

The Sierra



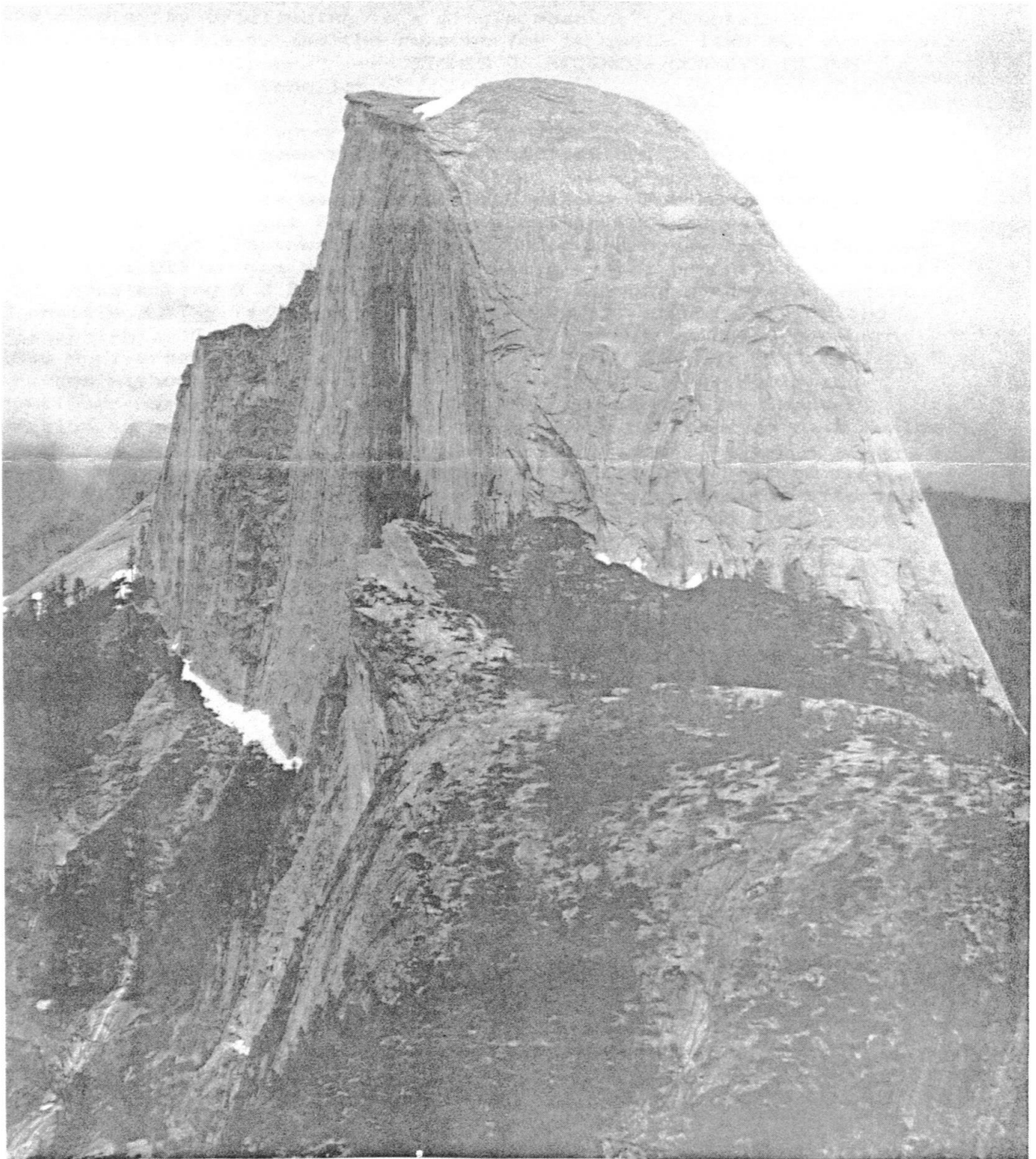
ECHO

VOLUME 31

JULY

1987

NO. 4



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

"It has been aptly said that climbing is a living metaphor for unifying one's existence. At it's purest, climbing is done solely for its own sake, without anticipation of reward. But of course the rewards are there: moments of intense happiness, the satisfaction of extending the limit of experience, the feeling of having been part of the natural world where death is meaningless and random....There is something uniquely egotistical in scaling summits....But why reduce the complexity of climbing to a single meaning? Mountain climbing is an intangible quest, and the reasons for it dwell, like all mysteries, within each worshipper." --- STONES OF SILENCE-JOURNEYS IN THE HIMALAYA by George Schaller.

I want to take this opportunity at mid-year to recognize the dedicated efforts of our management Committee this season. Don Borad in charge of membership has worked hard to attract new climbers to our Introductory Trips and new members to the Section. Rob Roy McDonald continues on his quest for complete Mountain Records data and additionally he has put together the largest outings program the SPS has ever had. Bill Oliver has done well in making annual banquet arrangements and in selecting R J Secor to present our banquet program on December 9 entitled, "The Ten Toughest Sierra Peaks ;A Work of Fiction and Plagiarism". Carolyn West, as ECHO mailer has been selling enough 1986 Anniversary and older ECHOS to pay nearly all our ECHO mailing charges without having to dip into our treasury. Pat Holleman continues her work as the best newsletter editor of any Chapter section or group. I've already thanked Gerry Holleman in past months for his work in membership records. Bill T Russell, after a major effort to draw our attention to the need for response to the Inyo National Forest Plan, continues to direct our conservation efforts in relevant areas. Norm Rohn, our Safety Chair, keeps an eye on our training efforts and on drawing our attention to climbing hazards. It's an amazing volunteer effort and I'll pass out more thanks to the remaining Management Committee members next issue.

In a few days (6/20/87) I leave for Kauai and perhaps an attempt on its high point of only 5243 feet situated between Mts Kawaikini and Waialeale but located at the edge of the Alakai swamp. Waialeale has an average of 460 inches of rain a year and a record of 624 inches!
Aloha.

VOLUME 31-4 PEAK INDEX (1987)

Alta	Morgan	Stanford
Hermit	Morgan	Stanford
Irvine	Morrison	Whitney
McAdie	Ritter	Whitney

Photo Credit: We can thank John Reed again this month for submitting the cover photo of Half Dome from Glacier Point.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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SPS PROGRAM FOR AUGUST

August 12 Meeting: "Climbing in Peru and Bolivia": BRUCE KNUTSON will share some exciting tales in his presentation of climbs of Pisco Oeste and Huascarán (22205') in Cordillera Blanca of Peru, and of a climb in Bolivia. Refreshments. Griffith Park Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

LEADERS

Don't forget to write up your Spring Schedule trips for the ECHO! The trip write-ups will be needed soon for publication.

PARKS AND WILDLIFE INITIATIVE BEGINS

A \$776 million bond act for parkland and wildlife habitat acquisition will be on California's June 1988 ballot if the Sierra Club and other conservation groups are successful in obtaining nearly 600,000 petition signatures over the summer. The initiative promises to be one of the most significant environmental measures since the passage of the coastal initiative in 1972.

Unlike previous park bond acts, most of the monies are earmarked for specific projects. Statewide, the Sierra counties and state parks would receive over \$130 million for development, acquisition, and preservation of river and mountain areas.

The Angeles chapter of the Sierra Club will be working to obtain signatures beginning June 27. Volunteers are urgently needed to run petitioning tables, make phone calls, and to contribute to the campaign. Please complete this volunteer form and mail it today to: Californians for Parks and Wildlife, c/o Sierra Club-Angeles Chapter, 3550 W.6th St., Ste. 321, Los Angeles, CA 90020. The form may be cut and pasted to a postcard if you wish.

Additional information may be obtained by telephoning your regional coordinator David Vinokur, (213) 381-6282.

TO VOLUNTEER, CUT OUT AND SEND THE FORM PRINTED BELOW

CALIFORNIANS FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE
C/O SIERRA CLUB
ANGELES CHAPTER
3550 W.6th ST., STE. 321
LOS ANGELES, CA 90020

Yes, I want to help get the *California Parks and Wildlife Initiative* on the ballot.

- I'll collect signatures. Please call me to arrange.
- I'll donate money: \$ _____.
- I endorse the initiative. You may use my name as a supporter.

name _____
address _____
city/zip _____
phone (day/eve.) _____
signature _____



Cal P.A.W.

Aug 3-5, 1986

Mt. Whitney

Rohn/Secor

My ninth Mt. Whitney climb, and second this year, was another fun outing and, as usual ever since the first in 1961, offered new perspectives and new experiences. After a barbeque dinner at Curt Herring's Smoke Signals in Lone Pine eight of us headed for a night's sleep at the Portal roadhead. A leisurely start in the morning put us onto the North Fork trail by a little after nine. By staying on the N side and crossing just above it, we avoided the large rock jumble on the S side of the North Fork. The next crossing, to the N side again, was about fifty yards below the scramble up to the Ebersbacher Ledges and was also made with dry feet. The Ledges went well, we rested at Lower Boy Scout Lake and lunched near Upper BS Lake. Approaching Iceberg Lake I made the mistake of leading up the black, wet and slippery cliff instead of continuing another 300 yds and moving up a loose rocky gully (on the return trip we followed the latter). Roping the packs up overcame this difficulty.

On Monday seven of us went for the peak, largely staying off the hard snow and in the rock on the right side of the Mountaineers' Route chute. When the chute flattened slightly we went to the snow and at the 2/3 point found dry going up to the notch. I prefer climbing the second rib W of the notch but the snow chute before it was hard and icy with a spooky runout. We climbed the first rib and had no difficulty. Ted Franklin, Bob Bailey and I loafed around the summit, visited with all the climbers (4 ropes on the East Face that day), and watched a sailplane circling slowly overhead while RJ, Maura Raffensperger, Jodie Deren and Dennis Tange went for Muir. RJ and Maura made it but Jodie and Dennis saved it for next time. The down route to the notch was a bit sticky for some and we roped over one pitch. Below the notch I learned about a good trail that goes along a ramp on the S side of the chute and eventually joins the "trail" to the tower at the start of the East Face route—a very fast and easy route up or down.

On Tuesday we lazed about and eventually six of us eased on down the trail. RJ and John, his father, took off in the other direction, heading for the Whitney-Russell Col and the Arctic Lakes so that RJ could pursue more of the peaks on the way to his list completion.

Four of this group were recent BMTC graduates for whom the trip was particularly scheduled. The Ledges, the chute, the easy 3rd Class scrambling and the fact of Whitney itself make this an especially good experience trip and three days takes all the hurry-up pressure off. We all had a great time.

SEP 27/28. Alta Peak Meet the SPS: Dave Dykeman & Sherry Harsh

This was to be autumn in the Sierras: crisp, clear nights and warm days with fall coloring the leaves. And the views would go on forever. Alta Peak has a trail to the summit, but getting there this time was a challenge in navigation and perseverance. The season's first storms had passed through and left up to a foot of snow, some down to 7,000 ft. The scenery would be spectacular. When it cleared, we could see nearly 100 yards. The fine group of 28 had new climbers and old-hand SPSers. We couldn't find a register in the snow or see to take bearings, but 23 claimed Alta's summit Saturday. With snow falling in a white-out, both climbing and navigating were fun and challenging. But Everything was damp, and another storm seemed headed our way (and both leaders had Mt. Silliman). It was back to Lodgepole Campground where we packed for the trip home.

McADIE/IRVINE

AUGUST 9-10, 1986

MAMEDALIN/VALKASS

This weekend was originally scheduled to be a conventional overnight climb of McAdie and Muir. However, after numerous unsuccessful attempts to obtain an overnight permit from Whitney Portal for this weekend, we decided to lead the two peaks as dayhikes from the Portal (no permit required). Although over twenty eager climbers signed up, only eleven yawning participants showed up for an early start at 6 a.m. from Whitney Portal. More personnel changes were awaited.

The group hastily proceeded up the Whitney trail only to lose two of its participants before reaching Lone Pine Lake. Another participant turned back when we reached Consolation Lake. To compensate, we gained a participant along the way in the form of a late arrival who overtook our speedy troop. We headed toward Arc Pass, the saddle between McAdie and Irvine. As we scrambled toward the notch between the middle and the north bumps of McAdie, yet another participant chose to return. Eight climbers reached the top of McAdie before noon as the leaders conferred and re-verified the strength of the deodorants used that day (next time it shall be extra-strength!). We had a pleasant lunch on the top as a Navy jet pilot buzzed the tops of McAdie and Whitney for our entertainment.

After reviewing the condition of the ridge between McAdie and Muir and fathoming the distance back to Consolation Lake, the group chose the easier option and headed for Irvine. For the uninitiated, the ridge between McAdie and Muir is a series of interesting pinnacles. Back at the saddle we lost yet another participant as seven undeterred climbers headed for Irvine. On top of Irvine the gathering thunderstorm caught up with us and made our ice axes sing with renewed energy (yes, we came prepared for any condition). After hastily signing the register, we beat a retreat by dropping down the northwest face of Irvine. Missing the obvious chute seen from McAdie, the group retraced their steps over the top and descended down another chute on the peak's face further south.

Traversing endless fields of talus we hit the Whitney Trail by 6 p.m. and were back at the cars by 8 p.m. and before dark. After accounting for all bodies, we headed toward Lone Pine to feast after a good day's labor. We were turned back at the door of the Smoke Signals Texas Bar-B-Q ostensibly due to the lack of food. Across the street at the Mexican restaurant our group again was rebuffed ostensibly for lack of food. Crossing the street one more time we entered Bobo's Bonanza only to be seated in the back by the dishwashing room. This sequence of events caused the leaders to again re-verify their deodorant brand.

At Bobo's, four more participants threw in their hats and decided to take a rain check on Muir in favor of an early return home. The group was reduced to only five participants (incidentally, all of whom came up to Lone Pine in the leader's truck). The last truck load of participants spent the night outside of Lone Pine contemplating the next morning's climb of Muir. In the morning nobody took care to awaken the leader until it was far too late to conquer Muir on a dayhike. At this point, throwing in the towel, the leader and his truck load of jubilant participants headed for home. A lesson to aspiring leaders: use quality body deodorant before attempting to lead a couple of easy dayhikes in the Sierras. Many thanks to Maris for assistance and others for great tolerance.

Two and a half hours of rain and hail kept us in our tent the afternoon before we were planning to try to climb Mt Whitney by the Fresh-Air Traverse. I was camped at Iceberg Lake with my friends, Kym and Jim Miller, from Park City, Utah. It cleared after dinner and we saw some bright meteors after midnight.

Up at 4 AM. Clear and 23°F. The sun rose 10 min before we reached the notch behind the First Tower where we stopped to rope up. We were first on the route and very soon I was on the Tower Traverse, which *Fifty Classic Climbs of North America* says "although short, is terrifically exposed and requires delicate footwork." Although it later turned out to be a mistake, we agreed to let a party of two climb past us on the Washboard.

Stopped for water and changing film at the top of the Washboard. It was supposed to be easy, but I had trouble with the move up the short, steep headwall to the left as I had not watched how Jim and Kym moved up. We then dropped down to a large ledge and watched the party that passed us traverse across to the left on what they thought to be the Fresh-Air Traverse. I had Bob Hartunian's sketch of the route with me and I was sure they were too low. We had to wait for over a half hour because they got stuck in the chimney to the left. The second climber had to prussik up!

Our turn finally came and I followed Jim at 10:30. The piton by the flake looks like it may have been the one put in by Underhill, Clyde, Eichorn and Dawson in 1931. The reach out with the left leg is a long one, but most exhilarating! I let out a whoop and realized I had been looking forward to taking that famous step for 48 years!

The chimney was messy, but after that it was very enjoyable climbing to the top of the Grand Staircase. Jim tried the jam-crack up to the left and we all agreed that it seemed too strenuous at that altitude, so we opted for a not very obvious traverse around to the right that Al Green had described to me. It was fun and was followed on the next pitch by an interesting step-around to the left. Clouds and thunder by 2 PM. I was getting a little apprehensive because a party from Mexico had been forced to sit out the hail storm the day before on the Grand Staircase and then bivouac on top. Our luck held, however, and after a few more easy pitches, we were all on top shortly before 3 PM.

After lunch and pictures we headed for the top of the Mountaineer's Route and discovered the usual chute down to the notch was filled with snow and looked too steep. So we found a route down a rock rib and finally reached our tent soon after 6 PM. Hot tea and soup helped to revive me.

Uneventful return to our cars. I felt great about the climb, but a bit humbled when I remembered that Kym had had major surgery on her knee a few months earlier and was still wearing a plastic and metal brace that extended well above and below her knee.

THE HERMIT (12,360')

August 22-24, 1986

Jones & Valkass

Sierra Club liability insurance regulations said we mustn't schedule this trip so we led it privately. Jim Hinkley & Don Weiss met us Friday morning at Lake Sabrina. We toiled up past the LaMarck Lakes, dropped over LaMarck col and coasted down to the next to last lake at about 11,700 ft in Darwin Canyon. The remainder of the day was spent repairing the damage to our bodies and refreshing our psyches.

Sunday morning we got off at a civilized hour and dropped down to the outlet of Evolution Lake. We walked around the end of the lake and went about 300 yards south along the west side use trail until we saw a pronounced notch on the ridgeline to the west. We climbed up to it and then down the natural drainage a bit before we contoured on a series of small benches just below 10,800 to just below the pond shown on the 15' Mt Goddard Quad in the basin east of The Hermit. From here we went up to the easy slopes below the peak and then up a chute to the smaller notch, above a larger notch on the upper skyline ridge. It is an easy climb from here to the summit block (Roper's #1). We gained the top via the south face friction route rather than the east side jam crack.

Returning by the same route to the Lake we found the ledges easier to follow to Evolution Lake. Monday we were out in time to have lunch at Winks in Big Pine. Next year, insurance coverage allowing, Maris and I will lead Clarence King in August, 1987. -- Ron

SPS Scheduled Trip

Leaders: Gordon MacLeod
Neko Colevins

MT. STANFORD, MT. MORGAN, PK. 12,522
Sept. 6-7, 1986

Eight participants (4 non-SPS members) met at the Rock Creek turnout on a cool Saturday morning (this turned out to be the last real summer weekend in the Sierra that season!). In spite of last minute personal phone calls by one of the leaders, there were still two "no-shows."

The backpack into Davis Lake was much longer than remembered-- apparently the powers that be in the USFS had relocated the trail and made it considerably longer with many ups and downs, upgrading the backpack from easy to moderately strenuous! Camp at Davis Lake #2 was reached before noon. Mt. Stanford was climbed by 7 that afternoon; Gordon and Barbara Lilley also climbed Pk. 12,522'.

The dropout rate was higher for the climb of Mt. Morgan on Sunday; 5 reached the summit, including 2 who thereby qualified for SPS membership. On the descent, a traverse was made to reach the lower portion of the best sand descent in the Sierra, which was so glorious they regretted not having the upper portion as well. After the unnecessarily long backpack to the cars was completed, dinner at the Sizzler in Bishop was enjoyed by all.

Referred to as the Eiger of the Sierra by anyone who has attempted or climbed Mt. Morrison's northern face, the nickname fits! This imposing face has captured many a climber's imagination from Highway 395. After numerous wooding trips in the spring, north of Bishop and too many years pondering a climb, I convinced myself it was time to try.

Reading past summit register entries, they all simply stated these words, "Never Again".

Morrison's face is composed of limestone and volcanic rock with a few large granite dikes. All are highly fractured, extremely unstable, and just plain rotten to climb on. This is one mountain where pitons are a must, nuts and friends are of little use because of extensive rock fractures. I suggest, if one dares, a rack of 20 pins, mostly small angles, several blades and lots of slings. Many loose rocks makes a hard hat worth carrying.

Headlamps for start and return are another must with a reload of several batteries. "You'll definitely need them for your descent"...

Climbing friend, Bob Good and I left Bishop at 3:00 a.m., and started climbing at 4:30 a.m. from the south end of Convict Lake, along the lake's south side fisherman's trail. It helps to survey this approach during daytime hours to check where one ascends into the hanging valley below the face. Off route in the wee hours is disastrous because of dense brush and high angle scree. Two hours of hacking brings you to Morrison's base. The dawn had just broken, illuminating the massive white limestone prow. This was truly impressive. Then, low and behold, a dog appears in front of us. A surprising addition to our picture.

Later we met two climbers who had just climbed the buttress the day before, they exchanged horror stories of long leads, no protection, (they had chocks and nuts), 5.8 - 5.10 moves, and rotten steep rock. Their summit was 9:00 p.m. and back to the hanging valley campsite by 1:00 a.m. for them. I must say there was a certain envy of getting the inevitable over with as we passed them cozy in their sleeping bags.

My plan was to try a new route up the lower northeast wall for one thousand feet via two very prominent chutes and then angle to the right to the buttress. This was similar to Chuck Wilts' first ascent route except we would be climbing higher and more directly up the north headwall than the 1946 route. Wilts' route would end up some 400 feet lower on the buttress.

The lower portion of Morrison's face is the most difficult, from any route. Ours started out with five pitches of high angle (75°) being 5.8/5.9. Protection, even with pins, was sometimes just cosmetic. All belays had to be double nailed. Every rock it seemed had to be tested. Never have I been on anything so fractured at such high angle. The whole wall was ready to go. Consider the Black Kaweah's southeast face, but many times worse.

We continued with three more similar pitches, making the completion of wall about five hours. The buttress is almost attained with a welcomed third class pile of isolated rocks balancing on the buttress prow, this lies just above the main headwall.

Weaving in and out on the arete, caution still had to be taken. Carrying a postcard picture of Morrison's wall helped in identifying features, day and night, and we found out. Reference of the route ahead is important because one does not see the summit for orientation. We were a bit below halfway. The one remark the two climbers the day before had said that stuck with me was, "The climb just keeps on going and going." How true! I thought the worst was behind us at this time, once the buttress was attained. Even the guide book description fails to mention anything technical ahead.

Morrison (Continued)

Two factors became evident from this point, time and distance, even picture taking became limited. High on the skyline a golden dike can be seen on a pinnacle, (granite 5 - 8 feet wide) is mentioned. We had a good 500 feet of spine climbing to reach it. Later we realized it was imperative to climb this dike above the "doubtful corner" stated by Wilts' route, before darkness set in. It is the only way to the summit and is a healthy 5.8, with a slight overhang, even this dike was fractured and rotten. Making this move at 8:30 p.m. made us realize that just twenty minutes spent down below would of made continuing impossible.

At the top of the dike, a rappel of 60 feet has to be made to a large gully. Thinking again we were near the top, we found ourselves - "Thank you picture consultation", an hour from the summit, roughly 400 feet.

In reflection, we lost much time because of the very strenuous beginning and finding out the buttress' wall direct was a constant check of rock holds, removal of debris blocking our new route. Deadends also added to our time loss.

I had hoped by this point our route should of been easy. With no moon and darkness set on the summit, it was not obvious where our route went. (The top still can not be seen). We had plenty of lights and still those helped for only a short distance capacity.

The route lessens to class 2, and sadly it was not enjoyable because we couldn't see it! Remember, that picture postcard? Better believe we used it again. An after thought is that, the top of golden dike is in direct line with the summit.

Reaching the summit by 10:00 p.m., a clear somewhat windy night surrounded us. The view was still indeed awesome, but it did give me a host of mixed feelings. I tried to recollect past climbs of Morrison, desperately trying to recall landmarks but, darkness truly becomes a different game. Even though this was my fifth ascent, it didn't help. After twenty minutes on top we were ready to go down. The hard hats were an added warmth and in case of stumble helped.

After two hours we reached the base via the standard route. With lights wearing low, another two hours brought us back to the car at 2:30 a.m.

Climbing this was truly a mountaineering adventure, Mt. Morrison's north face had a twenty year itch on me that wasn't going to subside until a day like ours occurred.

If a climber is not of a religious nature or does not bother with a small prayer now and then on a climb, then this climb will make a true believer in the Almighty.

Luck and ability were wearing thin and not consistent especially when the refrigerator size ones start moving or coming off! That seemed to be the only thing that was consistent on this climb.

In retrospect, the climb was extremely strenuous and very time consuming. The rock is very unstable everywhere. Believe what is said about that face from anyone who has attempted or has done it. We finished at twenty-two hours, with eighteen hours to summit.

With all that I explained, I still feel this route was truly a classic challenge, including many of nature's obstacles to overcome. Yet, with all due respect in climbing this face and buttress, I will close this episode with that quote from Mt. Morrison's register which sums up any future dreams of this mountain, "Never Again".

MORGAN #2 (13,005') and MT. STANFORD #2 (12,851')

September 5, 6, 7, 1986. Leader: Ed Lubin Co-leader:
Paul Bloland.

The trip was scheduled as a "slow-paced backpack" up McGee Creek to Steelhead Lake at the base of Mt. Stanford #2. In addition to the leaders, five fine climbers responded to the dulcet prose of the Echo write-up. We all met at the Upper McGee Creek roadhead at 9:00 on Friday morning of the 5th and started up the trail at 9:30. The backpack in was approximately five miles with 2,400 feet of gain to Steelhead Lake, a beautiful alpine lake encircled by timber except where the talus below Mt. Stanford had created a shoreline of rock.

We set up camp in the early afternoon about 100 yards to the east of where the trail ends at the lake. Contrary to orthodox SPS procedure, we did not immediately storm Mt. Stanford but, instead, lounged around a perfect campsite and waited for Ed Lubin to pull out some trout - which he did.

We were on our way to Stanford by 7:00 the next morning, climbing up the moraine to the south of the lake and making our way up the headwall to the crest overlooking Pioneer Basin from 11,600 ft. Here we turned east following the ridge up just below the crest on the right or SE side and traversing about three chutes before Paul took a chance on a promising looking chute and hit the summit on his first try. The cannister is not on the highest point (subsequently climbed by several) but on a lower point about 30 yards away.

Since the climb was listed as a traverse we grimly eyed the two miles of up-and-down steep and precarious talus that separated us from distant Mt. Morgan. The going was slow and tedious with many loose blocks until we reached a point above the saddle at about 12,600 feet and to the SW of Morgan. Because of the slow pace it was getting late at this juncture and several people decided to scratch Morgan in favor of returning to camp. They dropped down a steep and loose talus slope and over the high ridge visible on the topo immediately NE of the lake.

The rest of the party raced for Morgan and reached the summit about 3:30; that is, they think they found the summit in the guise of a cannister sitting upright out in the open. It is almost impossible to determine visually which summit is the highest, N or S but, according to the Mt. Morrison 15 minute series topo, the N summit is the higher of the two and the register is located there. In order to forestall future confusion about the location of the real summit, Lynna Walker built a large cairn to mark it once and for all.

We think we saw the Colevins/MacLeod party on the S summit of Morgan in the middle of the afternoon. They had apparently climbed from Davis Lake after an approach from the E.

The Morgan party then returned almost directly to camp via the SW saddle at 12,600' and down the chute, contouring to the ridge NE of the lake on dangerously unstable talus, to about the brush line and on down to our camp on the lake. The climb took about 11 hours r.t., with approximately 3,000 ft. of gain in a little over 5 miles.

Morgan, Stanford (Continued)

We traveled at a slow to moderate pace, had three long rest stops, and clambered over much loose talus but still can't figure out where all of the time went. "Time passes rapidly when you're having fun!"

These peaks are usually climbed from the east up from the Davis/Hilton Lakes area but do not present any particular problem from Steelhead Lake. While we were quite satisfied with the route we wondered why the traverse had not been led from the east. Our camp location on Steelhead Lake also provides the possibility of adding Red and White to the itinerary. Certainly, the traverse is quite feasible as a two-day trip for a more ambitious party.

The small but thoroughly competent and compatible group was a real pleasure to lead. Paul Bloland, Ed Lubin, Lynna Walker, Walt Hill, Donn Cook, Dick Fritsen, and Claire Creighton all made Mt. Stanford while Lubin, Walker, Cook, and Fritsen went on to top out on Mt. Morgan.

(Paul)

Private trip

Mt. Ritter

8/21/86

My son and I climbed Mt. Ritter via a lightly used class 2 route on the west side of the mountain. None of the information on the route was very definitive so we (of course) got off route in some 3rd and 4th class crud. We found the route on the way down so I thought I'd document it for anyone who might want to give it a try.

On the west side of Ritter there are two nameless lakes of some size. The route goes up from the southernmost of these two lakes. Walk south from the northern lake through the low saddle to the southern lake. On arrival at the southern lake continue around the lake to the left. On your left you will see a talus fan that is blocked by a wall which probably has a waterfall in its center. DO NOT climb here. Continue around a low buttress to a second talus fan. Follow this fan to the topmost talus bowl below the summit ridge.

On reaching a low point in the highest talus bowl, look on the far right (south) for a chute which either has water flowing in it or shows signs of having had water in it. This is the only clean class 2 way of getting up the wall surrounding the bowl. If there is water in the chute traverse into it from the left to avoid a slippery area about half way up. The chute leads to another talus fan which narrows to another chute that leads to the summit ridge. Do NOT climb to the ridge. About 50 to 75 feet below the top of the chute, traverse left (north) to the summit ridge. From there it's a walk to the obvious summit for incredible views in every direction.

The route would be a terrible slog going up but it was quite nice coming down.

Don Borad

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SUBSCRIPTIONS are \$8.00 per year due by March 31. Subscribing to the ECHO is a requirement for active membership in the SPS. Send new subscriptions to the Secretary (address above) and include your Sierra Club membership number. Send renewals to the Treasurer (address below). New applications received after October 1 are credited through the next year.

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

AWARDS: Emblem pins (\$7.50), list finisher pin (\$10.00), and patches (\$2.00) are available from the Treasurer, Vi Grasso, 1173-1/2 Amherst, Los Angeles, CA 90049.

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