

The Sierra



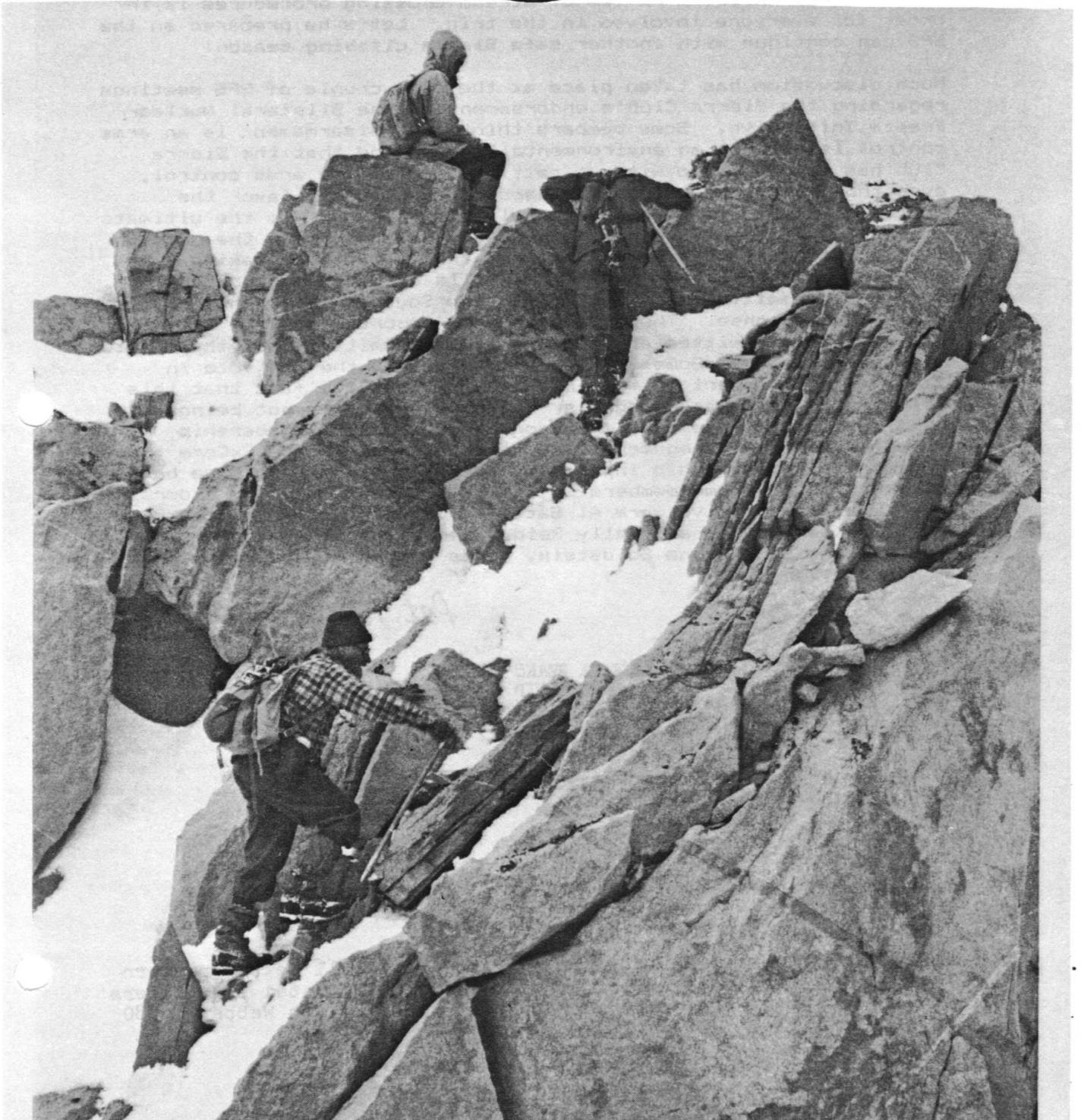
ECHO

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The Sierras have received extremely heavy snowfall this spring and the words of caution about stream crossings in the last ECHO are even more appropriate now. Expected run-off could possibly be torrential in some of the normally easy crossings, especially during June and July. The peaks to be climbed may only be second class but a hazardous stream crossing can turn the trip into fourth class difficulty. If a trip might encounter this problem, leaders should carry ropes for a belay and require participants to bring carabiners and webbing for assistance in moving along a static line. Also, a review of stream crossing procedures is in order for everyone involved in the trip. Let's be prepared so the SPS can continue with another safe Sierra climbing season!

Much discussion has taken place at the last couple of SPS meetings regarding the Sierra Club's endorsement of the Bilateral Nuclear Freeze Initiative. Some members think that disarmament is an arms control issue, not an environmental issue, and that the Sierra Club has enough to do without getting involved in arms control, even though many individual members may personally favor the Initiative. Others think that nuclear disarmament is the ultimate environmental issue. A poll of the SPS membership at the March meeting was more than 3 to 1 against the Sierra Club taking a position on the Freeze Initiative; polls of other area groups, sections, committees and letters in the Southern Sierran indicated a similar response. These results were reported to the Conservation Committee and the Executive Committee, but their vote was the opposite. Some SPS members felt that the 5-4 vote in favor of endorsement by the ExComm underlines the fact that this issue is divisive and suggests that Club policy is not being set by a consensus of members. Subsequently, the SPS membership directed the SPS Management Committee to relay to the ExComm the opinion that membership input on this issue appears to have been disregarded. ExComm members in favor of the Sierra Club endorsing the Freeze Initiative were Al Sattler, Gene Andreasen, Art Brown, Joan Dickson-Smith, and Sally Reid. Members against the endorsement were Lynne Goldstein, Keats Hayden, Jim Dodson, and How Bailey.

Pat Holliman

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
MAY 12, 1982

Mountaineers List
Dave Heaney
Maris Valkass

New Echo Subscribers
Stan Gelb
Beth Henry
Alison Mealy

New Emblem Holder
Ron Hudson #426

COVER PHOTO: Rock, greatly enhanced with snow, will be the pattern for the next few months of climbing as here illustrated by climbers at the summit of Mt. Perkins. Picture captured by Ron Webber, 1980

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Five Years Ago in the SPS

Five new Senior Emblem holders (nos. 24-28) were added in May and June of 1977: Vicky Hoover, Dave Campbell, R.J. Secor, Frank Meyers and Mike Risley. In addition there were four new emblem holders: George Smith, Jon Hardy, Chris Libby and Don Croley. Cuno Ranschau injured his foot at the start of his lead into the Palisades area so Dick Banner led six up Winchell, 12 up T Bolt, and 10 on North Pal on June 4-6. Dick, in May, had led 8 persons on climbs of Cardinal, Stripped & Goodale during electrical storms. Merridee and Dennis Lantz led 14 on a snow climb of Ritter & Banner. Memorial Day weekend climbs included Bill T. and George Smith leading 20 to Tehipite Dome and Spanish Mtn; Harry McKellop and Bill Bradley leading Ritter. Jerry Keating and Gordon McLeod led a June exploratory to Valentine and Olympian.

Ten Years Ago

1972 was the first year the SPS operated on a reservation system. Plans at the time were for a limit of 25 for trips into National Forests, 15 into National Parks. Chairman Horace Ory also outlined the Bighorn Zoological closeures for Mt. Williamson and University Col. The Memorial Day trip to Coyote and Angora was led by Paul Lipsohn and Bob Herlihy with 25 participants. Paul Lipsohn and Eric Schumaker were snowed out of LeConte and successfully substituted Owens and Spanish Needle. Jerry Keating, Elton Fletcher and John Robinson led 15 into the Center Basin. New emblem holders were Ron Barnes, Dick Ramirez, Dave Hammond and Vi Grasso. New members included Walt Whisman, Ted and Anna Lou Pinson and Chuck Stein.

Twenty Years Ago

A 21 page record sized Echo for May-June 1962 reported that Walt Wheelock had just edited and published Close Ups of the High Sierra by Norman Clyde. Chuck Miller led 18 on a May snow climb of San Joaquin and Two Teats from the June Lake loop. Bud Bingham led 24 on a successful mixed snow and rock climb of Mt. Williamson. John Robinson led 33 up Agassiz and Goode. Among the new members were Paul Nelson, Phil Clayton, Neko Colevins and Dick Lee. Bill Clifton became the 58th emblem holder but there were no list finishers until 1964 when Andy Smatko became the first.

--Ron Jones

Eleven signed in at the Mono Meadows trailhead for this relaxed three day climb of two worthy mountaineer's peaks. We packed in to the point where the Mono Meadows trail crosses the Clark Fork, just north of point 7232 where we camped for two nights. The hot, dry weather and the presumption of giardia infested waters must have made canned beverages popular because two of the party returned to the roadhead for more on the first day.

The second day eight of us climbed Clark by a route that almost circumnavigated the peak. We climbed to the NW ridge where we looked at the really steep north face and fourth class NW ridge, and backed off. We dropped down 500 feet and traversed south to the south ridge, which we crossed, traversed north and up to the summit. The easiest route zig-zags up just east of the NE ridge and avoids the airy step across just south of the summit. This was the route we descended, traversed south, crossed the S ridge and dropped down towards our camp following faint trails along the Clark fork. We had dinner and more beverages around the campfire where wit, imagination, and riposte held free reign.

On Sunday we backpacked $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles down the Mono Meadows trail where we dropped our packs and headed NW towards the southerly notch between the three domed Starr King. From the notch we walked over the middle dome and then sorted equipment for the Starr. This climb was made in two roped pitches with the leader (a certified tautologist) leading. George Davis and Lance Dixon ably belayed this pitch for the others while I set up a fixed-rope on the second pitch so that the party could walk up using a prussik for security.

The summit provided great views of half dome, a juggling show, pink bubbly to celebrate Mary McMannes' Senior Emblem, and artichoke hearts. A new register was placed with the register dating from 1937 which reads like a short history of American Mountaineering. We rapped off and made the long hike back to Mono Meadows as the exhilaration of our peak moments slowly faded. My thanks to everyone for their aid in making the trip a pleasure to lead. Dave Perkins

A number of changes have already occurred to trips that will be appearing in the Summer Schedule. These changes are:

1. Trip to Keith, Junction and Tyndall changed to, date the same:

JULY 10-12 SAT-MON SIERRA PEAKS

M: Mallory (13,850'), LeConte (13,960'), Corcoran (13,760'): Backpack 3500', 4-5 mi to Meysan Lake Sat. Long day Sun (6000's ami) for Mallory, LeConte, Corcoran (optional). Out on Mon. Ice axe and conditioning necessary for this moderately strenuous trip. Send SASE with conditioning and experience to Ron by 6/16 or to Art after 6/16. Leader: RON HUDSON. Asst: ART BLAUVELT.

2. Trip of July 17-18 to Bear Creek Spire has a change in leaders. Should be described as:

JULY 17-18 SAT-SUN SIERRA PEAKS

M: Bear Creek Spire (13,713'), Mt. Dade (13,600'): Moderate to strenuous trip, backpack to Dade Lake, dayhike both peaks. Limited to 10. Send SASE, resume of recent experience and conditioning to Sherry. Leader: SHERRY HARSH. Asst: RON JONES

3. Trip to Russell and Carillon on the Schedule is shown as August 28-29. It has been moved to September 11-12.
4. Labor Day trip of 4-6 to Inconsolable has been cancelled.
5. Trip to Darwin and Mandel shown in the schedule for Sept. 10-12 has been moved to Sept. 17-20.

MT. HUMPHREYS

Bob Hartunian
August 8, 9, 1981

It was advertised as a long hard backpack, but the walk into Mt. Humphreys was straightforward and relatively easy. When I scouted the route in June, snow cover had made the travel slow and considerably more difficult. Early August was a fine, clear time for the ascent of this emblem peak.

As my permit was limited to 8 climbers, the additional 4 people who came along obtained permission independently, and we began the climb with an even dozen. From the eastern most and highest lake at the base of Humphreys, the mountain appears close and relatively quick to ascend. It was not!

Our 7:00 AM route led up talus slopes at the western end of the lake into a short, steep chute of loose junk. The chute heads northwest, then makes a right turn into the main, northbound chute that extends up 1,000 feet to the base of the summit notch. The junk rock diminished as we approached the notch, changing from dark to light in color as we ascended. Climbing to this point is Class 2 or easy 3 in spots.

From the notch, the summit is the right hand peak. The route stays on the south face of the peak, following natural cracks until the face becomes more vertical. By moving right 75 feet, a straightforward route leads up around the right hand side of a short rib. Belays were setup to protect each climber. It required 1½ hours to bring everyone up from the notch to the summit.

Mt. Humphreys has a spectacular, unobstructed view of everything. Norman Clyde's signature is included several times in the old register, which is slowly falling apart. The southern lakes appeared as blue holes in the grey earth. We could have spent hours lounging on top.

Two 75 foot series-rappels were used on descent. The anchors were fixed pins backed up with chocks. By having everyone prefitted with the proper equipment, the rappels went fast and smooth.

It is important to memorize the descent route on the way up as side chutes are plentiful and deceiving. We returned to camp by 2:30 PM and packed out to the cars an hour later. Ernie Templemeier, Kelly Edwards and I couldn't resist a quick dip in the lake before the hike out.

Trips like this one are successful because of the unselfish, generous help of capable climbers. Maris Valkis and Dick Kutsch were invaluable in supervising the descent rappels. Thanks gentlemen!

We had a four BMT climbers who performed very well. I firmly believe that capable beginners should not be excluded from emblem peaks. Positive experience is gained by climbing hard peaks, safely.

Mt. Humphreys is a fine peak and we climbed it with a dozen fine people.

Bob

UNIVERSITY, INDEPENDENCE Aug 15-16 Jackie Van Dalsem and Art Blauvelt

This trip was full two weeks after the schedule was out with 25 people allowed on the permit into Robinson Lake. Everyone on the waiting list was able to participate after a few cancellations. A popular trip!

7:30 am was a reasonable meeting hour with plenty of time to set up camp at Robinson Lake and climb Independence in the early afternoon - a long tedious slog from the lake, northward over a few gulleys and up onto a saddle south of the peak. The leader opted for a 100 ft east side descent and up a gully to the top rather than the convoluted class 3+ ridge. Sorry, Chuck Stein. Next time, Kathy Price.

An "obvious" chute close to the top for the climb down almost took us back to Onion Valley. (The leader didn't heed the assistant's advice to cut across southward soon enough to get in closer to the lake.) But we picked up the trail to the lake and were soon back in camp for happy hour and Adrienne Knute's fish stories, How Bailey's China tales, and Ron Jones' African dream safari. Any good Sierran adventures? No dirty jokes? And this was an SPS happy hour?

Off at 6:30 am Sunday for University. A few newcomers got initiated into SPS prompt departures as they were heard mumbling expletives in the distance trying to catch up. Ice axes and crampons were taken since snow was spotted from Independence the day before. But the gear was not necessary. The pass was snow free and we scrambled up over scree and loose rock. Ug! Looked back down and saw Joe Wankum casually walking up the miserable stuff with hands folded across his chest while most everyone else was on all fours. sigh!

Up to the top of the pass, across a few short rock outcroppings and onto the scree backside of University for a "one step forward, two backward" long haul towards the summit. This was the qualifying peak for five newcomers: Mae Stees, Steve King, Terri Hanson, Susan Fuller, and Bob Howells. Congradulations! And the second time in 40 years for How Bailey. Great!

Back down to camp, pack/out, and some of us (Chuck Stein, Manuel Molina, Kathy Bowman, and yours truly) hurried off to feast at the Merry-Go-Round before heading back to climb Clarence King on Monday. JVD

MT. LANGLEY, Sept. 5-7, 1981

Jerry Keating/Walt Whisman

The 21 participants on this joint SPS-Backpacking trip had a choice between two loops starting Saturday at the end of Horseshoe Meadow Road above Lone Pine. Eleven persons opted to go over Cottonwood Pass, then N along the Pacific Crest Trail to a first-night camp on the stream flowing down from Army Pass. The other participants chose to go to the NW end of Horseshoe Meadow, then mostly cross-country past the South Fork Lakes to Cottonwood Lake No. 3.

On the second day, all the PCT travelers and six of the CL No. 3 group met at Old Army Pass to begin the march up Mt. Langley (14,042'). All but one succeeded. Two persons also climbed Cirque Pk. (12,900') from Army Pass.

Everyone camped together that night at CL No. 3, and most were awakened after 1 a.m. by a thunderstorm that moistened the sleeping area with rain and doused some nearby slopes with heavy hail.

Monday (Labor Day) dawned clear, but ominous clouds began to form shortly after breakfast. So all 21 participants headed for the cars via the Cottonwood Lakes and Army Pass trails, thereby completing their respective loops.

Thanks to How Bailey for volunteering to lead the Cottonwood Pass-PCT segment of the trip.

RED SLATE, RED AND WHITE

SEPT. 19-20, 1981

P. HOLLEMAN, S. SULLIVAN

Thirteen people gathered at the McGee Creek roadhead at 7:30 a.m. only to discover that it was the first day of deer hunting season. Suspicions of abnormal activity had already been aroused during the night when a very long mule train with accompanying party members and noise came through the parking lot at 3:00 a.m. However, the backpack to Big McGee Lake was memorable not for the numerous rifle shots because the hunters seemed to be in the side canyons, but for the beauty of the golden aspens. The extraordinary fall color makes September an outstanding time of the year for a climb in this area.

Bob Hicks excellent 1980 write-up of the trail clarifies the 2 stream crossings. The first is over a log with a nylon rope, but the second is a little trickier to find. About 3 miles from the roadhead the trail crosses a boulder field with ducks leading back to the stream and a log crossing.

Arriving at a spacious campsite to the west of Big McGee Lake by 11:00 a.m., we set a 12:00 N. departure time for Red Slate. A good trail goes to McGee Pass and from there it is an easy walk to the peak. The fact that Red Slate is a Mountaineer's Peak was widely discussed with unanimous disapproval. Back in camp at 4:00 p.m., we started happy hour early with the assistance of Ron Jones's usual 1/2 gal. of good cheer. The leader decided that a campfire was ecologically unsound in this fragile area which overuse has already damaged. Our early bedtime was rudely interrupted by the noise of one of the biggest rockfalls that anyone in the group had ever experienced. Sparks flew in the night as rocks bounced off the cliffs across the lake.

Sunday at 7:15 a.m. we started for Red and White. A trail that goes to Hopkins Pass proceeds most of the way to the basin east of the peak, and from there a wide chute leads part of the way to the summit which is farther back to the west. We climbed on 3rd class rock on either side of the chute to try to avoid a lot of loose rock. The summit was reached about 10:00 a.m. and after enjoying the view we descended by the same route. Back in camp by 11:30, we packed out to the cars for a late lunch at the Copper Kettle in Bishop. Just below Big McGee Lake hunters were preparing a dead buck to be carried out by mule. Clear sunny skies both days instead of the wet windy weather that had been forecast helped make a truly enjoyable weekend. Other participants were Igor Mamedalin, Eric Abbott, Kevin Sullivan, Bob and Ella Hoselton, Ralph Johnson, Jackie Van Dalsem, Adrienne Knute, Mark Goebel and Gerry Holleman.

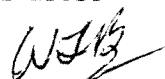
The Kern Plateau (everything south of Mt. Langley) is a joy to hike in late September. There were five of us who showed up at the Roadend Campground at the end of the Horseshoe Meadow Road Saturday morning to sample it. The very good trail begins as a continuation of the partially paved road, beneath tall pines and, as you would expect, on an upgrade. It was cool there at 9,400 feet. Shortly, a major trail junction with good signs was encountered. A bit later, at 10,000 feet we struck the new Pacific Crest Trail which is not on the Topo and is on the Forest Service maps as-----"Proposed" and the "proposed" does not follow exactly the "actual" route of the PCT. Following the PCT south, we dropped through timber to the southwest end of Diaz Meadow where we could see water though we did not actually cross any. Here is a good spot to leave the PCT and strike directly for the saddle on the west side and adjacent to Muah Mountain. We did not leave the trail but stayed on it, hoping that it would approach the mountain - but it never does. It skirts and contours around the west base of the mountain. Eventually we saw this and climbed, with packs, the west ridge to the aforementioned saddle. Here we left packs and walked up to the peak which is fronted by two false summits and is class 2.

Stan Icen left the group after lunch and returned to Pasadena to grade papers. The four remaining ones set out to do the apparent six plus miles to Death Canyon, with an early cocktail hour firmly in mind. We crossed the west end of Ash meadow where there was water - also cows - and rejoined the PCT. But the PCT winds, snakelike, interminably down a ridge at about a 1% - 2% grade for a good ten miles. It is fine well-timbered country abounding with good - though dry - camping sites with scenery.

The water at Death Canyon Creek was stagnant, but Bill discovered a fine spring 1/4 mile up the canyon, issuing from large rocks on the east side of the stream. Sunday morning was cool and pleasant. The map shows Cartago Peak exactly at 90° from the campsite (trees where trail crosses creek) but that direct route entailed climbing a steep slope through huge boulders, so at 7:30 we took an obvious, lower-angled couloir through sparse manzanita to the northeast, climbing to a saddle, then angling up across the back side of the mountain toward the east south east. An hour of this boulder-hopping saw us on a broad sandy plateau amidst heavy timber with numerous rocky pinacles protruding. Bob Emerick climbed one of these and reported that "The Peak" was less than a half mile east of where we were - the next to last prominent peak on the south end of a jagged ridge with 6 or 7 lesser peaks on it.

We made our way, still in heavy timber, to the base of the peak and climbed 80 feet over class two rocks to a chute 40 feet below the top. A bit of 3rd class ledge and there we were, astride the summit blocks on the elusive Cartago. Barbara Reber didn't remember the climb being that difficult:

The toughest part of the trip was the descent from Cartago east, through thick brush at times, avoiding canyons which tried to funnel us into Cartago Creek canyon, and fighting the steadily rising temperatures as we lost elevation from the 10,539' Cartago to the 4,000' edge of the L A aquaduct. We learned that you can get sandy water from the aquaduct by tying (securely) a string around the neck of a wide-mouth litre bottle and letting it down into the swiftly flowing water. The final ridge delivered us to the road approximately one mile north of where we had left Barbara's vehicle on Friday night, so we walked (staggered) to the car and with a small amount of pushing, extricated it from the sand and were out by 4:30. The car shuttle was then completed and we arranged to stop and eat at Cinco Service near Jawbone Canyon to sample some Mexican food, but we arrived there at 5 minutes after 9 P. M. to find that they close at 9:00 en punto.



Sept. 11-13

Tower Peak

Walt Kabler
Mary McMannes

One would assume that the opportunity to get an "easy" mountaineers peak in this day of list consciousness would attract a large number of participants. However, only three persons left the LA area to try for the peak when the actual time arrived. The trip wasn't cancelled because a couple were to meet the trip while on vacation and couldn't be contacted. Therefore, so as not to leave them at the roadhead wondering what had happened; Larry Machleder, Don Hudson, and Dave Hammond went. Needless to say the couple were "no-shows".

We hiked to Tower Lake on Friday amid overcast and occasional sprinkles, and started for Tower early the second day. After walking around the mountain to definitely ascertain that there was no "Tower" lurking behind the ridge; that Tower is truly misnamed, and there is really only one easy chute, we reached the summit at noon. There David Hammond celebrated his ** SENIOR EMBLEM ** on his hundredth peak. Who would have credited him with being that well organized?

The incoming weather forced us off the mountain soon and we returned to Tower Lake amid hail, driving rain, and thunder and lightning. All thoughts of picking up some of the 16 miles back to the trailhead had to be abandoned.

It rained all afternoon and during the night too. The outlook was equally gloomy the next morning. However with an early start and rapid pace we managed to get back to the vehicle before the full force of the afternoon storm hit.

The concensus was that we were glad to get the peak out of the way before gas goes to \$3.00 per gallon.

Larry Machleder

MIDDLE PALISADE

Sept 26-27, 1981

Nancy Gordon and Fred Camphausen

We couldn't have asked for nicer weather as eleven climbers started up the South Fork Trail to Finger Lake. Since Finger Lake was our only goal Saturday, we didn't leave until 0900 and traveled at a leisurely pace; yet we still arrived at our campsite in time for lunch. The afternoon was spent relaxing and visiting.

On Sunday, however, our schedule was full. Although there were a few complaints about the 0600 start for the peak, we did manage to leave at dawn for the class 3 East Face route of Middle Palisade. Since every one brought crampons with them, we opted to climb the right-hand (north) glacier to the top of the moraine. At the moraine, we crossed-over to the left-hand (south) glacier which put us in very good position for the ledge that leads up the buttress on the right. We then followed the standard route up the broad couloir. By staying close together, we managed to climb the chute unharmed by loose rock. Our descent was made in two groups, one leaving thirty minutes before the next group. The plan worked well for the first thirty minutes until it was realized that another group was climbing up the chute. It seemed like we stood waiting for the ascending group for ages, but in actuality it was about forty minutes. The three groups totaling sixteen climbers negotiated the chute without incident by waiting, varying routes, and being extremely cautious. We descended the glacier on the left-hand (south) side.

Our hike out was very pleasant because of the marvelous weather, plenty of daylight, and the fact that all eleven climbers had successfully climbed the peak. Participants were Jay Anthony, Dennis Baker, Fred Camphausen, Tome Casacky, Nancy Gordon, Hirsh Kolp, Laura Leventhal, Kent Quinn, Dave Ricards, Diane Rosentreter, & Vic Wong.

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 Slaninko, 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 **so 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 reascend 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.

Mt. Conness(12,590')

Oct. 31, 1981

Jones/Clark

Twelve climbers showed up at Nicely's Coffee Shop in Lee Vining for the scheduled climb of Mt. Conness. Obvious among the missing were Elton, Pat and Larry Fletcher of Lodi who couldn't make it across snow-closed Tioga Pass. The Saddlebag Lake road was closed to us because of snow so we elected to try for Lee Vining Peak (11,691') or perhaps, with luck, Mt. Warren (12,327').

We parked our cars at about 7700 feet on the dirt road leading north from the Lee Vining Ranger Station. Six and a half miles later we reached the youth camp and mine at the end of the road (9600'). The snow grew deeper for the eight of us who decided to push on for Lee Vining Peak until finally at near 11,000 feet in three foot drifts and with time running out we decided to turn back. Lee Vining and Warren would be a good climb via this route.

The DPS campfire that evening was held near Glass Mountain, at 8000', where Halloween was celebrated and various alcoholic spirits were called upon to exorcise the goblins. Sue Wyman provided the best guitar/singing campfire I have attended. The DPS Glass Mountain was climbed by all 12 trip members the next day on a snow covered 2800' gain snow climb. My thanks to Marlin Clark who again assisted me so ably and to a fine group of climbers who added to the leader's pleasure.

--Ron Jones

MTS. WHITNEY, HITCHCOCK, CHAMBERLIN and NEWCOMB 9/1-2/81 Ron Jones

Krista Knute had a two day permit for Mt. Whitney in order to help her 77-year old grandfather, Francis Line - a travel cinematographer, on his first climb of Whitney en-route to future qualification to join the SPS. (Our oldest new member?) I used the permit to bag two new peaks missing from my list (#229-30 I think). These peaks haven't been written up from the Whitney Trailcrest and they would make a very good two day weekend for future trips.

I started out the night of 8/31 by hiking up to Whitney Trail Camp. The next day I climbed up to Trailcrest, dropped my pack and hiked to my fifth ascent of Whitney. Back at Trailcrest I climbed Discovery Pinnacle, 13680 +; Pt 13360 + (climbed by Ed Lane in 1969) and backpacked across the Hitchcock ridge to Mt. Hitchcock. As Cuno described in ECHO #25-4, "it's not that good...a constant boulder whack". Far better that one should descend quickly from Trailcrest by easy sandy slopes to Upper Crabtree Lake, drop the pack and climb the 1800 feet to Hitchcock direct. Returning to Upper Crabtree I had lunch and then gained the Chamberlin-Newcomb ridge to the south. I used the obvious steep boulder chute to the west of Mt. Chamberlin, 12320 +, although one could also climb up a series of easier ledges to a saddle, ≈ 13000 ft, north-west of Mt. Newcomb. Both peaks are climbed from the rocky class two ridge, although its not hard to find some class three bouldering. I could find no register on Mt. Chamberlin. A descent back to Upper Crabtree can be made by either route. The second day was spent on the 2100 ft climb up the sandy slopes to Trailcrest and out to the cars. With a Saturday morning start and by passing Whitney, Discovery Pinnacle et al, this would make a good 3 peak, two day weekend.

Meanwhile Krista had successfully "guided" her grandfather up Mt. Whitney, nearly 2500 ft higher than he had ever climbed before. On the return Krista took time out for her third ascent of Mt. Muir. Everyone was back at the cars by about 5:00 pm. - RON

ICE CLIMBING SEMINAR, March 20-21 1982 Van Dalsem/Talbott

The first SPS ice climbing seminar was filled 4 months before the trip and we could have filled a bus with applicants, but all who sent 2 SASE's before Jan 1 got on the trip. It got off to a poor start. Leader forgot snow shoes & spent 30 minutes backtracking for them, then, half way thru the S.F. Valley remembered CRAMPONS. Another hour plus going back. Got to use that check list. Wakeup at the Leevining powerhouse saw most thermometers reading 14°, but one read 3°!! We finally got going some time after 7 A.M. and trudged up an hour or so & shoveled out tent pads in the canyon. Next year we'll day bag it each day. Those on skis all floundered on the way in except the Chairman of the Snow Touring Com., who demonstrated the Telemark Fall and Over-the-Shoulder Ski Carry on the way out, as snowshoes outperformed skis again. Dale & Mike Andre led parallel lines up the Middle Wall, which was 75° badly fracturing water ice, about a month past optimum condition. Mike was on the last tough move, over a verticle bulge, when the bulge scabbed off & he peeled off in a 20-30 ft fall that lifted his belayer, Emmanuel Molina, off the ground. Mike's well-placed top screw, a Chouinard, held, but bent 90°, as Mike suffered little more than a bruised ego - but it did bum out a lot of the spectators!

Several tried to follow on the one completed route, but had to be lowered. Some did manage the easier RIGHT WALL, but most went back to basics and practiced techniques on the 45° bulges below the routes, as there was general confusion. Sunday dawned beautifully, but it was 9° F. The good news was that it was +9. We were a bit better organized as we had as many as 3 top roped routes going on the right wall and people got some good technique work on the bulges. Ron Hudson climbed a fine, difficult line on the Middle Wall, which was the toughest line done all weekend. After 4 hours of climbing, most of the 20 participants (only 3 of us had ever climbed any ice before) had done most of what they wanted to try, so we pulled the ropes, sorted out all the gear, and broke camp, getting on the road before 3 PM for the 350 mile drive home. Most enjoyed their first exposure to ice climbing and several were hooked, as we all got a chance to try a great variety of tools & techniques. Next year, we plan to run at least two of these sessions and we'll try to be a bit better organized! - Dale V.

STANFORD & MORGAN #2

Sept. 26-27

Duane McRuer, Bob Hicks

Early Sat. morning in the Pine Grove Campground found Bill T. Russell Dick Akawie and the leaders semi-sleepless (noisy neighbors and Coleman moons) and cold! No question, the summer was over. A group of 13 assembled at the trail head to Hilton Lakes (down from 15 plus 5 stand-bys). The participants were notified that failure to confirm removed them from the trip. That approach is recommended. The trail contours over a ridge through aspen, now golden colored, and pines. Gain to the ridge top a mere 500'. We dropped down a few hundred feet to a trail junction, R to Davis Lk. and L to Hilton #4. The left fork was chosen and we were in camp at the lake inlet by 10:00.

All but one left for Stanford shortly, following an occasionally faint trail on the E side of the stream. Class 2 to the summit using a chute on the E side of the cirque below the peak. After one false summit we arrived at the real one to the north. Jackie Van Dalsem donated a small notebook to put in the bandaaid can. Back in camp by 5:00 for supper and a good campfire.

Sunday morning we broke camp and packed back to the Davis Lk. trail junction where packs were stashed. Will Holliday stayed behind at the lake to fish (no luck). Left the trail by crossing the inlet Davis Lk. and Hilton #2. Steep contour up a wooded slope, across a high ridge and on to the slope leading to the summit of Morgan. Mixed sand and skree and one patch of snow on the way to the peak. Eleven made it. Nesting cans with a good register on top. Fast going back down to the lake and then picked up the trail. Beautiful campsites at the upper end of Davis Lk. No people in sight at this time of the year.

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