

# The Sierra



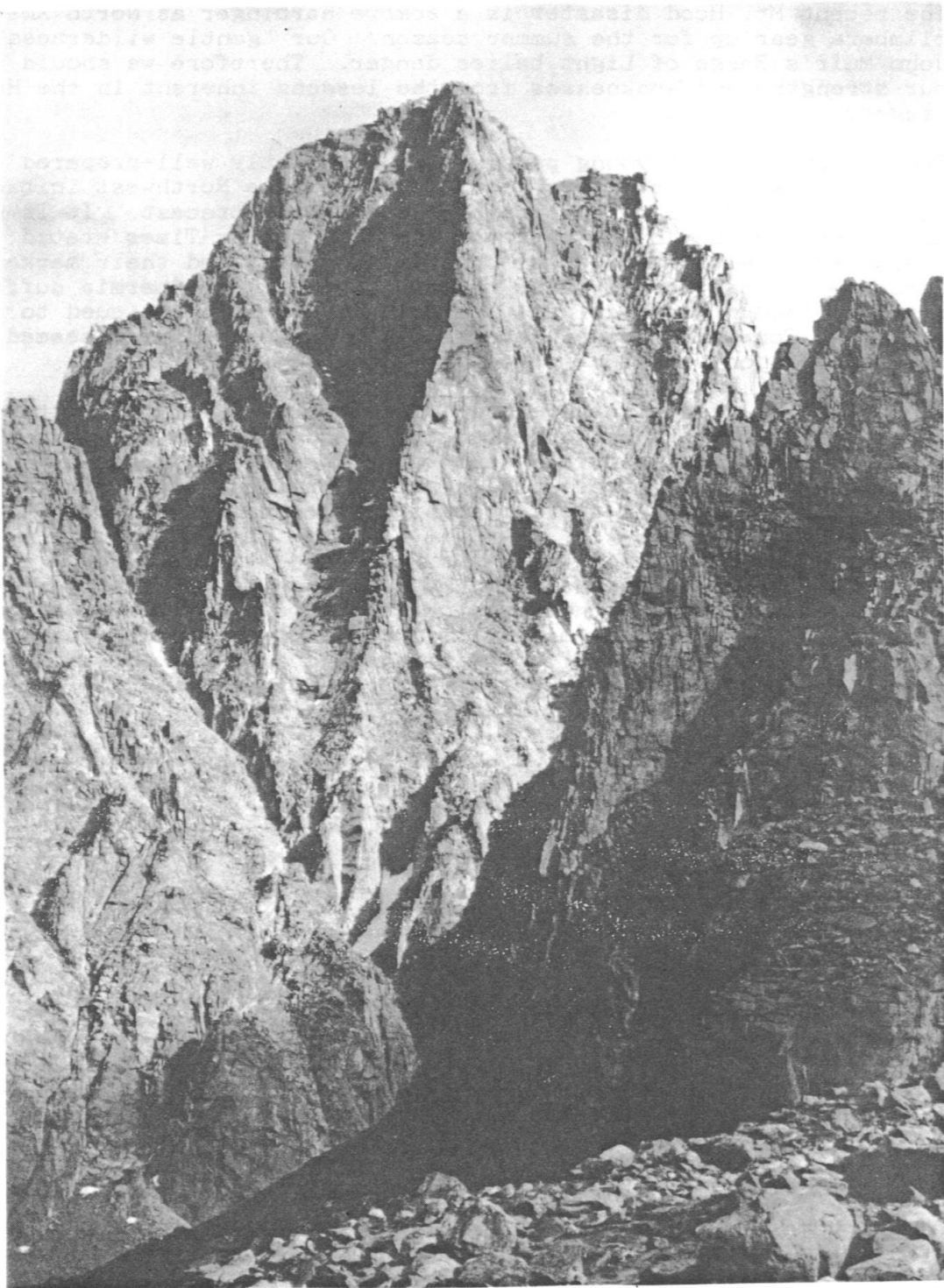
# ECHO

VOLUME 30

MAY - JUN

1986

NO. 3



"He lived and moved and had his being in the sanctuary of the hills, the high altarstairs of the mountains, the sublime silence of the stately pines."

Label under a painting, "On the Silent Hill" by Frank T. Johnson - Wooloroc Museum, Bartlesville, OK.

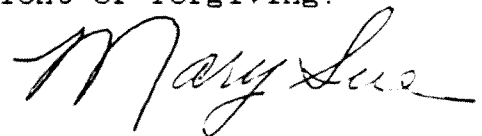
The recent Mt. Hood disaster is a sombre harbinger as North American climbers gear up for the summer season. Our "gentle wilderness" in John Muir's Range of Light belies danger. Therefore we should assess our strengths and weaknesses from the lessons inherent in the Hood tragedy.

The Oregon group of young people were apparently well-prepared in many ways but like many climbers particularly in the Northwest initiated their trip in spite of an unfavorable weather forecast. It is not known whether they had a map, but the Los Angeles Times stated that there was no altimeter. When the blizzard obscured their markers, these two things may have led them to safety. Hypothermia suffered by a strong lead climber delayed the group; yet they continued to climb even so. Competitiveness, determination and hypothermia seemed to override common sense.

The SPS has a good safety record. The Chapter Safety Committee continually monitors and upgrades our standards. We have excellent leaders. The Ten Essentials seem to be standard paraphernalia in most backpacks, map and compass skills are emphasized, first aid training remains a priority and the membership is generally well-conditioned and fast.

We probably need to assess such areas as when to abort climbs due to deteriorating weather conditions or to when a party member becomes weakened. We need to be mindful of the delicate balance between overcaution and excessive competitiveness and to be mindful that Sierra mountaineering does not necessarily prepare one for expedition climbing.

Safety awareness will help us always recognize the Sierra Nevada Mountains as a gentle wilderness for to quote a Northwest climbing instructor, "Mountains are not very benevolent or forgiving."



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VOLUME 30-3 PEAK INDEX (1986)

Black Kaweah	Independence	Midway	Russell
Carillon	Izaak Walton	Milestone	San Joaquin
Dana	Jordan	North Pal	South Guard
Eagle Scout	Keith	Picket Guard	Stanford
Ericsson	Kern Pt.	Palisade Crest	Table
Genevra	Lippincott	Polemonium	Thunder
Gibbs	Marion	Red Kaweah	University

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COVER PHOTO: The North Face of the Thumb provides a challenge for even SPS list finishers. Dave Vandervoet snapped this photo for the Echo cover.

July 2-6

NEW SPS TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT  
WED-SUN

SIERRA PEAKS

M: FISH VALLEY: Five days of exploring between Fish Valley and the Silver Divide. We'll visit the hot springs and look at Double Peak and Devil's Top. Silver and Sharktooth will also be possible. Expect to catch fish. Tell your desires to the leaders: NORM ROHN and RON JONES.

1986 SPS SUMMER SCHEDULE

Jul 2-6	Fish Valley - Double Peak, Devil's Top, Silver, Sharktooth	Rohn, Jones
Jul 4-6	Sawtooth #1, Lamont, Smith, several 100 peaks	Amack, Raiford
Jul 4-9	Conness, North, Pettit, Volunteer, Piute, Tower	Dykeman, Gordon
Jul 8-15	Oregon Cascades Peakbag - S., Mid, N. Sisters, Jefferson, Hood	McRuer, Mantle, Hicks
Jul 10-13	Clark, Gray, Red, Merced	Dykeman, Gordon
Jul 12-19	Lake Basin - Cardinal, Ruskin, State, Marion, Observation, Arrow, Split	Rohn, Jones
Jul 18-20	Hilgard, Recess, Gabb	Machleder, Holleman
Jul 19-20	Ritter, Banner	Mamedalin, Farkas
Jul 24-29	Humphreys Basin - Four Gables, Pilot Knob, Royce, Merriam, Gemini	Rohn, Secor
Jul 26-Aug 3	Pilot Knob #2, Merriam, Royce, Julius Caesar, Hilgard, Recess, Gabb, Izaak Walton, Stanford	Dykeman, Gordon
Jul 29-Aug 4	Kern Pt., Picket Guard, Hale, Young	Machleder, Brecheen
Aug 2-3	Wallace, Haeckel	Rogers, Preyer
Aug 4-6	Whitney	Rohn, Secor
Aug 8-11	Vogelsang, Maclure, Florence	Danta, Schumacher
Aug 8-12	Stanford, Deerhorn, E. Vidette, W. Vidette	McFadden, Mihaljevich, Toby
Aug 9-10	McAdie, Muir	Mamedalin, Valkass
Aug 11-16	Bear Creek - Recess, Seven Gables, Hooper, Infant Buttes	Rohn, Secor
Aug 16-17	Muir, McAdie	Hicks, McRuer
Aug 23-24	Cirque	Kanne, Nilsson
Aug 23-24	Whitney, White	Dobos, Riley
Aug 30-Sep 2	Kaweah, Red Kaweah, Black Kaweah	Dykeman, Gordon
Sep 3-7	Reinstein, Finger, Tunemah	Dykeman, Gordon
Sep 4-7	Triple Divide, Lion Rock	Mihaljevich, Machleder
Sep 5-7	Morgan #2, Stanford	Lubin, Bloland
Sep 6-7	Stanford, Morgan, Unlisted peaks	MacLeod, Colevins
Sep 12-15	Pettit, Piute, Volunteer	Brecheen, Machleder
Sep 13-14	Bloody Mtn. Gourmet Backpack	Toby, Beverage
Sep 13-15	Angora, Coyote	Russell, Hicks
Sep 20-21	Cirque, Langley	Danta, Benti
Sep 20-21	Florence, Vandever	Murphy, Gordon
Sep 20-21	Smith, Crag	Mauk, Conrad
Sep 26-27	W. Vidette, E. Vidette	Hudson, Preyer
Sep 27-28	Alta, Silliman Day Hikes Special	Dykeman, Harsh, et al.
Sep 27-28	Homers Nose	Mantle, Danta
Oct 4-5	Crag, Smith Special	Dykeman, Borad, et al.
Oct 25-26	Taylor Dome, Cannel Pt. Special	Mamedalin, Jones

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WINTER SCHEDULE NOTICE

Leaders! Send Ron Hudson your trip write-ups for the Winter Schedule, November 1986 - February 1987, by June 30.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE ECHO

Announcements of private trips and advertisements may be placed in The Echo by sending typed material and a check (made out to the Sierra Peaks Section) to the editor, Pat Holleman, 1638 6th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. The charges established by the SPS Management Committee for this service are as follows:

A fee of \$1.00 will be charged for trip announcements up to four lines. An additional charge of \$1.00 per line will apply to all lines in excess of four.

A fee of \$1.00 per line will be charged for advertisements.

PRIVATE TRIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE 20-22 MT. BREWER: Join SPS Member-in-good-standing and experienced climber Rick Chval on this leaderless romp to Brewer. On the 20th, hike to camp at Junction Meadow from Cedar Grove; on the 21st, climb Brewer (and bag Rick's EMBLEM) and N. Guard if we are so inclined; hike out on the 22nd. The permit has already been obtained so if you'd like to join Rick on this low-key weekend, send a SASE to: Rick Chval, 11524 Sierra Sky Drive, Whittier, CA 90601 (213) 695-4716.

JULY 19-24 MT. DARWIN, MT. GODDARD: Hike over Lamarck Col to Evolution Basin. Base in Evolution climbing Darwin, Goddard and possibly one other if we are so inclined. Exit over Lamarck Col. Permit already obtained. If interested, send a SASE to Rick at the above address.

AUGUST 22-24 MT. SILL VIA E. COULOIR: Hike up S. Fork to base. Climb Sill on the 23rd, out on the 24th. If interested, send a SASE to Rick (above).

Whitney Cleanout: 9-day trip sometime after July 18: 16 peaks, 35,000 gain; do all or some. Lots of unbelayed 3rd class rock & steep snow. w/ full pack. Ice axe & snow travel expertise req'd. Phone Dale Van Dalsem, 213-822-9668. Private trip.

PILOT KNOB #1 TRAILHEAD NOTICE

Pilot Knob approach off-limits: The manager of Onyx Ranch, Ben Rudnick, has advised that he has withdrawn permission for Sierra Club members to cross ranch property to climb Pilot Knob #1. He states he has done so because he opposes the Sierra Club proposal to have parts of the Kern River designated as "wild and scenic."  
- H. McFadden

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBER

Ursula Slager  
10026 Karmont  
South Gate, Ca 90280

REINSTATED MEMBERS

Louis Brecheen  
1607 Hackamore Road  
Oceanside, CA 92056  
(619)724-6796

Jon Fredland  
1170 Embury St.  
Pacific Palisades, CA  
90272  
(213) 454-8042

Walt Hill  
Lynna Walker  
Rt. #2, Box 323  
Aliso Circle  
Bishop, CA 93514

NEW ECHO SUBSCRIBERS

Al Green  
732 Feldspar  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Wayne Martin  
31659 N.E. 104th St.  
Carnation, WA 98014

NEW ECHO SUBSCRIBERS (CONT)

J. P. Throgmorton  
31535 Lindero Cyn., #16  
Westlake, CA 91361

JoAnne Weldon  
1813 Harper Ave.  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

ADDRESS CHANGES

Wynne Benti  
12521 San Simeon Court  
Ventura, CA 93003  
(805) 658-2758

Marion R. Bottorff  
10685 Blackburn, #107  
Ventura, CA 93004  
(805) 647-5464

Tim Duffy  
762 Esplanada Way  
Stanford, CA 94305

Lisa Freundlich  
129 10th St., #G  
Del Mar, CA 92014

ADDRESS CHANGES (CONT)

Mike Fridella  
6770 Springpark Ave., #214  
Los Angeles, CA 90056  
(213) 645-0717

Geoff Glassner  
6813 E. Eaglehaven Lane  
Agoura, CA 91301  
(818) 991-6260

Delores Holladay  
10851 Moorpark, #5  
N. Hollywood, CA 91602

Jon D. Petitjean  
10181 Camino Ruiz, #71  
San Diego, CA 92126  
(619) 549-3964

John W. Reed  
1418 Glenwood Rd., #108  
Glendale, CA 91201

James Scott  
23118 Dolorosa  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

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MOUNTAIN RECORDS MEMORANDUM

Trip leaders are reminded to return sign-in sheets to the Mountain Records Chairman. Information should be noted on the condition of the register on each peak climbed: (1) condition of the notebook - When was the most recent notebook started? What percentage of the available space has been filled? This information will provide a rough estimate as to when a new notebook should be taken to the peak. (2) condition of the notebook container - Is it a suitable container? e.g. a cylindrical aluminum SPS cannister or the old Sierra Club cast aluminum box. Rusty tin cans that may leak or plastic bags are not suitable containers. The important question is "On the basis of your examination, do you recommend that either a new notebook or a new container be taken to the peak?"

It would also be useful if you would indicate the number of people who reach the summit of each peak you climb.

Rob Roy McDonald, Mountain Records

From the SPS Safety and Training Chair:

### SPRING STREAM CROSSINGS

The swift current of an icy cold swollen spring stream may pose a serious mountaineering hazard. The force of moving water is easy to underestimate. If a wet crossing seems to be the only way to get to your destination, there are several things to consider:

- 1) Remember that water flow increases as a warm day proceeds to melt snow fields, making the optimum stream crossing early in the day.
- 2) Locate the safest, shallowest, slowest water route possible.
- 3) Undo your pack's waistbelt. The weight of the pack will help you keep your balance in a fast-running stream. If you fall, you want to be free to slip out of the shoulder straps.
- 4) Wear your hiking boots when you are wading with packs; you need the protection and support. Remove your socks before entering the stream and put your dry socks back on at the other side.
- 5) Use a sturdy stick or branch 5-6 feet long so you can have the extra support of a three-legged tripod. Facing upstream and leaning into the current, place the stick 3-4 feet upstream firmly on the bottom and move only one of your three points of stability (one of your feet or the stick) at a time.
- 6) Sometimes it is safest to belay individuals across. The belayer should be upstream to the crossing. In case of a fall, the person on belay will pendulum in the current to the near bank. Having group members on the bank at the end of the pendulum swing can provide swift action in case of a slip during the crossing.
- 7) Sometimes an anchored handline can be set up by belaying one person across and fixing the line on each side of the crossing. Fasten the end on the opposite bank downstream from the starting point. Participants should cross downstream of the anchored handline, moving hand-over-hand along the line.
- 8) When there is any doubt, each person should be belayed. Think conservatively. Think of the margin of safety.

-Nancy Gordon

### 1986 UNIMPAIRED SNOWMELT RUNOFF FORECASTS

These figures are the water runoff forecasts in percent of normal, based on a 50 year average. They do not necessarily represent the amount of snow on the ground.

Tuolumne, 174%; Merced, 185%; San Joaquin, 170%; Kings, 175%; Kaweah, 176%; Tule, 190%; Kern, 195%; Owens, 172%; Mono, 163%. The Owens basin breaks down as follows: Long Valley, 162%; Long Valley to Tinemaha, 175% (Bishop Creek = 183%); Tinemaha to Haiwee, 179%.

As far as the Owens basin is concerned, this is the third highest runoff year on record. 1969 is the highest, with 1983 in second place.

R.J. Secor

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SPS PROGRAM FOR JULY

July 9 Meeting: Save thousands of dollars and avoid terrorists by joining George Toby, veteran SPS leader, in his tour of Spain. See mountains, rivers, culture, architecture, and people as George (naturally) tries to do it all in 3 weeks. Refreshments by Larry Machleder. Griffith Park Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

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## ECHOS FROM THE PAST

Ron Jones

### Five Years Ago in the SPS

New members joining in May and June 1981 included Ron Hudson, Maris Valkass and Chris Yager. Gene Mauk and Cuno Ranachau led a windy climb of Mts Williamson, Barnard and Trojan Pk for 7 guys and Mary McMannea. Mary reported separately that "being bold, vain and searching for elusive posterity", she and Maris Valkass "braved monstrous winds" to sign the register. Nancy Gordon and Cuno led 6 on climbs of Goode and Agassiz. Art Blauvelt and Jon Lutz led 15 to Lyell and MacLure in perfect snow conditions. Ron Bartell led 4 on Birch and Tinnemaha. Mary Umberg also nabbed Bolton Brown. George Neuner led Owens Pk in early May.

### Ten Years Ago

New Emblem holders this period in 1976 included Jack Grams and Don Gabiner. New members in May and June included Pat Burdett, Bill Byrne, George Corbett, Bob Hartunian, Gerry Holleman, Pat Lavengood, Stephen Mauk, Linda McDermott, Harold McFadden and Dave Perkins. The May-June ECHO had a 5 page feature story on former SPS chair, Sid "San Jac" Davis, motion picture actor, producer, mountaineer and poet. Sid wrote in part:

"My ashes will be cast atop San Jac

In the holes and in the crack

The Pine tree will say, 'Sid, you are mine'

As I climb through the roots into the Limber Pine"

Elton Fletcher and Phil Bruce led 13 on a snowless climb of Mt Tyndall from Symmes Ck. R.J. Secor and Ted Pinaon led the Thumb, Mt Francis Farquhar and Birch with a group of 22. Bill and Pat Russell with Bill Bradley led early June day hikes of Mt Morrison and Bloody Mtn with 23 participants. Bill Bradley and George Toby led 32 to Smith Mtn and Craig Peak. Dick Ramirez and Mel Johnson led 11 on a 2 day roundtrip race up Mt Brewer and South Guard. Larry Hoak led Mts Russell, Carillon and Tunnabora. Jerry Keating led 18 on Joe Devil, Pickering and Chamberlin.

### Twenty Years Ago

Trips in May and June of 1966 included Mt Perkins and Mt Ickes led by Arky and Ruth Erb; Mt Morrison and San Joaquin Mtn followed by a two hour visit with Norman Clyde (Honorary SPS member at the time) led by John Thornton and Bill Hunt. Split Mtn and Tinnemaha were led by Tom McNicholas and Ken McNutt over Memorial Day with a group of 52 people; Whorl Mtn led by Arky and Ruth and Mt Bradley led by Gordon MacLeod and Norm Mclean. Barbara Lilley reported on a private trip into the Trinity Alps over Memorial Day because of poor snow in the Sierra. Barbara Larkin MacLeod became Emblem holder #102 in late June.

### Thirty Years Ago

Continuing with the early history of the SPS during its founding years as a part of the Angeles Chapter Diamond Jubilee year, it should be pointed out that there was no Sierra ECHO during the first year of the Section. It was not until November of 1956 that it was decided to publish a Section paper. At the SPS meeting for that month, Roger Gaefcke (now an active Sailing leader for the Chapter) suggested the name, "Sierra Echo", and it was unanimously adopted. Volume I of the Echo was run off by mimeograph and covered the climbs of 1957. The staff for the first issue included Bud Bingham (retired and now living in Bishop) Editor-in-Chief, John Robinson (now a leader for the Chapter History Section) Managing Editor, and Frank Sanborn (now living and climbing in Washington) as Columnist. The present day editor might be envious of such a staff (or any staff!). The newsletter was free to Section members in those days. Volume I number 1 (February 1957) had the Section Emblem on the masthead hand-colored by John Robinson.

Continued next Page

Thirty Years Ago in the SPS continued

Returning to 1956, it was Bud Bingham, who in March of that year, designed the present emblem depicting Mt Williamson in profile with white Sierra summer clouds floating overhead, snow on the flanks, and pine boughs intertwined beneath.

Following the initial SPS trip to Deer Mtn led by Frank Sanborn and John Robinson in early May, the second trip was scheduled for May 26-27 when Frank Sanborn again, with Miles Brubacher, led a group to Maggie Mtn. On June 2-3, George Wallerstein and Steve Wilkie led a trip to Mt Gilbert from South Lake. The next weekend Frank again with Ted Maier led a trip to Trail Peak in the Cottonwood Basin. Most of these early day SPS trips had fewer than 20 participants and the average number for the first season was certainly under 20. More history to follow in the next ECHO. Any comments, additional info and corrections to the early SPS history would be appreciated. Please write Ron Jones, 13 Meadowsweet Way, Irvine CA 92715.-- RON

MARION PEAK

30 Aug-1Sept 85

NORM ROHN

Since R.J. Secor and I attracted no hikers for our scheduled trip to Marion Pk in July and called it off, I'd been trying to find an alternate time. Labor Day weekend was free and the good weather of this summer was still holding but the thought of Taboose Pass's 6000' of gain seemed to discourage prospective companions. So I went alone. Picked up a permit in Lone Pine and had the usual excellent barbeque dinner at Curt Herring's Smoke Signals. Slept at the roadhead.

The trailhead quota was nearly full so the traffic on the trail, mostly for Bench Lake, the Striped Lakes and some peaks between Cardinal and Split, provided occasional visits. I still think the view coming over the pass of Arrow Pk, Bench Lake, the South Fork Cyn and Mt. Ruskin is one of the most spectacular in the Sierra. Crossing the South Fork of the Kings at the Muir Trail I rolled a crucial rock and dumped Norm and his whole load into about two feet of water. Considerably damper and heavier I proceeded on to where the Cartridge Pass Trail leaves the South Fork Trail and made a camp for supper and to dry a bit.

The next morning I pushed up the 1400' of switchbacks to lake 10,870 in the bowl S of Cartridge Pass and found a fine campsite. I then daypacked over the spur joining the Cirque Crest and peak 12,190 to its S. The hike along and just below Cirque Crest through alternately talus and loose scree with a couple of elevation changes is just tedious. Arrow Pk, Muro Blanco and Bench Lake across the S Fork are great viewing.

Marion Pk itself was unimpressive but looking down into the cyn of the Middle Fork, the lovely Lake Basin country and all those remote but familiar peaks around the Ionian Basin made the lunch stop a memorable one. There was no register but it was fun to leave a card in a bandaid can with my name, the date and a 246 under the SPS mountain.

That night it began to cloud up and by morning a heavy build-up was moving in from the W. I fished briefly and in 15 minutes had four beautiful rainbows (11"-13"). After breakfasting (i.e., pigging out) and reevaluating the weather, I changed plans. Instead of staying for a day, fishing, loafing and climbing Ruskin, I packed up and headed out. It got cold and windy and showered occasionally, but I managed to stay ahead of the weather and reached my car well before dark. Altogether a very pleasant trip\_\_\_\_many deer, including some fine bucks, a few grouse, fish and that great Sierra backcountry.



Independence and University  
Trip dates: July 27 - 28, 1985  
Leader: Don Borad  
Assistant: Dave Dykeman

Now that I have my "M" leader patch and have sewn it (with great difficulty) to my summit pack, the full story can be told! The story is probably familiar to some of you because these events stir half forgotten memories. Memories of terror. This is the story of my FIRST PROVISIONAL LEAD.

The ostensible purpose of the trip was to climb Independence and University. The real purpose, of course, was to display my great leadership skill. My assistant (Hah!) was none other than his nibs, Dave Dykeman.

I was prepared! I had calculated the calorie requirements, travel time etc. at least ten times. I had a 1st aid kit that would strain a truck. I had extras for every emergency. I could probably handle medical supply for a major disaster. I even negotiated with the forest service to allow me a party of six (their limit was five). I spoke to the four other participants and carefully screened them for ice ax and crampon skill etc. I had a trail head check list a foot long to make sure I didn't miss anything in my briefing. I even scouted the trip! Yes, I was definitely prepared!

My first shock occurred when I received my chapter schedule. My trip was listed all right - but the sponsor was listed as MTC! Oh God, How did THAT happen? Here I am leading a provisional trip with the SPS president no less and somebody puts the trip in as MTC instead of SPS. Talk about losing brownie points.

Well, everything went according to plan from there until I did the trail head briefing. It was there that I discovered that my check list was no good because I had forgotten how to read. I tried to do the lecture from memory but discovered I had forgotten that also. The people didn't seem to notice anything strange about this situation which really bothered me. Couldn't they see my paralysis? "Oh well", I said, lamely. "Let's go for a walk".

Now you must understand that the hike to base camp is only a little over two miles on a trail. I must have died a thousand deaths fearing the damn trail would disappear. I had pictures in my mind of a mother duck walking over a cliff being dutifully followed by all the ducklings - all except Dave who shook his head and said "Better luck next time turkey". Suffice to say that I somehow led that crew to camp and even stopped one participant from camping too close to lake. (That might be a good point if Dave was watching).

We made camp and headed for Independence, a basic class 2 walk-up. Well I got so engrossed in a conversation that I passed a shute that I had intended to use. Oh jeez, did Dave notice? "Well I'll be damned if I'll add humiliation to this by backtracking so I'll go up another one" I thought. So I did. It went O.K. till I discovered I couldn't get back

## Independence and University (Continued)

on route. "I'll brazen it out" and go up some good rock toward the summit. So I did. The route ended on the ridge with a couple of easy 3rd class moves and I managed to lead the charge to the summit. I needed some rest from the tension so I asked Dave to lead 'em down. Well, no-one killed so far. Whew!

After getting that 1st day under my belt, I felt much better the next morning. We started bright and early under a clear sky. I led the party to the base of University Col feeling like an old pro. Then I looked up. Oh shit! That lovely snow climb I had reconned was gone. In its place was a ghastly shute filled with hard ice. The areas not covered with ice were covered with loose dirt. I decided to give it a shot so up we went. I soon discovered that the loose dirt covered more ice. If that wasn't bad enough, pieces of mountain kept breaking loose and demonstrating what a wonderful slide one could take. It was then that I noticed that one of my carefully screened participants had utterly no idea of the proper way to handle an ice ax! So much for my screening ability. Dave will probably have something to say about that on my evaluation - especially as he was doing most of the work getting the person up the shute.

Well, we got to the top of the shute O.K. and bagged the peak. On the way down from the peak I remembered the wonderful glissade I'd had when I scouted the trip. Then I remembered the condition of the shute. Then I announced that there was no way on earth that we're going down the way we came up. I think at least one participant was relieved. I asked the group to wait while Dave and I scouted another shute that I had noticed earlier. It had appeared to be ice free. On inspection it appeared grungy but do-able. We descended the shute, broke camp and returned to the cars without further incident. My heart rate then dropped below 100 for the first time since Friday!

Later that evening Dave told me that over all, he thought I had done a good job. I felt like jumping up and down and yelling whoopee!! I passed! I passed!

Thanks are in order to Dave and to Joe Barsugli, Bob Wright, Eleanor McGregor and Ruth Armentrout who tolerated me on a first provisional lead.

If my second provisional is as easy as this it'll be a snap.

Nine of us met at 7:30 Friday morning at Glacier Lodge when it opened for breakfast. This gave us a good opportunity to get acquainted over eggs and coffee. Two 1985 BMTC grads, Richard Maris Lejnicks (another Latvian like Maris) and Steve Crooks; Two guests, Jim Floyd out from Maryland to climb his very first Sierra peak and Don Robinson; and SPS climbers Graham Breakwell, Jim Hinkley, Igor Mamedalin, Maris and me made up the group. We got a 9 o'clock start up the north fork of Big Pine Creek, lunched at the trail junction to the Palisade Glacier and arrived at our camp in Sam Mack Meadow an hour later. We spent the afternoon relaxing and sharing hors d'oeuvres at the end of the day.

Saturday at 6 we set out for our objectives. We cramponed up the glacier, climbed a 15 ft bergschrund where it met the rock on the NW side and climbed the steep snow chute to the U Notch. Here Jim led Igor and Graham up the class 4 chimney leading to near the base of the SE ridge below the summit. The rest of us climbed the Clyde Variation route. Combining our recollection of the climb with the account in The Climber's Guide to the High Sierra, 2nd ed. by Hervey Voge the description of this route follows:

About 120 feet down the SW chute from the U Notch there is a body-wedge crack leading up to a small buttress. Climb the wall slightly to the right up to a ledge (30 or 40 ft of easy cl 4) where one can walk left to a wide spot just before coming to a sharp arete. Continue around the corner of the arete and into a shallow chute which is presently marked by a cairn. Climb up this chute (easy mixed cl 3) where one arrives at the top of the U Notch wall where after turning a little corner you come to the top of the chimney route. This is also the point from which the rappel is made back to the U Notch.

After rejoining forces we climbed along the SE ridge, first on the right side for a little bit and then crossing over to the left side and maintaining a smooth line just below the ridge top until it meets the bottom of the large SW chute of the cl 3 west side "LeConte" route. Follow a band of light-colored rock west for a short distance and then head directly for the peak. Just before the summit is an "interesting" step-across which only Jim Hinkley negotiated, the rest of us climbed into the narrow crack and mantled up on the other side.

We took a short break on the summit for lunch and then descended to the chimney route on the U Notch wall where we made two double rope rappels down to the U Notch. Large parties would find an advantage in having 4 ropes, 2 for each rappel in order to "keep things moving".

At the U Notch Maris, Jim Hinkley and I climbed Polemonium PK, recently demoted from a 14,000' peak to 13,962' on the new 7 1/2' topo, allowing me to "back into" my completing the Sierra 14,000ers. Barbara Lilley has an excellent route description of this climb in ECHO Vol 11 #5, Sept 1967 which we followed with some changes. Directly from the south wall of the U Notch climb up about 30 ft of easy cl 4. Then traverse diagonally upward to the right for about 100 ft toward the obvious notch situated above a prominent gendarme on the SW arete. Climb through the notch, turn the corner and from here a 20 ft airy cl 4 pitch leads to a nice cl 3 route to the summit. This peak I thought had better climbing than our route on No Pal. Round trip from the U Notch took us 45 minutes. Everyone was back to camp at Sam Mack Meadow before nightfall

The next morning we ate and packed up in a leisurely fashion and we were back to the hiker's parking lot by noon. We drove down to Winks Restaurant in Big Pine (formerly from Belmont Shores) for lunch. Fish and chips and a fine salad bar are highlights. Thanks to Jim Hinkley for his assistance and to Maris for his usual excellent job assisting. Next year in August we have our sights set on The Hermit. -- RON

AUG 10-18, 1985: KINGS/KERN & GREAT WESTERN DIVIDES: DYKEMAN/GORDON

We assembled at 6:30 Saturday a.m. to try beating the rising heat to higher altitude. When we got under way, there were six participants: Lloyd Brown, Mario Gonzales, Betsy Horgan, Pete Magnuson and 2 leaders. Our seventh member, Ed Kenny joined us at Shepherds Pass. We managed the 7,000 feet of gain with heavy nine-day full pack the first day. On Sunday, we headed for Milestone Creek to climb the most remote peaks first. Four of us bagged Table Mountain that afternoon. We observed that a ramp ran from left to right across the face toward a final chute to the summit plateau. We headed toward it and spent 20 minutes finding that the best route is to slightly overclimb the ramp then drop to it. Once on the ramp, the route to the summit area was routine.

Monday our objectives were Milestone and Midway. As impressive as the peak looks, Milestone is a piece of cake, just stay close to the North side of the milestone drop down on the West 50 feet or so and get onto the ramp leading to the summit. Getting from Milestone to Midway is a grunt. It would have been better to do Milestone alone on Sunday. The Route from Midway to the base of Table looks easy.

Tuesday, we embarked on the overly ambitious task of dayhiking both Kern Point and Picket Guard (Lloyd went off solo for South Guard). We were only a little way down the trail when people began to evaluate the magnitude of the day and returning to camp. Mario and Pete hung in the longest, but only I was insane enough to continue and day-and-night hike these remote peaks.

Wednesday, we moved camp and climbed Thunder on the way. Thunder has one of the more impressive summits around. With Lloyd's memory and assistance, we climbed the summit block and set up a belay. WOW!

Thursday, we climbed Jordan and traversed over to Genevera. This is another very impressive summit area, but is easier than it looks. We set up a belay station to protect the down-climb to the famous step-across. Not everyone was up to it. The route on the right of the ridge goes easier than it looks. Then, it was on to Genevera. A routine traverse and climb of the peak. But Lloyd offered us too much advice. He'd been immeasurable help on previous routes, but swinging as far left as possible on the way down??? After determined that our rope was long enough, we rapped an overhang. This is supposed to be a class 2 peak.

Friday, it was establish base camp at Lake South America and over Gregory's Monument to get Stanford. The toughest climbing was down and up the Gregory's nose. The traverse to Stanford's summit went easily along the east side. We provided a belay/haul-up the long step onto the monument on the way back.

On Saturday, we went back for Ericsson. We managed to make a tough job of finding the summit area. The down route was easy, but we aren't sure about better route finding a second time around. Back at camp, we picked up packs and did an easy, direct cross-country to The Pothole.

Sunday, only three of us wanted Keith which when dry is a trudge up and down. We arrived at the cars at 3:25: 25 minutes behind our trip plan time of 3:00.

A footnote or two: Five of us rode to the trailhead IN Petes car. For a 9 day stay, we chose to park at the Van Nuys Flyaway. Its about a mile off the 405 and costs \$1.00 to park long-term in a patrolled lot.

RUSSELL & CARILLON

17-18 August 1985

Bill Oliver, Jon Lutz

Nine of us departed the Portal Saturday at 6:30 am and, benefiting from a prior recon, encountered little difficulty in gaining the Ebersbacher Ledges up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek. We arrived at Upper Boy Scout Lake by 10:45 and camped in decent sites at the east end. Four hearty peak-baggers took off after lunch for Thor (Joe Andrews, Mike Hill, Dave Petzold, and Bill Richards). Ascending the north ridge they encountered unexpectedly very high class 3 rock, but eventually gained the summit about 3:30. Their return was via the easy slope above Lower Boy Scout Lake.

Sunday morning we headed out under beautiful skies up the scree slope east of the lake. One person soon turned back due to temporary illness. We made the saddle at 8:10 and gained Russell's west summit by 9:20. No belays were necessary in spite of the awesome exposure along the ridge - really exhilarating class 3 rock. Lunch on the top provided fantastic views in all directions - especially toward Whitney. Five of us picked up Carillon in an easy scramble, the others having already done so in the past. The view of Russell from Carillon is quite foreboding and we were all glad that we did the former first. Tunnabora was left undisturbed, and we skied the scree back to camp.

The Portal was reached shortly after 3:00. Our group turned out to be quite strong and we kept together very well making fast time. The other members were Dave Mroczkowski, Bill Spina and Wayne Mashihara. I want to acknowledge Jon's support throughout BMTC and AMTC and in this climb, the last step toward my M-rating.

Mt. Dana & Mt. Gibbs  
Gourmet Backpack.

Aug 17-18, 1985

G. Toby & J. Koshear

The trip met at the Tioga Pass entrance of Yosemite National Park. The permit was for ten people, there was one no show. Included in the group were SPS members Lynna Walker and Walt Hill of Bishop. Glad to have them on the trip. The weather looked like rain. We ascended on an easy trail directly from the pass to the summit of Dana. About  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles and 3,200' gain. This trail is not shown on the topos. There were swirling snowflakes on top and light rain on the way down. However this was a very pleasant climb with super views of Yosemite in every direction. We drove a short distance to the Dana Meadows roadhead for the goodie part of the trip. Backpacked 5 miles to a superb campsite just the other side of Mono Pass. The Park Service does not allow camping in this part of Yosemite. Horses are allowed in this area and all water must be suspect and either boiled or treated. We explored around some still intact mining cabins and gorged ourselves on an endless variety of Hors D'ouvres, gourmet dinner delicacies, and wines. What a feed. It did not appear we would ever be able to rise again, but most of us were up early Sunday to climb Mt. Gibbs directly from camp up the South Ridge. Back at the cars in early afternoon for the long drive home.

*George*

LIPPENCOTT, BLACK & RED KAWEAHS & EAGLE SCOUT 8/20-25/85 Jones/Rohn

Six participants met 8:30 Tuesday at the Mineral King Ranger Station. These were Norm Rohn, Bob Emerick, Harry Freimanis, Frank Meyers, Paul Schubert & me. Frank is a very long-time SPS climber whom I hadn't seen in a few years while Harry Freimanis was a recent LTP "M" grad and non-SPS member (and for whom the Freimanis glacier in Antarctica is named). We stuck to our plan for the day which entailed mostly trail hiking with our 6 day packs by going over Glacier Pass, on to Black Rock Pass (there is a use trail most of the way from the north side of Spring Lake to the big switchback at the bottom of Black Rock Pass--most easily followed going N to S) and down to camp at the largest of the Little Five Lakes where the Ranger tent cabin is. Paul Schubert had to leave our group during the day.

Wednesday we made a routine ascent of Lippencott Mtn (leaving Norm with only 4 peaks to go in his quest for the list) and packed down to the area of the old cabin in the Big Arroyo where we set up base camp. The weather held perfectly with sunny days, warm nights and nary a bug.

Thursday we went for Black Kaweah using Roper's route #2, the southwest face, cl 4. It had been 10 or 15 years since I last climbed the peak and I recalled it as being awesome. This year we all found the route easy to follow, no trouble with loose rocks for a careful group, there was no snow and although we carried a rope we saw no place to use it. The route is pretty well ducked except at the entrance to the left-hand chute and under these conditions is only a marginally cl 4 climb. Three to go for Norm!

Friday we crossed a well used recent bear track near our camp enroute to Red Kaweah. We had been hanging our food, Harry had scattered moth balls around his tent and we had not been visited by our ursine neighbors. We hiked to lake 11,825, passing it on a bench to the east, picked our way through the rocks and large talus to a prominent chute, up to a equally prominent ramp below the summit which led to near the top. Our views of the Sierra were even better today than from Black Kaweah and we could see its impressive SE face. Two to go for Norm!

Saturday we walked north on the High Sierra trail and made a routine ascent of Eagle Scout Pk. This mountain has a wonderful view down and across the heavily glaciated Hamilton Lake area. Only one peak to go for Norm!--Marion Mtn on another trip. We returned to our packs near where Frank found the remains of a deer close to the aforementioned bear path where in several visits by the bear(s) the deer had been devoured, leaving the bones as evidence. We shouldered our packs and hiked that afternoon the long way out to Spring Lake.

Sunday was spent in an easy climb over Glacier Pass and we were down to our cars before noon. Thanks to Norm for his usual good company and a fine assist. ---RON

San Joaquin Mtn.      Sept. 6, 1985      Walt Kabler, Mary McMannes, Lou Brecheen

We originally planned this trip as two day hikes--San Joaquin and Morgan #1--but because of problems I've been having with my knees, we cut it back to a Saturday climb of San Joaquin only. Despite the long drive for just one peak, we had a long list of participants until people started hearing weather reports. The group shrank quickly, and only eight climbers, including the leaders, showed up in the cloud-shrouded parking lot at Minaret Summit Saturday morning. One climber looked around, shivered in the miserable cold, got back into his truck, and drove back to Mammoth to take advantage of the avant-ski sales.

The leaders felt that in spite of the threatening weather--visibility was about 150 yards and snow was forecast--those who had driven all that way deserved a try at the peak, so we followed the dirt road out to where it ends just above Deadman Pass, hoping that the weather would clear. It didn't. A trail goes from the end of the road across the pass to just beyond point 10,375'. We followed it until it ended through strong winds and intermittent light rain, hail, and snow, then map-and-compassed along the ridge to 10,485', 10,913', Two Teats, and finally San Joaquin, figuring that if things really got desperate, we could escape by dropping west down the sandy slope of the ridge, crossing a short, cliffy band of rocks, and intersecting the PCT back to Agnew Meadows. The altimeters were dead accurate all the way, though, and navigating went well.

Coming back was harder. It's fairly easy to follow a ridge going up, more difficult to follow it down. I got confused a few times, but everyone helped route-find and look for tracks. It was an excellent team effort, the leaders getting help from Graham Gunn, a BMTC student, and Marta Flores and John Sarna, two candidates for membership in SPS. When I commented on how helpful everyone had been, Graham, who grew up in another English-speaking country, remarked, "Everyone was keen to get back." Just before we reached the cars, the ceiling lifted a couple of hundred feet, and we got our only views of the day, a glimpse across the canyon to Shadow Lake. We ended the trip wet, cold, and very nearly hypothermic from the wind, but happy to have climbed the mountain. (W.K.)

IZAAK WALTON

Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1985

Jerry Keating/Elton Fletcher

A loop trip over the Silver Divide, with a relaxed climb of Mt. Izaak Walton (12,099'), attracted 13 Sierrans who escaped the usual traffic rigors of the Lake Edison approach by starting and ending the Labor Day holiday a day early.

All participants showed up on time at 7:30 a.m. Friday in order to depart on a special ferry run at 8 a.m. (cost \$7 vs. \$5 for regular 9 a.m. run; the new boat carries 25 backpackers vs. the previous 15). A forested campsite at 9,760' just west of the stream flowing down from Silver Pass Lake was reached by early afternoon, and it was used for two nights.

Saturday's climb of Izaak Walton was made via the scenic trough SW of the peak, thence up the peak's easy S slope. Ten persons signed in under clear skies, but a breeze began to suggest that a change in the weather was in prospect.

The original plan for Sunday was to backpack northward over Silver Pass, wind leisurely past several lakes, then recross the Silver Divide at Goodale Pass, which the Sierra Club is rebuilding as a service to the Forest Service, before setting up camp below Graveyard Lakes. Sunday's weather, however, turned gray and cold, prompting a group decision to continue on all the way to the cars at Edison Lake. Everyone was at the roadhead by 4 p.m., having covered 14 miles with packs and escaped the rain that doused other areas of the Sierra. The premature arrival allowed the drivers to avoid the usual delays that mark summer weekends on the west side.

--Jerry Keating

MARIAN PK \_\_\_\_\_  
MT GILBERT, MT JOHNSON \_\_\_\_\_  
MT GOODE \_\_\_\_\_

31 AUG 1985 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 SEPT 1985 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 SEPT 1985 \_\_\_\_\_

NORM ROHN  
DUANE McRUER  
BILL T RUSSELL

On Friday McRuer led 12 from South Lake to the largest Treasure Lake (10,668). After setting up camp the party proceeded SW up the basin W of the rib trending NW from the crest. The crest was reached via the chute leading to the very prominent notch which can be seen from South Lake. The chute had an icy base, covered with about 10" of new snow. Ice axes were ineffective, but quadripedal action worked just fine, especially with gloves. Without the new snow this notch would have been an adventure. Gilbert was Mac's list-finishing peak, so the climb was halted momentarily for a preliminary celebration with champagne and chocolate (covered ants). The party then went towards Johnson, past the notch used on the trip in, to the saddle S of the NW trending rib overlooking the Treasure Lakes basin. Mac led half the party NW down a nice system of gentle chutes and ledges, skirted the glacier, to drop into Treasure Lakes basin and thence to camp. Co-leaders Doug Mantle and Bob Hicks lead the other half up the ridge to Johnson. This is listed as 3rd, but the new snow made it much more challenging. Shortly after their return to camp the Friday night celebration began, complete with a computer-generated list-finishing banner, champagne, caviar, pate's of all kinds, pasta with pesto, and similar simple fare. Other participants on this phase of the list-finishing weekend were:

Dick Agnos  
Lew Amack  
Rose Certini

Vi Grasso  
Mike Manchester  
Harold McFadden

Dale Van Dalsem  
Carolyn West  
Harold Youngren

On Saturday, Russell led 32 to Mt Goode on a snow free hike via the Bishop Pass trail and the east face for his 246th peak. He was surprised but pleased, to have 9 of the McRuer party join him on the summit. Pat Russell was the listed co-leader and others were appointed to help out; George Smith was particularly helpful. Participants were:

Dick Akawie  
How Bailey  
Wynne Benti  
Lou Brecheen  
Bob Emerick  
Edna Erspamer  
Harry Freimanis  
Rich Gnagy  
Walt Hill  
Bob Hoselton

Ella Hoselton  
George Hubbard  
Jerry Keating  
Nancy Keating  
Patty Kline  
Barbara Leonard  
Larry Machleder  
Gene Mauk  
Barbara Magnuson  
Roy Magnuson

Mary Sue Miller  
Jim Murphy  
Barbara Reber  
Norm Rohn  
Mercedes Russell  
Eric Schumacher  
Don Sparks  
Jim Talley  
Lynna Walker

After returning to the roadhead, the climbers and other good friends who had done other things, met at the Bishop Park Group Camp for a triple-triple-list-finishers celebration. Norm Rohn, who finished the SPS list by a solo climb of Mt Marion on Aug 31 served as a joint host with Mac and Bill T. All three of them finished the HPS and DPS lists a number of years ago. Joe and Betty McCosker added to the triple-triple another reason for a party -- their 45th wedding anniversary! The festivities were extended and extensive, made convivial by the spirits of the group and of the vine plus the many fine dishes and other goodies brought by the participants. The hosts give thanks for the contributions and are particularly grateful to all for their attendance. After the party, some left for the dedication of Mt Jenkins on Sunday and others stayed at the campground overnight. In addition to the climbers listed above, a partial list of those coming to the celebration is:



Marion, Gilbert, Johnson, Goode (Continued)

Ruth Armentrout	Pat Holleman	Ben Pryor
Randy Bernard	Ron Hudson	Herm Rediess
Fred Bode	Walton Kabler	Sharon Rediess
Dave Dykeman	Paul Lipsohn	David Russell
Nancy Gordon	Owen Malloy	Lucy Woodward
Joan Hack	Betty McCosker	Bob Wright
Vic Henney	Joe McCosker	Sue Wyman
Gerry Holleman	Eivor Nilsson	

Duane, Norm and Bill T thank everyone for their participation. They were honored by the many distinguished SPSers and other friends who were present. For mountain records, the registers on all three peaks are OK.

PALISADE CREST

10-11 August 1985

Dan Mihaljevich, Gerry Holleman

Seven SPS'ers got together for a private trip to a much-heralded but little-climbed peak that is not on the list. Saturday morning on a typically beautiful day in the Sierras we left Glacier Lodge at 8:30 a.m. for a leisurely backpack to camp. Even after napping at the crest of the trail with a fine view of our objective, then enjoying lunch at the stream crossing before ascending the canyon towards the Norman Clyde glacier, we still arrived at camp in trees near the base of the glacier at 2:00 p.m. Dan Mihaljevich, Harold McFadden and Mark Goebel explored up the glacier while Pat and Gerry Holleman, Larry Machleder and Charmaine le Desma napped. As we enjoyed Happy Hour around 4:00 p.m., a thick haze of smoke from fires in Kings Canyon drifted over the Sierra Crest and camp.

Needing an early start in order to achieve a reasonable hour for returning to L.A., we were up at 4:00 a.m. and off at 5:00 with just enough light to walk without a headlamp. We climbed the shoulder of the ridge from camp, just above the cliffs leading to the glacier. Then we made our way to the permanent snowfield and climbed the short 2nd class ridge leading to the crest. Picking our way across the crest toward the peak, we followed Bob Hartunian's drawing and detailed trip write-up from the Sept-Oct 1984 ECHO. This ridgeline reminded us of Devil's Crag, only with SOLID rock and fine climbing. The trickiest route-finding was in the drop to the notch before the 4th class friction. Arriving at the base of the 4th class at 9 a.m., Gerry Holleman pulled out his Fires to lead the slab, and then set up a belay for the rest of us. The short climb to the summit contained more good 3rd class climbing, after which we retreated downward to get out of the cold wind.

As Bob H. suggested, we rappelled to an intermediate anchor so 2 - 165 ft. ropes were not needed. The rappels off the slab were completed by 12:30 and we had lunch back on the other side of the chockstone in a warm, sunny protected area. Mark's new 165' rope was hit by a falling rock during the rappelling and he later discovered that the core had been cut. Retracing our route over the crest to the ridge, we made our way down to camp by 3:00 p.m. Mark, Gerry and Pat packed up and left for a return to the cars at 6:30. We were home in L.A. at 1:00 a.m., making it a 21 hour day but very satisfying. Dan, Harold, Larry and Charmaine remained in camp for an attempt of Norman Clyde the next day.

Palisade Crest is an outstanding peak and certainly should be on the SPS list. Just about everyone who has climbed it is in agreement as attested to by past trip reports in the ECHO. ---Pat Holleman

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

COPY: Send to Editor, Pat Holleman, 1638 6th St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. ECHO deadlines are the 20th of the odd numbered months and June. Priority is given to TYPED, SINGLE SPACED copy.

ADDRESS CHANGES TO: Secretary, Vieve Weldon, 12203-47 Santa Gertrudes Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638. Third class mail is not forwarded.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$6.00 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.

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