

The Sierra



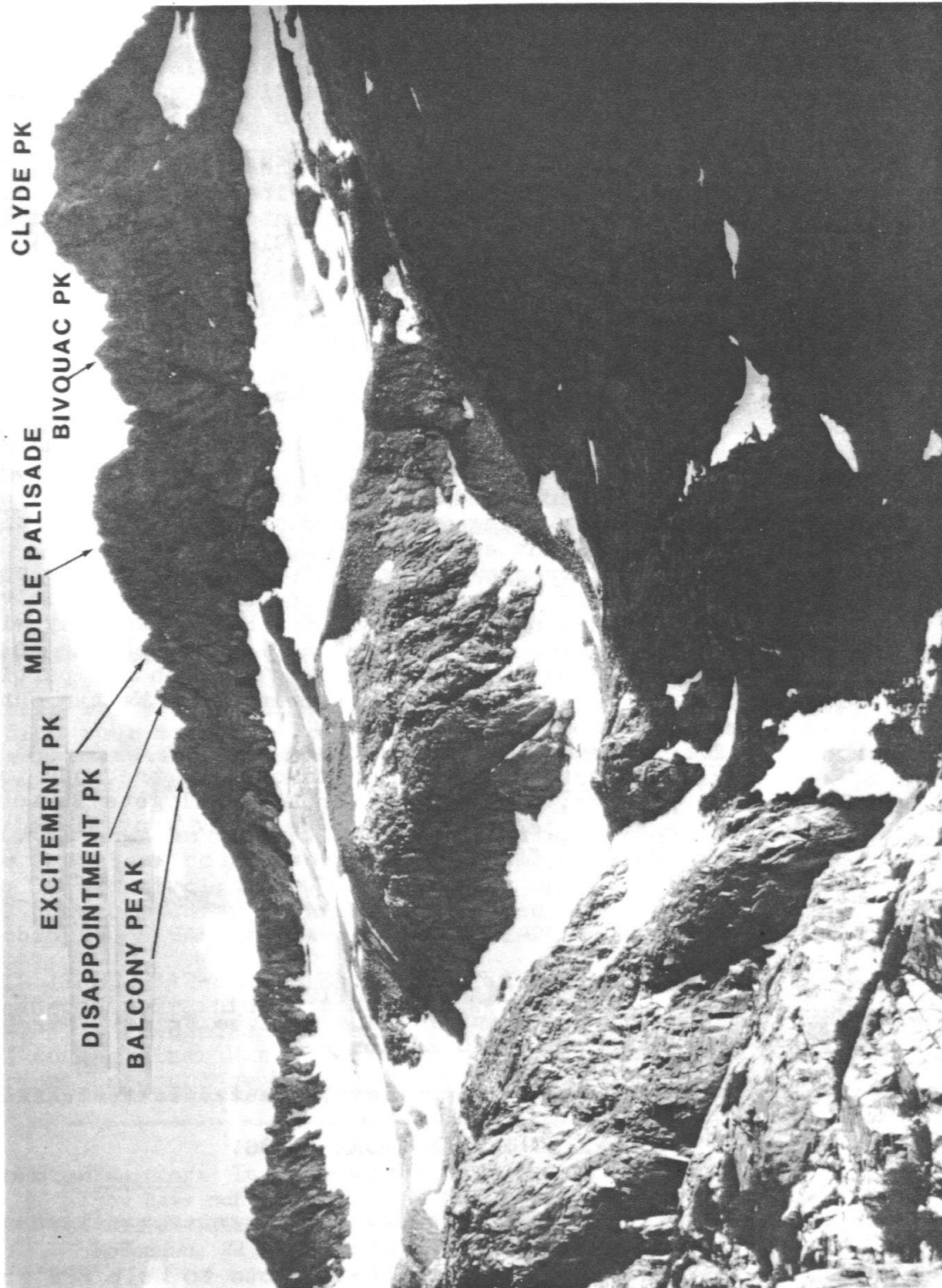
ECHO

VOLUME 30

JAN - FEB

1986

NO. 1



"It is easy to know the beauty of inhuman things, sea,
storm and mountain; it is their soul and their
meaning.

Humanity has its lesser beauty, impure and painful; we
have to harden our hearts to bear it."

Robinson Jeffers

I like to collect references to the mountains as I
read and scan through my day's business and pleasure.
Now as chairperson, I have a captive audience with whom to
share my treasures. Also, if any of you have a favorite,
please send it to me for sharing.

Perhaps my quote even contains a theme for this month's
"corner". We seek the mountains for their beauty, but mundane
affairs must be attended to when they interfere. Insurance
legalities as mandated by the National Club threaten the
character of the SPS outing emphasis. It is therefore necessary
for our section to eliminate 4th class and above from its
sponsored outings and to find renewed purpose in the pre-
dominance of acceptable peaks on our list.

We need to increase our outreach to potential members .
Past Chairperson Dave Dykeman set a precedent for planning
climbs specifically to entice newcomers. We need to step up
the distribution of information about our section to the BMTC
and other groups. Our meetings can serve as catalysts for
private trips to be arranged among interested parties. The
Echo can accept advertising with formulation of an advertising
policy by the management committee.

You rated leaders are the gold of the SPS. Please plan
many and varied trips in recognition of the above objectives
and get them into Outing Chairperson Ron Hudson so they will
make the March 3 deadline for the summer schedule. The silver
and bronze among us need the gold so that we can all partic-
ipate in a climbing bullmarket for summer '86. We can out-
wit the insurance bears.

This Echo comes to you through the efforts of Al and
Sharon Conrad who get it printed. Sharon gets the copy to
the Cal Tech printer, picks it up, and then Al gets it to
the SPS meetings and to the mailer. We thank you, Al and
Sharon for this vital service!

Mary Sue Miller

ECHO DEADLINE NOTICE

The ECHO deadline for the March-April issue will be Friday, March 14,
not March 20! --Pat Holleman, ECHO Editor

VOLUME 30-1 PEAK INDEX (1986)

Hooper

Senger

Silver

Norman Clyde

COVER PHOTO: Dave Vandervoet submitted this photo to help SPS'ers
identify the peaks of the South Fork of Big Pine Creek. Thanks, Dave.

1986 SPS SPRING SCHEDULE

Mar 8-9	Rock climbing, Joshua Tree	Jones, Bradley
Mar 8-9	Thor Pk	Mantle, Danta
Mar 29-30	Rock practice, Joshua Tree	Ranschau, Dykeman
Apr 5-6	Cornell, San Jacinto	Korbut-Weberg, Mohn
Apr 12-13	Baldwin	Secor, McFadden
Apr 19-20	Deer Mtn Diamond Jubilee Climb	Jones, Rohn
Apr 19-20	Mt. Morgan	Guenther, Gordon
Apr 26-27	Owens, Spanish Needle	Hudson, Richburg
Apr 26-27	Cartago, Pilot Knob #1	McFadden, Toby
May 3-4	Bolton-Brown	Dykeman, Borad
May 3-4	Dragon, Kearsarge	Farkas
May 3-4	Spanish Needle, Pilot Knob #1	Mindlin, Korbut-Weberg
May 10-11	Baxter	Guenther, Dykeman
May 17-18	Whitney	Fried, Gygax
May 17-18	McAdie	Dykeman, Gordon
May 24-25	Perkins, Colosseum	Mamedalin, Valkass
May 24-26	Bradley, Keith, Center	McFadden, Breakwell
May 24-26	Birch, Thumb	Toby, Farkas
May 31-Jun 1	Abbot	Korbut-Weberg, Pearsons
Jun 7-8	Black, Diamond	McFadden, Toby
Jun 7-8	Taylor Dome, Lookout, Schaeffer	Keating, Whisman
Jun 7-8	Olancha	Jamison, Dunie
Jun 7-9	Spanish, Tehipite Dome	Borad, Dykeman
Jun 21-22	Agassiz, Goode	Borad, Marquez
Jul 4-6	Sawtooth #1, Lamont, Smith, several 100 peaks	Amack, Raiford
Jul 4-9	Conness, North, Pettit, Volunteer, Piute, Tower	Dykeman, Gordon

SUMMER SCHEDULE DEADLINE NOTICE

The trip write-up deadline for the July 5-October 31 Schedule is March 3. Send your trips to Ron Hudson no later than February 28.

MARCH 29-30, SAT-SUN: (M) ROCK PRACTICE AT J-TREE

Let's sharpen our skills on third class rock. Saturday, we'll do some 3rd class routes and practice some of the techniques for use in more difficult climbing. Sunday it's more of the same, but some people will probably check out for unsponsored (more difficult than sanctioned) climbing. SASE to Dave LEADERS: CUNO RANSCHAU/DAVE DYKEMAN.

APRIL 12-13 (SAT-SUN) LEADERSHIP TRAINING COMMITTEE will hold a Leadership Training Seminar in the Griffith Park area. See front of the Angeles Chapter Schedule for requirements. Send a SASE to Registrar Nancy Gordon for application and information. Application must be returned prior to April 1.

Reminder: It is time to renew your Echo subscription, if you have not yet done so. Please make \$4 check payable to "Sierra Peaks Section" and send to the treasurer, Harold McFadden, 2237 1/4 S. Bentley, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

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FROM A MEMORANDUM RE: INSURANCE RESTRICTIONS ON MOUNTAINEERING

Effective immediately and until further notice from the insurer, all Sierra Club activities involving climbs, routes, or other forms of mountaineering or mountaineering instruction shall comply with the following standards of the American Alpine Club:

Permitted Activities:

- Class 1: Walking
- Class 2: Scrambling, occasionally using hands for balance.
- Class 3: Easy climbing. Extensive use of foot and hand holds. Moderate exposure. Take a rope: some climbers may wish to be belayed.

Prohibited Activities:

- Class 4: More difficult climbing. Holds are smaller. More exposure. Ropes, carabiners, chocks or friends, and slings necessary for safety. Use adequate belays.
- Class 5: Holds smaller and climbing very exposed. Same procedures as for 4th class except that equipment is used more extensively to maintain the same margin of safety.

(Continued next page)

INSURANCE RESTRICTIONS (Cont.)

Comment from the SPS Safety Chair:

Climbing is as safe as you want to make it. Accidents are almost always a result of carelessness or ignorance. Well-trained climbers, responsible leadership, and sound judgement represent the best "margin of safety" in mountain climbing.

Scheduled rock instruction and practices are an important part of the SPS program in providing adequate practice for participating safely in our scheduled climbs. Our leaders must now exercise careful judgement in evaluating what is 3rd class and what is 4th class rock climbing. Limiting climbs to 3rd class doesn't guarantee safe climbing, but competent instruction and conscientious practice do.

Personally, I've had more close calls on the highway than on climbs. For me, getting injured on a climb is climbing poorly. In fact, climbing is the healthiest and one of the safest activities in which I participate.

-Nancy Gordon

ANGELES CHAPTER SAFETY POLICY ADDENDUM

The Angeles Chapter Executive Committee in its meeting of October 17 passed the following requirements to be added to the Angeles Chapter Safety Policy which governs the conduct of all outings conducted by the Chapter.

1. With the exception of "conducted" [C] events, two appropriately rated leaders are required for all Chapter sponsored outings unless specifically authorized by the Safety Committee.
2. If two rated leaders are not available at the start of the outing, the event must be canceled.
3. Trips cancelled for this reason may not be led as "private" outings.

This is not a new policy as it has been taught in the Leadership Training Program and it is stated in the Leader Reference Book. " All trips require two appropriately rated leaders. If one of the designated leaders is not available, a rated participant may be appointed as an assistant leader. All assistants must meet the rating requirements that the trip difficulty specifies. If this can not be done, the route or objective must be modified to match the leader/assistant rating level. The trip must be canceled if two properly rated leaders are not available....The planned trip can not be led as a "private trip" since it would be recognized as a Sierra Club sponsored outing."

If in the course of a trip the leader or assistant becomes unable to serve the other rated leader may appoint any trip participant who is a Sierra Club member to act as their assistant until the leader or assistant is again able to serve or until the end of the outing.

Ron Jones-TSAC

10 YEAR SIERRA CLIMBING ROUTE INDEX--1976 TO 1986
Through ECHO Vol. 29-7

I last compiled an index for base camp and climbing routes of Sierra Peaks for ECHOS through Volume 28-1 in 1984. It is now being updated through the ECHO of December 1985. I have omitted many interesting writeups when they seemed not to include significant descriptions of the route. Also, routes on un-named peaks are not included as they are difficult to classify in a conventional index format. I would appreciate receiving any corrections or additions to this index for future updating. Future maintenance of the index is easy as it is now on floppy disk.

I have indexed all write-ups since 1976. Peaks without write-ups during this period will show the least route information listed prior to 1976. Earlier indexes will be found in ECHO Vols 28 No.2, 20-8 and Vol 14-2. There may be writeups which I have overlooked, and for these omissions I apologize.

Following the name of the peak there will be a series of several numbers; for instance: Belcony 22-1/29-2. These figures mean that route information for this peak can be found in Vol. 22 issue #1 and Vol. 29 issue #2 of the ECHO.

--RON JONES

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SPS Annual Banquet
December 11, 1985

The 29th SPS banquet was held at the Sportsmen's Lodge in Studio City on December 11th. Approximately 100 members and guests attended the gala event, which began with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. This society columnist noted that the tables were decked with sprigs of mistletoe thanks to Norm Rohn; the entree was boeuf bourguignon; and the mood was convivial.

Dave Dykeman, the 1985 chairperson, officiated. He reviewed the Section's accomplishments in the past year and individually thanked the elected and appointed officers for their help. Dave and the assembled diners enthusiastically applauded Ruth Armentrout, banquet chairperson, for the evening's festivities. Dave gave special recognition to all leaders, emblem-holders, and list finishers in 1985 and in prior years. He then turned the podium over to Mary Sue Miller, the 1986 chairperson.

On behalf of the SPS members, Mary Sue thanked Dave for his work during the past year and adroitly attached a past chairperson's pin to his lapel. She then introduced the following officers for 1986:

- Ron Hudson, Vice Chairperson and Outings
- Larry Machleder, Alternate Officer and Programs
- Harold McFadden, Treasurer
- Vieve Weldon, Secretary and Membership
- Dave Dykeman, Council Representative
- Nancy Gordon, Safety and Training
- Vi Grasso, Banquet
- Gerry Holleman, Membership List
- Pat Holleman, Echo Editor
- Ella Hoselton, Echo Mailer
- Rob Roy McDonald, Mountain Records
- Bill T. Russell, Conservation

R.J. Secor dispensed the door prizes with the assistance of **Nada Berger** who demonstrated a statistically random hand-in-box sampling method for selecting winners. We owe special thanks to the following door prize contributors for their generosity:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Adventure 16 (Tarzana) | bomber hat |
| Graham Breakwell | <u>Climbing Ice</u> |
| Dolt of California | ski bag, fanny and
other packs |
| Gorak Books (R.J.Secor) | <u>Mexico's Volcanoes,</u>
<u>Alaskan Expeditions</u> |
| Holubar (Santa Ana) | MSR Whisperlite Stove |
| Mountain High
(Campy & Ski) | climbing rope, ice ax,
and carabiners |
| Pat's Ski and Sport
(Santa Ana) | \$25 gift certificate |
| REI (Orange) | day pack, gaitors, and
Swiss Army knife |

Vladimir Lange presented a program of slides and commentary entitled "A South American High." This excellent show let us share the beauty and challenge of places far away and high above.

All in all, the banquet was a great success and a fitting end to another fine year for the SPS.

Respectfully submitted,



Vieve Weldon, Secretary

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Ron Jones

Five Years Ago in the SPS

There was not much SPS activity during the winter months of January-February. The only scheduled trip reported in 1981 was a winter snow camp led by Campy where 18 people "achlepped" around on snow shoes up to Lone Pine and Mirror Lakes. Dave Jurasevich joined the SPS this period. A new revision of the SPS peak list, chaired by Bill T Russell, was issued with 246 peaks, unchanged from the previous revision. Changes included listing 19 new 7 1/2' topos, UTM coordinates are given for some peaks, the degree of climbing difficulty for some peaks was changed to reflect the current consensus and the definition of "mountaineers" and "emblem" peaks was made mutually exclusive.

Ten Years Ago

Ted Maier, past SPS chair in 1963 & a major force in forming the SPS died of natural causes in January, 1976. SPS member Vern Stiles was killed while on a climb of Mt St Helens in February. Andy Fried, Tom Jeter, Larry Tidball, Chuck Youngberg, Dennis Lantz & Cunningham held a joint SPS/RCS Rescue seminar for 32 interested members of those groups, the National Speleological Society, Sierra Madre Search & Rescue & Los Padres Search & Rescue. New members included David T Russell, Mary McKelleys & Jim Furniss. A new revision of the SPS peak list, chaired by Bill T Russell, was issued with 246 peaks. The new list showed Senior emblem requirements & peaks.

Twenty Years Ago

No new members and no scheduled trips reported this period in 1966. SPSer Bob Michaels & 3 fellow Poona Collegeites made a private climb of Keerserge Pk in January but were turned back on University Pk because of fresh heavy snow.

Twenty Five Years Ago

The 3rd revision of the SPS peak list was printed in February 1961 with a total of 232 peaks. Previous SPS qualifying lists were the original list with 100 peaks issued in October 1955, the 1st revision of February 1957 with 216 peaks and 2nd revision of May 1958 with 227 peaks. Jerry Keating led 23 on a climb of Lamont and Owens Pk. Tom Ross made a private climb, a winter 1st ascent, of Birch Mtn in late February on his 42" "sawdenhof" short skis. An SPS ice axe practise was held at the San Antonio ski hut in late February. Lothar Kolbig and Ted Maier instructed 33 SPSers. Dorothy Cutler, David Haaren & Ronald Lyman joined the Section this period bringing the membership total to 118.

--RON

Nailing my way across the white band under the roof, I looked down at belayer Dave Vandervoet and yelled into the storm, "Are you sure this is the Mantle ducked route?" Dave stood high in the etriers, mumbled a few choice expletives, and said "Bail out Roberto". So went my fifth attempt at Norman Clyde Peak.

Now, mountaineers have to accept the fact that all peak climbs will not be successful. Typical excuses are weather, lack of time, lousy route finding and "I got a headache". Having used all of them over the past six years, I decided to stay on the mountain until either we made the top or the peak eroded away. The accompanying diagram atests to the fact that we finally did Clyde Peak, the right way.

From Finger Lake, walk over talus and ascend the scree slope to Firebird Ridge which leads directly to the mountain's North-East ridge. Cross onto the north face when the ridge steepens, Rock ducks provided by Doug Mantle and supplemented by us take you upward along the face on zigzag ledges, always remaining within 200' of the north-east ridge. On previous climbs, I explored the whole north face and believe me, this is the only route that goes!

Most of the ascent is 3rd class with spots of 4th, especially near the upper face. The primary landmark is a series of slab benches with slippery, black water stains about 300' from the summit ridge-line. A narrow crack system on the right of the slabs leads to the top and steepens on the last pitch. Once on the false summit, normal scrambling leads to the top in 20 minutes. The view is spectacular specially of Middle Palisade just to the south.

I have been carrying a lightweight 5/16 dia., 120' goldline for years as a "just in case" rope. Although it was unnecessary on the ascent, it was perfect for 5 rappels on decent over loose rocks. I would suggest carrying a rope and sufficient expendable slings to allow for safe return.

Norman Clyde Peak was a special mountain for me-partly because of the numerous times I was turned back and because it was a favorite of old Norman whose climbing career I much admire. As always, Dave's company in doing the more challenging peaks is my favorite partnership.

Bob

Please note: March 31 is the deadline for Echo subscription renewals. See back page of Echo for renewal info.

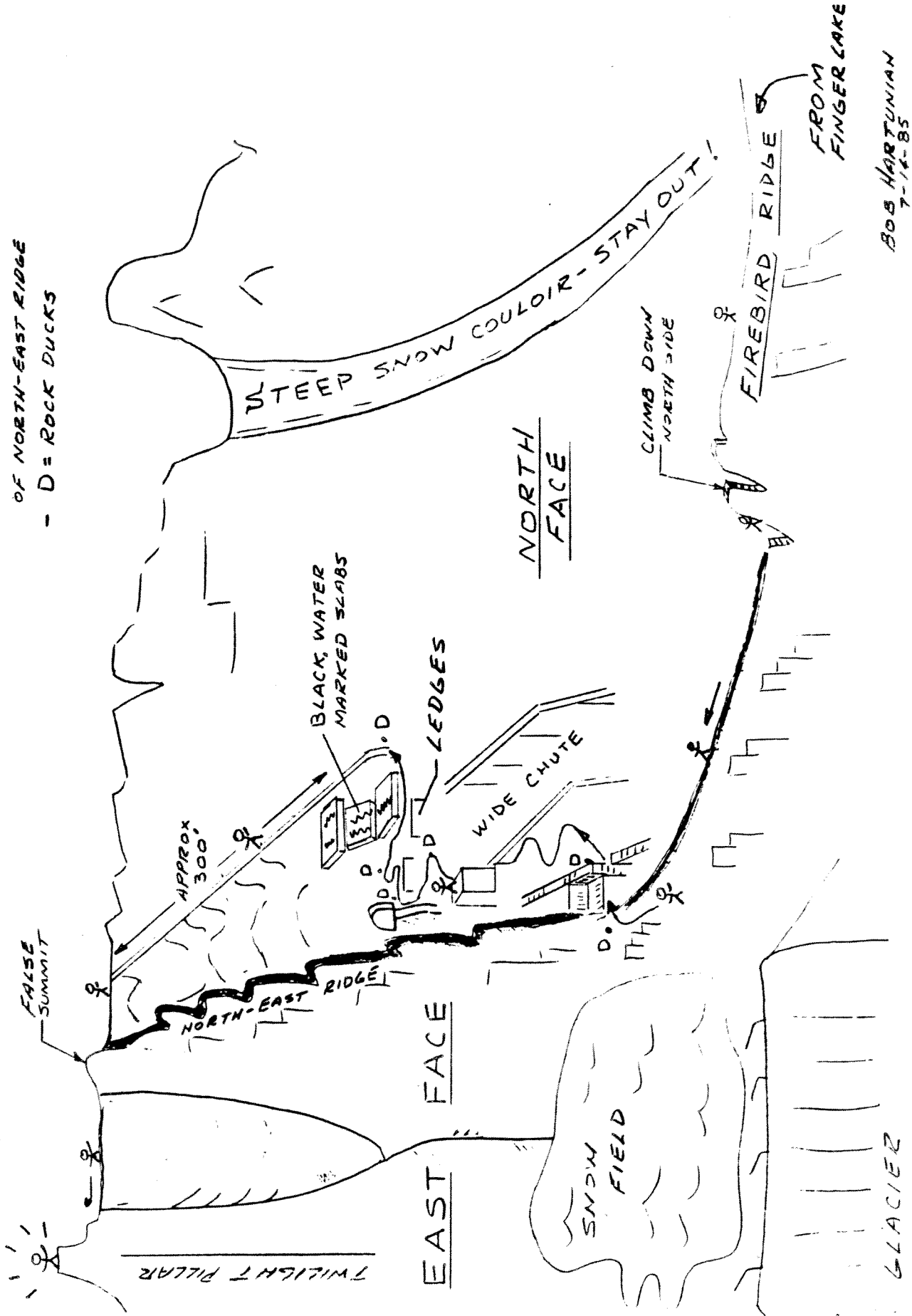
SPS PROGRAMS FOR MARCH AND APRIL

March 12 Meeting: "Hidden Yemen Revealed" presented by Jim McDonald. High Yemen's mountains rise 13,000 feet above the Red Sea. Explore this exotic and seldom seen area with Jim. Refreshments by Eric Schumacher. Griffith Park Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

April 9 Meeting: "A safari to Botswana" presented by Jon Pereka. See south central Africa, another area most of us will never get to see in person. Refreshments by George Toby. Griffith Park Auditorium. 7:30 P.m.

NORMAN CLYDE PEAK

- NORTH FACE ROUTE STAYS WITHIN 200' OF NORTH-EAST RIDGE
- D = ROCK DUCKS



BOB HARTUNIAN
7-14-85

Getting a permit for this trip was pure frustration. I applied by mail Mar. 1st to the Shaver Lake Ranger Station and stated this was an Angeles Chapter Sierra Club trip. Soon I received a letter saying I also needed an "Outfitter Guide" permit. Included was a two page application and an instruction page. I filled out and returned the forms stating I was not a packer and there were no charges of any kind for the people on the trip. By return mail I received a post card permit reservation for 10 people, but no mention of the Outfitter Guide requirement. Three days later I got another post card reservation with the same info. Two months later I got a letter from the District Ranger saying the trip was reviewed and I did not need an Outfitter Guide permit. Sensing that the Forest Service right hand did not know what the left hand was doing, shortly before the trip I phoned the Ranger Station and said we would be driving up late Friday night and would they put the permit in the night box. They assured me it would be done. We arrived at 10 pm Friday night, and you guessed it, no permit. The Ranger Station closed up tight. A sign said open at 6 am. We camped out nearby in the forest. It rained, spent part of the night in the car, not much sleep. Got the permit about 6:15 Sat morning. Of course the girl that wrote it up knew nothing about all the past proceedings and why it was not in the night box. It was interesting to note that each piece of paper on this fiasco was signed by a different person. Is this a normal Forest Service screw up, or a clever plot against the Sierra Club?

It took over 1½ hrs to drive to the Florence Lake boat dock. The last part is on a one lane very curvy mountain road. We arrived just in time. The first ferry starts loading at 8:00 am. The entire group was there with packs on the dock wondering where the leaders were. The boat is called the Sierra Queen, has a steel hull, and two big Evinrude outboards. A good boat. It moved right along. Time across Florence Lake is about 24 minutes. Last return ferry loads at 5:00 pm. Fare is \$4.00 each way.

It rained off and on during the backpack in to basecamp at Upper Sally Keyes Lake. A real beauty spot. But the rain discouraged any attempt to climb Mt. Senger that afternoon. This crowded our Sunday schedule. Sunday dawned bright but cloudy. We buzzed up the Muir Trail to Selden Pass, then West by the standard route to Mt. Hooper. The summit block was climbed from the back side. There are a couple 4th class moves. We belayed folks up and down one at a time. A slow process. Returned to Selden Pass somewhat behind schedule, had lunch and off to Senger. We climbed S.E. to a prominent break in the ridge, over to the South side and up to the peak. A good route. It began to rain again. The normally easy route down the S.W. slopes of Senger was hampered by slick rocks and wet timber. This dictated caution and a slower pace. We arrived back in camp about 1½ hrs behind schedule, but with luck could just make the last ferry back across Florence Lake. But Lady Luck deserted us. One gal developed a bad case of altitude sickness. She slowed down, tossed her cookies, and finally could go no further. We gathered up all the food and water we could spare, and left her and a companion at a good campsite with map and instruction to hike out the next day. This took a lot of time. Even though we hot footed it out of there, it became evident that we would not only miss the last ferry but would not make it out before dark. We pressed on, the sun set, it was a black night, and we stumbled on to the rocky shore of Florence Lake and made camp. We lost the last part of the trail in the darkness, continued on by compass course, and camped only 60 yards from the ferry landing. Toby vetoed the option of walking around Florence Lake in the dark when we were at the last trail junction. Another 2½ to 3 hours.

Hooper & Senger, (continued)

Monday dawned bright and clear. We pooled our remaining scraps of food for breakfast. An interesting combination of the bottom of the packs. When you are hungry you will eat anything. Toby made lots of tea. Mary Sue Miller stood on a big rock, thrust her arms to the sky, and shouted, "I feel great". Indeed we all felt great. We knew it was the right decision to stay overnight and not push on in the darkness. While waiting for the ferry our other two hikers arrived. They left at first light. So the entire group sailed back across the lake to the cars and a daylight ride home. This trip ended on a very happy note.

George

Silver Peak

July 13-14, 1985

Rohn/Dykeman

Eight participants had a fine outing in this portion of the new Ansel Adams Wilderness between Edison Lake and the Silver Divide. There is ample parking and sleeping space at the Devil's Bathtub roadhead about 0.7 mi. past the Vermillion Valley Campground and most of us crashed there after the long drive from down south. Some tested the FWD road which continues N and R.J. was seen retrieving his muffler and tailpipe the next morning.

The trail is occasionally obscure in passing through the juicier parts of the Twin Meadows but can be regained by moving E toward Cold Creek which it follows fairly closely on its W side. We arrived at Devil's Bathtub early enough to decide to have a try for the peak that afternoon. A large number of fishermen and campers were in the sites around the lake outlet so we proceeded to the N end of the lake and had a fine location to ourselves. The hike from there went N for a half mile or so, over some large granite slabs, then NW through grassy benches to a series of small lakes at about 10,800'. Here the leader was lured to a broad saddle to the NW. We found, however that the descent on the W was more than 3rd class. Some exploring led to the correct notch higher on the rim. This notch is apparent from the middle of the three lakes and is straight N of it and immediately W of peaklet 11,360+. Arriving at the notch, the route onward was apparent, but the late hour promised a flashlight return. We backed off, returned to camp and had a refreshing swim in the Bathtub before a happy hour and supper.

Returning to our original plan of a Sunday peak climb allowed Bob Ferguson to recover from his sleepless Friday night and join us but cost us Walt Kabler whose knees weren't taking the ups and downs well at all. Beside the leaders, the other hikers were Barbara Leonard, Don Weiss, R.J. Secor and Larry Hoak, all good company and fine hikers.

On Sunday morning we arrived at the notch early, dropped down a long snow chute to a small lake just below 10,720' and proceeded up the sandy and sometimes brushy slopes overlooking Big Margaret Lake to the summit. After a bit of relaxing and identifying the listed peaks in all directions, we returned by the same route. A short stop was made at the Bathtub for lunch and packing and we were off for the roadhead. Five went to Little Eden to soak in that wonderful warm water, then on to Mono Hot Springs resort for an excellent pizza. Soon Barbara headed down the road and those who were taking the Florence Lake boat for another trip the next morning went looking for flat sleeping places.

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

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