

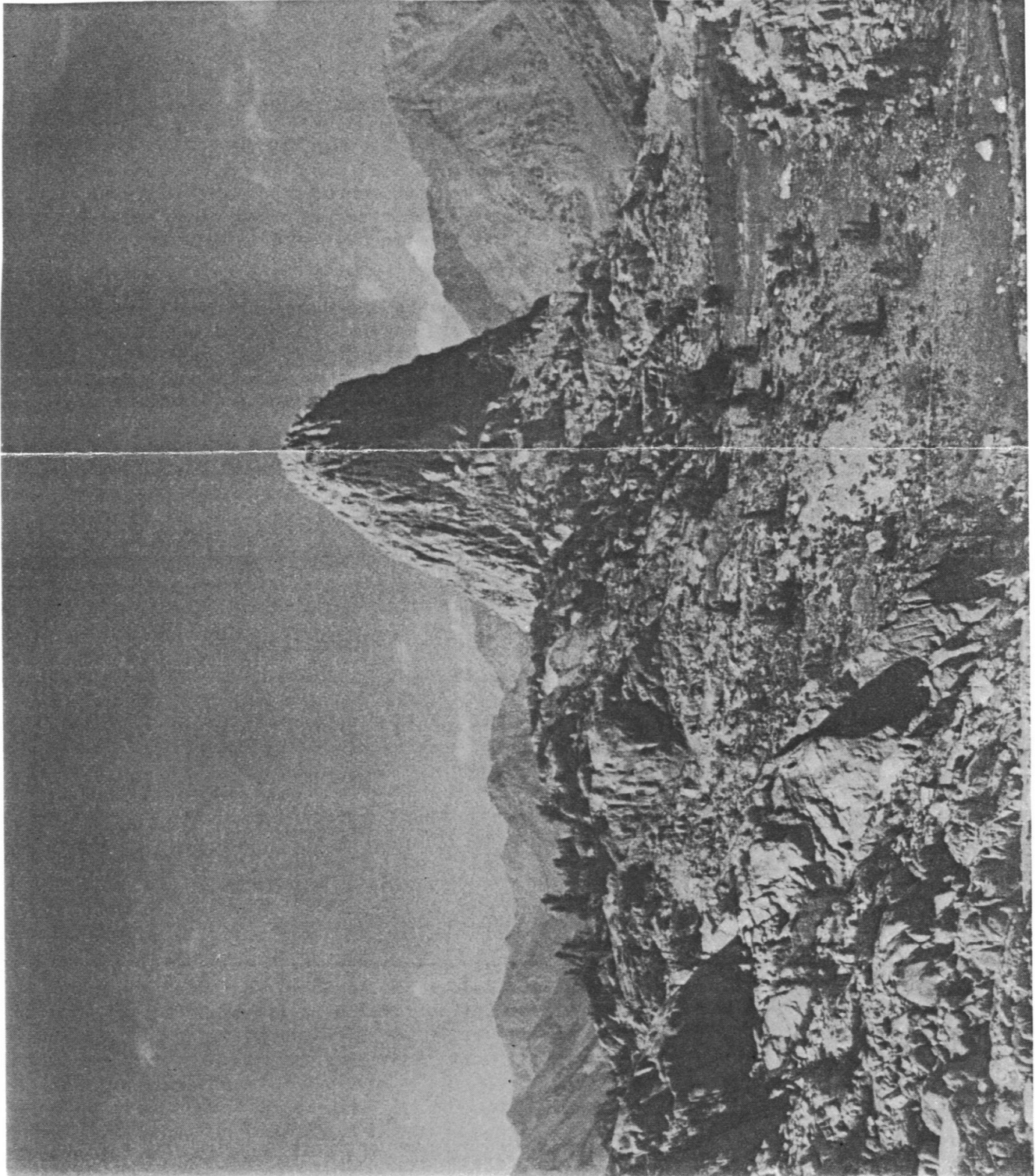
The Sierra



ECHO

Mar-Apr 1988

Vol. 32 No. 2



ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

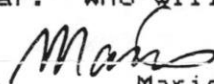
The climbing schedule for July through October has been submitted to Dick Akawie. This season promises to be just as active as it was last year. There are a number of trips for MTC students as well as the hard core.

The Management Committee has decided to start a new SPS tradition. The Section will annually contribute some money to two mountaineering rescue organizations, operating in the Sierras. As potential users of their services, it is more than appropriate that we contribute, however little, to their operation. This tradition will be set forth in the Policies and Procedures.

It is gratifying to see that many of our long time members continue to support our Section. Each month Chuck Stein makes the arrangements for the key so we can use the meeting facilities. R. J. Secor saw an opportunity and established a trail maintenance committee. The refreshments at each meeting are usually provided by these people, for which they are not reimbursed. Many of them serve on the management committees, and of course, lead trips. My thanks to all of you!

I encourage more of the newer members to take active part in the Section. If you have some idea or a project that you would like to see initiated, contact me or one of the Committee members. Some of the areas that could be considered are: conservation, safety, first aid seminar, training seminar. Who will take charge of one of these opportunities?

Hope to hear from you!



Maris Valkass

PEAK INDEX VOL. 32-2 (MAR-APR '88)

Basin	Muah
Brewer	Prater
Cardinal	Recess
Cirque	Round Top
Clarence King	Royce
Dunderberg	Saddlehorn
Elwell	South Guard
Excelsior	South Sister
Fin Dome	Split
Independence	Stanislaus
Koip	Thor
Merriam	

COVER PHOTO CREDIT: This picture of Fin Dome from the South-Southwest was taken by Jeffrey Solomon on August 14, 1987. A description of the climb of Fin Dome can be found in a trip report published in the "Echoes Of Our Climbs" section of this issue.

The Echo editors wish to thank Suzanne Thomas for her help in getting this issue out.

ECHOES TO OUR READERS

GOOD SHOW, LEADERS! OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE IS BOOKED SOLID WITH 52 PEAK-FILLED TRIPS. THIS INCLUDES NINE 5-DAY OR LONGER AREA WIPEOUTS, TEN EMBLEM PEAKS AND EIGHT E-RATED CLIMBS. SPECIAL THANKS TO NINE OF YOU FOR BEING A LEADER ON THREE TRIPS EACH, TO NORM ROHN FOR FOUR TRIPS, LARRY TIDBALL FOR FIVE AND TO DAVE DYKEMAN FOR SEVEN CLIMBS. HALF THE TRIPS HAVE BEEN JUDGED SUITABLE FOR NEW BMTC STUDENTS (THE OTHER HALF BEING TOO EASY?). IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME STUDENTS WOULD SEE PART OF THE SCHEDULE BEFORE THIS ECHO ARRIVES IN THE MAIL. LEADERS ARE CERTAINLY FREE TO GIVE FIRST CONSIDERATION TO SPS MEMBERS. GOOD LUCK IN GETTING YOUR PERMITS. PLEASE NOTIFY ME IN TIME TO PUBLICIZE ANY RE-SCHEDULINGS, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS. HAVE A GREAT SEASON.

BILL OLIVER, VICE CHAIR - OUTINGS

The advanced 1988 Summer SPS Trip Schedule is published on the following page. Late additions to the 1988 Spring SPS Trip Schedule are published below. Sign up and enjoy the climbs!

APR 23-24

SAT-SUN

SPS INTRO TRIP

M: INDEPENDANCE (11,744) UNIVERSITY (13,632) Sat. meet near Onion Valley

and backpack approx. 2 mi. to Robinson Lk, set up camp then climb Independence.

Sunday, up early for a 3 mi. climb of University. Ice axe and crampons

required. Send SASE with carpool info., physical conditioning, and experience

to Leader: Ed Ross, Asst. Henry Arnebold.

MAY 7-8

SAT-SUN

SIERRA PEAKS

M: Olancha Peak (12,123'): SPS Intro Trip. Sat moderate backpack; Sun

climb the southern-most Emblem peak on Mother's Day & pack out. Ice axe

required. BMTC grads welcome. Sase with conditioning, experience,

phones, carpool info to Leader: DONNA O'SHAUGHNESSY. Asst: DAVE DYKEMAN.

JUN 27-JUL 1

MON-FRI

SIERRA PEAKS

M: Black Giant (13,330) and Mt Agassiz (13,891): Backpack Mon

from South Lake over Bishop Pass to Le Conte Cyn. Tue up the

Muir Trail to Helen Lake. Wed climb Black Giant and down the

Muir Trail to Little Pete Mdw. Thu to Bishop Pass. Fri climb

Agassiz and out. Long trail backpack for two easy pks. BMTC

grads welcome. Send large sase, experience, conditioning,

carpool info and H & W phone to Leader: CHUCK STEIN. Co-Leader:

MEL LEES.

1988 SPS SUMMER SCHEDULE

* - SPS INTRO TRIP

JULY

09-17	Ø-M	SHEPHERD PASS TRAIL PARTY WILLIAMSON, TYNDALL, JUNCTION, KEITH	RJ SECOR, N ROHN, C STEIN
15-17	M	SPLIT, PRATER, TINEMAHA	BRUCE PARKER, DAVE DYKEMAN
16-17	E	DISAPPOINTMENT	BILL OLIVER, LARRY TIDBALL
21-24	M	RUSKIN, MARION	T STOUGH, R DANTA, D MANTLE
22-24	E	DARWIN, MENDEL, LAMARCK	BILL T RUSSELL, D McRUER
22-24	M	LYELL, MACLURE	GEORGE HUBBARD, M MANCHESTER
22-26	M	OBSERVATION, GIRAUD, MARION	NORM ROHN, RJ SECOR
23-24	I	KERN PEAK	RON YOUNG, EIVOR NILSSON
23-24	M	MT CLARK, GRAY PK	L TIDBALL, RICHARD FRITSEN
28-02	M	SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, McDUFFIE, BLACK GIANT, HUXLEY, FISKE	RET MOORE, JAY TITUS
29-31	M	MT GODDARD	MARIS VALKASS, TOM DURYEA
30-31	M	HAECKEL, WALLACE (MTC)	REINER STENZEL, KEN DUZY
30-31	* M	DRAGON PEAK	DON BORAD, PHIL MARQUEZ

AUGUST

05-07	E	PALISADE CREST	BILL OLIVER, RON JONES
06-07	M	KEITH, JUNCTION	CARL BYINGTON, L TIDBALL
06-12	M	GILBERT, JOHNSON, BLACK GIANT (MTC) SCYLLA, CHARYBDIS, McDUFFIE, AGASSIZ	REINER STENZEL, RON ROBSON
07-13	M	CLARK, GRAY, RED, MERCED	JIM ERB, THERESA RUTHERFORD
11-14	M	MT KAWEAH, BLACK KAWEAH	MARIS VALKASS, TOM DURYEA
11-14	M	NORTH PAL, GIRAUD, (AGASSIZ)	AL CONRAD, GENE MAUK
19-21	E	CLARENCE KING, (BAGO)	LARRY TIDBALL, BILL OLIVER
19-21	M	BREWER, NORTH GUARD	DONNA O'SHAUGHNESSY, BOB HENDERSON
19-21	M	WHITNEY: MTNEER'S ROUTE	NORM ROHN, RON JONES
20-21	M	EXCELSIOR MTN, DUNDERBERG	GEORGE HUBBARD, M McMANNES
20-21	M	RUSSELL, CARILLON	BRUCE PARKER, H FREIMANIS
20-21	M	SAWTOOTH PK, NEEDHAM	RON YOUNG, EIVOR NILSSON
20-28	M	FOUR GABLES, PILOT KNOB 2, MERRIAM, ROYCE, J. CAESAR, HILGARD, RECESS, GABB	DAVE DYKEMAN, NANCY GORDON
20-28	* I	FREEL, ROUND TOP, MOKELUMNE, HIGHLAND DISASTER, STANISLAUS, LEAVITT, BLACK HAWK, EXCELSIOR	DALE VAN DALSEM, BILL GRAY
27-28	E	CATHEDRAL PEAK, DANA, GIBBS	LARRY TIDBALL, R FRITSEN

SEPTEMBER

01-06	I	MERRIAM, ROYCE, FOUR GABLES, J. CAESAR, PILOT KNOB 2	NORM ROHN, RET MOORE
02-04	M	RED PK, MERCED PK	JIM MURPHY, STEVE THAW
02-05	Ø-I	GIBBS, KOIP (OPTIONAL, BPC)	GERRY DUNIE, SUZANNE SWEDO
02-05	E	PALISADE CREST, NORMAN CLYDE	DOUG MANTLE, RANDY DANTA
02-05	M	REINSTEIN, FINGER, TUNEMAH	GEORGE TOBY, DAVE DYKEMAN
02-05	* M	HENRY, RED, FLEMMING	GORDON MACLEOD, N COLEVINS
09-11	E	MT SILL - SWISS ARETE	MARIS VALKASS, RON JONES
10	M	SAN JOAQUIN	WALT KABLER, M M McMANNES
10-11	I	STANFORD 2, MORGAN 2	IGOR MAMEDALIN, S THOMAS
10-11	E	HOOPER, SENGER	GENE MAUK, AL CONRAD
10-14	M	GODDARD, HENRY	LARRY HOAK, D VANDERVOET
17-18	* I	GIBBS, KOIP	DALE VAN DALSEM, M McMANNES
17-18	* M	SILLIMAN, ALTA	DAVE DYKEMAN, NANCY GORDON
17-18	M	MT HENRY	GEORGE TOBY, TOM DURYEA
17-18	M	RED SLATE, RED & WHITE	MARK GOEBEL, KATHY CRANDALL
24-25	O	SHEPHERD PASS TRAIL PARTY	RJ SECOR, CHUCK STEIN

OCTOBER

01-02	* I	FLORENCE, VANDEVER	SUZANNE THOMAS, I MAMEDALIN
01-02	I	MORRISON, BALDWIN	BRUCE PARKER, GERRY DUNIE
01-02	Ø	CLOUDS REST, GIBBS	JIM MURPHY, NANCY GORDON
01-02	* M	KERN PEAK	DAVE DYKEMAN, DON BORAD
08-09	M	HOMERS NOSE	DAVE DYKEMAN, GEORGE TOBY
08-10	M	TEHIPITE DOME, SPANISH MTN	D VAN DALSEM, STEVE SMITH
15-16	M	SPANISH MTN	D MANTLE, B HICKS, D McRUER
22-23	M	PILOT KNOB 1, OWENS	DAVE DYKEMAN, ROY MAGNUSON

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

John Jensen
10933 Lindblade St St
Culver City, CA 90230
(213) 202-6777

Roger Hadow
1807 10th St #5
Santa Monica, CA 90404
(213) 450-9687

Kris Hutchin
12635 Main St #10
Garden Grove, CA 92640
(714) 539-5094

Marcia A. Male
1459 Westgate Ave #1
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(213) 479-0758

George Tucker
11615 Mississippi Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(h) (213) 473-7691
(w) (213) 616-3408

REINSTATED MEMBER
Kenneth C. Jones
2725 Belmont Ave
West Lawn, PA 19609

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Richard L. Anglin, Jr
8601 Falmouth Ave #309
Playa del Rey, CA 90293

George W. Banks
19913 Blackhawk
Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 360-6094

Cindy Fewell
2015 N Bush St #202
Santa Ana, CA 92706
(h) (714) 835-7360
(w) (714) 647-2728

Steve Hessen
6128 Altmark Ave
Whittier, CA 90601
(h) (213) 693-5012
(w) (213) 485-1424

Mary Ann Morimoto
415 Herondo #336
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Curtis Benson
1520 NW Woodbine Way
Seattle, WA 98177

ADDRESS CHANGES

Ruth Adler
Jon Sheldon
504 1/2 S Ogden Dr
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(213) 938-4316

Lewis Amack
Phone Change
(213) 466-7744

Jon Friedland
12215 Ocean Park Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Alice Cahill
P.O. Box 24353
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Al Conrad
Phone Change
(w) (818) 393-0865

Jon Friedland
12215 Ocean Park Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Geoff Glasner
1083 Via Colinas
Westlake Village, CA
91362
(w) (805) 372-5535

Mark Goebel
9522 Innebruck Dr
Huntington Beach, CA
92646
(714) 963-9384

Bill Gray
2419 Vista Nobleza
Newport Beach, CA
92260

Keats Hayden
Phone Change
(714) 760-9399

Vic Henney
Sue Wyman
Address Correction
3525 Sawtelle #211

Walt Kabler
Phone Change
(818) 367-3031

David Jensen
Box Correction
P.O. Box 90809

Ron Jones
Phone Change
(714) 773-5570

Larry Machleder
Phone Change
(818) 785-0549

ADDRESS CHANGES
Gordon MacLeod
P.O. Box 1079
Simi Valley, CA 93062

Jeanne Mantell
3205 Los Feliz #6-232
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Lidia Marcocliese
9412 Stamps Ave
Downey, CA 90240

John Orange
57 Schubert Ct
Irvine, CA 92715

Bob Michael
Address Correction
872 Highlands Dr #4

Ed Ross
19609 Steinway St
Canyon Country, CA
91351
(805) 251-2256

Jay Titus
407 16th St
Pacific Grove, CA 93905 (213) 546-2387

John Vitz
Phone Change
Phone Change
W: (714) 474-1933

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR SPS MONTHLY MEETINGS

MOUNT COMMUNISM

Wednesday, April 13

Of increasing interest to U.S. climbers are the peaks in the U.S.S.R. Ben Chapman of the RCS will share the adventures of a seven climber group from Southern California that made this climb in 1984. Glendale Federal Savings in Studio City, 7:30 PM. Refreshments.

THE PEOPLE ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

Wednesday, May 11

When we think of Tibet, we are most likely to think of the mountains. Karen Leonard's program should make us more sensitive to the people of this remote land. She will describe her overland trip from Nepal and her experiences in Lhasa as one of the last foreigners to be allowed to visit this area in October 1987. Glendale Federal Savings in Studio City, 7:30 PM. Refreshments.

A CLIMB OF THE VINCENT MASSIF

Wednesday, June 8

Programs related to climbs in Antarctica are rare. John Otter's program will be a treat for SPS'ers and other interested guests. Glendale Federal Savings in Studio City, 7:30 PM. Refreshments.

REGISTERS NEEDED!

Help eliminate the plight of register-less summits! Save your small and medium size glass jars (coffee, pickle, etc.), preferably those with metal tops. These will be placed by volunteers Gordon MacLeod and Barbara Lilley on deserving unlisted peaks. Please give them to Eric Schumacher at SPS meetings.

One of the more enlightening events on my recent trek in Nepal was a lecture on mountain sickness by Dr. Wade Henrichs one of two volunteer physicians at the Himalayan Rescue Station at Pheriche. The station is at nearly 14000 feet and is about ten miles from the Everest base camp along a very popular trekking route.

The principal points of Dr Henrichs' lecture may be of interest to high climbing Echo readers:

- Signs of acute mountain sickness (AMS) include headache, nausea, poor appetite, fatigue, insomnia and sometimes vomiting.

- The best way to acclimatize and avoid AMS is to ascend slowly.

- If at high elevation headache or nausea last more than thirty minutes take a rest day.

- At the first signs of cerebral or pulmonary edema you should descend.

- Signs of cerebral edema include headache, loss of coordination, drowsiness, vomiting, disorientation and confusion.

- If you have a headache and can walk a straight line, heel-to-toe, then you only have a headache not cerebral edema.

- Decadron, a steroid, masks cerebral edema symptoms and should be used only to descend.

- Signs of pulmonary edema include noisy bubbly breathing, chest pain, blue lips, shortness of breath and congested lungs.

- If you continue panting or gasping for breath after resting for a minute or two then you should assume that you have pulmonary edema and descend.

- If you take Diamox and feel better then you are better.

- Diamox works by making the kidneys excrete bicarbonate thus helping to lower the Ph of the blood. At low elevation the body does this by making a weak acid from Carbon Dioxide.

- Drinking lots of water and producing lots of urine help to acclimatize.

- Neither Cheyne Stokes breathing nor peripheral edema (swelling of hands, face or feet) are by themselves serious matters nor do they foretell serious problems.

- Acute mountain sickness, pulmonary edema and cerebral edema are caused by oxygen deprivation not by reduced atmospheric pressure.

In seeming contradiction to this statement most of us could see a pressure chamber in a nearby room that was just the size to hold one person. Dr Henrichs explained the use of the chamber:

- Pure Oxygen is not always available.

- People with pulmonary edema, cerebral edema or AMS sometimes seem to respond to air (Nitrogen, Oxygen, et al.) better than pure Oxygen.

- If air in the lungs is at higher pressure Oxygen gets into the blood faster.

Going higher often means getting colder:

- Cold fingers or toes may be warmed with warm water (100 to 103 degrees) but not hot water. Circulating blood normally carries heat away but when circulation is impaired too much heat may damage tissue.

- Using a product like "Warm Feet" that contains various kinds of hot pepper that irritate the tissue and increase blood flow is a good idea.

WHO WAS THAT PEAK ANYWAY ?!

SPB 1982/83

This issue's mystery peak photograph comes to the Echo courtesy of Ron Grau. Identify the featured peak before the next Echo input deadline (May 20th). Correct identifiers will be acknowledged in the next issue along with the peak's identity (wrong guesses will remain anonymous). It's OK if Southern California SPBers and List finishers correctly identify the Peak. Give it a try. We anxiously await your guesses! However, if you think that you have a picture of a Sierra peak that will stump most SPBers, send it in to be included in a future issue (black and white 5x7s preferred).



We thank those who responded to the Echo questions from the Jan/Feb issue. In response to the first question, the consensus of opinions expressed on the "ten" toughest SPB listed peaks by the readers does not differ much from R.J. Secor's. The reader's favorites are:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Devil's Crags | 5. Clyde Minaret | 9. Disappointment |
| 2. North Palisade | 6. Clarence King | 10. Darwin |
| 3. Norman Clyde | 7. Starr King | 11. Mt. Humphreys |
| 4. Thunderbolt | 8. Black Kaweah | 12. Bear Creek Spine |

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In response to the second question, the Sierra peaks most desired to climb this year are (we hope that all of your E-rated leaders are listening):

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Goddard | 7. Starr King | 13. Muir |
| 2. Darwin | 8. Thunder | 14. Clark |
| 3. Split | 9. Middle Palisade | 15. Ritter |
| 4. Lyell | 10. Norman Clyde | 16. South Guard |
| 5. Clarence King | 11. Palisade Crest (?) | 17. Tunemah |
| 6. Matterhorn Peak | 12. Mt. Sill | 18. Pilot Knob |

The answer to the third question will unfold in the remaining 1988 Echo issues.

The "Mystery Peak" for the Jan/Feb issue (photographed by Jeff Solomon) was Sawtooth #2. Congratulations to Bob Michael, Pete Yamagata, Bill Bueler, and Lance Dixon for their correct identification. Interestingly, these SPSers are from Santa Barbara, Sacramento, Monterey, and Princeton N.J.(!), respectively. It seems that not only List finishers, but also Southern California SPSers have come up short in recognizing Sawtooth #2. Other guesses were Mendel, Lyell, Brewer, and Mt. Tom. The Echo editors are puzzled by the scarcity of correct "Mystery Peak" identifiers from the ranks of List finishers. Dare we speculate as to the reasons? WE WANT TO KNOW from you which reason is most likely:

- A. Too busy climbing (they do climb a lot) to notice.
- B. All that mountaineering has cumulatively fried their cognitive skills.
- C. They forgot to climb Sawtooth #2.
- D. "Once you've seen one peak, you've seen them all". (That is, they are the climb 'em and leave 'em casanova types.)

On a more serious note, WE WANT TO KNOW why you climb in the Sierras.

Once again, please respond to us in any form (postcard, phone call, pigeon, singing telegram, cable, TV ad, or just pass the word through any SPS committee member). Mail responses or phone your responses to Associate Editor: Jeff Solomon, 16 Silver Fir, Irvine, CA 92714 H: (714) 552-7237, W: (714) 863-1100.

An idea for the ECHO is to have a section on suggested readings related to mountaineering subject material. Members who have read a notable book or an article in a magazine, particularly a non-mountaineering one, could list it for the reference of others.

SUGGESTED READING:

All Conrad commends to your attention "A Treasury of the Sierra Nevada" edited by Robert Leonard Reid and published by Wilderness Press, Berkeley, 1983. This 363 page book contains a series of essays divided into the categories: The Explorers; The Immigrants; The Vacationers; The Naturalists; The Mountaineers; and The Conservationists. The authors include Jedediah Smith, Kit Carson, Winchell, Harte, Whitman, London, Twain, Stevenson, LeConte, Emerson, Brewer, Clyde, Muir, Chouinard, Brower, John McPhee, Wm O Douglas and many more. The editor links the essays through his introductory paragraphs which, along with the essays, say much about the history and the spirit of the Sierra Nevada.



Allan Conrad

ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

FIN DOME (11,693') & CLARENCE KING (12,905') 8/14-15-16/87
Jones/Valkass

This was a listed exploratory to consider the addition of Fin Dome for the SPS list. We had a Wilderness Permit for 10 and this group was made up of Graham Breakwell, Lou Brecheen, Sue Hanna, J. Holshue, Pam Kane, Karen Leonard, Bill Oliver, Jeff Solomon, Dave Underwood, Maris and myself. Gary Guenther had his own Permit and joined his sister, Pam. We met Friday in Onion Valley at 6:30 and packed over Kearsarge Pass, down and over Glen Pass, and had lunch in the upper Rae Lakes Basin while watching a National Park crew build trail and roll boulders down from below Glen Pass.

After lunch we avoided dropping down to the Rae Lakes by taking the x-country route from the base of the Pass on an azimuth of 330° across to Lake 11,700 at the Southern end of the Sixty Lake basin. Five of us split off en route and packed over to the trail at the south base of Fin Dome. Here we dropped our packs and contoured west and slightly upward to the SW face of the peak. We found a more or less open route between boulders to the start of a lightly ducked route leading upward on 2nd and 3rd class ledges and climbing about 500 feet to the summit. At one point a climber strayed off route a bit and we used a rope to return her quickly to safety but otherwise a rope was not needed. Four of the 5 felt that Fin Dome would make a worthy peak addition to the SPS list. The peak definitely dominates the area (see cover photo), it stands alone, it is beautiful, the views from the summit are delightful, there is fairly challenging route finding with some cl 3 moves, but it has only about 600 feet gain in ½ mile from the trail.

The successful climbers were Jeff Solomon, Pam Kane, Dave Underwood, Maris and myself. The next day, on our return to base camp, after climbing Clarence King, Bill Oliver and Gary Guenther attempted Fin Dome but were unable to find a feasible route and returned empty handed.

Saturday morning one climber was feeling under the weather and started backpacking out. Ten of us hiked up the Sixty Lake basin, made the standard approach to C. King and all but one person negotiated the cl 4 and low cl 5 moves leading to and up the summit block. We had two ropes working, all the moves went smoothly and the teamwork was outstanding. Dave Underwood led the summit block. Sue Hanna earned her EMBLEM! Other climbers included Graham Breakwell, J. Holshue, Bill Oliver, Pam, Gary, Jeff, Maris, and I made my third ascent of this peak. After returning to camp before 4pm the two climbers made their attempt on "The Fin." They also reported that they felt Fin Dome qualified for the SPS list.

Sunday morning we got a leisurely start out and returned to our cars via Glen and Kearsarge Passes. We reached Onion Valley by 2:30 where we met the ailing member of our party. Thanks again to Maris for a lot of help on the assist. Next year we will climb Mt. Sill by the Swiss arete. -- Ron Jones

From the Mouth of Muir. . .

"The Indians of the western slope venture cautiously over the passes in settled weather to attend dances, and obtain loads of pine nuts and the larvae of a small fly that breeds in Mono and Owen's Lakes, which, when dried, forms an important article of food; while the Pah Utes cross over from the east to hunt deer and obtain supplies of acorns; and it is truly astonishing to see what immense loads the haggard old squaws make out to carry barefooted through these rough passes, oftentimes for a distance of sixty or seventy miles. They are always accompanied by the men, who stride on, unburdened and erect, a little in advance, kindly stooping at difficult places to pile stepping-stones for their patient, pack-animal wives, just as they would prepare the way for their ponies." (The Mountains of California, John Muir, 1894)

MT.MUAH

July 18, 1987

Dave Dykeman & Roy Magnuson (a list finisher)

In May of 1977, I followed Roy up Moses Mtn., my first SPS peak. In July of 82, I climbed Junction Pk. to earn my senior SPS emblem just in time for my 50th birthday. To me, that posed a question: What was a good goal for finishing the list... My 60th? That's too easy to be a goal. My 55th? I'd have to stay busy, but it could be done. Beginning in '84, I was telling people I would finish the list July 18th, 1987 on Mount Muah. Sometimes, I thought that my mouth was overloading my... But, somehow, I'd climbed everything else by season's end in 1986. I was waiting for my day.

Roy was my co-leader because he'd led me up my first SPS peak, he was my main mentor throughout my early peak bagging days, and he is a steadfast, thorough mountaineer who is always great climbing company. Muah was the peak of choice because the roadhead is easily accessible, it's in a picturesque area, is a worthy climb in an area high enough to be cool in the heat of summer. Cool is right! Friday night's low was 18 degrees! Great daytime hiking weather, but the evenings were a bit cool for great partying.

I thought it would be an oh-hum, anti-climax, experience. All the tough peaks were long since climbed, and it would be just a party. It was a real HIGH. My brother and sister-in-law came all the way from Portland, OR and my son who hadn't climbed with me since '77 was there. Over 60 other people did the peak, and many others came to celebrate. Thanks a lot to everyone who came; and to those who couldn't be there, but sent best wishes and congratulations.

CIRQUE PEAK (SPS Intro Trip)

August 8-9, 1987

Bob Kanne

Thirteen participants met at the old Cottonwood Lakes trailhead at 7:45 AM, and by 12:30 we had reached our camp at upper South Fork Lake. During the afternoon, three ambitious HPSers (Alan Coles, Ruth Adler, and Assistant Leader Jon Sheldon) climbed Langley, while the rest of us relaxed, played croquet, and washed off in the lake.

We played two five-person croquet games. The first game was won by newcomer Karl Kraves in a dramatic come-from-behind victory over Bob Schlichting. The second game bogged down at the far pole as opponents' balls were repeatedly sent to the far corners of the playing field. The players from the first game cheered and jeered from the sidelines as the commandment to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" was ignored by the players on the field. Finally, yours truly broke out of the pack and finished the course, while the others were still fighting it out at the other end. Karl chose the unexpected bag of Gummi Bears as his prize. This unexpected result meant that the remaining prize, a cold beer, fell into the hands of the trip leader. Ah...!

Sunday morning we headed up the New Army Pass Trail at 7:15, walked around the head of the cirque to the peak, descended the talus on the north side, and were back in camp at 12:30. The weather and views were both wonderful. We were back to the cars at 4:30 and seven of us had dinner at the Smoke Signals in Lone Pine. All twelve who tried the peak made the summit. My fiancée Diane Dillon, who had climbed the peak last year, explored lakes while we did the peak.

This was the first SPS trip for at least five of the participants, including BMTC student Dick Vandenberg. Two others, John Sheldon and Ruth Adler, qualified for SPS membership by getting the peaks on this trip. Ralph Gabiner had recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary. Does he now hold the record for "SPS-Peaks-Climbed-After-Your-50th-Wedding-Anniversary"?

Betsy Reifsnider Schlichting was enjoying a break after a hectic first week in her new job. Betsy, who had been the Chapter's Conservation Coordinator for the past six years, is now one of the two Legislative Aides in the City Hall office of L.A. City Council member Ruth Galanter. We will miss her presence in the Chapter Office, but hope to keep seeing her in the mountains (she has over 30 SPS peaks). Other participants were Bob Sumner, Ron Goldfarb, and John Levitt.

Twelve of us met Friday morning at 7 am in Onion Valley. We hiked over Kearsarge Pass, past Bullfrog Lake, to Vidette Meadow, down to Junction Meadow, and finally up the trail to East Lake. We arrived there by 4 pm. We had thought about climbing West Vidette, but it was late and we were tired, so we decided to set up camp, swim in the lake and socialize.

Saturday morning at 6 am we started for Brewer. The route is straight forward, from the East Lake climb on the east-west ridge that leads you directly to the Brewer massif. Minor route finding to get on the ridge just south of Brewer summit and then just pick the easiest way up. One person became sick part way up and had to return to camp. Everyone else made the summit. After the ascent, two more people decided not to go for South Guard, and Bill Gray, the assistant, escorted them back to camp. One of the them had a serious knee problem which required a snow pack. Fortunately there was a snow patch and Bill was able to administer first aid.

Bill Gray is a very able and considerate leader. We were very grateful for his presence, as was the injured party.

The rest of the party continued to South Guard. We crossed the saddle, observing that the planned descent route through the notch was good, and climbed up to the ridge. We followed it climbing up and down as the route would go until we came to the final saddle and easily walked to the summit. The ridge running is fun and not difficult, but you can encounter one or two 4th class places which can be climbed around if one so desired. The last tower, or false summit, that you come to before reaching the "final" saddle mentioned earlier, should be circumambulated by first dropping down 40 to 50 feet and then traversing to the point where you see the saddle. The rest is duck soup.

Two people elected not to go for the summit because it looked the rock was too difficult and it was getting late in the day. Six of us reached the summit. The return trip was uneventful.

Sunday morning we started to hike out at 6:30 am. Igor and Suzanne were staying over one more day, Pam and Scott wanted to leave later, and Wilson Harvey left earlier because he did not feel well. All of us were dreading the hike out because of the 4,000' plus altitude gain. However, once we got started, it was not so bad, and we were out to the cars by 2 pm.

The participants were: Bill Gray, Suzanne Thomas, Igor Mamedalin, Mario Gonzalez, Karen Leonard, Patty Kline, Pam Kane, Scott Roberts, Don Sparks, Wilson Harvey, Ron Zappen and Maris Valkass.

My thanks to Bill Gray for assisting and also Don Sparks who took over when Bill escorted the other two to camp. This was a fine three day weekend with a continuous good weather.

KOIP PEAK

August 29-30, 1987

Gordon MacLeod, Neko Clevins

Seven of us met at the June Lake Junction and caravaned to the locked gate on the Mono Pass (Bloody Canyon) road, only to find that no overnight parking was permitted. We then proceeded to the alternate trailhead to the south, parking about 1/4 mile from the end where the road deteriorated to four-wheel drive quality. The distance from here to the pass is shorter, but the first mile involved a **STEEP DOWNHILL** to Walker Lake.

The backpack to Lower Sardine Lake was accomplished by early afternoon. Climb of the two scheduled numbered peaks was cancelled due to the afternoon thunderstorms in favor of a visit to the late-1800s mining cabins and diggings at Mono Pass and also an enjoyable cocktail hour. Weather cleared at night.

Sunday, two participants stayed in camp and one returned to the roadhead; four of us made the successful climb of Koip Peak -- negotiating three passes (Mono, Parker and Koip) in the process -- in spite of intimidating thunderstorms, which fortunately went elsewhere without dropping any rain. This was a long climb; cars were not reached until 6:00 PM and the backpack out included the character building uphill gain of about 500'.

Participants were Gordon, Neko, Barbara Lilley, Ted Franklin (an SPSer now retired to Lone Pine), Louis Quirarte, Mitch Levitts and Karla Drake (the latter 3 were on their first SPS trip).

This trip got off to a pleasant start when a truck with Delaware plates appeared at the roadhead. That's right, Lloyd Brown spent part of his extended vacation on the west coast with the SPS. On Tuesday, Lloyd, Kathy Price, John Secor, SPS newcomer Paul (What is an emblem peak?) Wittkam and the leaders made the long, hard, and hot hike up the Taboose Pass trail. We camped that night at 11,200' along the trail, just below the summit of Taboose Pass.

Chuck Stein needed Cardinal Mountain, so on Wednesday we climbed the peak from our camp. This was the only peak that the entire party climbed together.

On Thursday we moved camp to Cardinal Lake, with the hope of finding nice camping and fishing. Future parties should note that both are lacking at this lake. Paul, Lloyd, Kathy and R.J. then climbed Split Mountain that afternoon via its northern slopes. On the descent, Kathy and R.J. traversed to the north and bagged Mt. Prater before returning to Cardinal Lake just before sunset.

On Friday we moved camp again, back to just below the east side of Taboose Pass. While moving camp, however, Lloyd, Kathy and R.J. climbed Saddlehorn, Peak 3722m, 0.5 miles NE of Mt. Ruskin and 1.2 miles SE of Vennacher Needle. Here is the route: From the base of the east ridge of the Saddlehorn, traverse across the south side of the ridge for about 200'. This traverse is specimen class 4, and ends in an area of broken rock. From the end of the traverse, climb up, over the east ridge to its north side, and then climb up a system of ledges to the summit; this part is class 3-4, with little exposure. We downclimbed to a point on the east ridge directly above our start of the climb and then made two short rappels to the bottom. We used a 165' x 8.8mm rope and six runners and carabineers. Four runners and carabineers would have been adequate. From the base of the ridge, the climb took us a little less than two hours round trip. The three of us agreed that it was the best peak of the trip. Future parties should bring a better register container.

After hiking out on Saturday, we visited Keough Hot Springs for a luxurious bath followed by dinner at Curt Herring's Smoke Signals in Lone Pine. My thanks to Chuck Stein for filling in as assistant leader in Norm Rohn's absence, and to Lloyd Brown for his help in seeing that everything went smoothly.

RECESS

August 1987

Jim Murphy (Private Climb)

Several times I had heard that the easy way to do Recess was to enter at Lake Edison. Echo's for the past fifteen years, surprisingly, do not provide a trip write-up from this roadhead, therefore, prompting this one. The boat leaves the Vermillion Resort at 9:00 a.m. but will leave anytime that someone comes up with \$32.00. The boat leaves the far end of the lake for the return trip to the resort at 4:45 p.m. Regular one way fare on the boat is \$6.00 per person. To do the peak, about 5,200' gain, as a day hike is not seriously considered. The trail from the lake meets the John Muir trail, which you follow to 10,000'. You can tell you are at 10,000' as the trail begins a gradual decline in elevation (the trail does not undulate). At this point you decide to go to Kip Camp at 8,800' or to travel cross-country to a lake at the base of Recess Peak at 10,800. In view of the potential squeeze on time to meet the boat on Sunday, it seemed a better choice to spend Saturday afternoon hiking up rather than hiking down. With topo and dead reckoning (I suggest compass and altimeter as better tools), ascend east a few hundred feet up, then south. Heading south, the terrain declines and you can see, occasionally, some terrain features through the trees; then you cross an unmapped trail at a saddle where you lose all reference points because of the trees. When I thought that enough elevation had been gained, I traversed to a ridge which placed me at the right elevation overlooking the drainage from the lakes at 10,800'. A 100' descent to a meadow, then to another small trickle of water at the base of the Recess West ridge, you will find a generous supply of good campsites. This is better place to go for the peak vs. the lake at 10,800', as the plan is to go over the west ridge of Recess and approach the summit from the southwest which was accomplished the next morning. The route is class one and class two except for a boulder and krumholtz covered knife-edge ridge which offers some tedious but easy class three bouldering and can be easily avoided by dropping below the ridge for a couple of hundred feet as was done on the return to camp. The only hitch on the backpack back is to drop down to the John Muir trail at 10,000', as overshooting may cause you to miss the trail altogether. The boat launch was reached by 3:00 p.m. and allowed for soaking, and resting on a small sandy beach.

(continued on next page)

This portion of the John Muir trail is one of the loneliest you may witness, as only two other parties were seen during the hike and the time taken to eat two lunches. The summer of 1987 is dry due to the previous winter snows approaching record lows and a fairly dry warm summer, but the upper drainage has enough water for late season hikers.

--Jim Murphy

THOR, DUNDERBERG, ELWELL, SOUTH SISTER, ROUND TOP, STANISLAUS, EXCELSIOR, & INDEPENDENCE
August 1987
Don & Ursula Slager (private trip)

A two week assignment in Tacoma provided an opportunity to visit these primarily northern Sierra Peaks and South Sister in Oregon by adding a few days of vacation to the driving time. We had three days to get to Tacoma and five to return. Selecting easy peaks with short approaches, we hoped to do a peak each day and still get in a long drive. The indicated times are to the summit at average non-tiger pace.

Thor: (12,300'). A good start was made by finding a Saturday morning parking spot at Whitney Portal. Roper says "walk up" to the summit from the 10,000 foot level on the Whitney trail, but my altimeter was reading low (though set at the trailhead) and we ended up at Mirror Lake. No matter, we would try "route 2 - ascend to the gentle southwest plateau", etc. Near the outlet of the lake there is a nicely ducked use-trail leading to the gently ridge (not plateau) by which time it is obvious that the route to the "notch" departed to the right about 500 feet below. We were short of time to get to our motel in Bishop, and the traverse appeared slow, so we left Thor for another time.

Dunderberg: (12,374'). A pre-dawn start got us to the Virginia Lakes trailhead, where we hiked the main trail to a good use-trail to Moat Lake, on the west side of its drainage. We climbed directly to the false summit, bearing right when the footing got too loose. The view from the top (1 1/2 hours) was great -- sweeping from Lyell to Patterson. Someone named Mantle, 3X had been here earlier this summer...We descended to the north saddle with a bit better footing and drove to a campground at the Elwell trailhead.

Elwell: (9,812'). A well-signed trail leaving from a parking area at the south end of the campground goes through pleasant lakeside settings up, down, and up to the summit (1 1/2 hours). We added our names to those of Vi Grasso's group and Gail Hanna from San Diego. A long drive took us through Lassen to Eugene, Oregon from where we got to Tacoma the next day on schedule.

We wanted to do Hood on the return, but the Forest Service refused to give any information on the regions of most frequent rockfall (bad this year) and the commercial guides were not operating, so we accepted this as an adequate reason to drive on.

South Sister: The trailhead for South Sister, the highest and easiest of the group, is at Devils Lake beyond the Mt. Bachelor ski area. The trail is Class I, mostly good -- a few loose places near the top (3 1/2 hours). The view encompassed Theilson (near Crater Lake) to Mt. Adams with everything in between. Walking around the rim gives fine views of the peak's glaciers. We then descended and drove to Klamath Falls for the night.

Round Top: (10,381'). An early start gave time for a leisurely lunch in Carson City and arrival at the trailhead by 2 p.m. The trail leaves from a parking area a few hundred feet before Carson Pass and is marked by a road sign reading "Frog Lake". An hour hike takes one past Winnemucca Lake where there is a use-trail going west southwest to an obvious path descending from the rocks of the triple summit down the scree. The register is on the third summit. This is easily climbed by first descending to the right for 20 or 30 feet after the second summit, whereupon a nice staircase chute to the top is visible (2 hours). This peak is listed as class 3, which seem exaggerated. We then drove over Monitor Pass through magnificent aspens, which suggested a return in fall, and spent the night in a noisy, stinking campground on the Walker River.

Stanislaus: (11,233'). A trailhead identified by a blocked-off dirt road and a bulletin board with 6 pages of regulations is located a bit less than a mile west of Sonora Pass. The road climbs steeply and becomes a trail to a pass, from which the peak is visible. The trail wanders gently to the south southeast area of the peak. Here we went to the shoulder on the left and up Class 2 scree and rock to the top (3 hours). Mr. 3X (tres equis?) had been here recently also.

Excelsior: (12,446'). A short drive brought us again to the trailhead at Virginia Lakes where the main trail goes over a pass in about 2 miles. A few minutes beyond the pass a use-trail goes a short distance to the small double lakes shown on the topo. Roper says only "class 2 from the west", and the peak list says Class I. Hence, we were not prepared for the 400 - 500 foot canyon between here and the peak. Descending seemed better than running the ridge, so we slid down the scree and loose rocks (thinking unpleasant thoughts about the return) and went up to the far ridge to the right of the low point; from here the summit was easy Class 2 (3 1/2 hours). Great views. The register had no familiar names since the 1986 Dykeman trip (those big feet were not XXX). The return out of the canyon went much more quickly than expected by starting higher, nearer the lake at the base of Excelsior and finding better footing to the west of the descent route.

Independence: (11,744'). After a night in Bishop we arrived at the Robinson Lakes trailhead, climbed up the trail about 1,000 vertical feet, and left the trail to head for the peak. We soon encountered several use-trails through the scree and took the most raveled one, which ended us up on the ridge a few peaklets to the right of the summit (3 hours, including some time route-finding along the ridge). The register notebook was in a plastic bag, and something better is needed.

All in all, we found this a fine trip and a good way to visit areas too remote for easy weekend trips.

BASIN MOUNTAIN

August 21-23, 1987

Bob Wright, Virgil Bayless

We drove to the Aspen grove 0.6 miles from the locked gate where we camped.

Friday we hiked 3 miles and 2,000 feet of gain in 4 hours to Horton Lake where we made camp on the southeast end of the lake where there are two camp sites with cooking grills and seats. There is plenty of fire wood for cooking.

Saturday we started at 7:30 a.m. with 2 quarts of water and a purification pump. Proceeding along the south side of the lake at waters edge (do not go into the boulder field to the south) until you intersect with stream coming from the Basin Lake system. Turn left and head south along the east stream edge until the marsh area ends in heavy brush. Staying as far left as possible climb up the hill on a little used and over grown trail until after 30 yards you come out at the edge of the trees and the enormous boulder field on the east edge of the canyon. Proceed up the canyon along the edge of the boulder field until you come to the first lake at 10,800 feet. Head south west up a loose boulder field to the highest lake at 11,440 feet where we rested and got water. This should take 2 hours (9:30 a.m.). Follow the south east edge of the lake around and up the ridge to what appears to be Basin Mt. **THIS IS NOT BASIN**. Follow the ridge up to this false summit keeping to the east of the summit. The real peak is 0.25 miles east of the false summit. Go to the saddle east of the false summit where the real summit can be seen. This looks difficult but is quite easy by working your way around the north face of the real summit to the east ridge which is a walk up with lots of view (EXPOSURE). The summit was attained in five (12:30 N) hours after climbing the false summit not having the benefit of this write-up.

We came down the scree slope in 1.5 hours (2:00 p.m.) to the upper most lake (TAKE GAITERS ALONG). After a short rest and more water pumped we descended to the 10,800 foot lake. **THIS WAS THE HARDEST PART OF THE TRIP**. We arrived in camp at 4:00 p.m. (8.5 hours) to find that two members of our party had caught dinner for us.

Sunday morning we hiked out to the cars in two hours and then home.

!!! ECHO RENEWAL REMINDER !!!

The deadline for renewing your *Echo* subscription is March 31st. If you have not renewed yet, this may be you last issue! Please renew by sending a check for \$8.00 along with the renewal form from the Nov-Dec 1987 issue of the *Echo* to the section Treasurer: Al Conrad, 2311 Pickens Canyon Road, La Crescenta, CA 91214

We got started on the trail through the Pine Creek pack station about 7:45 AM. Participants had fallen to ten although the maximum trailhead quota and permit allowed thirteen. The hike in was leisurely with pleasant views down the Pine Creek Valley. It took about five hours to pack in and make camp at Honey Moon Lake (about 5.5 miles and 3,000'). Along the trail we crossed paths a few times with a friendly packer who stopped his caravan to gossip each time. As we neared Honey Moon Lake this gregarious gentleman offered to carry out packs at no cost to Pine Creek Pass, beyond which he planned to set up camp. Later, as the ladies in our group exchanged gossip, we learned he had managed to invite most of them to visit his tent that evening. It is about 700' and two miles to the pass from Honey Moon Lake, so not even the offer of cold beer could lure our ladies to the site of this lonely packer. We set up camp at the traditional sites bordering the lake. There are fire rings here and the area is usually populated by fishermen, a couple of whom warned us that the ranger came through the previous day and forced everyone to move from the campsites to the legal distance from the lake and outlet stream. A large suitable campsite was being vacated when we set up camp, so after dinner we decide to move there and avoid being ousted out later that evening.

Sunday morning we were underway at 6:35 going along the trail to Italy Pass. Three of our group decided to remain in camp. East of Honey Moon Lake, we turned off the Italy Pass trail and picked our route up the drainage descending northeast to Honey Moon Lake. As we proceeded up the drainage, co-leader Eivor Nilsson was having difficulty breathing and decided to turn back. A few weeks later Eivor found she had walking pneumonia. Larry Tidball was kind enough to fill-in and we continued to the saddle (11,700') between Peak 12,563' and the unnamed peak to the west. From here we picked our way over the large boulders along the east side of the largest lake, continued around the next lake and crossed the outlet stream east of Royce Peak. From here we headed to the saddle between Royce and Merriam. There was dirty snow from the saddle almost to the lake but it was soft enough and the slope gentle enough that an ice ax was not necessary. There is a perennial patch of ice at the top of the saddle (12,200') which is easy to climb around. About 10 AM we reached the summit of Royce going directly northward from the saddle over boulders and scree. Larry Tidball was the first of six to reach the summit, with Bobby Dubeau, Martha Flores, Walt Hill, Ann Rosenthal and myself not far behind. Ann had been feeling ill before we reached the lakes and we persuaded her to continue with the help of a few Roloids. But she decided against climbing the second peak. Upon returning to the Royce-Merriam saddle we proceeded southward up the ridge to Merriam, contouring slightly to the right. The boulders and scree are looser than on Royce and a little caution is warranted. Larry was again the first of the five who reached the summit around noon. The register on Royce dates from July 1981 and that on Merriam from September 1973. Both peaks have aluminum canisters. We retraced our route with standing glissades down the snow slope, arriving back at camp shortly after 3 PM. By 3:40 we were packed and underway, arriving at the cars about 6:15 (12.5 miles and 3,800' for the day). Several of the group stopped at eh Sizzler's in Bishop before driving back. We were fortunate to have delightful weather, just cool enough to be comfortable, and clear enough to allow great views from the summits. Our special thanks to Larry Tidball for his generous assistance.

-- Ron

ECHO INPUT NOTICE

Leaders! Climbers! 1987 was a great climbing year! It is not too late to record your spring, summer, and fall trip experiences in prose, photo, or poetry for publication in the *Echo*. Copy submitted on MS-DOS format floppies will be more than welcome! Send your copy to the *Echo* Editor: Igor Mamedalin, 24 Almond Tree Lane, Irvine, CA 92715.

--- PAID PRIVATE TRIP ANNOUNCEMENT ---

JULY 24 SUN-JULY 30 SAT SAUNTER JOHN MUIR STYLE ENCHANTED GORGE via ECHO COL & IONIAN BASIN. STRENUOUS cross country backpack to climb Black Giant, Charybdis, Wheel, Finger, Reinstein, & Scylla. SASE to SPS Leader Steven Thaw, 30 Woodside Dr., Moraga, Calif. 94556

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MISSING ISSUES: Inquiries regarding missing issues should be addressed to the section Mailer: Carolyn West, 5000 Centinela Ave., #302, Los Angeles, CA 90066. Extra copies of the 30th Anniversary *Echo* are available by sending \$4.50 per copy to the section Mailer.

AWARDS: Emblem and senior emblem pins (\$8.50), list finisher pins (\$10.00), and section patches (\$2.00) are available from the section Treasurer: Al Conrad, 2311 Pickens Canyon Road, La Crescenta, CA 91214.

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