

The Sierra



ECHO

VOLUME 29

MAR - APR

1985

NO. 2



The special use permit situation seems to be resolved in a satisfactory manner. We hope that trip leaders successfully obtain permits for all of this season's outings. The protecting of all our remaining wilderness areas is a genuine problem; hence, the wilderness entry quota system is employed. The obverse side of this is a perennial problem for trip leaders. Frequently not enough spots are available for those who would like to go.

Another problem compounds the limited number of spaces available: We had the experience on many trips last year that should not be a problem to leaders: Some people apply for more than one trip scheduled to go the same weekend, then pick the one they like best from those with room. The result is people being turned down for a trip which is not full. One specific person SASE'd three of our outings, then chose other trips for each. Please be considerate of those who would like to go. I recommend that leaders share information with each other on anyone who continues this practice. If you send in an application for a trip and then can't go, let the leader know as early as possible. Some of us are hard-to-reach at home. Try our office number.

Accident / INCIDENT reports. Even when everything comes out O K, it is important to submit a report on an incident that required a search. It is also appropriate to report on a significant incident which easily COULD have ended more seriously.

Toward a full, safe climbing season,

Dave Dykeman

Dave Dykeman

NEW MEMBERSHIP RECORDS CHAIRMAN NEEDED!

Ron Bartell has been keeping the membership records for SPS since 1981 and would like to resign. If you have a personal computer or access to a computer and are interested in doing Ron's job, talk to him or Dave Dykeman.

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COVER PHOTO: One of the more challenging routes in the High Sierra, the North Face of Norman Clyde Peak. Here climbers approach under the leadership of Dan Mihaljevich and Dale Van Dalsem shortly after an early summer snowfall in July 1982. Photographer: Pete Yamagata.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW EMBLEM HOLDER
Vic Henney (Mt. Darwin)

NEW MEMBERS
Jim Oakland
Richard Negri
Suzanne Thomas
Lisa Freundlich
Don Borad

NEW SENIOR EMBLEM HOLDERS
Mark Goebel (Mt. Rose)
Lloyd Brown (Black Kaweah?)

NEW SPRING SCHEDULE SPS TRIPS

MAY 4-5 SAT-SUN
Bolton Brown and Birch: Climb from Birch Lake. Crampons and ice axe required. Participants must be confident on steep snow and in very good physical condition. Will be a fast paced hike. Leaders: LARRY HOAK & DAVE VANDERVDET. Contact Larry Hoak at (213) 688-4788 or (213) 931-2614 for details. Sase to 838 South Orange Drive, LA, CA 90036.

MAY 21-23 TUE-THU
M: Alta (11,204'), Silliman (11,188'): Early season hikes of two westside peaks out of Giant Forest. Practice snowshoeing & cramponing on hard day hikes back to back. Sase & quals to Leaders: NORM ROHN, RJ SECOR.

JUN 6-8 THU-SAT
M: Izaak Walton (12,099'), Red & White (12,850'): A good hike up McGee Cr. & over the pass will put us in position for these 2 peaks on Silver Divide. Easy pace, but much snow & some 3rd class. BMTC grads OK. Sase & quals to Leaders: NORM ROHN, RJ SECOR.

JUN 9-11 SUN-TUE
M: Joe Devel Pk (13,325'), Mt Pickering (13,485'): And possibly Cirque Pk (12,900'). 30 mi, 8,000' gain for trip. Send sase to Leader: RJ SECOR. Asst: NORM ROHN.

JUN 24-27 MON-THU
M: Hilgard (13,361'), Gabb (13,722'), Recess (12,836'): Backpack through Granite Park & Italy Pass to campsite at Lake Italy. Climb peaks in next two days. Thu is to come out, but we'll try to be early. Sase & quals to Leaders: NORM ROHN, RON JONES.

JUL 4-7 THU-SUN
M: Finger Pk (12,404'), Tunemah Pk (11,894'): These peaks involve several miles of backpacking, only the well conditioned need apply. Snow gear req'd. Send sase with experience to Leader: JIM MURPHY. Asst: RJ SECOR.

SPS PROGRAMS FOR MAY AND JUNE

May 8 Meeting: "Island in the Great Basin" presented by Judy Anderson, shows areas in Nevada which the Sierra Club would like to see as wilderness. DWP Cafeteria Orange Rm, 7:30 p.m.

June 12 Meeting: "American Pamirs Expedition 1984, Pk Communism" presented by Ben Preyer, one of the leaders of the expedition. DWP Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Ron Jones

Five Years Ago in the SPS

Not many new members and no new emblem holders during Mar-Apr 1980. Karl Pearsons and Mark Thiel joined the Section. R. J. Boyles led 10 on a snow climb of Inconsolable; Andre Korbut Weberg had 5 on a climb of University. Campy, Reber and Jones had 10 on a snowshoe hike to Crag where 2 got the summit. Marlin Clark and Jones had 6 climbers on Owens Pk.

Ten Years Ago

Dick Sykes instructed at an SPS rock seminar at Joshua Tree. Jim Murphy and Don Croley led 4 in soft snow to Alta Pk. Roy Keenan and R. J. Boyles led 5 on a snow attempt of Mt Gould.

Twenty Years Ago

Newspapers in 1965 announced that Mineral King would soon be a major new ski area. Tom Ross made the first winter ascent of Julius Caesar on a private trip. New Members included Bob Felgar, Hal Browder, Charles Gahr and Marlin Clark.

Twenty Five Years Ago

John Robinson led 20 climbers in an attempt on Taylor Dome from Fay Ck in a snowstorm; John and Graham Stevenson led 16 on a winter climb of Perkins; Jerry Keating and Ted Maier led 16 on Scodie, Sorrell and Paiute Pks in an April climb; Miles Brubacher led a small group to Morro Rock and Cone Peak; George Shinno & Bill Sanders led a snow rescue practice in Ice House Canyon. --RON



SIERRA CLUB—ANGELES CHAPTER

2410 WEST BEVERLY BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90057

(213) 387-4287

February 1, 1985

TO: Section, Group and Committee Newsletter Editors

RE: Nature Knowledge Workshop, May 31 - June 2

When: Friday evening, May 31 - Sunday afternoon, June 2

Where: Resident camp in the Barton Flats area of the San Bernardino National Forest; indoor sleeping, delicious meals and programs in the old stone lodge

What: Three days of field study (river, chaparral and pine forest habitats) with special walks to learn about edible plants, geology, insects, reptiles and amphibians, mammals and birds. Emphasis is "hands on" learning by doing, and professional naturalists are chosen for their enthusiasm and holistic creative teaching abilities, as well as for their knowledge.

For: Adults only; Sierra Club membership not required. Attendance meets LTC nature study requirement.

Cost: \$46, includes lodging, instruction, six meals, and a workshop syllabus.

Registration: This popular annual workshop always fills quickly. Send 2 4X9 SASE's to Registrar:

Sandy Liebman
23457 Styles St.
Woodland Hills, CA. 91364

Include check payable to "Sierra Club, Nature Knowledge Workshop"

Sponsored By: Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club,
Natural Science Section

Information: Workshop Leaders: Carolyn Greene (818) 787-2294
Sue Othmer (818) 789-3456
Jean Dillingham (213) 454-4752

Five of us started from Mono meadow. We hiked 6 miles on trail, then 3 x-c through forest--a somewhat challenging navigation exercise--to Grayling Lake. The next morning we traversed over to Ottoway Lakes and climbed Merced Peak. Red Peak was then bagged, and to make things interesting, we proceeded down its north side and then down the long drainage to camp. Successful on the peaks were myself, Larry Machleder, Don Tidwell, Paul Wittkamm, and Andrew Lumsden. The next day Larry, Don and I made an uneventful ascent of Gray Peak. The weather was unsettled, having sprinkled at times the previous 2 days. Larry had climbed Clark before, and Don did want to attempt it, so I proceeded down the N side of Gray to the bowl between the two peaks. Then I went upward to the top of a sandy shoulder about 300' from Clark's summit. Staying on top of the ridge (a knife edge in places) necessitated a couple of class 4 moves. Coming down was one class 3 move near the top; otherwise zig-zagging on shelves down the N side. An attractive peak--the best of the four. The next day we packed out and were back to the cars by 1 pm. 2 miles cross country through forest with a lot of downed trees can be tedious though!

Ren Hudson

GRAND CANYON OVERLOOKS, SEPT. 15-16, 1984

On a warm, muggy day, six participants--Gordon MacLeod and Bill Sanders (leaders), Barbara Lilley, Roy and Barbara Magneson and Bob Tomlinson--back-packed up 4500 ft. via the Sphinx Creek-Avalanche Pass trail to about 9600', then continued cross-country for a mile and a half to a camp on Avalanche Creek, where apparently no one had ever camped before! On Sunday, packs were hauled to the ridge for the short scramble up Avalanche Peak (10,077'). The ridge was then followed down to Grand Sentinel (8504'), which is only Class 2 from the "backside", in time for lunch.

The real adventure was the descent with packs to the Kings River, which included about 2000' of Class 3 brush during an intermittent rain provided by the local afternoon thunderstorm. The gully on the west side of the Grand Sentinel was chosen for the descent; perhaps the gully on the east side would have had less brush, as the map shows no stream there. (The guide books do not list either one.) However, the cars were reached before 4:00 PM, ample time for the long drive home.

Incidentally, for those heading for Sphinx Creek, the trail on the south side of the river--reached by a bridge or a foot log from Road's End parking area--is recommended as a pleasant alternate to the open, sandy trail which starts from the Ranger Station.

(Barbara Lilley)

Private trip to Clarence King, etc. Aug. 83. Just after a strong group of SPS'ers headed over the famous short cut of Dragon Pass to bag the peaks. Nancy Gordon, Ruth Armentrout & Dave Dykeman headed over Kearsarge Pass for Clarence King, Gardiner & Cotter. All arrived in Sixty Lakes Basin together. The secret is a nearly straight-line route from the base of Glenn Pass. The route is obvious on the map, and the cross-country is generally as good as a trail. Base camp Clarence King is at its base near the trail and a lake. Gardiner is easily reached from the north-east here, and the slabs to the summit are easier than they appear. Just head up the obvious chute to the junction of the the ridges then turn right to find the notch at the start of the often described summit-ridge traverse. Cotter is picked-off en route. Dave D

"Taboose Pass To Sawmill Pass And All Peaks In Between"
Aug 18-25, 1984

G. TOBY & L. HOAK

This may be the smallest SPS trip on record. Besides the leaders we had 1 1/2 participants. Eric Schumacher did the whole trip, but Ron Grinsteiner joined us late and left early. He did about 1/3 of the trip.

Sat Aug 18- We met at the Taboose Trail roadhead and did a car shuttle to leave Toby's Chevy at the Sawmill Trail roadhead. It is about 1/2 mile E of the Division Creek Power House, and has good parking. Back to Taboose in Eric's VW. Eric was concerned about cars being ripped off at roadheads. He came up with a friend who drove his VW back to L.A. So when we left the Taboose roadhead, it was go for it all the way. No friendly back up car at the roadhead. The 6000' gain to Taboose Pass went easily. Good trail. Good camping and water at the pass.

Sun Aug 19- We climbed Striped and Goodale from the pass. Picked up packs and hiked down to cross the Muir Trail. We got distracted by a guy with a card table selling Kool Aid drinks. Can you imagine that? We missed the junction of the Bench Lake Trail, but with a little cross country we eventually got there. Bench Lake is a real beauty spot with superb camping.

Mon Aug 20- Ascended the drainage to a saddle at 11,600' in the ridge SE of Arrow. Climbed Arrow by the SE slopes. Class 2. Dropped down to Lake 11,000, then stayed high to approach the West Ridge of Pyramid. From a distance it looked formidable, but as we got closer a route became clear. At the W end of the ridge there is a break in the cliffs just E of a prominent snowfield. We climbed up low class 3 rocks to the ridge and then easy rock scrambling to the summit. With the route finding this was an interesting climb. The Climbers Guide was rather vague about the peak. Returned to camp at Bench Lake. A long day.

Tue Aug 21- Hiked back to the Muir where we were joined by Ron Grinsteiner. S on the Muir about 3 miles. Dropped packs and climbed Pinchot from the S. We considered traversing the ridge from Pinchot to Wynne but it looked too hairy and time consuming. So we dropped down a chute a few hundred feet and traversed over to Wynne. Picked up packs and ambled over Pinchot Pass to a campsite near Perkins. Lots of trail work on both sides of the pass. The S side was in poor condition.

Wed Aug 22- We climbed directly up the N nose of Perkins. Picked up packs, headed S and climbed Colosseum. Ron left the trip to go out on his own back over Taboose. We camped that night at Twin Lakes. Nice campsite. The weather had been threatening for two days. It finally rained that night.

Thur Aug 23- Hiked S on the Muir to the junction with the Sawmill Pass Trail. Ascended the Sawmill Trail to some small lakes just N of Woods Lake. Beautiful campsite looking right up into Baxter. We could see the entire route from camp. It was a direct shot up the drainage to Stocking Lake, then up a steep loose chute at the foot of the N Ridge of Baxter, and easy rock scrambling to the top. Toby did a fast shuffle to dodge a big rock that was bent on wiping him out in the chute. However this chute could have been avoided by going a bit W around the nose of the N ridge.

Fri Aug 24- Backpacked over Sawmill Pass, very cold and windy, and made the long trek (7000' drop) down to the roadhead. The first half was forested and delightful, but then it turned into dry desert and sand. The Chevy was not ripped off, and the other vehicles parked there appeared to be undisturbed. No doubt due to the close proximity of men at the power house. In the 5 climbing days we did 9 peaks plus moving camps. Everything went easily. The advantage of a small experienced group. It was pure pleasure to have the time and opportunity to literally climb every peak we passed by.

George

THREE SISTERS, October 29, 1984 Norm Rohn

On a pre-Halloween visit to the western slope of the Sierra I had hoped to hike/climb a few of the second class peaks but found the snow level below 8500 feet and the weather threatening. Tunemah seemed a bit hazardous solo, so I did Three Sisters. The route I chose was from the north rather than the usual approach from Courtright Res. It worked rather well and I suggest it as an alternative. Net gain was 2000' and gross under 3000. The round trip was about 8 miles and it took me six hours. Sierra Forest map and Huntington Lake 15' topo apply.

From Shaver Lake go approximately 12 mi. NE on 168 to a large winter sports parking lot on Tamarack Ridge. Go through the lot and proceed S and then E on a good Forest road. At 3.5 mi. stay straight on the oiled road. At 0.3 mi. farther a rough road leads left across Sections 17 and 16 to the turnoff to the Dinkey Lakes in Section 15. Better to stay straight and take the longer route S past Cutts Mdw and through Sections 19 and 30. At the intersection at the S edge of Section 20 (mile 6.9 from 168) keep left. After another 4.8 mi. (11.7 from 168) look for a road to the right marked Dinkey Lakes Trailhead 2mi. It's FWD but pretty good. At that trailhead in Section 14 the Dinkey Lakes trail, now a road, goes N and a FWD road goes through a gate, heads E and then S. It's a rough FWD road. It was closed for the winter, so I walked it. I probably wouldn't have driven more than a mile or so on it anyhow. Too rough. After about three miles the road passes by Swamp Mdw. Leave the road here and go for the summit, less than a mile away. Don't head for the obvious saddle to the ESE but take the next draw N and stay N of a rocky high point on the ridge. Scramble N along the W side of the ridge for the summit. Time can be saved coming off the summit by staying well north of and above Swamp Mdw and intercepting the trail/road as it leads toward Dinkey Creek.

It was well below freezing when I got back to my truck and I found myself walking on top of the snow which couldn't support me when I started my hike shortly after noon.

I learned from the rangers at the Shaver Lake Station that many of the jeep roads in the western slope forests would soon be closed by the establishment of new and enlarged wildernesses as provided in the recently passed California Wilderness Act. Silver Peak, for instance, may become a longer hike than it has been. The rangers also indicated that they expected to be charging fees for wilderness permits within two years.

After a cool night's sleep near Huntington Lake, I drove over to Mono Hot Springs. There's much construction work going on at the resort, but the tubs and Little Eden on the other side of the river were deserted, hot and delightful.

Rockhouse Pk

Private trip Nov. 10, 1984 Six of us had originally planned a weekend backpack to climb Rockhouse and several nearby fourth and fifth class domes. With bad weather in the northern Sierra I decided to call the ranger station in Kernville. I was told to expect eight inches of snow (we found a few patches of snow), more storms throught Saturday night (clear skys), to take the longer southern loop of the Long Valley road because the more direct northern loop wasn't passable (you guessed it, the northern loop was in good repair and much shorter), and that the dirt road int Rockhouse Meadow was now closed at Long Valley Road because of new wilderness additions (wrong again, the road ends ten miles down towards the river, about two miles from the river, which is the new wilderness boundry). Because of all this cheery information our group declined from six to three and we decided to simply dayhike Rockhouse.

The new wilderness boundry is, as I have said, about two miles before the river, is already marked, and has a gate across the road. Follow the old road down to the river and then south along the river untill you see a horse packing camp on the other side of the river. There is no easy, dry, crossing that we could find. That river was COLD, believe me. The small island in the middle I hoped to warm up on turned out to be iced over!! The trail seems to start behind the horse camp and heads west up the obvious canyon. We left the canyon at the 6800 foot level heading north directly towards the peak. This proved to be a steep route with some nice high second class rock, but very slow going.

The summit block was climbed from the east via a third class face and crack system leading to a notch. From here a slightly exposed mantle on the left brought us to thirty five degree slabs (rather slippery with patches of ice on them) and the summit. The "second class walk up" was never found. We returned the normal route, decending to the pass south of the peak then turning east to the river, returning to the cars well after dark.

Dinner and liquid refreshments were found in Inyokern at the "Sierra Inn". This is a fun place with 75¢ draft beer (Bud), "you cook them" steaks and burgers, a full bar, excellant beans, and a salad bar. Participants were Terry Rivera, Bob Ferguson (no, for the last time he is niether my father or my son), and myself.

Tom Ferguson
Tom Ferguson

GRANITE PARK PEAKS, SEPT. 8-9, 1984

Meeting at the Pine Creek parking lot (which was considerably reduced in size due to bridge construction activities) on a beautiful Sierra day, eight participants--four SPS newcomers and four long-time members--completed the 3500' backpack to camp at about 11,000 ft. above Honeymoon Lake by mid-afternoon. A long period of sociability was enjoyed in the sun and around the evening campfire, which provided an opportunity for the long-time members to tell their favorite SPS anecdotes to an interested audience.

Sunday, 6 participants climbed Mt. Julius Caesar, and two climbed the otl two scheduled peaks, both with elevations of 12,720'+, on the south side of Italy Pass. The return to camp and backpack out to the cars was completed by 5:30 PM. This trip was advertised as being suitable for newcomers with backpack experience and in good condition. The four newcomers--Ray Lorm, Wai Lee, David Hollenberg and Martin Trudeau--met these qualifications very well; other leaders are urged to include similar invitations in their future write-ups whenever possible. The old-timers were Gordon MacLeod and Neko Colevins(leaders), Barbara Lilley and Doris Golden.

(Barbara Lilley)

Paul Schubert and I backpacked to Finger Lake three days before the scheduled start of this climb in order to bag a few peaks on this my first trip to the Sierra in '84. We were greeted by rain showers at our arrival at Glacier Lodge and again late in the afternoon at Finger Lake. The next morning, Wednesday, after the early morning sprinkle we set out for The Thumb (13,388') by way of Southfork Pass. We cramponed up the still icy snow on the north side of the pass, crossing east of the small pinnacle at the top, left our ice axes and crampons at the crest, and proceeded to the summit.

The next morning we left Finger Lake to day hike Balcony & Disappointment. The two usual ways to climb Disappointment are via "Doug's chute", lots of cl 3 with some cl 4 and pretty much directly up the face (Roper's and Smatko's route 2), or from just below Balcony Peak across the NE face of Balcony to the summit (Roper's route 1, Smatko's route 3). We chose the latter.

From the south end of the Middle Palisade glacier we cramponed up one of the several steep snow chutes located about 0.5 miles west of Southfork Pass. This would be a loose route without snow and ice holding the rocks in place. We followed the crest west along easy cl 2 slopes to the summit of Balcony Pk (13,840+). Then we descended east about 300 feet by the route of ascent to a point where the slope of the ridge begins to appreciably flatten out (or of course when climbing Balcony, where the slope obviously steepens). At this point we started down a route on the north face, marked by a 12-18" high cairn, and which works its way down 50 or 100 feet to a small notch in a rib. Then we worked our way across three loose chutes on Balcony's north face, following along a limestone band part of the way, to the major chute that tops out in the low point between Balcony and Disappointment. We followed this chute up to the top where it is capped by a large chockstone. I climbed around the chockstone to the right, with a cl 4 move, while Paul managed to squeeze through a tiny keyhole below the chockstone. Once on the ridge we moved slightly to the west and up the obvious cl 2-3 route 150-200 feet to the summit. Here we could look to the north west at "Excitement", the slightly lower and third of the pinacles on the ridge southeast of Middle Pal. We did not use a rope on our climb but one certainly should be carried.

The next day, Friday, was a rest day back at Finger Lake. In the afternoon I scouted the lower portion of the route to Norman Clyde Pk (used by me in a September '73 ascent) and which Doug Mantle had used on his successful lead several weeks earlier this year (a variation of Roper's route 5). By mid-afternoon Maris showed up with Norm Rohn, Graham Breakwell, Jim Hinkley and Sue Edwards to join our party.

We were off the next morning by 7:00. The approach is straight forward. Climb directly west from Finger Lake and up the northeast ridge leading to a short ridge just north of the face of Norman Clyde and which separates the Middle Pal and Norman Clyde glaciers. At the north end of this ridge is a low block which requires a cl 3-4 move to get around. Then it is cl 2 across to a fairly prominent pinnacle at the south base of the ridge. Here one traverses westerly by way of a series of small ledge systems toward the junction of the the northeast and north faces of the peak. There is not any one correct route but many will go enabling you to reach this point. The route then goes onto the north face and more or less directly toward the apparent summit. One works their way up a broad chute toward the summit ridge reaching it just north of this summit. It is then a 15-20 minute scramble over the false summit and south on the

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

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INQUIRIES ABOUT NOT RECEIVING THE ECHO: Direct to Mailer, Ella Hoselton, 5831 W. 76th St., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$4.00 per year due by March 31. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send new subscriptions to the Secretary (address above) and include your Sierra Club membership number. Send renewals to the Treasurer (address below). New applications received after October 1 are credited through the next year.

FAMILY SUBSCRIPTIONS: Only one ECHO subscription is necessary for members of a family residing at one address.

AWARDS: Emblem pins (\$7.50) and patches (\$2.00) are available from the Treasurer, Vieve Weldon, 12203-47 Santa Gertrudes Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638.

SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION
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