

# The Sierra



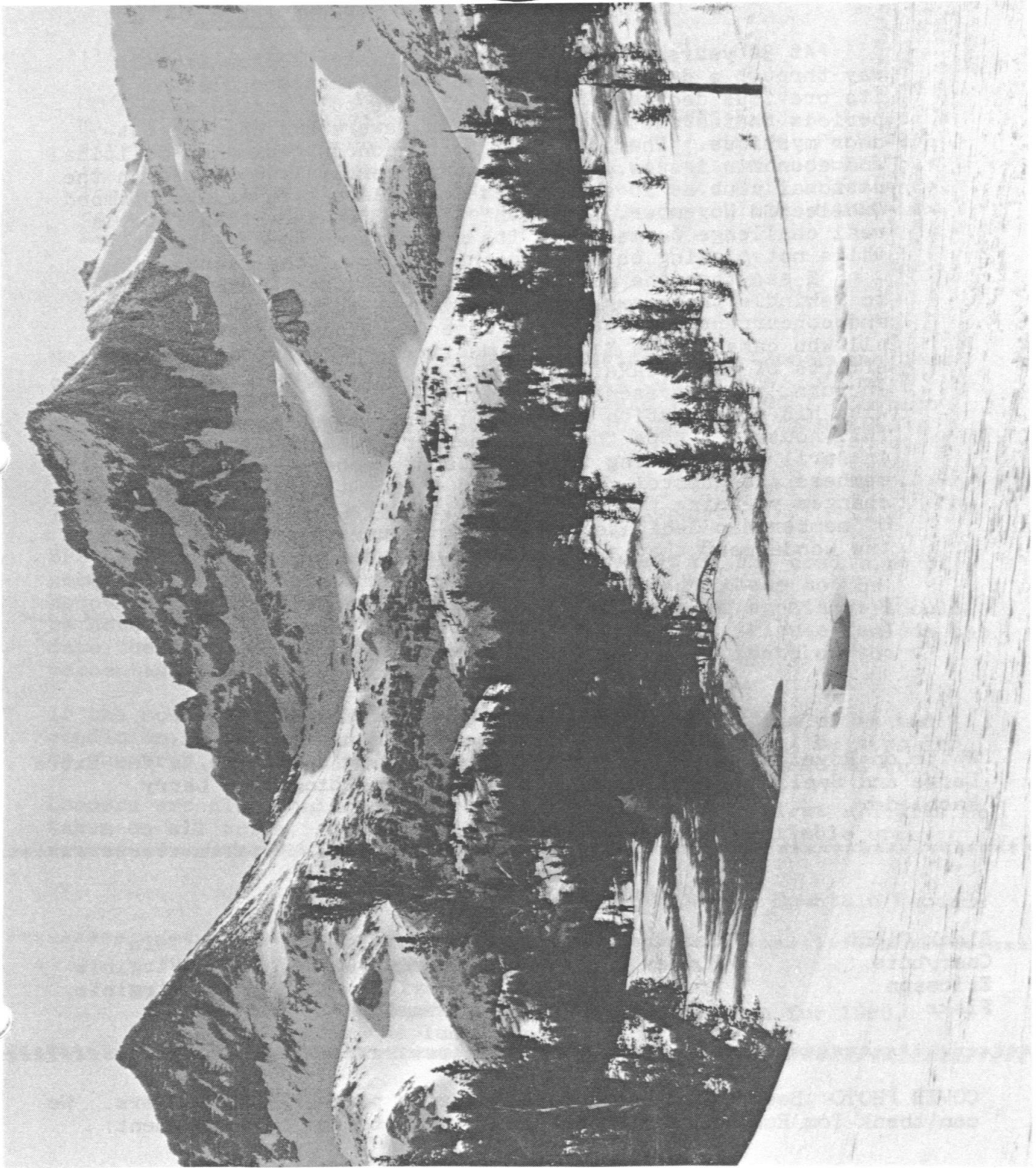
# ECHO

VOLUME 30

MAR - APR

1986

NO. 2



"You cannot stay on the summit forever; you have to come down again. So why bother in the first place? Just this: What is above knows what is below, but what is below does not know what is above. One climbs, one sees, one descends, one sees no longer, but one has seen."

René Daumal  
Mount Analog

At 30 years of age, the Sierra Peaks Section is half way through a decade that challenges its *raison d'être*. Its previous decades, particularly the 60's and 70's were periods that promoted environmental awareness and the outdoor mystique. The 80's seem to be concentrating on political and economic issues. This trend is certainly mirrored in the national club as it approaches the celebration of its Diamond Jubilee in November. Thus the Sierra Peaks Section faces a real challenge to maintain its mountaineering orientation while not playing ostrich to the issues of the decade.

I see that the obligation of the present membership is to rekindle their own participation in section activities and concurrently to bring in some new blood. My thanks to all who came to the March 12 meeting. You rewarded the efforts of our speaker, Jim McDonald who drove from Bishop. In turn, those present agreed that we were likewise rewarded with his presentation on North Yemen. It was good to see a full house. I hope that each member present will return in April after having invited absent members, prospective members and guests! Thus we can insure that as the old order changes yielding to the new that the SPS will have a continuum of membership dedicated to reaching summits and experiencing the wonderment that accompanies the quest.

*Mary Sue*

**\*\*BRAND NEW SPS T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE\*\***

White on Royal Blue, \$7.00, mostly sizes Medium and Large, a few Extra Large and Small. Get yours at the next SPS meeting from Larry Machleder.

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VOLUME 30-2 PEAK INDEX (1986)

Black Giant	Genevra	McDuffie	Twin
Charybdis	Huxley	Norman Clyde	Virginia
Ericsson	Jordan	Scylla	Virginia
Fiske	Matterhorn	Stanford	

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COVER PHOTO: Bear Creek Spire is a favorite peak of most SPS'ers. We can thank Tom Ross for contributing this photo for our enjoyment.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW ECHO SUBSCRIBERS

~~Bill Bueler~~  
648 Lottie St.  
Monterey, CA 93940

Jeff Ross  
1429 Alcove Way  
Anaheim, CA 92805

ADDRESS CHANGE

~~Don Weiss~~  
1333 Chestnut Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90813  
(213) 599-8723

!!! NOTE !!! Perkins/Collosseum rescheduled for May 3-4 !!!

MAY 3-4            SAT-SUN            SIERRA PEAKS  
M: Mt Perkins (12,591'), Collosseum Mtn (12,473'): Join us for a strenuous spring workout after hibernating all winter. Pack 4800' to camp Sat and climb Perkins. Sun bag Collosseum and pack out. Ice axe and crampon proficiency reqd. Send sase with experience, conditioning, carpool preferences to Leader: IGOR MAMEDALIN. Asst: MARIS VALKASS.

PRIVATE TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE: August '86 trip to Bhutan with Christy Tews (Annapurna team climber) and Sue Edwards through Inner Asia Outfitters. Climb 7 unclimbed peaks from 16,000' base camp, peaks 17-20,000'. Contact SPSer Sue Edwards, 1036 Oak Grove Rd., #125, Concord, CA 94518.

MOUNTAIN RECORDS MEMORANDUM

SPS Leaders are reminded to include a statement on the condition of peak registers on their trip sheets and to return these to the Mountain Records Person. The condition and type of cannister should be noted as well as the condition of the register. Please include the date the most recent register was placed and an estimate of the percentage of the notebook that has been filled.

If the mountain records indicate the register is missing or in bad condition, a new aluminum cannister and/or notebook will be supplied to the trip leader at the SPS meeting preceding the scheduled trip.

Leaders are also reminded that it is SPS policy that first aid kits be taken on all trips. Kits (without medication) are available upon request from the mountain records person.

Rob Roy McDonald, Mountain Records

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RENEWAL REMINDER

If you have not renewed your ECHO subscription for 1986,  
this is the last issue you will receive!

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WILDERNESS ADVANCED FIRST AID REFRESHER

HARWOOD LODGE SNOWCREST

16 - 18 May, 1986 (Fri. evening - Sun. afternoon)

This course emphasises first aid problems likely to be encountered in the wilderness. It is conducted under the auspices of the American Red Cross, and an Advanced First Aid certificate renewal will be presented upon the successful completion of the course. The problems associated with long term care and transport of the sick and injured, and the special problems of high altitude, cold, heat, dehydration, and exhaustion are studied. Some practice working on "victims" and a practical field exercise are included in the course. Participants must review their CPR and demonstrate their skill on a Recording Annie mannikin.

The instructors have had experience in mountain rescue, Sierra Club, scouting, expedition work, and other group leadership activities and have personally encountered many of the problems likely to occur. Guest lecturers will present material in which they have special expertise.

Harwood Lodge, owned by the Sierra Club, is located high in the San Gabriel mountains several miles above Baldy Village. It has sleeping facilities for over 50 people, however, many individuals prefer to spread their sleeping bags outside. Registration fees cover lodge fees and dinner Saturday night, breakfasts Saturday and Sunday mornings. BRING LUNCHES FOR TWO DAYS. No alcoholic beverages, radios, or pets allowed in the lodge; battery-operated tape recorders are welcome. The course starts promptly at 8:00 pm Friday night.

Anyone interested may attend this course, however, preferably one should have had a previous first aid course. A current Advanced First Aid card must be shown for recertification. (no CPR certification) Send application and \$30.00 to: Wilderness First Aid c/o Louise French, 1690 N. 2nd Ave., Upland, Ca. 91786 (for further information, telephone 714-985-6067)

Tear off here

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APPLICATION FOR WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Name. . . . .Telephone . . . .  
Address. . . . .  
First Aid card & expiration date. . . . .  
First Aid/medical training? . . . . .  
Reason for taking this course? . . . . .

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## ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Ron Jones

### Five Years Ago in the SPS

Bob Boyles and Roy Keenan led a winter climb in the Sierras in March 1981 which was not written up in the Echo. Likewise for the snow and ice axe practice led by Dave Vandervoet & Gene Mauk; Owens and Spanish Needle led by Campy and Dick Banner; and Mt Morgan led by the Sullivans. Jim Murphy and Dave V reported on their scheduled climb in late April of Black, Diamond and Mary Austin in which because of serious snow and storms they were only able to climb Mary Austin. Dave Dykeman and Don Palmer applied for their emblems and new members included Adrian Acevedo and Cynthia Praul.

### Ten Years Ago

Winter precipitation in the Inyo Mono area of the Sierra in 1976 was only 70% of normal. Dennis Lantz and SPS leaders conducted rock practice at Joshua Tree and at Rubidoux. Mike and Suzie Wilkinson led Smith and Crag, and Doug Mantle and Larry Goetz led a March climbing and skiing ascent of Diamond during which Tim Tracey taught Mary Gygax how to make the perfect campfire. Luella Martin proposed an SPS Yellow Chicken Emblem to be awarded to the mountaineer who climbs all 182 peaks on the SPS list which are class 2 and lower, excluding the 7 with higher rated summit blocks, and who climbs all 9 Emblem Peaks which are class 2 or lower and who climbs the additional 9 Mountaineers Peaks which are class 2 and lower.

### Twenty Years Ago

The early spring of 1966 had an abbreviated schedule of climbs with only three trips being led in April. Ed Lane and Ron Jones led Owens Pk via the Pinnacle Ridge, Tom Cosgrove lead Sawtooth and Spanish Needle. Sid 'San Jac' Davis celebrated his birthday on Sawtooth and a little Gallo port was drunk to celebrate the occasion. Dick Jali led an ice axe seminar on San Gorgonio and Charlton Pks with 71 people in attendance. Tom McNicholas reported in April on a Sierra Club trip he led to New Zealand in order to contact climbers of the New Zealand Alpine Club and other organizations in the Federation of N. Z. Mountain Clubs.

### Thirty Years Ago

The year 1956 was the first in which the SPS scheduled trips into the Range of Light. Prior to that year, all Sierra Club trips into the Sierra Nevada were either the High Trips and Base Camp Trips sponsored by the San Francisco headquarters or, more locally, under the auspices of the Desert Peaks Section. The DPS used to schedule an average of three trips into the Sierra during the summer months. Any other local climbing was done as "outlaw" (our term for private) trips. During the summer of 1955, a group of local stalwarts organized a fledgling climbing group to be known as the Sierra Peaks section. The Section was officially recognized by the Angeles Chapter and National headquarters in October of 1985.

The founding group of the SPS included Bob Bear, Bud Bingham, Owen Blackburn, Frank Bressell, Miles Brubacher, Roger Gaefke, Izzy Lieberman, Barbara Lilley, Lee Owings, Ted Maier, Pat Meixner (later Gentry), Chuck Miller, John Robinson, Frank Sanborn, Rube Scheiner, Leo Scotti, Bob Sheller, Andy Smatko and John Wedberg. Some of these people are still active in the Chapter. I wonder where old SPSers go when they stop climbing?

By January 1956, the Section had attracted 38 members, and monthly

meetings were held in the old Sierra Club Chapter headquarters in the Philharmonic Auditorium on Fifth Street in downtown Los Angeles. Officers the first year were Frank Sanborn, Chairman; Bob Scheller, Vice President; Pat Meixner, Secretary; Leo Scotti, Treasurer; and Frank Bressell, Alternate Officer. Many thanks are due to these people and those in the founding group for leading the Section through its early years.

The first officially scheduled SPS trip was led by Frank Sanborn and John Robinson on May 5-6, 1956. Their destination was Deer Mtn, over Haiwee Pass and across the South Fork of the Kern River. Crossing the Kern was difficult because of high water and the group had to search upstream for several miles in order to find a crossing. More next issue. --RON

TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE WILDNESS IN THE WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENT

"The great fresh unblighted, unredeemed wilderness."-JOHN MUIR  
Respect, Love, and care for Nature starts with wilderness etiquette. The fragile balance of the ecological community is affected by our embrace. There is no waste of excess in nature. Both flora and fauna are recycled to perpetuate the ecology. Trees like other flora decompose and replenish soils for seedlings. Wildfires help in this process. Campfires vandalize the essentials of the forest and threaten the security of the natural landscape. Always use a camp stove for the most efficient heat and cooking. Preserve the natural character of the land by eliminating the building of rock trail markers, rockwalls, fire rings, fireplaces, shelters, bough tables, benches, rock and wood bridges, dams, trenches, and latrines. Camp at least 100 feet from any body of water on a sandy location. This helps prevent damage to fragile vegetation and minimizes water pollution. Pets are destructive in wilderness because they invade the sanctuary of nature's flora and fauna. Protect the water quality by burying human waste at least 200 feet from any water supply, so that rain and snow will not carry contaminants into streams and lakes. Pack out all refuse and pick up trash left by others. Help secure the delicate balance of water systems by excluding any type of soap including "biodegradable", toothpastes, and shampoos. Central commissary promotes the pollution of the ecology by the dumping of left-over food, washwaters, and sumps. Giardiasis can be spread by a central commissary. Always hike around meadows big and small, and reroute a trail which crosses the meadow. Wilderness Ethic is Eternal as Nature itself.

"WILDNESS is a necessity"- JOHN MUIR.

Steven Thaw Wilderness Subcommittee Sierra Club

??? Are you missing back issues of The Sierra Echo ???

A limited number of the following issues are available if you desire to replace issues missing from your collection. Please request, in writing, the issues you need and they will be mailed, as supplies last, with the next bulk mailing @.10/issue. Send request to Ella Hoselton, Echo Mailer 5831 W. 76th St. Los Angeles, CA 90045.

1980 Volume 24: No.1,3,6,7	1983 Volume 27: No.1,3,6,7
1981 Volume 25: No.2,3,4,5,6,7	1984 Volume 28: No.3,4,5,6,7
1982 Volume 26: No.2,3,7	1985 Volume 29: No.1,3,4,5,6

Stanford, Ericsson, Jordan, Geneva July 22-25, 85 Norm Rohn/Lloyd Brown

Walt Kabler and Norm Rohn had planned this outing for a year but Walt's knees have been acting up this summer and he just couldn't handle it. We were fortunate in having Lloyd Brown coming along and willing to help lead. Don Weiss was the only other participant, and a very able one he was. We left the Symmes Creek roadhead, still ugly and smelling from the large Independence fire, at about 0700, lunched at Anvil Camp and crossed Shepherd Pass by midafternoon. The last 300 or 400 feet of trail to the pass is a mess, very torn up and loose. Made camp that evening at Lake South America and were surprised to find ten other people there in two parties.

Day two saw us going to Stanford bright and early. Looking down the N side of Harrison Pass made us glad that we weren't going that way. From Gregory's Monument the short trip out to Stanford is a ball. I won't repeat the good Russell/McRuer writeup in Echo 24-2, but only add that after passing under the low-ceilinged spot on the ledge, one climbs up a chockstone chute to regain the ridge. While on the summit we saw two climbers from Long Beach on Gregory's Monument and met them as we returned and they headed for Stanford.

Returning to Harrison Pass, we started right up Ericsson by its NE ridge, gradually working into the northernmost chute. The chute was loose and sandy so staying on the rock to its right seemed preferable. As we neared the notch on the crest a large chockstone caused us to move N to the next notch. Dropping down a bit on the W side reveals an easy class 3 scramble to the summit. The Ericsson Crags just to the N are spectacular as is Deerhorn a bit farther out on the ridge NW from Stanford. We traversed the summit and descended to the W over sandy slopes for a look at Lucy's Footpass and returned to camp.

Day three we pretty much traversed W out of camp and directly to the very small and almost dry lake in the bowl immediately S of Jordan. We climbed the E face almost to the large notch where a good ramp leads up to the S. After a hundred yards or so the route turns a corner and crosses the S face. There is then a bit of 3rd class scrambling to the summit block at the westerly side of that face. The step-across is not difficult and is easily belayed or the block can be climbed from below the step. When at the register, look into the hole in the rocks between your legs. That needle-eye can be seen from most of the large lake basin to the S.

Coming down from Jordan by much the same route, Don continued directly to Geneva by its W slope while Lloyd and Norm toured back to camp via the many lovely lakes in that far upper Kern River basin. Each time we passed the mouth of Lake South America a dozen or so eating-size golden trout swam quickly away. Don beat us back to camp by over an hour.

Showers that night and a very bad sky in the morning made us wonder if it was worth getting up. But we did, and plodded out by the same route, staying high and just skirting the ends of the S ridges of CalTech Peak and Diamond Mesa, eventually intercepting the Shepherd Pass trail not far from the pass. Don left us there looking longingly at Tyndall and asking many questions about Kieth and Junction. Lloyd and Norm walked out amid occasional rain, hail and wind. Again, we had a fine time      and got our peaks.

When Walt Kabler's knees acted up, Lloyd Brown was kind enough to sign on to this long-planned trip as a leader. There appeared to be a fair amount of interest in doing some remote peaks, but before trailhead day all followers had cancelled. Norm and Lloyd couldn't waste a wilderness permit and needed a few peaks anyway, so they went, and had six days of unbeatable weather.

A Sabrina permit was not available, so day one took us from North Lake over Lamarck Col and on to Sapphire Lake. On day two we dropped our packs along the Muir Trail between Sapphire Lake and the next at about 11,000'. Climbed Mt. Huxley in straightforward fashion up the W face. Easy 3rd class near the summit. We then packed on over Muir Pass and set up a three-night camp at lake 11,920+ a half mile or so SE of and visible from the Pass. There are numerous smooth sandy spots near the peninsula on the N shore. This makes a fine site from which to do the Ionian Basin peaks without carrying a whole camp over Black Giant Pass.

Day three was a long one. Hiked over BG Pass, past the outlet of lake 11,840- and up the N ridge of Charybdis\_\_\_ a very nice climb with just a bit of 3rd class at the summit. Looking down to the west one learns why Disappearing Creek was so named. There are great views of the Sirens, Scylla and Goddard. We descended by much the same route but erred in trying a shortcut down a chute to the W before reaching lake 11,840-. We weren't equipped for the ice in it and the going was slow. Hiked W at generally the 11,600' level over rough going. Lloyd had done Scylla on an earlier trip and, predicting a bivouac, elected to watch from a prominent shoulder on the route. Norm passed lakes 11,600- and 11,824 on their SE sides and headed straight up the NW slopes of Scylla. Lloyd saw the summit arrival with binoculars from his perch. Return was by the same route, overlooking spectacular Chasm Lake well below in the Basin. Norm arrived back at camp just after dark and might have missed the tents if Lloyd hadn't heard him stumbling along on the rocks.

Day four started with a short but tedious climb up the NW slope of Black Giant. Views E into and over Le Conte Cyn are outstanding. Moved down the S slope of BG, past several lakes and over a good bit of snow, to the broad saddle between peak 13,046 and McDuffie. The route high along the W face of McDuffie is more than a little puzzling and the occasional ducks don't help much. At one point we even crossed to the E side and moved for perhaps 200 yds along a narrow ramp before crossing back. The going became easier as we approached a broad chute and could again see the summit. Here we regained the ridge, hiked S along it and up as it steepened to 3rd class just left (E) of a narrow high-angle ice chute. The summit is just beyond. It was good to see another of those older SC cast aluminum boxes with a nice bound register book. Here, about the middle of the Black Divide, Enchanted Gorge is far below on the W and Le Conte Cyn far below on the E. Down the Divide the Devil's Crags stand out. Somehow our return to the saddle S of peak 13,046 seemed easier but still took considerable guesswork. We stayed on the W face. This day we were back in camp before happy hour.

Not too early on the morning of day five we moved our packs to the Muir Trail just above Lake Helen and climbed Fiske by an easy route over slabs and up the broad draw to its S. The last half mile or so is over very soft sand and not much fun until the summit rocks are reached. Sit and enjoy the register, a fine old book placed by the Fiske party in 1922. Other familiar names and old friends abound. Bestor Robinson, the Breeds and Norman Clyde signed in 1925. Sam Fink visited in 1941. We moved to Evolution Lake for our final happy hour and meal of our remaining goodies.

(Continued next page)



(Ionian Basin - continued)

Day six was our shortest but the pull into Darwin Cyn and over Lamarck Col is always a chore. It was a good trip. Wish we'd had a few followers to keep the slow leader company. Lloyd brought a book along to read while he waited at frequent intervals for Norm to catch up. The only trouble he had was that he'd finished the book before day four\_\_\_and he'd only brought one.

MATTERHORN/VIRGINIA            3-4 August 1985            Wankum/Raiford

With a permit limit of 8, the trip filled up in late April. However, after 4 cancellations, several people who signed up immediately after the summer Schedule came out managed to get on the trip. A lot of others had to stay at home. Eventually, 7 people met at Twin Lakes (\$4 parking fee) at 10 am on Saturday. (T. Truong of San Diego did not show up, but at least sent word with another participant that he would not be able to come.)

The backpack up Horsecreek Canyon was mostly on good trail (not on topo) except for a couple of places where the trail was covered by 10' high brush or rockslides. Midafternoon, we set up camp at the last stand of trees on flat ground (near 9500') where a side stream (shown on topo) comes down hillside from the west. (A better campsite was later found a quarter mile beyond the stream, nestled among some trees just to the west of the trail.)

Sunday, we left camp at 5:30, following the trail where it could be found. Just before reaching Horsecreek Pass, we detoured up the scree slope on the right, over the small ridge, then up the broad southeast face of Matterhorn. A little class 2 near the top put the first of the group on the summit by 8:10. The leader finally arrived about 10 minutes later.

After a short stay on top, we descended to the vicinity of Horsecreek Pass to regroup. There, 3 people (who had attempted a day hike of Ritter on Friday) decided they had had enough and went back to camp. The other 4 contoured around to the east, to the vicinity of the Twin-Virginia saddle, and on to Virginia Peak, where 3 people reached the summit.

Leaving Virginia at noon, the group contoured back to Horsecreek Pass, and were back in camp at 2:30. Leaving camp at 3:30, we were at the cars at 5:40, following a steep descent and much thrashing through brush.

My thanks to Jim Raiford and to Kent Santelman for helping lead, to Lisa Freundlich for carrying the rope most of the way, and to the entire group (incl. Mitch Miller, Lew Amack, Bob Watson) for helping make this an enjoyable and successful trip. With beautiful weather, beautiful scenery, effective mosquito repellent, and a group that expertly handled all the rough terrain that we encountered, it was indeed a pleasant trip. (Joe Wankum)

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SPS PROGRAMS FOR MAY AND JUNE

May 14 Meeting: Program to be announced. Refreshments by Vi Grasso. Griffith Park Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

June 11 Meeting: "Liberty Ridge Route--Mt. Rainier". Alois Smrz shares his slides and viewpoint on this 50 year anniversary climb of Mt. Rainier via Liberty Ridge. Refreshments by Bill T. Russell. Griffith Park Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

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We met Sat. A.M. and routinely hiked to Finger Lake to establish our base camp. For a climb of this magnitude, it was felt that a scouting outing was in order, so we climbed the ridge from Finger Lake to near Norman Clyde's face for a good look at the route. With a record for taking 12 hours & up, we retired early and set alarms to rise early.

Sunday morning, we were up shortly after 4:00 and were under way by moonlight at about 5:15. We stayed high on the ridge, leaving its top only to skirt one peak near the saddle with the N.C. The saddle goes easily except for a well-known notch which is nominally rappelled. To save time, we explored a slightly doubtful looking down-climb on the east side of the saddle about 30 yards back from the notch. It went well. We regained the saddle as soon as practical, then hiked the second-class rock around the buttress of the peak. From here, the major effort was route finding. Armed with knowlege of the best route up, we were never long without ducks in sight to guide us. We swung across the face of the peak, then back toward the false summit, avoided the snow couloir and avoided getting too high on the ridge. The false summit was soon achieved. The rest was routine. By the time I had coiled the rope after belaying the last person to the notch next to the false summit, the eager beavers were on the real summit.

Our period of savoring victory and the views was shortened by the knowlege that we still had a long trip back to camp and to the cars with a stop to pack up. Camp was reached just before 6:00, and our weary climbers began trekking back to Glacier Lodge about 6:30 p.m. We finally hit the road for home about a quarter to ten. Allowing three days would have made the trip less grueling. Dave D.

TWIN & VIRGINIA . . . . . August 10, 1985 . . . . . R.J. Secor

After an extended trip to Northern Yosemite, I still had these two fine peaks to do. I had just hiked to Twin Lakes from Benson Lake, and the shock of Mono Village was total. The place was wall-to-wall with stern faced holiday makers driving RVs the size of Mt. Rushmore. There had to be a quieter place that Twin and Virginia could be day hiked from, with less distance and elevation gain than from Twin Lakes. After reviewing the map I decided to climb the peaks from Green Creek.

Approximately five miles south of Bridgeport, I turned right onto the Green Lakes Road and spent the night at the roadhead at 8,200'. The next morning I hiked up the trail around the northern shore of Green Lake and then up the excellent use trail that leads up Glimes Canyon, past an abandoned mine, and over Virginia Pass. I managed to stay above the 10,400' contour in Virginia Canyon and climbed to the saddle between Twin and Virginia. The class 2-3 rocks of Virginia went well, and I climbed Twin by way of its class 3 south ridge, staying on the east side of the ridge whenever difficulties demanded. I descended Twin by way of its southeast slope and returned to Green Creek over Virginia Pass. The 13 miles and 4,300' of gain took me 8 hours round trip.

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ECHO RENEWAL

RENEW YOUR ECHO SUBSCRIPTION NOW IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED FOR 1986!

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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), list finisher pins (\$10.00), and patches (\$2.00) are available from the Treasurer, Harold McFadden, 2237-1/4 S. Bentley Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90064.

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