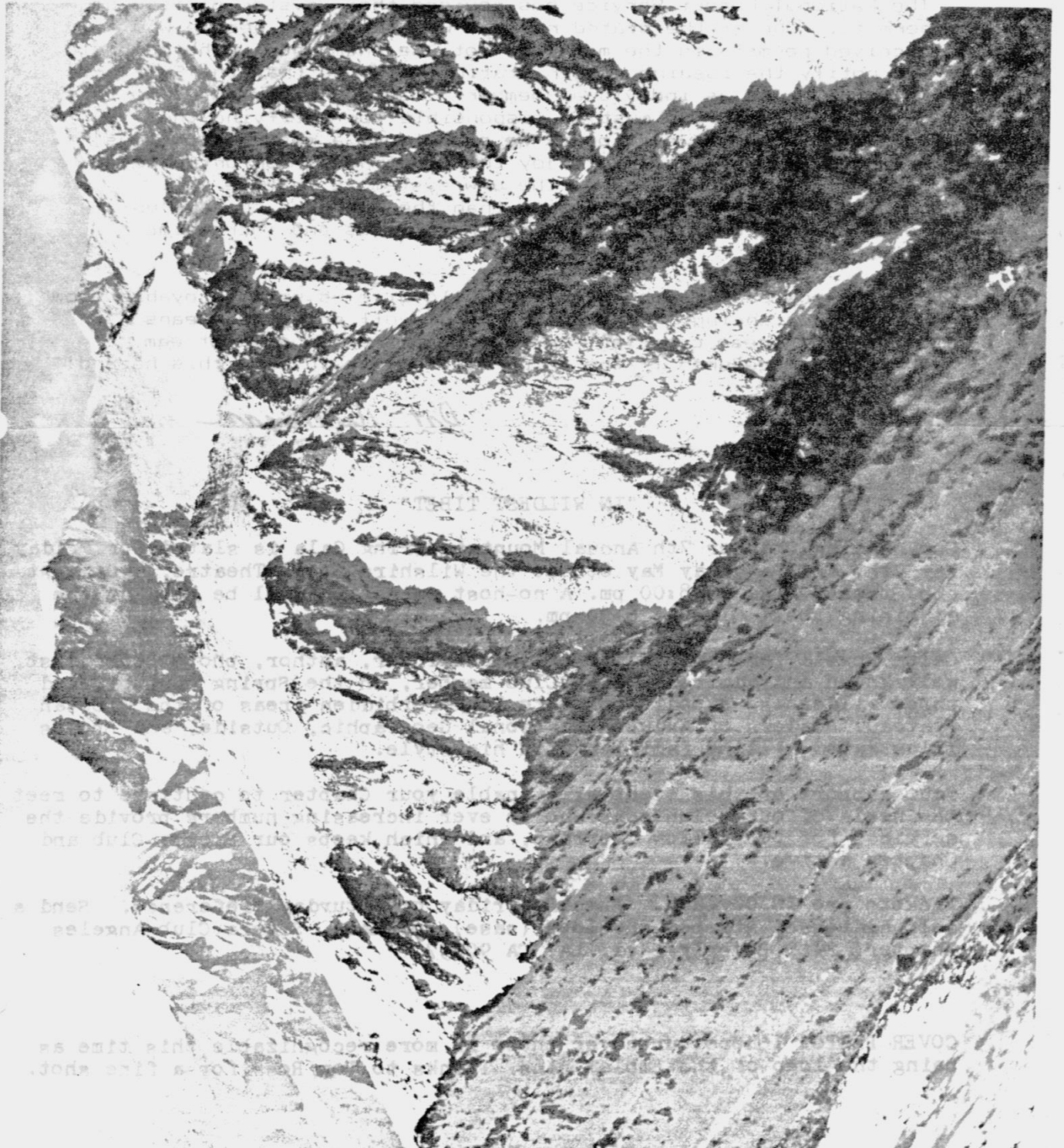
ECHO

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NO. 2



A glance at the upcoming Summer/Fall Schedule indicates that Highways 395 and 99 will be busy once again with SPS'ers commuting to the Sierras. To everyone's surprise, gasoline prices have even declined, making the trips easier on wallets this year. In spite of the lower gas prices, car pooling should remain an important consideration for conserving this nonrenewable resource.

The National Forest Service has revised their system of issuing permits. One of the stated reasons was that many people who received permits in the mail did not use them and furthermore did not notify the issuing ranger station. I hope that the SPS, both as a group and as individual members, has not contributed to this problem. Each of us must be responsible for notifying the appropriate ranger station if we cannot use a reservation thus giving others a chance to enjoy the wilderness. Unfortunately, one of the disadvantages of the new system is that we will sometimes have to drive further than the roadhead to pick up permits, thus negating some gasoline savings and increasing driving time.

A good snow pack in the Sierras should give us some enjoyable snow climbs this spring. However, heavy run-off sometimes means dangerous stream crossings so be sure to review safe stream crossing procedures if the trip requirements involve this hazard!

Pat Holleman

"IN WILDEST TIBET"

Our Angeles Chapter 7th Annual Mountaineering Gala is slated for Friday May 7th, and Saturday May 8th at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 West 8th Streest, LA, at 8:00 pm. A no-host reception will be held at the adjoining Ebell Club at 6:30 pm.

Galen Rowell, eminent California mountaineer, author, photo journalist, well known and admired Sierra Club member, in the Spring of 1981, led three wilderness expeditions into long-forbidden areas of the Tibetan Plateau. Readers of Audubon, National Geographic, Outside, and Sports Illustrated will be familiar with his style.

Your support of this event will enable your Chapter to continue to meet the needs of our volunteers who in ever increasing numbers provide the services for our fellow Sierrans, and which keeps our Sierra Club and Chapter active.

Tickets are \$8.00 each. Specify Friday or Saturday preference. Send a self addressed stamped envelope (sase) to: GALA, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, 2410 Beverly Blvd, LA, CA 90057.

COVER PHOTO: I hope our cover photo is more recognizable this time as being the logo of the Emblem pins. Thanks to Tom Ross for a fine shot.

1982 SPS SUMMER SCHEDULE

| | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| JULY | 9/11 | Williamson | S. Harsh/J. Backus/O. Maloy | |
| | 10/11 | Agassiz/Johnson | J. Roberts/N. Rohn | |
| | 10/11 | Temple Crag | L. Leventhal/J. Lutz | |
| | 10/12 | Keith/Junction/Tyndall | A. Blauvelt/R. Hudson | |
| | 16/18 | Tyndall/Junction/Keith | D. Dykeman/N. Gordon | |
| | 16/20 | Finger/Tunemah/Scylla/Reinstein | B.T. Russell/R. Hicks | |
| | 17/18 | Baldwin/Bloody | P. Holleman/G. Holleman | |
| | 17/18 | University/Independence | E. Erspamer/J. Lutz/E. Nilsson | |
| | 17/18 | Bear Creek Spire/Dade | M. Valkass/A. Benson | |
| | 22/25 | Clarence King/Cotter/Bago | J. Titus/Ret Moore | |
| | 23/25 | Darwin/Mendel | A. Blauvelt/B. Myrhe | |
| | 24/25 | Le Conte/Lone Pine | D. Mihaljevich/J. Murphy | |
| | 24/25 | Whitney (Mtnr. Rt.)/Muir | V. Wong/D. Dykeman | |
| | 24/25 | McAdie/Irvine | R. Hudson/B. Preyer | |
| | 24/25 | Cirque | J. Blackwill/E. Nilsson | |
| | 24/31 | Tyndall/G. W. Divide | M. Lees/G. Toby | |
| | 24/31 | Tabosse Pass - Split, etc. | J. Erb/T. Rutherford | |
| | 31/1 | Middle Palisade | B. Hartunian/D. Vandervoet | |
| | 31/1 | Abbot/Dade | J. Backus/Goodykoontz/J. Suehiro | |
| AUG. | 7/8 | Russell/Carillon | J. Titus/D. Heaney | |
| | 7/9 | Triple Divide/Lion Rock | L. Leventhal/J. Lutz | |
| | 14/15 | Matterhorn/Virginia | A. Blauvelt/J. Suehiro | |
| | 14/15 | Bear Creek Spire/Dade | V. Wong/N. Gordon | |
| | 14/15 | Cocoran | B. Bradley/R. Jones | |
| | 20/22 | Izaak Walton/Recess | W. Kabler/M. Muir McMannes | |
| | 20/23 | McGee/Emerald/Henry | B.T. Russell/D. McRuer | |
| | 21/22 | Split | J. Roberts/A. Blauvelt | |
| | 21/22 | Koip/Gibbs/Gourmet Backpack | G. Toby/D. Beverage | |
| | 27/29 | Joe Devel/Pickering/Newcomb | Ret Moore/J. Titus | |
| | 28/29 | Emerald/Henry | R. Jones/L. Brecheen | |
| | 28/29 | Russell/Carillon | P. Edwards/J. Lutz | |
| | 28/31 | Izaak Walton/Red & White/Stanford | L. Hoak/D. Vandervoet | |
| SEPT. | 3/6 | Lyell/Maclure/Vogelsang/Florence | D. Dykeman/N. Gordon | |
| | 4/5 | McAdie/Mallory/Le Conte | P. Edwards/J. Lutz | |
| | 4/6 | Brewer/N. Guard/S. Guard | R. Jones/F. Camphausen | |
| | 4/6 | Ritter/Banner | G. Neuner/A. Hill | |
| | 4/6 | Ruskin | G. Holleman/P. Holleman | |
| | 4/6 | Whitney (Mtnr. Rt.) | R. Speik/R. Bernard | |
| | 4/6 | Gardiner/Bago | A. Blauvelt/C. Stein | |
| | 4/6 | Inconsolable | J. Keating/W. Whisman | |
| | 11/12 | Haeckel/Wallace | M. Goebel/K. Crandall | |
| | 11/12 | Humphreys/Emerson | C. Ranschau/N. Gordon | |
| | 11/17 | Triple Divide/Lion Rock/ Kern Pt etc | D. Mantle/B. Hicks/D. McRuer | |
| | 17/19 | Darwin/Mendel | M. Valkass/C. Ranschau | |
| | 17/19 | Tower | G. Davis/D. Perkins | |
| | 18 | Starr King | D. Mihaljevich/R. Hartunian | |
| | 18/19 | Rixford/Painted Lady | R. Banner/F. Camphausen | |
| 18/20 | Kings Canyon Peaks - unlisted | G. MacLeod/B. Sanders | | |
| 18/19 | Junction | G. Vernon/L. Brecheen | | |
| OCT. | 2/3 | Black Hawk | L. Machleder/J. Murphy | |
| | 2/3 | Muah/Cartago | G. Neuner/A. Hill | |
| | 9/10 | North Maggie/Moses | L. Machleder/J. Roberts | |
| | 30/1 | Florence/Vandever | R. Jones/M. Clark | |
| | 30/1 | Spanish Needle/Rockhouse | G. Vernon/L. Brecheen. | |
| A.N. | NOV. | 6/7 | Rock Climb Practice-Fossil Falls | C. Ranschau/G. Mauk |

New Members

Gene Clinger
1740 Miramar
Ventura, CA 93001

Jim Farkas
1641 E. Maple, Apt A
El Segundo, CA 90245

Larry Hoek
838 S. Orange Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
March 11, 1982

Mountaineers' List

Nancy Gordon
Delores Holladay
Gerry Holleman
Pat Holleman

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL UPDATE
March 11, 1982

The Sierra Peaks Section has 383 members. Only 91 of these have sent in membership renewal forms. THE RENEWAL DEADLINE IS MARCH 31.

To renew membership, send \$4.00 Echo subscription to:
Ron Bartell
10514 National Blvd. #211
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Once having attained the summit, you will observe that its success is seldom permanent, neither is failure for not getting there. JM

Here is one set of answers to last issues quiz.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 = Horns on a unicorn | 18 = Holes on a Golf course |
| 1 = Wheels on a unicycle | 24 = Hours in a day |
| 2 = Sides of a coin | 24 = Karats in pure gold |
| 3 = Blind mice. | 26 = Letters in the alphabet |
| 4 = Quarts in a gallon | 29 = Days in February in a Leap year |
| 5 = Digits in a zip code | 32 = Degrees Fahrenheit at which H ₂ O freeze |
| 6 = Faces on a cube | 35 = Mountaineers peaks on the list |
| 6 = Strings on a guitar | 40 = Days and nights of the great flood |
| 6 = Points in a touchdown | 50 = States in the union |
| 7 = Wonders of Ancient world | 54 = Cards in a deck with jokers |
| 8 = Notes in an octave | 57 = Heinz varieties |
| 8 = Edges on a stop sign | 64 = Squares on a chess board |
| 9 = Planets in Solar system | 88 = Piano keys |
| 10 = Pennies in a dime. | 90 = Degrees in a right angle. |
| 11 = Players on a football team | 100 = Yards in a football field |
| 12 = Signs of the zodiac | 246 = Peaks on the list |
| 13 = Stripes in American flag | 360 = Degrees in a circle |
| 15 = Emblem Peaks on list | 366 = Days in a Leap year |
| 9 = Squares in Tic Tac Toe | 1000 = Words that a picture is worth |
| | 1001 = Arabian nights. |

Five Years Ago in the SPS

RON JONES

I forgot to mention in the last ECHO the gala 20th anniversary SPS banquet chaired by Duane McRuer on 12-13-76. More than 160 persons crowded into Taix Restaurant paying \$8.50 for a delicious steak dinner. Twelve of the prior 20 Chairmen were present. The 20th Anniversary Commemorative issue of the ECHO was passed out at the banquet featuring reports from past chairmen, the original SPS membership list, the first Schedule, history of "The List", the Section, etc, etc. New members announced in early 1977 included Greg Vernon, Walt Hill, Theresa Rutherford and Karen Anderson.

Ten Years Ago

Roy Magnuson and Barbara Rosen were being congratulated on their marriage on December 17 ('71). Horace Ory led a successful snow climb of Birch on 2-21. Tom Ross reported a private ski climb of Mt. Barnard on 2-27 in 19° weather. New members included Bill Merk and Ret Moore.

Twenty Years Ago

Pilot Knob and Morris Peak were led this period by Bud and Bep Bingham (now living in Bishop). Chuck Miller wrote up the first "Climbers Guide for the 15 Northern SPS Qualifying Peaks" for the ECHO. Lothar Kolbig led an SPS ice axe practice for 21 persons at the San Antonio Ski hut, the only trip in this mid-winter period.

MEXICO'S VOLCANOES - A Climbing Guide by R.J. Secor
120 pp, 4 appendices, indexed. The Mountaineers, 1981, \$7.95
A book review by Ron Jones

R.J. Secor, long-time SPS member, has written an excellent guide for climbers intending to visit Mexico. R.J., a graduate student at Claremont, has twice visited Mexico to climb and research the major peaks and he also acknowledges the help of the late Otis McAllister. R.J. writes with an obvious love and concern for Mexico and its people. He urges the climber to schedule time between climbs to explore the restaurants, markets, ruins and fiestas.

The book is organized into chapters covering the background of the area, including a very interesting section on the history of the peaks and their first ascents (Orizaba was first climbed by a group of American soldiers led by Lt. Reynolds in 1848 during the Mexican American War), and preparations for the climb including food and water, maps, police, bandits (the author is more afraid of the former than the latter), and a good section on finding the right route out of Mexico City.

Other chapters cover the routes on Popocateptl (6 routes) and Iztaccihuatl (8 routes) as well as their approaches, a chapter on climbing Orizaba (4 routes), and a chapter covering the approaches and climbs of other volcanoes in central Mexico ranging from Nevada de Toluca, at 15,433 ft. Mexico's fourth highest mountain, to Cofre de Perote 14,048 ft. All the climbing chapters are profusely illustrated and well mapped. A book to be recommended to the growing number of mountaineers who visit the volcanoes.

R.JONES

MT DARWIN, MT MENDEL 10-12 July 1981 CAMPY

This trip was to be led by Art Blauvelt but he came down with a brief but disabling illness and had to cancel. We met at the North Lake campground at 7 AM on Friday and found out that there were 15 of us. Dale Van Dalsem and Bill Krause were along to do the Mendel ice chute. The day was sunny and just warm enough for comfort, although at the camp elevation and above it was a bit breezy. The trail became a little confusing in the canyon above Lower Lamarck Lake. Naturally we took the wrong turn and went away from the creek and overland for a ways. It's best to stick to the use trail going up the south side of the canyon. The topo doesn't show the trail but it is generally easy to follow the rest of the way to Lamarck Col. The approach to the col seems endless but that's only because the pass keeps backing up as you try to get close. When we finally reached it we ate lunch and Mary McMannes kept thinking I was kidding when I said we weren't going to camp here. Camp was over the pass and on a sandy bench above the lake basin. A small creek flowed through. We had the whole afternoon to just lie around and drink Mai Tais.

On Saturday morning Dale and Bill took off to climb Mendel Couloir and the rest of us got up to leave at 6:30 AM for Mt Darwin (13,830'). We all had our crampons along and we put them on at the glacier. John Lockhart's rented crampons came with leather straps and one strap broke as soon as he tightened it. These unsafe crampons were rented by the West Ridge store. I asked John Lutz to lead the group so I could hang back and take pictures. We also put the slower people up front. This had the pictorial effect of a line of climbers in close order lock step zig-zagging up the glacier. We found patchy glare ice in the chute along with the snow but not enough to require roping for. We took off the crampons in the notch and climbed to the plateau on dry rock. There are enough ducks along the route. All thirteen of us signed the register which is now back on the plateau and not the pinnacle.

Walt Kabler climbed the normal chute leading up to the pinnacle and John Lockhart, Paul Edwards, and I went up the adjacent body-width crack. Walt and Paul then set up an upper belay and ten people climbed the chute to the pinnacle. Everybody was given a chance at belaying for practice. Walt spent the whole time in the bottom of the chute assisting people in getting started on the climb. Jackie Van Dalsem celebrated her Emblem after climbing the pinnacle. She hauled out a bottle of Champagne and we all celebrated and posed for pictures. Bob Emerick secured the belay rope and climbed down to join in. We then got back down the snow chute and onto the glacier. The first six people down were given the chance to blitz Mt Mendel. These included Bob Emerick, Paul Edwards, John Lockhart, Mary McMannes, and Jackie Van Dalsem. The first three met up with Dale and Bill who had just gotten there the hard way. Mary and Jackie didn't get the summit and "It was all John's fault". John was off route and he came down by rappelling down and he wasn't too happy about almost cutting the rope in two. It was all a big exciting story that grew more confused as each climber drug into camp. Soon all the excitement died down and the next morning the people who were going to get away early on a grudge climb back to Mendel didn't get away after all and they had to be content with climbing Mt Lamarck (13,417').

Not mentioned earlier but still there were Westy Fletcher, Lisa McKay, Sherry Harsh, Emmanuel Molina, and Kathy Bowman. All made the trip fun-filled. Special thanks are deserved by those who assisted in the leads: John Lutz, Walt Kabler, and Bob Emerick. On Sunday very early Bob trucked down Darwin Canyon to climb Goethe Pk. A couple others also stayed an extra day to climb this peak.

NOTICE!! REGARDING REQUESTS FOR BACK ISSUES OF THE ECHO!! Due to a change in our permit-imprint which now reads "non-profit org." instead of "bulk rate," we can't send out back issues (anything prior to Jan/Feb 1982 had the old imprint) with current mailings anymore or we'll risk losing our permit status, because to qualify, all pieces of mail must be identical (trust me!), so, from now on, if you want back issues, you will need to enclose a SASE with 37¢ postage for each back issue (prior to '82) to be mailed to you. Or, call your Echo-mailer and arrange for in-person delivery at the next SPS meeting of the required issues, or we'll try to make other arrangements.

MORRISON, BALDWIN, RED SLATE, BLOODY
July 25-27, 1981

Al Benson/Mary McMannes

All four peaks were climbed by a strong group but not without a change of plans. Morrison went so well (4700' in 4 hours) that the participants agreed to a proposal to backpack to Mildred Lake late that afternoon even though it involved a 7000' day.

The approach to Morrison circuted 10,858 and 11,108 over lovely terrain in the manner described in the Mar-April 1980 Echo. East of the peak at a tarn we ascended a small bowl-shaped valley, climbed loose rock (an oft-repeated theme on the trip), and gained the summit. For the sake of variety we descended via the hanging valley to the northwest. Conclusion: from the standpoint of aesthetics, time, et al, the ascent route is immensely superior. In the words of one sage on the trip, "The hanging valley route sucks."

Following a decadent time around Convict Lake, we began the trudge over a good new trail to Mildred Lake. Sunset saw us in camp but not with much time leeway in a group that included one relative newcomer who "likes to go on SPS trips to meet girls."

Off for Baldwin in total accord with the May-June 1980 Echo write-up. A use trail from the meadow almost to the summit. Neat mineral deposits and again spectacular views in continuing clear, sunny Sierra weather.

Seven then departed for Red Slate. Unfortunately most elevation gained had to be lost as we ended up going around the east end of Constance Lake, going directly to the summit via the northwest ridge, and solemnly uttering "Power to the people." Bloody the next morning went pretty much straightforward (unless elevation gains and losses are taken into account) by the remaining six.

Participants on the 37 mile, 16,000' gain trip included Al Benson, Mary McMannes, Dale and Jackie Van Dalsem, Maris Valkass, Ben Preyer, Tom Casacky, Bill Slaninke, Donn Cook, and Jim Farkas.

JULIUS CAESAR, ROYCE, MERRIAM July 18, 19 Al Benson/Kevin Sullivan

Nine climbers gathered at the Pine Creek trailhead and shortly after 7 am began a 6 mi, 2800' backpack to a camp site by a delightful meadow above Honeymoon Lake. Following an early lunch the group sauntered up the trail to Italy Pass through a series of delicate meadow benches and onto the open slabs of Granite Park. Here it was decided to try a more interesting direct approach to the ridge of Julius Caesar rather than continuing on to the pass. Some difficulties there were at first but intrepid scouting by Ralph uncovered a 3rd class route to the ridge. From there it was over easy talus, and everyone was on the summit by 3:30 pm.

No campfire but many pleasantries that evening as we gathered to drink Ralph and Hal's wine, abscond with the Sullivan's chips, and dismiss Howard's Cal Tech doctoral dissertation as quackery, moral degeneracy, and a supreme effrontery to the human spirit.

Mary Sue, who had already done the other two peaks, opted to savor the meadows the next morning. Others left at 6:30 am, climbed a saddle west of 12,563, gained the Royce-Merriam saddle, and encountered a Sierra Club group from Sacramento led by Pete Yamagata. By 9 am all were atop Royce, a scenario that was soon repeated on Merriam, and 12:30 pm saw everyone back in camp with prospects for a civilized time of return.

Participants included Sherry Sullivan, Ralph Johnson, Hal Hanna, Dr. Howard Yee, Mary Sue Miller, Bob Hoselton, and Bob Wyka. Many thanks to Kevin Sullivan for providing the provisional M assist. ---Al

GOAT MOUNTAIN, STATE PEAK 3-6 JULY 1981 CAMPY

I expected only about six people for this long and dreary trip so I got a permit for six people. Then SASEs started coming in fast and I realized I made a mistake. I tried getting another permit but by then the quota was full. Bill Bradley and I had talked earlier and we decided that the third day of the three-day itinerary would be so long that we'd be in no condition to drive home afterward and still get to work on Monday. That's why the permit included Monday on it and the tripsheet came out with this added day. It also gave the daily distance and gain. We had 18 people who wanted on the trip. I notified four people who responded late that they were on standby and that left 14 who received the tripsheet. Then a miracle happened. Everybody cancelled out except six. Four showed up. Bill Bradley stayed home to nurse a wounded foot.

The four of us started up the Copper Creek trail just after 6 AM. Near Lower Tent Meadow we heard a thrashing sound in the brush and suddenly Doug Mantle bounded out onto the trail. He wanted to join us at the last minute and he succeeded in getting his own permit except it was for the wrong trail. So he avoided meeting any Forest Fuzz by hiking up in the dark and making camp in the brush. Now we were five people and things were looking pretty good. We powered up to the first pass and contoured around to Grouse Lake where we made camp around noon. Nothing was planned in the afternoon so we just sat around and slapped mosquitos.

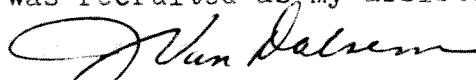
The next morning we climbed Goat Mountain (12,207') by way of its nearby saddle and ridge. We didn't find a register. Then we went back down and broke camp. We hiked back to the trail entering Granite Basin. We waited there for John Castel and Mario Gonzales to come along. It was a long wait--they never showed up. John was contouring around the ridge toward Granite Pass. There's a rule somewhere that goes: "The only way to make up for being lost is to make record time while you are lost." While John was making record time for Granite Pass Mario was behind and since he didn't know they were lost he didn't keep up with John, so then he got lost. Meanwhile the three of us were sitting back there and waiting. Finally a guy came up the trail and said he saw our two people heading back down the trail toward the cars. We figured that they must have checked out of the trip because how could they be lost on a trail they were on yesterday? So we got moving again toward Granite Pass. When we got there we discovered John waiting for us. (Rule No. 2: "You always find someone in the last place you look.") John had a frightened look on his face and he asked "Isn't Mario with you?" We were back at Square No. 1 and Rule No. 3: "Whenever you chew off your fingernails you will find a need for them an hour later." Someone came plodding up the trail but instead of Mario it was the guy we talked to earlier. We had to ask him again if he had seen a missing person. He said "no". Doug had become thoroughly disgusted by now so he signed out and left to climb State and Marion. It looked like we had to now "do it by the book" and go out and search for poor Mario. We didn't know who wrote the book or even what book but we went back down and hollered "Mario-Mario" all the way across Granite Basin. Finally Bob Emerich met up with some hikers who said that a person asked them to give a message to "four Sierra Club people" if they happened to see them. The message was that Mario had reached the trail and used it to get out of there and go home.

So there were now three of us with Granite Pass to re-climb and our camp for State Peak was about 10 miles away and it was getting late in the day. We got up to Lower State Lake just before sundown. Doug was at Upper State Lake. We found Doug's sign-in on State Peak (12,620') the next morning. There was a message so at least he was still talking to us. He had left the summit an hour before our arrival and was on his way over to do Marion. The ridge over there looked long and wretched. "Virtue has its own punishment" like they say. The three of us broke camp and started walking the 15 miles back to road-end. We all made it out on Sunday but only Bob was able to actually drive home that night. Mario had made it out ok as his car was gone, or else it was stolen. Later he wrote a letter apologizing for "deserting" us. We had a good trip but we all feel sorta bad about losing poor Mario.

After the SPS Central Committee had suggested a limit of 10 people on MILLS, Dale and I ventured forth to scout the mountain. I wouldn't have taken 5 souls up that crumbling chute. Instead, the 10 hearty and trusting participants followed me up a relatively solid class 3 and 3+ series of rock ledges to the right and behind that dreadful chute. The rock ledges are not obvious: about 70 ft. from the chalkstone that guards the entrance of the chute is a steep-faced granite alcove on the right side. Climbing up and to the right of the alcove brings one to the back of the steep granite wall and on to the ledges that terminate at the top of the chute, then a short easterly traverse, and on to the plateau. Good weather, lots of pictures, and then the same route back where we all rappelled down the chalkstone entrance. P.S. One independent climber who camped with us took a chute that led to the south end of the north ridge, and staying high to avoid the cliffs, made it to the top with only a few short 4th class moves.

ABBOT was an entirely different story. After the unexpected ease on Mills, we all felt confident as we left camp at 7 am heading for the "ill-defined ridge" just left of the snow couloir on the east face. The first chute was a conveyer belt of sheer hell, moving in all directions, showering rocks down on huddled climbers, and deceiving those who reached out for a "solid" handhold. A group of three climbers from the South Bay Sierra Club, led by Rich Livingston, joined us as we were setting up our first belay. The addition of another rope, we thought, would speed things up. But the condition of the route made it possible for only one climber at a time to negotiate a pitch. One more belay over a 3+ move and 4 climbers were headed for the top. But time was running out and I reluctantly had to abort the climb for the remaining participants - none of whom objected. As the last of the climbers was belayed down, the summit party appeared, exhausted but smiling. The last of the group made it back to camp about 7pm.

The next day we hiked out, dropped our packs above Box Lake, and hiked up a granite slab mound that headed for the highest of the black rock ribs that run down MORGAN #1. The rock was fairly solid and the group climbed it with ease to the ridge. We were on top by 12 noon with ominous dark clouds gaining strength. Back at the cars at 3:30 and dinner in Bishop. Thanks to Dave Heaney who was recruited as my assistant at the last minute.



FLORENCE PK

JULY 18-19

MINDLIN/KORBUT-WEBERG

A leisurely pace allowed our group of recent BMTG graduates to enjoy the flora and fauna of Mineral King. Despite the lack of rain and the unusually high temperatures this year, there was an abundance of wildflowers and greenery along the trail to Franklin Lakes. On Sunday a faster pace was established because one of the leaders had to be on a flight out of LAX at 9 p.m. The group members rose to the occasion and were up and down the peak and back to base camp by noon. Chewing as they packed, the group broke camp and were back to the cars in enough time to enable the leader to catch his plane. Congratulations to Rusty Dyer, Marchelle Brown, Marian Devney, Allen Ono, Bob Kock and Siegfried Heep, all of whom now have their first peak.

Five participants and the leaders barely made the scheduled boat at 9:00 am across Florence Lake. We leisurely prepared ourselves for the trip and proceeded towards Blaney Meadows. The steeper short cut to Sally Keyes, at about elevation 7,632, versus the John Muir trail was missed (not evident at either end) although no one particularly cared as we understand that the angle of incline is unattractive on that stretch of trail. The second short cut at about 7,665' is marked, heavily used and maintained. The day was clear and warm and we lunched at the second crossing of Sanger Creek, about one mile below the Sally Keyes Lakes. We decided to camp on the East side of Marie Lake, as the day was getting late versus going on to the Medley Lake area. In hind sight, this was a good decision as several of the Medley Lakes would fit the definition of frog ponds. From our vantage point at Marie Lake, we compared descriptions of the previous climbs to the topo and to what we could see and planned for our climb the following day. Sunday's route took us up Seven Gables towards the saddle between the main summit and the North summit, and we angled directly to the summit rather than go to the saddle. The summit block has a few minor third class moves and certainly provides gorgeous views from its inner Sierra vantage point. At this point, two members decided to go back to the cars for fear they would not make the last boat across Florence Lake, they were smart. Our route from Seven Gables to Gemini was to head directly South. There is a knife edge ridge South of the summit block of Seven Gables which is connected to the summit block area by a sloping v-shaped knife edge, which you can get at by dropping off the North side of the summit block, down about 20 feet and traversing to the southwest about 120 degrees. Once on the main knife edge ridge, it is a second class skree run down to the saddle area between Seven Gables and Gemini, where you may proceed towards the summit of Gemini in full view, you think. Gemini is a double summit peak and the higher summit is on the South, separated from the north summit by about 100 yards. At this point, two members of the party who had planned to stay, decided to go their separate ways, they were smart. The remaining trio then descended and proceeded for 20 miles, missing the last boat at Florence Lake and getting to their cars about 11:00 at night. My advice to future parties who want to make this trip is to give full consideration to making it a three day trip, as it would convert a typical SPS death march into an enjoyable weekend.

RED SLATE / RED AND WHITE

Sept 5-7, 1981

George Neuner

Eleven SPSers congregated early Saturday morning at the McGee Creek trailhead SW of Lake Crowley. The weather was ideal, typical for Labor Day in the high Sierra. The people-population was light considering the holiday weekend and no rangers were around to check out permit. We reached our base camp at Big McGee Lake shortly after lunch. The best campsites are on the benches above the lake on the NW side. Fishing in the lake was fair and provided relief from the standard freeze dried fare. A subgroup went on an exploration hike toward McGee Pass.

We arose early Sunday morning in order to do both peaks the same day. We did Red and White first, taking the obvious route up a large canyon SE of Big McGee Lake, up the east face to a saddle on the NE ridge, then following the ridge to the summit. We deposited a new SPS register on the summit and, after a snack break, returned to the saddle. We proceeded down the NW slope and had lunch and a swim at Red and White Lake. We continued cross country at the 10,800' level and picked up the Fish Creek Trail, which leads NE to McGee Pass. From the top of the pass, a climber's trail leads up the SE slope of Red Slate. We then returned to basecamp at Big McGee Lake via the main trail, arriving in time to catch a few more trout for dinner.

Monday morning was free time for fishing, swimming, sun bathing and leisurely exploring the McGee lake basin. After lunch, we packed back out down the McGee Creek trail to the cars. Having an extra day for this trip mad it much more enjoyable than the typical hectic SPS weekend.

The party spent the last half of Thursday night sleeping at the Taboose Pass Trail head on Taboose Creek. A standard ascent to the pass was made - departing from the trailhead at 7:00 A.M.; arriving at the pass at 2:30 P.M. Igor Mamedalin signed out and climbed Cardinal, up the scree chute, while the rest made their ways down the west side to excellent camping at Bench Lake. There was no "high cotton" but the "fish were jumpin", so, Ron Jones assembled his fly rod and promptly caught 4 nice trout for his supper. It is about 1 1/2 miles from Bench Lake back to the John Muir Trail; then about 3 miles south on the Muir trail to a point above Marjorie Lake. We left the trail there and proceeded east up a prominent ridge to a talus fan at the base of the west slope of Mt. Pinchot. A steep, loose scree slope led to the ridge a quarter mile west of the peak. Four were signing in at 11:30 - the leaders, Igor and Jim Hinkley -.

The little ridge connecting Pinchot and Mt. Wynne is only 2nd class - or low third - but all the loose, flakey stuff plus exposure makes it sort of "hairy". We lunched on Wynne where we placed the second of our new, cast aluminum cannisters - alas, too late for the Wynne register, which had been Marmotized. A new register is needed for Wynne.

Return to the fabulous Muir Trail was by way of the rocky, second class ridge to Pinchot pass. Thence via the Muir trail back to Bench Lake in time to relax and enjoy the super campsite - - - and in time for Ron to catch a 14 inch Brookie and a 10 inch rainbow for his supper. Several others "got away". Sunday morning, we were on the move at daybreak - 4 miles back up (1,000 ft) to Taboose Pass, where we left our packs and all but Stan Icen made the 1,800' climb of Striped Mtn. We went nearly to the Striped - Goodale saddle then up the talus slope of the pinnacles just to the north of Striped. Upon our return to the Pass (3 hours, 10 minutes) we had lunch and then a respectable 2 hours, 50 minutes descent to the cars. Still didn't get home til about 11:00 P.M. - - because we stopped at 2 Sisters plus one in Inyokern for the sumptuous and generous buffet.

Thanks to Ron Jones for assisting - and to the participants for making it a memorable and fun trip.

Answer to Riddle: Mountains

Lou B.

How Much Wire Would a Woodchuck Chuck?

The woodchucks of Sequoia National Park in California have grown tired of eating grass and flowers, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Also known as marmots or groundhogs, these varmints have switched their culinary tastes to the nonmetallic insides of cars.

"They have no trouble entering the engine compartment from under the car," says park official Paul Fodor. Their favorite snacks seem to be fan belts, radiator hoses, and electrical wiring.

This destructive munching has enraged and frustrated many of the park's visitors, who return from hiking the rugged trails of the High Sierra only to find their autos inoperative. When one Alfa Romeo owner turned the key in the ignition, the electrical system shorted and burned out. Another motorist, departing the park, stopped to see why his car was overheating and found a woodchuck sitting on the engine block beside a radiator hose that had been chewed through.

As a solution to this problem, park rangers have been trapping the woodchucks in the parking lots and banishing them to more remote areas of the park. The bait for the traps? Old radiator hoses, of course.

Q: What is large at the bottom, medium size in the middle, small at the top and has ears? Answer elsewhere in this issue.

August 1 thru 5, 1981...EVOLUTION AREA...Bob Hicks, Duane McRuer, Bill T. Russell

ECHO COL - On Saturday the three of us hiked over Echo Col and made camp at a sandy knoll between the Muir Trail and the small lakelet which is southeast of Helen Lake. We were not sure where the "true" col is but we used the notch on the left (east) flank of the black peaklet which is on the extreme right (west) of the "pass" area above Echo Lake. It was 50 ft of low 3rd class on the north, and especially with packs, 80 ft of high 3rd on the south.

BLACK GIANT - On Sunday we ascended the northwest slope of Black Giant and then descended the south slope into the basin that is northwest of McDuffie. Register: Container ok, nested tin cans; book: ok, 1/2 full.

MT McDUFFIE - Our route, in accord with various ECHO write-ups, was a traverse over numerous ribs and chutes on the west side of the north ridge of McDuffie at about 150' to 200' below the crest. About 200 yds north of McDuffie we climbed up a broad, shallow chute to the ridge crest and then went south along the crest to the summit itself. The final 100' of elevation is middle 3rd, the traverses and climb to the ridge is 2nd and easy 3rd. Register: Container: SC square box; book: 1959 journal, 1/3 full.

CHARYBDIS - We returned over the pass which is 1/2 mi. south of Black Giant, to the lake at 11760+ and then climbed Charybdis via the north ridge. We came first to a false summit and then went a short distance (30 yds) down and up along the ridge to the high point. Near the summit the climbing is middle 3rd. Register: Container: nested tin cans; book: 1961 - full, 1980 - new.

MT FISKE - On Monday we climbed Fiske from the south. We ascended the nose of the central southern ridge and found it to be 3rd cl. We descended into the basin that is SE of Fiske and east of our ascent route and found it to be a better route. We made camp just north of the unnamed lake between Wanda Lake and Sapphire Lake and had a leisurely afternoon. Register: Container: new SPS Al container; book: 1978 - 1/8 full.

MT HUXLEY - On Tuesday we climbed Huxley in accord with the Climbers Guide. It was 2nd to easy 3rd class, and we do not understand the last sentence in the guide that talks about needing a rope. From our camp the proper ascent chute looks as if it ends about 150 ft below the point on the summit skyline ridge where its slope changes markedly. The bearing straight up the ascent chute from our camp was 87°. Register: Container: old SC brass tube with cap that won't screw on; book: 1969 - 1/2 full, replacement container needed!

HAECKEL COL - Using information obtained from Gene Mauk, we came east over the col north of Mt Haeckel. To reach the col it was necessary to go to the northeast corner of Lk 11822 and then up a scree chute which led a bit west of north. We tried to ascend from further west but got into high 3rd to 4th terrain and decided to go back down to the lake. From the top of the chute we went over the easy slope to the ridge crest at a spot just left of a low rounded high point on the crest. This is about 100 yds northwest of the low spot in the pass. The descent on the north side was easy 3rd for 40 ft followed by 2nd. We camped at a beautiful sandy spot on the northwest side of the lake which is NE of the col at 12400'.

MT WALLACE - On Wednesday we climbed up a loose unstable scree slope to a notch in the east ridge of Haeckel. We then crossed the bowl that is north of Wallace and climbed Wallace. Register: Container: new SPS Al container; book: 1971 - full, 1976 - 1/8 full.

MT HAECKEL - We descended Wallace and traversed over to Haeckel, keeping about 100 ft below the crest of the ridge to the west. We climbed Haeckel via a system of easy 3rd ledges that leads right to the summit block area. We descended part way down our ascent route, then cut over to the notch in the east ridge, and thence back to our camp. We then went across the bench area below 12000' that is west of Hungry Packer Lake and following some ducks made a traverse down the slopes on the northwest side of the lake to the trail shown on the topo. We then hiked out to Lake Sabrina to end 5 splendid days of climbing. Register: Container: new SPS Al container; book: 1971.

Bill

The climb of this peak (originally recommended to us by Cuno Ranschau, who has climbed it twice) afforded a well worthwhile 3-day weekend in the Sierras. It wasn't scheduled for 3 days, but.....

Nine participants, including 5 SPS list finishers, backpacked to Lake Elinor (located in one of the more scenic and less used areas in the Palisades), where we were greeted by rumblings of thunder and a brief shower. Clearing followed, and a cool clear evening was enjoyed around the campfire. Sunday dawned clear as we headed for Scimitar Pass. From the pass we climbed southward along the Class 3 ridge under darkening skies to a point overlooking a prominent notch separating us from the main summit. Belays were used for descending on the east side in order to reach the notch and for the summit pitch itself, which starts at the notch. A strong cold wind and the new snow (which fell the previous night) made the climb considerably more difficult than normally would be the case. The new snow filled the network of cracks, which provide the foot and handholds for the climb of the otherwise remarkably clean, steeply-tilted plane surface leading to the summit area's west ridge, from which a short third-to-fourth class pitch leads to the summit. A couple of protection points were used by the climbing leader, Bill Sanders, who was assisted by Erick Schumacher. The summit was reached by six climbers. Neither Roper's or Smatko's guides are particularly helpful. Roper: "The traverse of the eleven pinnacles which make up this serrated ridge takes a long time, but its not particularly difficult (III, 5.5)." Andy's account only describes the Mendenhall's 1954 climb of three pinnacles ("some interesting fourth and fifth class pitches") that lay south of the high point we climbed.

A nicely placed block on the summit area's west ridge provides the anchor point for one of the most enjoyable rappels to be found--and it does take two 160' ropes for the upper section. We also rappelled down a short lower section as well. We managed to find a third class route back up to the point on the main ridge from which we had belayed down earlier. Fortunately, threatening thunderstorms held off until camp was reached. The six summit climbers elected to remain Sunday night (the others had departed earlier) due to intermittent thundershowers and the rough two mile, generally trailless section of talus and brush between Elinor Lake and the main trail. Thanks to intuitive planning, Ernie Tempelmeier was able to provision the rest of us with dinner and breakfast the next day from his kind largesse. The cars were reached Monday morning without incident. Except for a small fast party, this climb is recommended for 3 days (which incidentally would permit something else in the area to be climbed on the third day).

As to list status? Well, even though it is a fine challenging climb, why add yet another peak whose only credentials are that it is the only major named peak along the entire main crest of the Sierra not on the list! After all, nobody saw fit to climb it until 1969 (See Roper, Page 350) even though it had been recognized in Sierra Club publications since the early 1930's.

KETTLE DOME (9,446'), Sept. 26-27, 1981

Leaders: Gordon MacLeod
Erick Schumacher

Five participants made the long backpack from the roadhead near Wishon Dam to the first stream beyond Crown Creek on the Blue Canyon trail in perfect fall weather. A fine camp site can be found just west and above the stream crossing. On Sunday, Dick Agnos (who had previously climbed Kettle Dome with Andy Smatko) decided to climb Tehipite Dome instead, while the rest of us continued up the trail to the high point, whence we proceeded cross-country to the northeast side of Kettle Dome.

The climbing involves a short 3rd to 4th class step (3rd if you are an Erick Schumacher at 6'5" or 4th if you are "subhuman"), followed by a traverse on granitic slaps to two roped Class 4 pitches on the northeast face leading directly to the nearly flat summit area. We belayed on descent as well. Erick Schumacher led the roped pitches using slings where possible. Roper's and Smatko's guide books both list the "northeast slope" as Class 3. That "slope" is our "face". It is interesting to note that Andy Smatko used a rope on that climb mentioned earlier with Dick Agnos. We returned cross-country directly to our camp for the long backpack out to the car and a late arrival at home.

Kettle Dome is a far more interesting and challenging climb than Tehipite Dome, and although over 1200' higher, Kettle Dome's views don't compare with those from Tehipite because of the latter's vantage point overlooking the great valley of the Middle Fork of the Kings River.

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