

# The Sierra



# ECHO

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FROM THE CHAIR

AUGUST 1982

Bylaws of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club are currently undergoing revision because of a change in California law regarding not-for-profit corporations. Since this also affects SPS Bylaws, a committee has been formed to revise and bring our Bylaws into compliance. The very knowledgeable members of this committee are three former chairmen of SPS: Bill Bradley, Duane McRuer and Doug Mantle. Bill is also the SPS Council Representative and is coordinating this effort with the Chapter Council. As the revisions are progressing, minor changes appear to be necessary since SPS Bylaws already meet most of the requirements. A few amendments should bring them into compliance. If work proceeds on schedule, the new Bylaws will be on the October ballot for a membership vote. According to the current SPS Bylaws, a two-thirds majority of the active members submitting written ballots must approve any changes.

Plans for the annual SPS Banquet are taking shape. This year, the banquet will be held at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello which is near the intersection of the Pomona and Long Beach freeways. Our banquet speaker will be Rick Ridgeway who was one of the first Americans to ascend K2. You've probably all seen his fine program on that memorable climb. He will present "Antarctica: The Forbidden Plateau", a program about skiing, climbing, and rubber-boating in Antarctica, and it should be an outstanding show. Be sure to reserve December 8 and come to the Banquet!

*Pat Holleman*

SEPT 24-30      FRI- THU      SIERRA PEAKS

M: Kings-Kern Divide plus Junction, Tyndall. Plus optional E trip to Thunder (and Table if time permits) to be led by Cuno. Day 1 - Pothole Lake; D2 - Junction and L. So. America; D3 - Stanford, Ericsson; D4 - Thunder and maybe Table, D5 - Jordon, Genevra, and to Shepherd Pass; D6 - Tyndall and out. We have an extra day for the unforeseen. Limit 8. Leader: JIM ROBERTS, Asst: CUNO RANSCHAU. After July 26, send sase to: Jim Roberts, 937 E. California #11, Pasadena, CA 91106. 792-2812 or 395-5705.

FREE SHOWS - (Cheap Thrills)

The Sport Chalet, 920 Foothill Bl., La Canada (790-2717) presents a series of free slide show/lectures that will be held evenings in the store, appr. 7:00PM. As of now, the program will be:

July 16, Jeff Lowe on severe hard rock & ice in the Karakoram and China  
Aug. 18, Greg Thomsen (partner, Wilderness Experience) climbing in China, Tibet  
Sept. 23, Norman Kingsley on Alps, Alaskan, Can. Rockies, Himalayan ice  
Oct. to be announced - Lou Whittaker on Everest from the Tibet side  
Call store first to ascertain exact "show times".

Cover photo

The summit of Mt. Dana is the setting for the celebration of Virgil Talbott's emblem status. Other satisfied summiteers include Lance Dixon (president of the summit jugglers club), Rob Mauk, Gene Mauk, and Roland Pesante. See trip write-up elsewhere in this issue.

When the snow at the Baldy bowl melted away, the ice axe instruction was relocated to San Gorgonio below Dollar Lake. With everyone prepared for snow camping, we carried our packs up the road from Jenks Lake to a level camp area below Dollar Lake. The slopes between camp and Dollar Lake were clear of trees, wide, and had enough range of inclinations to accommodate all levels of skills. It was generally agreed that, for a two day practice, this area was superior to other local practice locations.

Saturday afternoon was spent reviewing basic arresting, belaying, and rope handling techniques. The leader introduced some skills probably considered controversial by the Sierra Club for the participants to evaluate for themselves such as replacing the wrist loop with a tether, holding the ice axe with the pick facing forward, etc.

Sunday was spent completing sign-offs for different lists, after which instructors taught individual skills of crevasse pulley rescue, tying off a fallen climber, and dynamic boot axe belay. The leader has always felt that the boot axe belay is so uncomfortable to use as a static belay in a real situation that it poses a danger to the climber and belayer. However, with some forethought, the boot axe belay can be used to dynamically stop a falling climber. We practiced different methods that the second climber could hold the rope, how to dynamically get into the boot axe belay position, and how effective the belay was in various snow conditions. Given that the belayer could set up quick enough, the dynamic boot axe belay could stop a person running down the hill with as little as 12 inches of the ice axe shaft in the snow. Before we could put all of the skills together into one worst case scenario, it was time to leave. We will continue the experimentation next winter.

Thanks to Pat and Gerry Holleman, Roberto Hartunian, and Jackie Van Dalsem for instructing and to Jay Suehiro for buying beer.

**WHORL MOUNTAIN: A CIRCUITOUS ROUTE 19 July 1980 R. J. Secor**

Whorl Mountain is a confusing maze of chutes, ridges, notches, and summits. Most available route descriptions state that the middle peak is the high point, attainable by a class 4 route, and leave the rest of the adventure to the climber. Mike and Suzie Wilkinson have provided a detailed route description in the July 1976 Echo to allow one to gain the summit with reasonable certainty. But the Wilkinson route involves a short class 4 pitch around a chockstone. I found the following route slightly easier, but much longer.

From Spiller Creek, I climbed the chute leading to the saddle between the middle and southern peaks of Whorl. Just below the saddle, I traversed north across three gullies to the chockstone which marks the 4th class section of the Wilkinson route. Since I was alone (Owen Maloy remained at Horse Creek Pass, in support) I wasn't too keen on trying the pitch on my own. I returned to the second gully and climbed to the top of the south ridge, chopping steps in the hard snow just below the crest. I then traversed across the west face of the middle peak of Whorl on a system of ledges. This ended in a gully which led to the notch immediately north of the middle summit. From the notch, the climb to the summit was an easy scramble. This route took three hours from the eastern base of the peak, and I encountered nothing harder than class 3. It would be easier to approach the mountain from the west, but this is beyond the reach of most weekend peakbaggers. Since it was late, I descended the Wilkinson route with a rappel over the chockstone.

For those who wish to avoid carrying ropes, slings, carabiners and other impedimenta, this seems to be a preferable, though longer alternative.

10 Northern Peaks...July 15 thru 18, 1981 ..... Bill T. Russell

I enjoyed climbing 10 peaks in the Tahoe region recently. Route instructions from the ECHO helped me and to help others I offer the following notes. I have heard rumors of an informal milestone recognition called The Master Emblem which is roughly half way between the Senior and List Finisher recognitions. It is said to require 25 mountaineers peaks, 4 peaks in each geographical area and 175 peaks total. Of course the true mountaineering spirit is disinterested in such recognition but as for me, I passed that milestone on this trip.

CASTLE PK - I drove the very poor road that goes north from the freeway exit at Boreal Ridge just west of Donner Summit on I-80. I got to 1/4 mi. of the road end in my car where I slept Tuesday night. Wednesday morning I climbed the peak in 2 hrs. r.t. Register: New book--needs a better container.

ENGLISH MTN - I climbed it by the route everyone recommends which is up the southeast ridge from the small meadow 0.3 mi. northwest of Tollhouse Lake. As an approach, I recommend the road that goes by the west side of Jackson Meadow Reservoir. The most useful driving map is the Tahoe National Forest map. My 1977 auto club map, Lake Tahoe Region, is a bit out of date as is the topo. Register: None.

MT LOLA - I used the route described by Campy in the July '79 ECHO. It is a logging road which leaves the old gravel/dirt Hennes Pass Road, not the new paved logging road, which parallels it, about 0.3 mi. east of Cold Stream, and goes south up the hillside through Section 20 and 29. It crosses Cold Stream at about 7600' and then continues to the south end of the meadow shown in Sec. 1 of the topo. The Mt Lola trail is intersected at the stream crossing and also at the road end in the meadow. There are a few branches from this road, but use your intuition and you will come out ok. The portion of the road above the stream crossing is a driving challenge when equipped, as I am, with a standard chev. sedan. From the road end at 7800' it was a 2 hr r.t. to the top. Register: Poor book in a poor can.

MT ROSE - Wed. night I slept at the Mt Rose campground near Mt Rose summit. I climbed Mt Rose Thursday morning via the service road and Mt Rose Trail. Time: 4-1/2 hrs. r.t. Register: New book but a bad container.

GRANITE CHIEF - I caught the noon tram from Squaw Valley and did Granite Chief via the trail around Emigrant Peak. Register: None.

TINKER KNOB - I descended Granite down the east ridge to the PCT trail that goes north to Tinker Knob and followed it to Tinker Knob. I then returned to Mtn Meadow Lake and took the trail through Sec. 25, etc. to Squaw Valley. I was back at my car at 7:30 p.m. and spent Thursday night off a road south of Tahoe City. Register: Scraps of paper; ok nested cans.

FREEL PK - I used the driving info from the interesting Greg Vernon story in July '79 ECHO. In honor of our distinguished ECHO editor and his punning skill, Greg said that one gets a good "freeling" in climbing this peak. It was true, I "frelt" good and I also "fround" another route. The road is shown on the Tahoe Communities, AAA map, on the El Dorado Forest map and on the topo. Go north on Pioneer Trail for about 1 mi. from the traffic light on US 50. Turn right (east) on Oneida. This becomes the county road to Fountain Place which is the roadhead. The road has been maintained and more or less hard surfaced and is ok for all cars to its end in a large meadow. I climbed the peak via Armstrong Pass but I descended straight to the west to the first ridge line at 10400 and then at 250° azimuth down to the north fork of Trout Creek. I continued back to my car along the southeast side of the stream but it probably would have been better to cross to the northwest side because there is a dirt road from the meadow that goes up an unknown distance on that side. This was a good fast way to come down and I would recommend it as an ascent route. The top of the peak is a flat area about 10 ft square which may serve as a helicopter pad for the large microwave installation that is 50 ft away. Register: None.

PYRAMID PK #2 - After returning from Freel, I got a wilderness permit at the El Dorado Forest Visitors Center near the Fallen Leaf Road and then drove to Glen Alpin roadhead at the south end of Fallen Leaf Lake. I hiked the trail past Susie and Heather Lakes to the spillway of Lake Aloha where I spent Friday night. Saturday I ascended Pyramid up the northeast slope and descended the same way. Register: Scraps of paper; old aluminum box with no lid.

DICK'S PK (or should it be Mt Akawie?) - After descending from Pyramid, I hiked back past Susie Lake, to the Dick's Pass Trail junction, then to Dick's Pass and then climbed Dick's Peak. Register: New book; nested beer cans.

MT TALLAC - I decided to run the ridge between Dick's Peak and Mt Tallac. It went fine; good flat walking with some easy talus in spots. Mt Tallac is climbed frequently. After Tallac I returned to the Dick's Pass Trail junction just south of Gilmore Lake where I slept. I hiked out Sunday morning and drove home to L.A. to finish an enjoyable mountaineering experience. Register: New book left by Geo. Toby (SPS trip) on July 10, already 1/4 full; no container, only a plastic sack.

NORTHERN YOSEMITE

August 15-22, 1981

D. Vandervoet

Five climbers departed Twin Lakes via the new trail discussed in prior Echo write-ups past Barney Lake and Peeler Lake to Kerrick Canyon. In the afternoon, persistent rain and hail, which was to remain in the area for several days, forced an early camp near Arndt Lake. Sunday we moved over Seavey Pass, dropped our packs in the trees along the trail, and set off for Piute Mtn.

En route to Piute Mtn, the group split with some going up the basin to the south of the peak and Larry moving over to the shorter east face route. The "south basin" group hiked to the end of the basin, then climbed one of the several chutes leading to the plateau south of the summit. Quite a few bighorn sheep tracks were seen on the plateau. From the summit, we could see Larry down at the base of the cliffs. We descended a long ramp (see prior Echos) down across the face of the cliff, but it terminated approximately 50 feet above the ground and, without a rope, we couldn't find a way down. (Larry couldn't find a way up to the ramp so he started around the mountain to the valley approach.) We finally reclinbed the ramp and returned to the packs via the way we had come. The remainder of the day was spent hiking past Benson Lake (the famous Benson Swamp appears to be no more due to some drainage work done by the Park Service), waiting out a terrific lightning storm for an hour under local trees, and dragging into Smedberg Lake.

Monday morning was raining so we waited in the tents until the rain let up, then climbed Petit and Volunteer. The peaks were straightforward with the exception of the static electricity which materialized on the summit of Petit and caused some sparking. Running off the summit, we took shelter in trees again for 90 minutes until the rain let up so we could continue to camp. The day ended with a beautiful sunset on Mt. Smedberg.

Tuesday and Wednesday we leisurely worked our way across Matterhorn Canyon and up the glacial Spiller Canyon to the base of Whorl. The T-shaped blazes along the trail were made by the cavalry which was routing sheepherders out of the newly formed park in the 1890s. Straw colored grass and U-shaped canyon walls provided spectacular views of Whorl as we hiked through Spiller Canyon. Different Echo reports describe the approach to Whorl as either ascending the second or third chute southwest of the summit. In reality both reports are the same since the second chute forks at the top. Traversing across to the large chockstone, the rock was easily passed on the left hand side with a nice lead by Geoff Glassner. From the summit, the leader downclimbed about a hundred feet to observe that it would probably be less technical to climb Whorl from Matterhorn Canyon but the group would have to climb a 10 foot high crack to get to the summit area. On the descent, the rappell over the chockstone was the highlight for, as the climber jumped free of the overhang, the rope dropped into a crack penduluming the rappeller far under the rock roof in a swinging, free rappell.

Friday the group split with some climbing Matterhorn and others climbing Twin and Virginia. Saturday we hiked out to Twin Lakes and cold beer, although Geoff remained along Horse Creek awhile photographing the local beaver.

WinterWhitney, SpringWillie, & some Nice Ice: 1981 private trips- DVand

After bagging the requisite number of slag heaps in requisite locations to get the coveted Purple Pin, I wanted to do some fun routes in 1981. First multipitch (5) climb & first 5.6 lead with John Mulkern on Jensen's Jaunt at Tahquitz in January. Easy 5.5 face crack with a terrifying crux which is a right turn slither. Ready for Winterwhitney.

Whitney E. Buttress, Feb 18: Road closed at North end of first hairpin; park at bottom,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi. lower. The Forest Service, in its infinite wisdom, had locked the restrooms at Whitney Portal for the winter. Besides the 8 of us, there were two groups of XC skiers, flashers, & Berserkers cavorting in the permit-free snowy wilderness. I shuddered to imagine the landscape when the Thaw came in May/June. Snow conditions abominable between Portal & Lower Boy Scout Lake. Right hand ledges slippery; canyon a mess of softening mashed potatoes & nearly impenetratable sapplings. Two of the eight (This was a training trip for the Denali E. Buttress Expedition, 1981) who were on skis bogged down & had to bivvy. Those of us on snowshoes kept on trucking. Great blue-green ice just below L.BS Lk and another wall of it a half mile above. Iceberg Lake was nicely stratified into layers of ice & water & the area was under only .4 ft of snow (we built an igloo). Four of us, Rick Evans, Bob Kazragis, Roger Gough, & I, left camp at 0630, snowshoed up the E. Butt until the angle approached  $35^\circ$ , changed to crampons & went to the notch behind the first or second tower where the E. Face Rt goes left & the E. Butt goes right. Rick & Bob had done the Face in September, via the Direct Crack, & wanted to try something new, so they went right. Roger & I roped up and followed them. Remembering a freeze on easy friction on Starr King years ago, I donned tennies & stuffed my Lowa Civettas into the daybag. The rock was cold. Millarmitts were useless. Fingers lost sensation & wouldn't bend after a few moves. Wore Dachsteins for all but the hardest moves. Then one pulled them, moved quickly until the fingers lost feeling. Plunge them into crotch until feeling returns & put Dachsteins back on. The East Butt is 13 full (150 ft+) pitches. All class 4 (except a few moves that could be called 5.0 or 5.1) except the crux, on pitch 6 or 7. The crux is at the end of an almost level right hand traverse of cl 3 with a big bivvy platform. Goes left; an  $80^\circ$ , 25' wall with three old fixed pitons, one loose. It was very cold, but ice-free, and almost snow-free. Rick led it for the first pair, in rigid boots, and we heard him up ahead: The most printable remark was "This is a tough Sumbitch; must go five-seven in summer" He was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pitches ahead; I was belaying Roger over some awkward 4th. They made it, both with a little help from a red sling hanging off one of pins. Roger tried the crux in his Civettas. He'd done some long intermediate routes in the Valley: Royal Arches, the Snake Dike, et al. A jangling rack was the only sound as he fell. He was clipped into the first piton and dropped about 18 feet, coming within a foot or two of the deck. The rope & friction took nearly all the energy & I didn't budge. Rog was fine physically, but bummed out by the fall; I led the rest of the route, cheating outrageously on the crux (grabbed a fixed sling & used a fixed pin for a foothold). Rick & Bob topped out at 5:30, we an hour later, in the dark, by full moonlight & headlamp. The hut was full of snow and the USFS, again in their infinite wisdom, had removed the register. The four of us, with crampons, ice axe, down parkas, & Goretex gear (with water & bivvy gear we all had heavy packs), roped up & went far to the northwest, before traversing east across the steep icefield to the gendarme that marks the top of Mountaineers Rt. chute. Down & traverse right to pick up the snowshoes we'd left 15 hrs earlier. Back to camp by 9:30 PM. Super exhilaration. Best day of climbing ever, until 4 of us fixed the crux & put 185 lbs of food & fuel above it on Denali's E Butt in June. Recommended: several slings, a few stoppers & hexes, hard hat in summer (Many idiots on top via bicycle trail!), super-early start, 3 qts water.

Williamson, George Creek, Apr 16-17: Jackie fished while I soloed the Bolton Brown Rt in '77. Now that she was bitten by the bug, she Needed The Peak. The road south past the Shepherd Pass Trailhead was in good condition & cars can make it to the end with no problem and some can even get out. Forest Svc map is reasonably accurate as to roads. The first couple of hours up George Creek are gorgeous, but tangled, almost like a tropical rainforest. Then comes a drab, recently burned-out section that is ugly but quick. We camped at the last trees at about 11.2K'. Used out snowshoes for the last few hundred yards but they weren't necessary. Cramponed up early the next morning, taking a direct chute up & traversing toward the Horns on the way down. Tried to find the register under the drifts, gave up, hiked down & out. Got to the car about dark, totally exhausted after 8000 ft off-trail with much gear, much in bad snow. Met Ron H & Dave J, a day behind us. Beautiful area. Saw some month-or-so-old ski tracks between 9500 & 11,000. Who were the brave souls wholagged skies thru the jungle???

Nice Ice I: The Mendel Couloir: July 12: Met Bill Krauss last summer on R.J.'s & my climber's camp near the Great Western Divide. He did Milestone Midway, and Table all in one day & had bounce in his step at the end!! He was also into technical rock, and had cruised McKinley 2 years ago at 18. A phone call confirmed that he'd done a little ice, so we were off. We went in with Campy's Darwin/Mendel group (with Jackie, who had fished while I did Darwin in '72; now she Needed The Peak!). The Mendel Couloir is 5½ pitches of reasonably good ice, reputedly approaching 65° at the bulge, a slight steepening on the 3rd pitch. First third was neve, or degenerating snow, approaching glacier ice. Middle third was variable mixed water ice (dinner-plates badly) and solid neve. Top third was plastic black ice, very hard, but secure. We used belay stances on the rocks on the side, but put in at least one screw as running pro on each pitch. Took us perhaps 7 hours to do the 5½ pitches; we were both overprotecting each pitch. Bill's first multipitch ice; he looked like an experienced hand. At the notch, it's one pitch of class 4 (with an awkward 5.2 move in the middle) to the top: Traverse East on the backside for about 80 ft, turn left & go directly up. Top out 100 ft West of the register. Bill helped John Lockhart retrieve his pack (John had gotten himself into some intermediate 5th class rock that was over his head, from the east side, and dumped his pack) and the three of us descended the normal cl 2-3 route. # Bill and I alternated leads and were able to use French technique\*almost all the way. No clinometer, but the bulge probably isn't over 52°. Recommended: Plenty of slings & beaners, a few stoppers & small hexes, two or three screws, a full 165' rope, pref. Everdry, 9-mil O.K.. This route can be and is free-soloed early in the season when there is plenty of snow and a chance of self-arrest if you lose it. Late in the season, like when we did it, soloing would require intense concentration and is extremely dangerous. One slip & you're instant history. A clarification: Some SPSers have walked NW about 100 ft from the summit register and looked down the Left-hand couloir, known to the ice Jocks as Ice Nine. This route rarely has ice after early June and is a grade IV with a pretty near-vertical finish. We did the Right-hand couloir, which has ice year-round and is grade III, and is the true Mendel Couloir. \*French Technique: Carry stale bread, ripe cheese, & Algerian rotgut in your Sac Millet. Advanced French Technique: Carry your doobies in a Galloise pac, -Dale V.

## The Roundness of the World and Other Observations

*We're on top of the world.  
You can't believe it...utterly  
fantastic. The world is round.*

CHARLES (PETE) CONRAD from Gemini XI

*To his dog,  
every man is Napoleon;  
hence the popularity of dogs.*

ALDOUS HUXLEY

*You can see a lot  
just by looking.*

YOGI BERRA

DARWIN CANYON, EVOLUTION BASIN, AND IONIAN BASIN

August 22-28, 1981  
Private Trip

Saturday morning we shuttled one car to Lake Sabrina and parked the other at North Lake, where five of us started out for Lamark Col. We carried packs weighing between 50-70 lbs. and this weight included ice axes and crampons which we packed in specifically for Mt Darwin. Although our packs were heavy, the anticipation of an exciting week ahead helped us to arrive at Lamark Col with 3700' gain in good spirits. We dropped our packs a couple hundred feet on the Darwin Canyon side of the Col and headed for Mt. Lamark (13417'), a little over 600' gain from where we were. That night we made camp at one of the upper lakes of Darwin Canyon.

Sunday, just as we were leaving camp at 0700, our sixth climbing member, Ron Hudson, appeared, having hiked in from Florence Lake the day before. We headed for Mt Darwin (13830') and separated at the glacier taking three different routes. Ron, Howard Yee, and I took the glacier which was steep and icy over to the 2nd chute and up to the smaller notch to the southeast; Dave Dykeman climbed the rock just above us; and Dave Jurasevich and Al Benson climbed the chute to the first notch. Regrouping at the top of the smaller notch to the southwest, we climbed the northwest ridge to the summit plateau together. We all climbed the summit block without a belay three different ways. Our descent was via the glacier route. Then Al, Howard, Dave Dykeman, and I went on to successfully climb Mendel (13691') via the east side.

Monday, we packed up and moved camp, dropping packs at the north end of Evolution Lake in order to traverse over to climb The Hermit (12360'). Although getting to the summit area is not difficult despite the falling rock, the summit boulder poses an interesting and difficult rock problem. Ron Hudson did the friction climb on the south side. He then gave an upper belay to every one in the party; all made it to the summit, quickly signed the register, and then descended under windy conditions. Ron descended the 5.6 jamcrack on the east face. Returning to our packs, we continued on the John Muir Trail to Sapphire Lake. The weather continued to be windy.

Tuesday, Ron hiked out to Florence Lake. On the way to our new camp at Wanda Lake, Dave D. and I climbed Mt Huxley (13,117') via a class 3 route up the south side of the west shoulder. Others opted to climb Mt Goddard from Wanda Lake, but I did not return from the Huxley climb soon enough to join them. Dave went on to climb Mt McGee after lunch.

Wednesday, Dave D. and I left camp at 0700 for Mt Goddard (13,566') going over the saddle a mile+ west of Muir Pass and traversing a longgg distance along the south side of the Goddard Divide. Goddard was my Emblem peak and, to celebrate, we left a new summit register and decided to climb Scylla (12,939'). It looks quite formidable from a distance; the the class 2 route became obvious as we approached the northwest slope. We were up and down Scylla in a little over an hour, but the cross-country scramble around the lakes getting there and back to camp was very up and down and time-consuming.

Thursday, Howard hiked out to North Lake. The rest of us went over Muir Pass and set up camp at Helen Lake. The Muir Hut is in excellent condition. Al and Dave J. left to climb Fiske and Huxley. Dave and I climbed Black Giant (13330') from the west and then headed over to Charybdis (13091') under increasingly threatening skies. We took time for lunch at the base of the mountain to evaluate the northeast class 3 route and the weather. Our decision to "go for it" was punctuated by thunder from the west just beyond Goddard. A few drops of rain precluded a summit stay any longer than it took to sign the register. On our return to camp, it alternately rained and hailed. The skies looked ominous. We dove into our tent hoping Al and Dave J., who had not returned yet, were safe. We were relieved to hear their approaching voices a couple hours later; the storm lifted almost simultaneously so that we could cook dinner and consider our plans. We decided to head for Echo Col and Lake Sabrina in the morning.



## DARWIN CANYON, EVOLUTION BASIN, AND IONIAN BASIN (continued)

During the night the winds kicked up and, although the sky was clear when we left camp at 0700, by 0800 the clouds started to appear. The winds knocked us off balance several times while we boulder-hopped toward the col. We had trouble locating the right notch and needed to go further north to locate Echo Col as the clouds and wind kept building up. Our sense of relief once we were over the Col was great. On the snow field below the col, we approached a recent plane wreck. Seeing the pilot's garment bag with his suit and toiletries and his corduroy sport coat seemed to put us in a more vulnerable frame of mind. Getting from the Col and around Echo Lake is not easy and the promise of trail near Moonlight Lake made us all a little better spirited.

When we arrived at Lake Sabrina, we had spent seven days in the back country and gained over 24,000 feet in elevation without an accident or an injury to our party. Our climbing goals were attained and we were extremely pleased with our climbing adventure. Nancy Gordon

### NICE ICE II: Sillivia Palisade V-Notch, August 1981.

Perhaps it was on the third pitch, when Tom Scott told me this was the first time he had ever worn crampons or used an axe except for BMTC arrests. We'd bouldered at J-tree & bagged a bunch of bumps near Tahoe & enjoyed some off-route cl 5 dn climbing off Pyramid so I knew he had balance, stamina, huevos, y moxie, so never mind, guy, let's do it. Tom led pitches 2 & 7 & did fine except when he tried to edge using Fr technique instead of rolling the ankles. The V-notch in August has an imposing but not too tough schrund, then is 6½ full (165') pitches of 45-50° super good ice. Easy enough to holster one ice tool on pitches 5 & 6; difficult enough to be a challenge for a beginner, a full grade easier than the Mendel Couloir (But both are graded III??), a grade and a half easier than Denali's E. Butt crux. At 6½ pitches, it's a pitch longer than the Mendel Couloir.

A couple from Reno were in the chute above us, but climbing cleanly & knocking down little ice. He hogged all the leads and was wearing proto San Marco plastic boots. Couldn't roll the ankles for Frog Tech, so was front pointing all the way, on a route that needs not one front pt move in proper boots. R.J. Secor & Walt Hill were below us; Walt's first significant ice. R.J. got hit in the forearm with a sizeable hunk of hi-speed ice while he had Walt on belay on pitch #2. They retreated; R.J. thought it was broken. Tom & I proceeded, topped out, coiled, & walked up Sill, finding Jackie Van D.'s & Lynna W.'s signatures in the book from about an hour before; they came up the Cl 3 rt. We descended the Cl 3 Rt, got off-rt & had some interesting cl 4+ & back to camp at the ft of Gayley. R.J.'s arm X-rayed O.K. in Bishop, so the world-renowned author could work on a sequel to his volcano guide.

The V-notch can probably be soloed any time of the year by experienced ice climbers, and can be done easily w/ one tool only. Nice training ground and a fun way to Sill or Polemonium, or a neat day might be up the V, over Polemonium, do N.Pal & down the U (or the Clyde Couloir if rockfall isn't too bad) Slings, assorted hexes & stoppers are enough. Screws handy but not necessary. -DVandD

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*Jogging is very beneficial. It's good  
for your legs and feet. It's also good  
for the ground. It makes it feel it's needed.*

SNOOPY

*I hate money,  
but it soothes my nerves.*

JOE LOUIS

*In three words I can sum up  
everything I've learned about life.  
It goes on.*

ROBERT FROST

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MT. CONSTANCE (7,743 ft. - 2360 m)

27-28 June 1981

The mountain was playing games with us. For two lovely summer days (Wednesday and Thursday) Mt. Constance looked across the Sound into my living room, then (on Friday and Saturday) it hid in the clouds and fog as the weekend arrived. But on Saturday morning we set out anyway; 4 of us driving around from Seattle, and 2 of us hopping ferries across the Sound from Everett, to meet at the road-head in the eastern Olympics.

Blue sky and even sun poked through the clouds as we crossed the Sound and drove up the Dosewallips River to the place where the trail to Lake Constance goes up from the road (elevation 1450 ft - 440 m). And I do mean up! A sign at the start says 1036 m in 3.2 km (3400 ft in 2 miles)! Fortunately there are lots of handholds (trees and roots), but we really didn't need an inadvertant variation that led us up the face of a cliff!

The trail goes like this for one mile, to a relatively flat place, then it gets steep! In some places, it was almost hand over hand, with mountain goats staring at us quizzically. Finally we got to the lake, now in a dense fog, in about 3 ½ hours from the road.

We made camp, watched more mountain goats, and looked for the other side of the lake. Towards dusk, it did appear, and, hoping for the best, we prepared for an early start.

At 0400 it was clear, so at 0500 we set out. We were soon rewarded with a view of the Brothers and other peaks in early morning sunlight.

The route description in the Mountaineers Climbers Guide to the Olympics is essentially correct. We went up the canyon north of the lake and west of the peak to the north chute near Crystal Pass. We then cramponed up the chute on good, hard snow to the summit ridge. From there the route gets a bit tricky; it turns immediately left and goes along a ridge to a crossing to the east side. Fortunately, the route is well marked with painted white circles.

We followed the white Cheerio's to the start of the "Terrible Traverse". Then the fun began. Al chose not to go on, Bruce and Mike charged ahead to do a high variation, Rob ended up doing the College Route with another party, and Bob and I did the "conventional" Terrible Traverse following still another party.

It was now a lovely day, about as nice as it ever gets; with clear, warm sun and no wind. We could see forever; Baker, Glacier Peak, Rainier, Adams and St. Helens were all easily visible. The snow had softened enough that the Traverse was easy and pleasant. From there it was an easy ascent to the summit (after a U-turn to approach the summit block from the north), where we had a leisurely lunch and enjoyed the fine view in all directions.

From there it was all down. The weather was deteriorating so we left the summit at noon and descended with little difficulty, although we had to crampon down the chute as well. We felt bits of rain and even snow at times but the weather held, back to base and even to the road.

Despite the watery nature of much of the mountaineering in this area, there are still some good Sierra-quality days. So far, I've had them on two climbs. It's really a game; getting the weather is harder than getting the peaks.

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