

# The Sierra



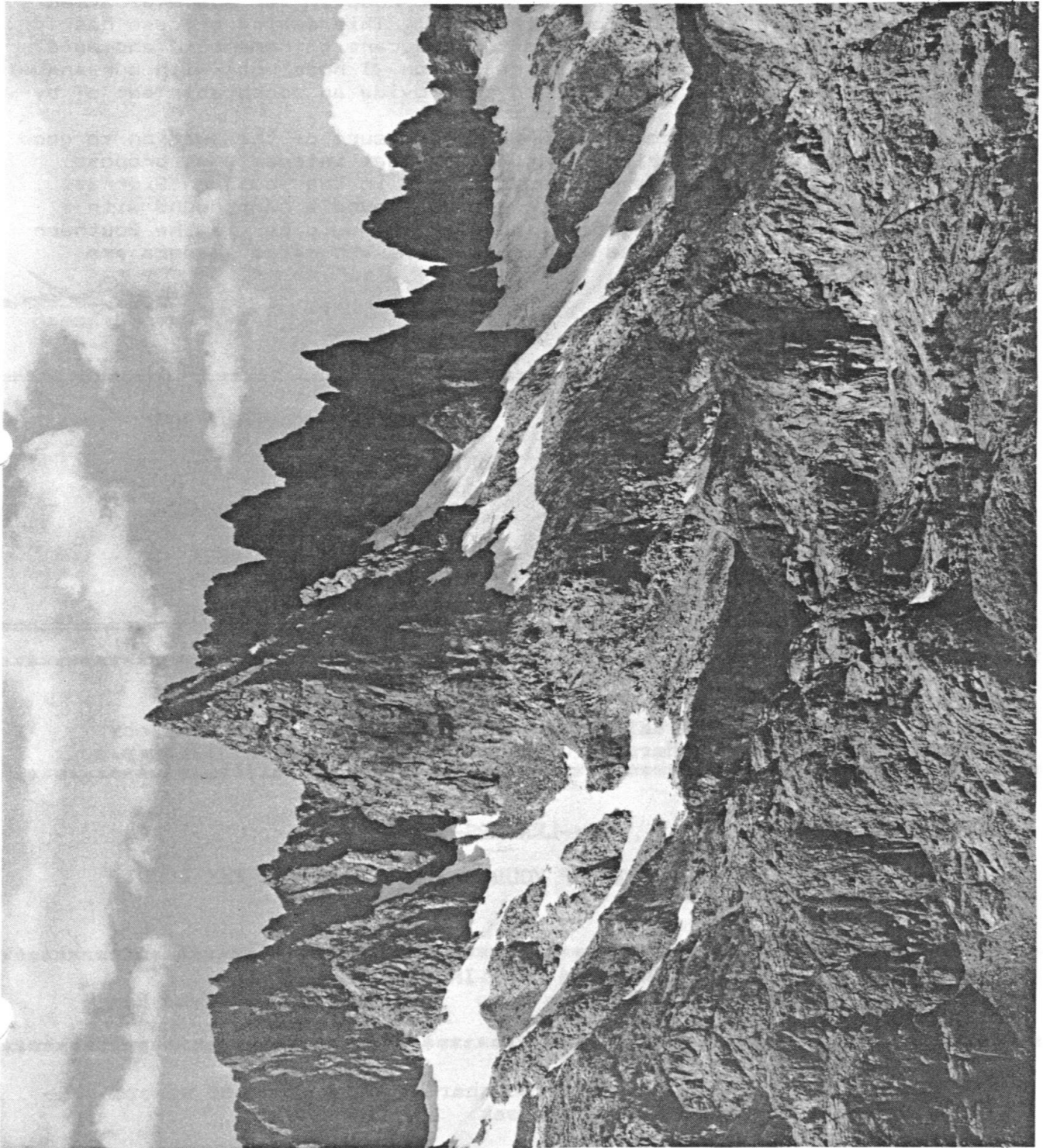
# ECHO

VOLUME 29

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NO. 4



Summer is here and the climbing season is now in full swing. This is the time we test our safety and conditioning. Let us do so safely. We have had our first meeting at the Griffith Park location and are developing our opinions about the arrangement.

The SPS section bylaws have been drafted and are ready for review. Any one wishing to help us with editing them for content and context is invited to send a SASE (2 first-class stamps, please) to Ron Hudson for a copy. They will shortly be submitted to chapter for approval, then to the membership at large for acceptance. This entire process has been going on years longer than most of us care to remember, and we'd like to include its acceptance or rejection (I hope not) with our annual election. The section is obligated to provide an acceptable set of by-laws.

We continue to wish to provide wider exposure of the section to good prospects for mountaineering. As part of that interest, we propose an October weekend with several peak climbs in the southern Sierras. It could be one large affair concentrated around a campground with a get-together on Saturday evening. Publicity would be via the Southern Sierran. All are encouraged to submit ideas and rated leaders are asked for their assistance.

*Dave Bykeman*  
Dave Bykeman

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**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**NEW MEMBERS**

Carolyn West  
3901 N. Union Ave., #4  
Bakersfield, CA 93305  
(805)323-9360

Charmaine Le Desma  
5121 Stallion Circle  
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

**REINSTATED MEMBER & NEW  
EMBLEM HOLDER**  
Norma Limp  
2331 29th St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

**NEW ECHO SUBSCRIBERS**  
Linda Medici  
Wynne Benti

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**SPS PROGRAM FOR AUGUST**

August 14 Meeting: "Kayaking Glacier Bay, Alaska" by George Toby.  
Refreshments by Sherry Harsh. Griffith Park Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

-----LEADERS-----

**DON'T FORGET TO WRITE UP YOUR SPRING TRIPS FOR THE ECHO!**

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**VOLUME 29-4 PEAK INDEX (1985)**

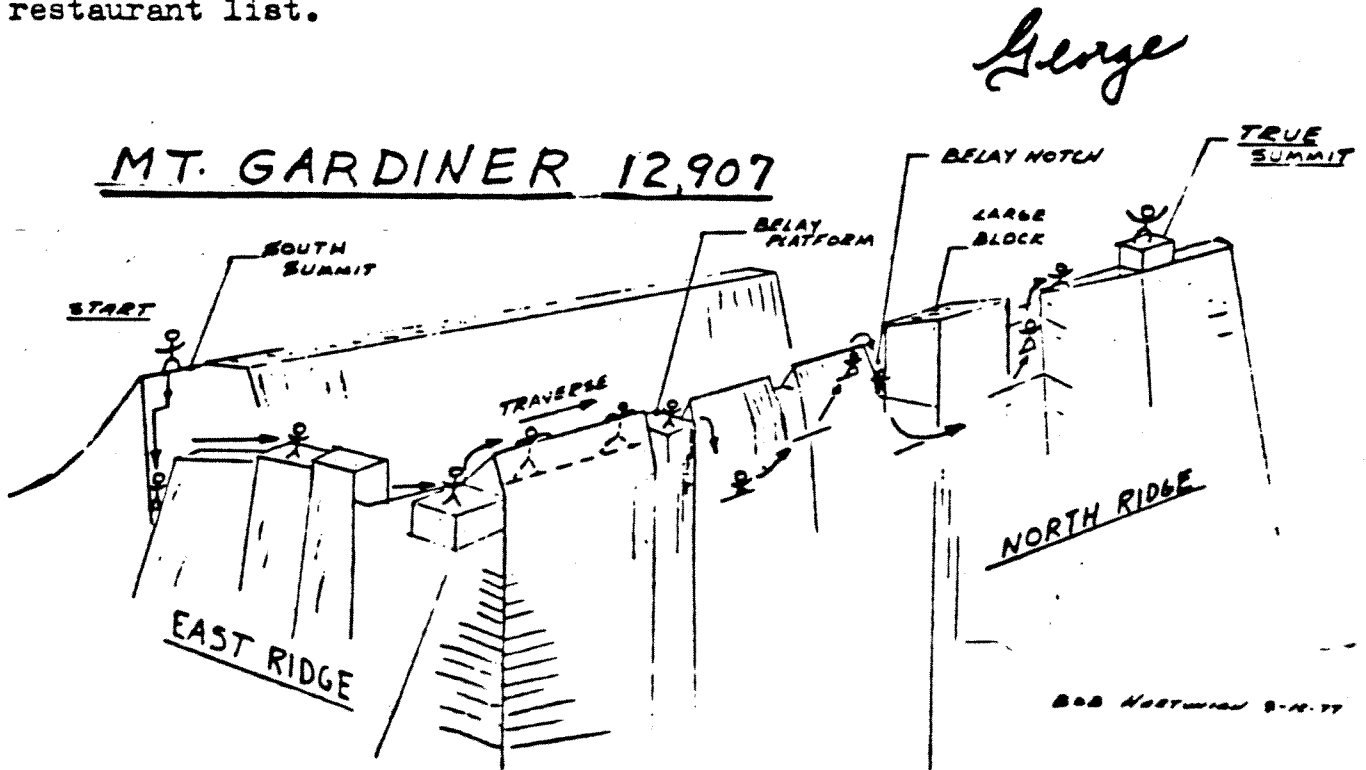
Cotter                      Inconsolable Snow Camp                      Sangre de Cristo Range  
Gardiner                      Rockhouse                      Taylor Dome

COVER PHOTO: Thanks to Tom Ross for sharing this photo of spectacular Clyde Minaret, taken from Minaret Peak.

Participants were George Toby, Maris Valkass, Vic Heney, Sue Wyman, Jim Farkas, Terry Rivera, and Tom Ferguson. From Union Valley, we backpacked over Kearsarge and Glen Passes. On the North side of Glen we descended to a cluster of small lakes, then climbed cross country to a sandy Col at about 11,700. This is an easy route into the South end of 60 Lakes Basin. We picked up a use trail at the Col and descended to a superb campsite near the second of a string of lakes. This is just gorgeous contry, and we had a fun loving group. We had two of the most pleasmt campfires I can remember. Terry enchanted us with song. Her clear operatic voice rose like a nightingale's thril in the crisp mountain air. Maris and Jim never ran out of entertaining stories. There was so much good natured camaraderie, it carried over to the next day, and the climbs went very easily.

Sunday we descended into the 60 Lakes Basin and headed West to climb Cotter by the Southeast slopes. Great views of Gardiner from the top of Cotter. We descended the West side of Cotter and climbed the East slopes of Gardiner to the South (lower) summit. Then did the Hartunian Traverse to the North summit. (see sketch). Nice solid rock. Not difficult, just lots of exposure. We set up a static rope at the indicated belay points. This was a fun climb, my second time on Gardiner and just as delightful as the first time. Many thanks to Maris Valkass for his excellent assistance on this trip.

Monday we retraced our route out to Union Valley and the cars. We regrouped at Anna's Italian Villa in Independence. Family operated with good food, beer & wine, at a fair price. Put Anna's on your restaurant list.



Taylor Dome & Rockhouse: Oct 20-21 1984. This trip will long be in our memories for a lost participant. A large group assembled in Big Meadow with crusty snow covering much of the ground. We headed for Taylor Dome first. Ice in the summit block area made the route a little sticky. A belay was set up and most climbers used it. All but one participant went for the summit. Then it was on to Rockhouse via Manter Meadow via cross-country and trail with a lunch break at Manter Meadow. The trail is often hard to follow, but the terrain is generally easy. The abilities of the group were quite varied, and some participants were antsy. It was no great surprise that when the route became a bit of a bush-wack, some of the stronger participants tried to assist with route finding. We ended up on the east side of the ravine that we had intended to climb to the saddle near the peak...except for one strong participant who was on the other side of the ravine. He was reprimanded, then allowed to proceed to the saddle. He didn't arrive there or at the summit. A member who stayed at the saddle said voice contact was established with the bottom of the ravine. We couldn't raise him, but proceeded down, calling loudly all the time; especially in the area of the chute and where the missing participant was last seen. We made the decision not to split the party and compound the problem as time was growing late. With a slow group, we arrived at the trailhead after 8 p.m. With the participant still missing, we notified the Tulare County Sherriff's office. A search, employing a USAF chopper, was organized the next a.m. The missing soul walked out about noon. After overflying the area, it still seems easy to arrive at the right point, but..... What seems like an easy outing can easily turn into an eventful outing. Like the unhappy beer salesman, this leader was a sadder bud-wiser man. ....Till the happy ending.

Dave Dykeman

SCENE Argument on survivability of species:

HAWK: My keen eyesight & soaring strikes from above leave me invulnerable.

LION: My great power and agility earned me the title "king of the jungle."

SKUNK: I have a defense that no creature even dares try to penetrate.

The argument becomes very heated.

ENTER: A great bear; unseen & unheard in the heat of the debate.

CLOSING SCENE:

Only the bear remains.

He ate all the others:

HAWK

LION

and STINKER

March 30-31, 1985

## Annual Winter Snow Camp

As in previous years, the annual winter snow camp and peak climb went as planned despite the absence of scheduled leaders. Seven eager climbers met promptly at 7 a.m. at Jack's Waffle Shop in Bishop to witness the leader, Gary Guenther, overwhelmed by a severe case of wheezes and sniffles excuse himself from the arduous pursuit of the lofty summit of Inconsolable Peak. The participants dallied around the coffee shop until 7:40 a.m. waiting for the assistant leader to appear. As precious minutes of climbing time trickled away, the ambitious climbers resolved to formally sign out and assault the peak leaderless.

The small caravan of cars proceeded west on route 167 to Bishop Lodge where the plowed road terminated. The skies were clear and the sun shone brightly on fresh snow. After strapping the unwieldy snowshoes onto their feet, the magnificent seven proceeded up the snow covered road for four miles undaunted by the weight of their winter packs. Many layers of clothes were shed enroute as temperatures rose and the trudging became intense. At Parcher's Camp, the mighty seven departed from the road and veered up the virgin snow slopes toward Green Lake. Here misfortune struck several members of the group. The fresh snow was soft and deep. Many a snowshoe shod climber plunged into the drifts up to their waist only to come back up to the surface with one or more snowshoe missing. Hasty repairs were made on the spot several times and an ever lengthening trough coursed its way up the drainage from Green Lake. The menace of avalanches loomed on all sides as the snow pack settled periodically with a heart wrenching thump. Nonetheless, the climbers prevailed and established camp a mile short of Green Lake.

After a peaceful night in camp the climbers prepared to assault the peak(s) of their choice as morning dawned. The magnificent seven split into three groups to pursue their ambitions independently: some wanted to bag three peaks that day, some were willing to compromise with two peaks, others felt comfortable with only one. The weather remained clear and the views were spectacular. At 3 p.m. six climbers gathered back in camp to await the return of the seventh and to tell their tales of conquest. Some climbers bagged the unlisted Hunchback Peak and some conquered an unnamed benchmark peak but none had the chance to stand on the summit of Inconsolable Peak. Time, broken snowshoes and soft snow conditions impeded everyone's progress and dampened ambitions. The seventh climber did not return to camp empty handed until 4:30 p.m. after extensive speculation by the waiting climbers as to his present and future fate. The camp was broken and the group proceeded down the avalanche threatened slope wading through waist deep snow. Everyone reached the cars by 8:00 p.m. after an exhausting day eagerly anticipating the long voyage home down the ubiquitous 395.

After this adventure, I personally swore to leave my snowshoes in the first trash bin encountered and on future winter ventures to bring skis and climbing skins. The magnificent seven were: Lisa Freundlich, Deloris Holladay, Eve Laeger, Eric Lowhar, Igor Mamedalin, Suzanne Thomas, and Glynn Wolar.

Igor M.

## HIGH MOUNTAINS OF NEW MEXICO (by Barbara Lilley)

The Sangre de Cristo Range, part of the Rocky Mountain system, extends from southern Colorado south into New Mexico, east of Taos and Santa Fe. It contains the southernmost 13,000' peaks in the U.S. (outside of Hawaii), which are surrounded by dense forests to above 12,000' in wilderness areas and drained by old glacial gorges with lakes and waterfalls.

One would tend to think that all New Mexico mountains would have a dry desert-like climate in the summer, even more than the Sierra. Not so! New Mexico and Arizona receive half of their precipitation in the summer months in what the Weather Bureau actually calls a "monsoon season". During July and August, the "Bermuda High" pulls in moisture from the Gulf of Mexico and thunderstorms, sometimes quite violent, occur every day. (May, June and September are usually drier.) One thing IS common with the Sierra--Wilderness Areas require entry permits, although there are no quotas and permits will be sent by mail.

Wheeler Peak (13,161'), in the Wheeler Wilderness Area near Taos, is the high point of New Mexico and can be climbed in one long day. The route via Williams Lake, described in Ashley's book on state high points, is no longer available due to private property problems. The recommended route is the newer East Fork trail (may not be on topo); for this approach, obtain permit from Questa Ranger Station, P.O. 110, Questa, New Mexico 87554. From Questa, drive thru Red River to edge of town where road forks. Take right hand road for about 7 & 1/2 miles up east fork of the Red River to a "T". Turn left, passing by private cabins and thru 2 wire gates for about 1 & 1/2 miles to a broad area near stream where 4-WD road begins. Walk up this road to Horseshoe Lake trail. From Horseshoe Lake, trail climbs to ridge just south of Wheeler Peak. Topo map is Wheeler, 7 & 1/2 minute.

The Pecos Wilderness Area contains 3 13,000' peaks and about a dozen over 12,000'. There are really 2 separate groups connected by the "Skyline Trail," which never drops below 9700'. However, since trailhead breakins here are even worse than in the Sierra, the only safe place to leave a car unguarded is at the Santa Fe Ski Basin, the approach from the south. From here, a backpack of about 60 miles round trip (as described below) would give access to most of the named peaks. Wilderness Permits can be obtained from the Tesuque Ranger District, 1155 Siler Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

From Santa Fe Ski Basin, follow the Skyline Trail to Lake Katherine, climbing Santa Fe Baldy (12,622') en route. Further along, Capulin Pk. (12,357') could be climbed via the side trail to Johnson Lake; East Pecos Baldy (12,529') is reached by a short side trail several miles beyond. Then, from a camp below the Truchas Lakes, South Truchas (13,103'), Middle Truchas (13,066') and North Truchas (13,024) can be climbed in one day; from a camp further along the Skyline Trail, Chimayosos Pk. (12,841'), Jicarilla Pk. (12,515') and Barbara Pk. (12,640') can be reached. For a different route of return, take the Rio Azul trail southward for about 6 miles, then gradually work westward on a series of connecting trails, finally rejoining the Skyline trail near Steward Lake. After a short distance, take the Spirit Lake trail to climb Lake Peak (12,409') and Penitente Pk (12,249') before returning to the Santa Fe Ski Basin.

Topo maps are: El Valle, Jicarita, Pecos Falls, Cowles, Aspen Basin and Truchas Peaks (all 7&1/2'). An excellent, almost indispensable reference book is "Trail Guide to the Upper Pecos", available for \$3.50 from New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources, Socorro, New Mexico 87801. This gives accurate, up-to-date trail descriptions and mileages and includes a trail and geologic map of the area. There is also a "Guide to New Mexico Mountains", by H. Ungnade. This mountain area is certainly worth visiting--the "post-monsoon" month of September might be the best. Otherwise, take plenty of rain gear and be prepared to wait out thunderstorms before climbing the peak.

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

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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.

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