

The Sierra



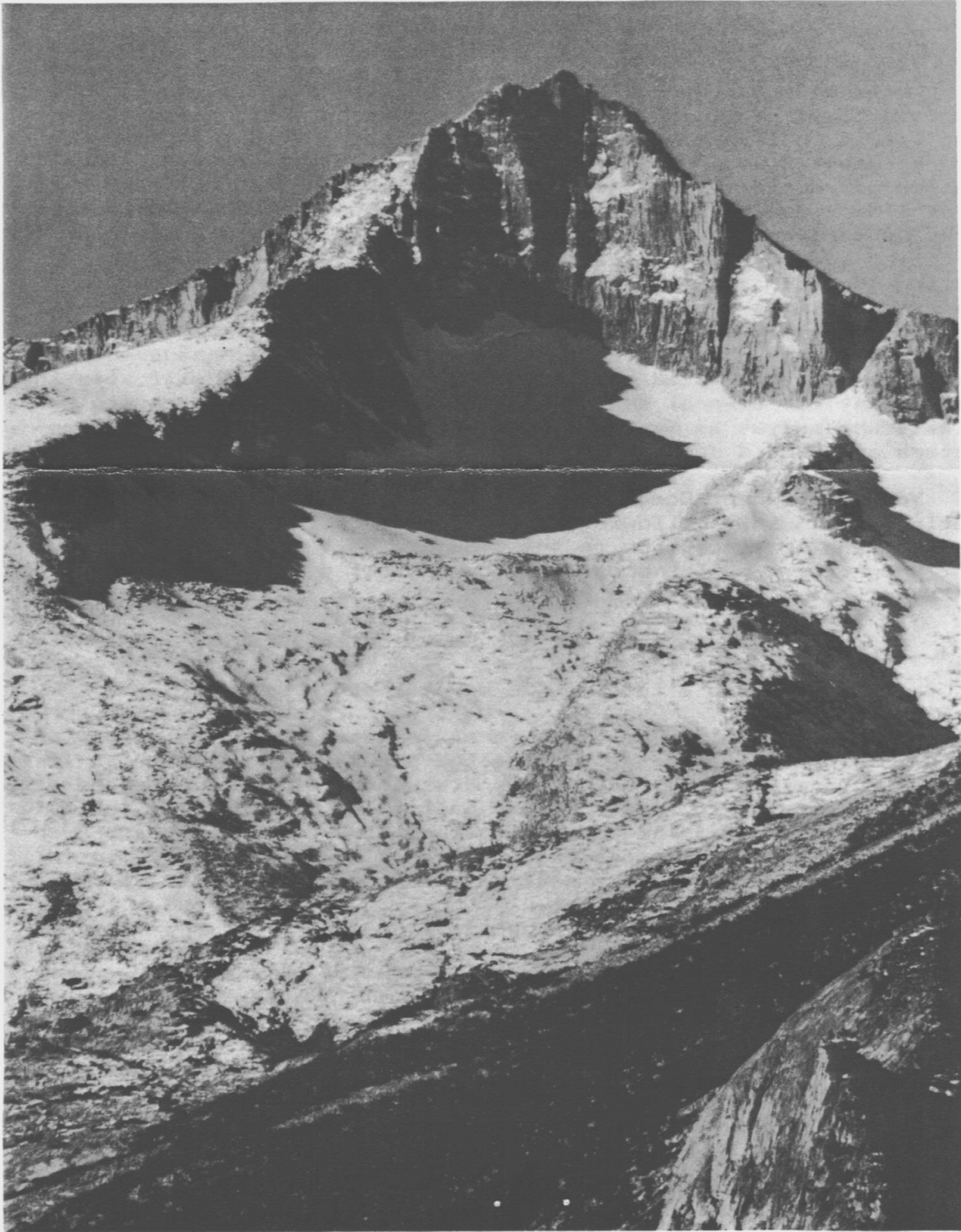
ECHO

VOLUME 31

SEP - OCT

1987

NO. 6



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

"Twixt the seas and the deserts
Twixt the wastes and the waves
Between the sands of buried lands
And oceans coral caves, ...
The stars in clustered diadems
Upon its peaks of snow
The mighty mountains o'er it
Just California stretching down
The middle of the world"

Just California - John S. McGroarty

While your Management Committee is still actively working on this year's activities, I want to complete my recognition of its members. Last year's Chairperson, Mary Sue Miller, has served the SPS by being our representative on the Chapter Council. Additionally Mary Sue chaired our Nominating Committee for next year's slate of candidates. Helping Mary Sue on the Nominating Committee was Delores Holladay, Karen Leonard and Dave Dykeman. Our thanks to the whole crew for selecting a fine slate of candidates. Accolades are due Al Conrad for putting together a year of good programs and refreshments for our business meetings including the potluck, a hoped for annual event where we can talk about our trips near the season's end. Vi Grasso has been a tough treasurer and with her guidance the Management Committee has instituted some necessary measures which will keep the SPS solvent for several seasons to come. Finally, my thanks to Maris Valkass who serves as Section Secretary, keeps the minutes, writes letters and adds a sense of humor when we get too serious.

Your Management Committee made several recommendations at its meeting in August. Following two months of discussion it was decided to recommend for inclusion on the 1988 SPS ballot by the next Management Committee a ballot proposal for a Master's Emblem. The requirements for this emblem would be:

- a) must already be a Senior Emblem Holder
- b) climb a total of 175 peaks on the SPS list, including 4 peaks from each area
- c) climb a total of 25 mountaineer's peaks

Bill T. Russell submitted a formal request to add Palisade Crest to the SPS peaks list after leading the peak twice, including a formal exploratory trip. This request was discussed for two months and might have been approved to appear on the ballot for 1987 but for the lateness of the request. The Management Committee unanimously approved the proposal and recommended that next year's Committee take immediate action to again schedule the peak in the summer climbs and to place this request on the 1988 ballot.

(Continued next page)

VOLUME 31-6 PEAK INDEX (1987)

Baldwin	Jenkins	Moses	Tom
Bloody	Kearsarge	Owens	Vandever
Gayley	Maggie	Sawtooth	Whitney
Goddard	Middle Palisade	Sill	Winchell
Hermit	Morrison	Thunderbolt	

COVER PHOTO: The northeast face of Mt. Brewer rises above the glacier in this view from near Bullfrog Lake. Thanks to Dave Vandervoet for submitting a splendid photo of one of the favorite SPS emblem peaks.

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN (Continued)

The Management Committee also approved as a part of our Section Policies and Procedures a Post-List Finisher recognition which will recognize on the roster the emblem and senior emblem the second time around after finishing the list.

A popular suggestion was made several months ago and the Management Committee has considered it since then, for an SPS-sponsored patch marking the climbing of all the peaks in California over 14,000 ft. This patch would be offered at some profit to us to all climbers who request it, for instance members of the Colorado Mountaineers, the Mazamas, etc. The patch would be available at near cost to SPS members. Please write the ECHO editor or contact any Management Committee member with your ideas about this patch.

Finally, the Management Committee wishes to offer some recognition, perhaps a special symbol, for leadership service. This would reward duty as an assistant as well as that of a full leader. Should there be special recognition for leading introductory trips? For leading Emblem trips? How many leads/assists should be required for recognition? Again, drop a note to the ECHO or contact any Management Committee member with your input. Remember, the SPS is your section and your participation will make it strong.

---Ron Jones

SPS WINTER SCHEDULE (1987-88)

Nov 14-15	Rock Climbing	Valkass, Hartunian
Mar 5-6	Ice Axe & Snow Practice	Jones

SPS SUMMER SCHEDULE CHANGE

Original Date	Revised Date
Oct 10-11 North, Warren (Murphy, Gordon)	Oct 24-25

OCTOBER SPS POTLUCK MEETING REMINDER

October 14 Meeting: POTLUCK PLUS TALL TALE SWAPPING: Don't forget that our October meeting is a potluck! Bring a salad, entree, dessert or drinks for 4 people. Also bring your own plate and utensils. Griffith Park Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

SPS PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER

November 11 Meeting: "Freedom of the Heels": The winter season is approaching and SPS climbers may want to extend their season through the use of skis. Ski mountaineer MARK GOEBEL will present a slide show and equipment demonstration on 3 pin telemark skiing in the Sierra. Refreshments. Griffith Park Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

ECHO NOTICE

The ECHO needs trip write-ups of summer trips that were led! Trip write-ups from the procrastinators who led spring trips will also still be accepted!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW EMBLEMS

#476 Sue Hanna
#477 Kathy Price
#478 Ursula Slager

NEW SENIOR EMBLEMS

#85 Gisela Kluwin
#86 Vi Grasso

NEW MEMBERS

Scott Bailey
2320 S. Cotty Way
Anaheim, CA 92802

Jack Cook
4607 Bulova St.
Torrance, CA 90503

Isabelle Gat
3878 Corinth Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90068
(213) 391-4918

NEW MEMBERS (CONT)

Michael Mihalka
1011 4th St., #115
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Ann Rosenthal
2262 Oakdale St.
Pasadena, CA 91107

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Leslie A. Rosenfeld
1801 Jaynes St.
Berkeley, CA 94703
(415) 528-8123

Vic Wong
6619 Firmament Ave.
Van Nuys, CA 91406
H (818) 989-1968
W (213) 618-3297

ADDRESS CHANGES

Lance Dixon
72 N. Stanworth Dr.
Princeton, NJ 08540

Ted Franklin
Route 2, Box 114
650 Thundercloud Lane
Lone Pine, CA 93545
(619) 876-4525

Steve Goodman
32 Woodland Dr.
Irvine, CA 92714-4575

Ron Jones
P.O. Box 10081
Fullerton, CA 92635
(714) 773-5570

Walton Kabler
12517-7 Ralston Ave.
Sylmar, CA 91342

ADDRESS CHANGES (CONT)

Owen Maloy
P.O. Box 2083
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
H(619) 934-9511
W(619) 934-4553

Jane McMahon
10095 Sparrow Ave.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 963-8089

Jon Petitjean
727 S. Lyon St., A208
Santa Ana, CA 92705
(714) 547-4259

John Reed
543 W. Stocker St., #11
Glendale, CA 91202

Chris Yager
3300 Kempton Ave., #202
Oakland, CA 94611-5807

SPRING SCHEDULE

Rob Roy McDonald, Outings Chairman

Trip writeups for the spring schedule are due to the Outings Chairman by October 20. The SPS Management Committee again encourages the scheduling of I rated, M rated and E rated trips. Writeups to peaks which have considerable inherent danger, i.e. steep snow, loose rock and/or exposure will be scrutinized carefully with respect to the proposed plan for the trip. Factors such as the size of the group and required climbing gear as well as the experience of the leaders will be considered by the SPS management Committee before granting approval.

The *SPS Intro Trips* were popular and quite successful and should again be planned for the benefit of prospective new members.

My plea for a trail maintenance trip has been successful! RJ Secor has been in contact with the Forest Service and is planning a 9 day trail maintenance/climbing trip to Shepherd Pass next summer. Plan to come for all or a part of it. Remember that our bylaws state that we shall aid in the maintenance of good trails.

If you want to lead a trip but haven't found an assistant or if you would like to be an assistant leader, please phone me before October 15 and I'll try to put you in touch with each other.

Finally, please include in your writeups the distance and elevation gain so that prospective participants may judge the difficulty of the trip. Phone me if you have any questions and send me your writeups by October 20.

ANNUAL BANQUET - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1987

Escadrille Room
THE PROUD BIRD
11022 Aviation Blvd.
Los Angeles 90045
(213) 670-3093

No-Host Cocktail "Hour" - 6:00 pm

Menu: Roast Half Chicken* - 7:30 pm

Program: R.J. SECOR presents

"THE TEN TOUGHEST SIERRA PEAKS -
A WORK OF FICTION & PLAGIARISM"

For Reservations Contact Any Management
Committee Member or -

Bill Oliver, Banquet Chair
3762 Hughes Avenue, #312
Los Angeles, CA 90034
H (213) 839-5156

Cost: \$18.00 per mountaineer or guest.

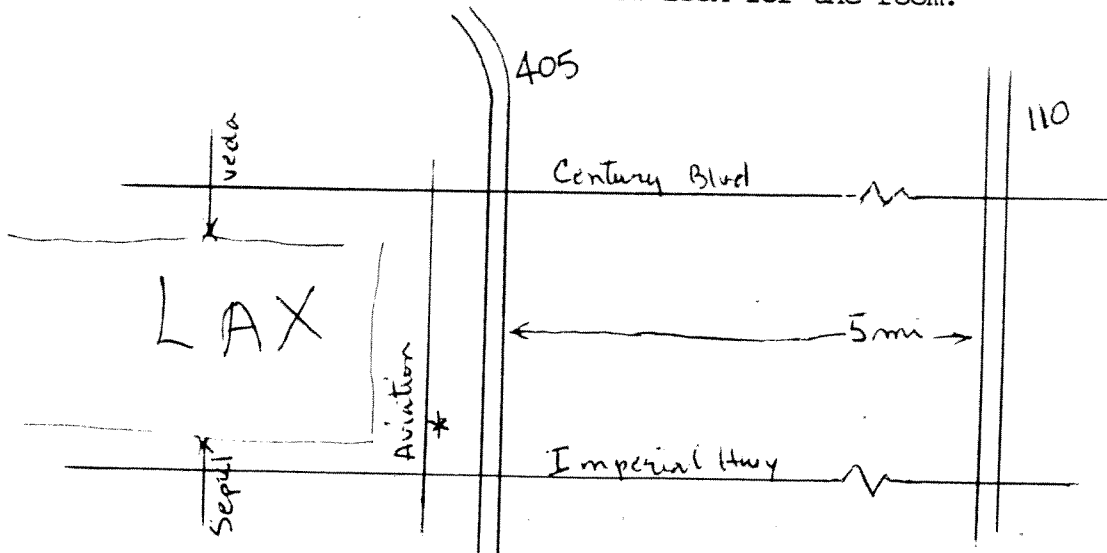
Checks payable to Sierra Peaks Section.
(If by mail, please enclose SASE.)

RSVP by December 3rd.

Reserved tables of 8-10 may be purchased.

*Fish or vegetable plate substitute with
advance notice.

This is expected to be an "O" trip ("uncomplicated outing").
Belays will be available as needed. Hardhats are optional.
Carcamping and campfires are not encouraged and uninsured.
At this elevation, excessive breathing should be avoided.
Directions: go to The Proud Bird. Now look for the room.



IS IT WORTHWHILE LEADING TRIPS?

Bob Hartunian

The Echo is generally a non-controversial newsletter documenting trips by SPS members, with a few cartoons and informative tidbits. I would like to take space to express my concerns about leading M or E trips in light of legal problems I've encountered lately.

Many of you are aware of the BMTC accident on Mt. Baldy in Feb. 1986, when one of my students failed to arrest during ice axe practice and was severely hurt when he hit a rock. Heroic efforts, coupled with a few miracles, managed to save his life. Now, a legal suit is in the hands of the lawyers, with myself and the Sierra Club being sued for damages. Legal expenses so far have been covered by the S.C. insurance carrier and I hope it stays that way. Seven-figure numbers scare me.

The whole situation has forced me to reevaluate my vulnerability as a leader because of the consequences of directions we give.

Mountaineering decisions are made as you move, by accessing the immediate situation and making choices about routes, time, weather, etc. We assume that because mountain climbing has inherent dangers, people who go on trips take responsibility for their own outcome. But that is not what happens. Personal injury lawyers encourage victims to sue for outrageous damages to maximize legal fees and awards. The leader now becomes a primary target in the suit (the things they accuse you of would be appropriately applied to an assassin or terrorist bomber). Assistants are not named. No one needs the accusations, testimonial hassles and time from work that a court case requires.

We volunteer our time and energy to lead trips or conduct training classes, all without pay. Our motivation comes from enjoyment in helping others gain skills and attain personal summit goals. We take the responsibility of leading trips because of confidence in our training and judgement. That confidence is reinforced through years of successful leads when no one is hurt. I always believed my judgement was sound, always leaning toward the safe side when there was a choice. After a bad accident, that confidence can be effected.

How many leaders really know the consequences of their decisions before being sued? Does anyone want the responsibility for guiding others when there is the possibility his decisions may be blamed in subsequent legal actions?

I think the Club must provide leaders with clear, written information on coverage of the Club's insurance policy. According to the S.C. lawyer, the extent of leader protection could vary from year to year depending upon wording of the current policy. If there is a chance we are not completely protected from financial threats to our personal assets, this must be indicated. Perhaps I am being extra-sensitive on this issue, but leaders need this assurance. I encourage a positive response from the Ex Com with definitive information for all of us to review.

One sour comment- S.C. groups, like the MTC, solicit your help in conducting BMTC classes. In the 18 months since the accident, not one MTC representative ever supported me or expressed any personal concern whatsoever about the case. The attitude has been that "it's your problem, baby". Consider that next BMTC season.

I do want to express my appreciation to the Safety Committee- Bob Hicks, Ron Jones, Randy Danta and Nancy Gordon among others, for their support. I needed it.

My intention in this writing is not to dissuade anyone from leading trips- just have all the facts before you. As for me, I will assist any activity, but leading is another matter.

Bob

After two cancellations, 13 of us met at the Hidden Falls Campground parking lot at 8:00am Saturday morning. This was billed as an SPS intro trip, so the group was about 50% recent BMTC graduates. Following an easy walk up the River Trail to its junction with the Long Meadow Trail, then along this trail to a crossing of the Tule River on an auspiciously located log, we set-up camp at 9:30am just south of the trail near the river. Because of the threat of thundershowers, we took time to erect tents and get our gear under cover, and did not leave for Moses until 10:15am.

We went west and slightly south from camp, contouring upward through moderate undergrowth and stands of manzanita, until we intersected a rocky gully about 0.25mi south of camp. This gully afforded us the opportunity for brush-free, low to moderate 3rd class scrambling up to wide ledges just below the summit ridge, which we reached at 12:15pm. With ducks occasionally marking the route, we began traversing the ridge, but were soon assaulted by a brief but intense hailstorm which turned to rain. We took cover under an overhanging rock wall and waited about 15 minutes for the bulk of the storm to pass. At this point, we were about 0.25mi north of, 450' below and perhaps 40 minutes from the summit. However, because of the poor traction afforded by the rain-soaked lichen-covered rock and the relative inexperience of the group as a whole, I made the decision to retreat. The descent was uneventful but tricky owing to the wet rock and continuing light drizzle. The drizzle stopped when we reached the edge of the trees, so we took time for the lunch we had been denied by the storm and then made it safely back to camp by 3:15pm.

Over the campfire Saturday night, we considered our options and decided to pass on North Maggie in favor of another attempt on Moses the following day. With five people electing to stay behind for various reasons, Sunday morning found eight of us leaving camp at 6:15am, using a route which required no bushwacking. We went north from camp about 200yds to a large meadow, turned west and skirted the southern edge of the meadow to the trees, then traversed WSW upward under the canopy to a rocky gully north of the one we'd climbed Saturday. The upper reaches of this gully provided moderate to high 3rd class climbing to the summit ridge, which we then traversed to the summit, reaching it at 8:05am. Three BMTC'ers made the peak, which for two of them was their first Sierra peak. The weather was excellent and views in all directions spectacular, but because we could see thunderheads brewing over neighboring peaks, we lingered only briefly before descending.

The returning climbers reached camp by 10:30am and by the time the group broke camp at 11:30am the sky was leaden and rolling thunder boomed in the distance. Our descent to the cars took less than an hour and we were all safely on the way home before the storm broke. Trip participants were Stephanie Rea, Bill Clark, David Underwood, Debby Main, Kathy Gudehus, Bob Hill, Cary Jung, Debbie Prigmore, Susanne Henning, Rod Eslinger, and Mary McMannes. Again, my thanks to Mark Gunion for an excellent assist.

-- Bruce Knudtson

Owens Pk., Mt. Jenkins: 5/16-17/87; Leaders:
Gerry Dunie, Scot Jamison
by Gerry Dunie

On Saturday, 5/16, 7:30 am, nine peak baggers met at Powers Well. We caravanned to an old cabin and parked 1.4 miles from the Owens trailhead. We encountered some delays and backtracking because we overlooked a fork described in the 1985 HPS peak guide. It had become almost obscure due to disuse, because of severe erosion.

(Continued next page)

Owens, Jenkins (Continued)

We started at the cabin, rather than the Owens trailhead, because we had been advised by recent climbers that only 4WD vehicles could handle the stretch beyond it. However, during the mile plus trek, we all agreed that this section of the road was no worse than the 7.3 miles that preceded it. It turned out to be the right decision for the wrong reason. When we arrived at the official trailhead, four 4WD vehicles were hogging all available parking.

The ascent to Owens went well. We reached the top at noon, just three hours after leaving our cars. All nine of us reached the top. After enjoying a hazy view and lunch for about an hour, we headed back to our cars, slowed briefly by two rattlesnake encounters. We reached our cars shortly after 3 pm.

Saturday night, we had three additional folks join us and one left us to spend Sunday climbing with friends. There were eleven happy folks celebrating "Diez y seis de Mayo" with four different salsas, three brands of tortilla chips and Margaritas followed by Quesadillas (topped with my homemade salsa and assorted cheeses).

On Sunday, we again ran into some problems figuring out which 4WD roads to take to get us to the Jenkins/Morris trailhead. We endured and with Scot leading, we were heading up the peak by 8:45 am. We reached Mt. Jenkins shortly after noon. The views were better in spite of rapidly forming thunderclouds.

After lunch, we headed for Morris Pk., which was originally unscheduled. Again, we were slowed briefly by a rattlesnake on the PCT. We left the saddle north of Morris and began our final 700' cross country ascent. About 200' from the top, it began to rain with the sound of thunder in the distance. Scot halted the group, despite some moans and groans. He suggested we wait a few minutes to see how the weather went. Within minutes, lightning was striking all around us, including the summit. We moved lower and waited a bit longer in the pouring rain. We gave up on our hopes of a quick blowover and headed back to our cars.

The thundershowers let up on our way down and we were back at our cars by 4 pm. I guess the peak gods only wanted us to get the scheduled peak that day.

Mt Morrison, Mt Baldwin & Bloody Mtn. May 23-25, '87 Dave Dykeman & Don Borad.

Twelve of us met at Convict Lake Sat. a.m. to day-hike Mt. Morrison. We went via the east-side drainage, turning up at the (dry) lake. There was little snow pack, but our pace was slowed by four inches of soft snow on consolidated (i.e. ICE) base. Eleven participants reached the summit. Ruth Antmentrout had her first go at a Sierra peak since her accident. It was great seeing her try, but she decided it was too much too soon. I'm sure we'll be seeing this gritty climber on many future SPS trips.

Sunday, nine of us packed to Mildred Lk. and hiked past Lk. Genevieve and Edith Lk. to climb Bloody via the east slopes. A rock scramble, a snow field and a talos climb put us on a cold, windy summit under gray skies.

Monday, only four hung on to climb Baldwin. We arrived at the summit to a shout of "OH-NO!" from Giesela Kluwin. She and Bill were also doing the peak and hoped to be first on top. We followed a good trail leading to a chute on the summit's north side while they took the same trail then traversed south on a ramp at the base of the rock face to a prominent chute. We followed their easier route back. The weekend's effort: about 30 miles and 14,000 ft.

Dave D.

THUNDERBOLT & WINCHELL

May 23-24, 1987

G. Toby & H. McFadden

It had snowed the preceding week in the Sierra and the forecast was for occasional showers. With some apprehension 9 climbers hit the Big Pine trail and headed for Sam Mack Lake. The last part was all snow. The lake was frozen solid. We set up camp on the South end of the lake on snow. There was a tiny running stream for water. We pitched our tents just in time. A full-fledged snow blizzard descended on us and it got very cold. Most of the group ate cold food and hit the sleeping bags early, mostly to get warm. It began to look like the Arctic. Our plan was to get up very early and climb T-Bolt. It dawned reasonably clear but during the night the new snow froze to the rocks. A test climb of nearby normally easy class 2 rocks proved them to be treacherous. No chance to do class 4 T-Bolt. It has a Northern exposure and the sun would not get to it. But class 3 Winchell has a Southern exposure. So 7 climbers took off for Winchell with the hope that the sun would soften the ice and make it climbable. The standard route is up the prominent right hand chute, then the class 3 knife-edge ridge over to the summit. Well, due to the snow and ice the normally easy class 2 chute was more like class 4. Harold had to belay two people back down to a safer position. They decided not to continue. The other 5 pushed on to the summit. Meanwhile the sun did its job and melted the ice in a few tough spots. The downclimb was a piece of cake. The weather looked threatening again. Looked like more snow on the way. Probably no chance to do T-Bolt the next day, so we packed up and hiked out to the cars by 7:15. We met in Lone Pine for a fine dinner. We were disappointed in not getting T-Bolt. I had some jumars I wanted to try out on the notorious summit block. But due to the icy conditions Winchell was a more difficult and more rewarding climb and we were happy to climb it.

George

MINERAL KING

Private trip June 19-21, 1987

Ursula Slager

Hoping that the solstice would bring better weather, Don checked the schedule. As we did not feel qualified to join a "very limited group of known experienced climbers" we formed a small group of two and headed for Mineral King for the first time in many years. The road in still takes an hour. Sunnyside campground has been replaced by a parking lot plastered with marmot warnings and the trails have been reconstructed with gentle gradients (and longer distances). We were fortunate to find a site in the Cold Springs campground a mile or so from the trailheads.

Friday early at the trailhead we put mothballs under the engine compartment to discourage marmots and headed for Franklin Pass and Florence Peak. A few hundred feet below the pass, one heads directly over to the NE ridge as described in Roper. The snowfields were firm on the way up, but a few potholes were left on the return.

Saturday we headed up through the "Sawtooth scree" to the pass. On the way up, notice the steep cliffs on the side of Sawtooth - a discouragement to any temptation to go directly to Monarch Lakes on the return. The cliffs are not visible from the ridge. We could not find the register on, around, or under the summit rocks - perhaps it is under the snow in the pit between the summit rocks.

Sunday we went up to Farewell Gap and climbed Vandever for the first sign-in in 1987. The day was beautiful and visibility to the Kaweahs and far beyond was enjoyed. We were back early to the car and found no marmot damage. Home by 7 PM.

We found these peaks to provide enjoyable day hikes with no route finding problems. The main problem is finding a vacancy in the campgrounds.

Ursula

PRIVATE TRIP

MT. TOM 13,652 FEET
JUNE 27 - JULY 1, 1987

LEADERS: BOB WRIGHT
VIRGIL BAYLESS

We drove to the Aspen grove 0.6 miles from the locked gate where we camped and watched the forest service put out a lighting fire 100 yards away.

Sunday we hiked 3 miles and 2,000 feet of gain in 4.5 hours to Horton Lake where we made camp and waited out a hale storm that left the ground white.

Monday we hiked the old mining road to HANGING VALLEY at 11,920 feet. A gain of 2,180 feet in 2.5 hours. We camped at the HANGING VALLEY MINE where we found snow.

Tuesday morning we proceeded down the road to the TUNSTAR MINE and climbed the tallus ridge to the peak (a gain of 1,732' in four hours). We then proceeded back to Horton Lake (a nine hour day) for dinner.

Wednesday morning we hiked out to the cars in two and one half hours and proceeded to INDIAN WELLS restaurant for dinner and then home.

BOB

MIDDLE PALISADE

May 23-25

Knudtson/Gunion

Thirteen of us left the Big Pine hiker parking lot at 8:00am on Saturday for the journey to basecamp. Setting a leisurely pace, we reached the north end of Finger Lake around 1:00pm, established camp and ate lunch. The Sierras had been tormented by unseasonably poor weather for the previous two weeks and this day was no exception as later in the afternoon we experienced a light snow storm which lasted about two hours. We planned an early start Sunday with the hope of reaching the summit and descending before the "daily" storm struck.

We left basecamp at 4:15am on Sunday morning, gained the ridge above the east side of Finger Lake, then followed this ridge up and around to the base of the moraine where we were greeted by the welcome warmth of the sun. After a short break, we continued up the moraine to the bottom of the ledge, reaching it around 7:30am. During our approach, we had noted that much of the face was plastered with snow and had speculated on how this would affect climbing - we were soon to find out.

After gaining the ledge, we did not traverse into the bottom of the broad couloir but instead climbed directly upward on 3rd class rock relatively free of ice and snow. By doing this, we were able to climb 700' feet with fair rapidity. When it came time to traverse right and regain the path of the regular east face route we ran into the unfavorable conditions created by the recent series of storms. Unconsolidated fresh snow, covering loose rock and water ice, made for treacherous footholds and provided no purchase for our ice axes. I made a brief attempt to force a way upwards despite these obstacles but finally decided that time and safety argued against this foolishness. Reluctantly, I turned the group around and we started down at 10:00am. As clouds began to gather over the peak, we returned to basecamp, packed, and headed for the cars, reaching them by 4:45pm. The official trip ended here and its participants were: Stephanie Rea, Bill Clark, Al Connors, Lynne Pedersen, Vincent Rinando, Jim Lewis, Deborah Main, Marcia Rosen, Brian Mattson, John Cheslick, and Ron Fine. Mark Gunion provided his usual excellent assist.

Some of us, still desirous of a peak, stayed in Lone Pine Sunday night and climbed Smith Mountain on Monday. We were greeted on the summit by 40 degree temperatures, 20 knot winds, heavy clouds, and an occasional snowflake.

- BRUCE KNUDTSON

THE HERMIT - MT GODDARD
via Lamarck Col

July 9-12, 1987
Thur-Sun

Bill T. Bill T Russell
Bill Gray

These notes tell the story of our outing and give route descriptions for Lamarck Col and for the two peaks. I use UTM coordinates because they are unambiguous and easy with the new 7½ min topos which have the UTM grid printed on the map. UTM coordinates are explained on page 2 of the PEAKS LIST. It should be noted that a location can be given to 10 meters by using eight digits. A mnemonic for the sequence of digits is "read right up".

Seven of us left the North Lake trailhead at 0730 on Thursday, July 9. We reached the small lake just north of Lamarck Col at noon where we were joined by Don and Ursula Slager who had been in the back country for several days. After lunch we went to Evolution Lake via Darwin Canyon and camped on the peninsula at 492151 which we reached at 1730.

On Friday, David, Don, Ursula, Spencer and I left camp at 0600 and climbed The Hermit. We used the sturdy shoulders of David to achieve the summit block, except for David himself who got some help from the belay rope. The cast SC rectangular register box with "The Hermit" on the cover fell into the deep crack in the summit block years ago. To retrieve it, I carried a six foot bamboo pole with a hook at one end. David wedged into the crack from the side at its bottom and banged on the box with the pole to dislodge it. I dropped the end of the rope down the crack and he tied it to the hook and by the combined pulling on the rope and the pole we extracted the box. Alas, the box has broken sides and contained no register book nor could we see one in that deep dark crack. We left the broken box on the sand at the base of the block with the current poor book in a plastic sack. I think that a new can should be kept on top of the summit block. After the register rescue which took almost an hour, we descended by our ascent route and reached camp at 1300. All nine of us left at 1400 and hiked via the Muir trail to a good campsite just below Wanda Lake at 494105.

On Saturday all of us left camp at 0600 and climbed Goddard via the pass south of Wanda Lake and the south side of the Goddard Divide. We reached the summit with its spectacular view before noon and returned to camp at 1615. Kathy Price led us to the summit where she earned her SPS emblem! The register box is a SC custom rectangular but the books are little spiral bound things. This peak deserves a good sized bound book.

On Sunday we arose in moonlight before 0400 and were underway at 0500. We went past Evolution Lake where Bill Gray found his new down jacket that he had left there, then up Darwin Cyn to reach Lamarck Col. at noon and the trailhead at 1600. All in all it was a splendid outing. Participants were:

Daniel Bleiberg
Spenser Buckner
Bill Gray

Jack Koshear
Kathy Price
Bill T Russell

Don Slager
Ursula Slager
David Underwood

Register status: The Hermit: plastic sack and poor book
 Mt Goddard: SC rectangular box and several small books

Lamarck Col Route The trail from North Lake to Upper Lamarck Lake is correctly shown on the Mt Darwin 7½' topo. The route above the lake leaves the trail about 100 m NE of the outlet of Upper Lamarck Lake and proceeds southward in a somewhat hit or miss fashion over some broken terrain to the small stream at 541192. From here the trail is manufactured and well defined as it ascends many switchbacks

up the ridge to the south and thru the small notch at 54081886. The manufactured trail continues to the south along a cliff and ends in a small basin at about 11480'. The trail turns into a use path that crosses the small basin, ascends west to the broad ridge at about 538187 and then goes SW up the drainage to the Col. When descending this route be careful to leave the main drainage at 12200' and bear right or you will be embarrassed to come to the jumpoff to Upper Lamarck Lake at 12000'.

Lamarck Col proper is the most easterly of several notches along the low ridge. On the south side, a manufactured trail with several switchbacks goes down perhaps 200' in elev which is followed by sandy ledges down to about 515165 at 11700'. From here a good use trail goes out the canyon along the north side of the lakes. However, there are several slides of very large talus blocks that must be scrambled thru and these will slow some people considerably.

The terrain below lake 11592 is beautiful open meadow and granite. There is a path along the stream or one can go cross country to the lake at 11200' and 489165. There is a good campsite on a small rise at the south end of this lake. The path leaves the south side of the lake and goes down the slope on the east side of the stream to join the Muir trail at 10700', 485158. (+3600', -2200', 9mi No.Lk to Muir Tr.).

The Hermit from Evolution Lake Cross Evolution Creek on a set of spaced stepping stones at its outlet from the lake and then traverse downward to the south and southwest to the pretty meadow at 487142 and 10600'. From here ascend the broad flat gully to the southwest to 480139 and then traverse NW to the mouth, 477141 of the deep narrow chute that is so prominent from Evolution Lake. At the base of this chute and top of the scree fan is a large (10' cube) chockstone that can be climbed on the left with a hard class 3 move or two. About 200' above this chockstone is a place requiring another few class 3 moves and just above this place is a dandy 10' wide slanted sandy ledge leading up to the right. Ascend this ledge and move out onto the east face where the climbing is easy to the summit block area. The summit block is about 20' high. It is relatively easy to climb and descend by a shoulder stand from the intermediate platform at about 8' up; the taller the shoulders, the better for the first one up. A belay from the top should be considered for subsequent climbers. (±2100', 3½ mi rt)

This route seems to be Route 1 of Voge and one variation of Route 1 in Roper. Another route goes to the saddle at 476136 and then works north along the ridge for the 500m to the summit.

Mt Goddard from Wanda Lake Hike south along the west side of Wanda Lake and then up the gentle draw to the saddle at 498080. Descend about 150' on the south side and go SW to the cream colored rock wall at about 493074 and ascend this thru an obvious easy area to the plateau to about 489073 and then traverse downward in a more or less straight line to the tarns just east of Goddard at 481076 & 12300'. From here ascend the scree to the summit. This traverse is a tedious trip with stretches of dancing over large talus blocks, side hilling on loose small blocks and grunting up loose scree. Individuals will vary widely in their speed on this route. (±3360' 8 mi rt)

Bob Hicks and I climbed Sill and Gayley on July 31 and Palisade Crest on Aug 1. There are few route descriptions for Sill or Gayley in the ECHO, hence the one given here may be useful to somebody. I lead Palisade Crest as an SPS exploratory two weeks later and those two ascents are reported in a separate ECHO article. The topo maps used are 1984 Split Mtn, 7½ min, 20m contours and 1982 North Palisade, 7½ min, 40 ft contours. Both maps have ruled UTM grid lines which makes it easy to use UTM coordinates in giving locations. See the PEAKS LIST for an explanation of UTM coordinates.

We left LA at 0600 on Thursday, obtained a permit at Upper Sage Flat Campground and started hiking from the roadhead near Glacier Lodge at 1200. A few years ago big water in Big Pine Creek took out the campground, road and trail above Glacier Lodge and now a new trail goes along the west side of the creek for about one mile and crosses on a manufactured log bridge at 714079. We left the main trail at 705064, crossed the meadow/marsh above Willow Lake and found a good use trail on the south side of the creek at 700067. We followed this path to the meadow at 695068 where, at the outlet, it crosses to the north side. The route continues west over talus blocks and open terrain to the stream junction at 689070 where it crosses and ascends a nice open chute thru 685067 to reach the west side of Lake Elinore at a very nice campsite. Do not ascend the stream course coming down from the lake unless you enjoy awkward talus and thick willows. The hiking time from the roadhead to the lake is about 4½ hours.

The next day, Friday, we climbed up the open terrain to the west, passed the lake at 673067 and went on to Glacier Notch which is the broad saddle between Sill and Gayley. We then climbed Gayley, first on the east side and then directly on the south ridge which goes nicely.

We climbed the "Starr" route or Route 4 of the Climber's Guide on Sill. This route goes up the very prominent easy chute that goes up to the south from Glacier Notch and ends at the small saddle at 66430647 next to the "small pyramidal mass to the north" per the Climber's Guide. From here go up to the south for perhaps 40 ft in elevation, turn right, and go thru a 2ft wide cleft and then on a good horizontal ledge to the SW for about 40m to a scree (or snow) slope. From here zig up and back to the east for a short distance and then zag back to the SW and up an easy slanting ledge that is right at the base of the bare rock wall. This ledge ends in a sort of corner or broken area that is climbed for 20 ft at class 3/4 and ends at a crest. From this point the route is easier and well ducked as it goes up to the south to the crest of the main SW ridge of Sill. From here it is easy climbing to the nearby summit.

We started at 0640 and returned by 1600. Both peaks have rectangular register boxes and there is a good book on Gayley. The book on Sill is a little top spiral thing. Our Palisade Crest climb on Saturday went well and our hike out on Sunday morning was uneventful. We had a great brunch at the Egg Chalet in Big Pine.

Bill T.

RESTAURANT UPDATE

Sorry to note that Pancho's in Selma has closed since I wrote it up for the Anniversary Edition of the ECHO. But the China Garden of Kingsburg has opened a branch in Selma, at the Floral off-ramp, so those who liked the place in Kingsburg can now choose between the two branches. They offer a buffet, with salads and desserts as well as Chinese food, and it's all you can eat for a flat rate per person (about \$5.00). Acceptable Chinese food and a good deal. Both are open until 9 p.m. Fridays; on Sundays, the Kingsburg branch closes at 9 p.m. and the Selma branch at 8 p.m.

Karen Leonard

RETREAT FROM THE EAST FACE OF WHITNEY R.J. Secor

The East Face Route on Mt. Whitney is a fine climb, but it is difficult to descend after the first pitch is completed, the Tower Traverse. Harry Freimanis, Norm Rohn and I backed-off the climb on August 1, 1987, by using the following route:

The Tower Traverse ends on a ledge. The ledge leads to the Washboard, but it also is at the bottom of a loose gully that leads to the notch behind the second tower of the East Buttress Route. We climbed up this gully (3rd class) to the notch. From the notch, we made a slightly descending traverse across the north face of the second tower (class 4), for about 80'. A landmark on this traverse is a combination flake/ledge, which is harder than it looks. The traverse ended on a small ledge formed by a couple of boulders, graced with some old rappel slings. After adding a new sling, we rappelled approximately 150' down the north face of the Second Tower to the Mountaineer's Route. About halfway down the rappel we passed some more old slings, so this escape route will be useful for those with only one rope.

KEARSARGE 12,598 FEET

SPS SCHEDULED TRIP

AUGUST 1, 1987

LEADERS: BOB WRIGHT
SHERRY HARSH

Sixteen participants met at ONION VALLEY camping area at 8:00 am and hiked down the road (a 600 foot loss) and started up the old mining trail on the south east side of Kearsarge at 9:00 am. The trail leads all the way to the summit ridge, but needs clipping and two small trees need to be sawed off to improve trail safety. Hikers should be cautioned about cutting the switch backs on the lower part of the trail. Just before the summit ridge there is a stone house (the second one you will see) and the trail should be steadied and ducked here because **EVERYONE** lost the trail here on the way back. We proceeded on the trail to the summit ridge and around a bend to where the trail ends at a false summit. Proceed up to the false summit and down the ridge. At this point you have crossed over to the SARDINE CANYON side and have half a mile of boulder hopping to reach the middle of the summit ridge and the peak. It took us five and one half hours to reach the peak and we were back at camp at 5:00 pm. A **NINE HOUR** day. Everyone should carry 2.5 liters of water and 20% of the group should carry 3 liters of water for group safety.

After the hike there was extensive cocktails, a group garbage bag salad followed by guitar singing led by Jobb Virochsiri. Special note should be given to Janet Scott's stuffed zucchini.

BOB

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