

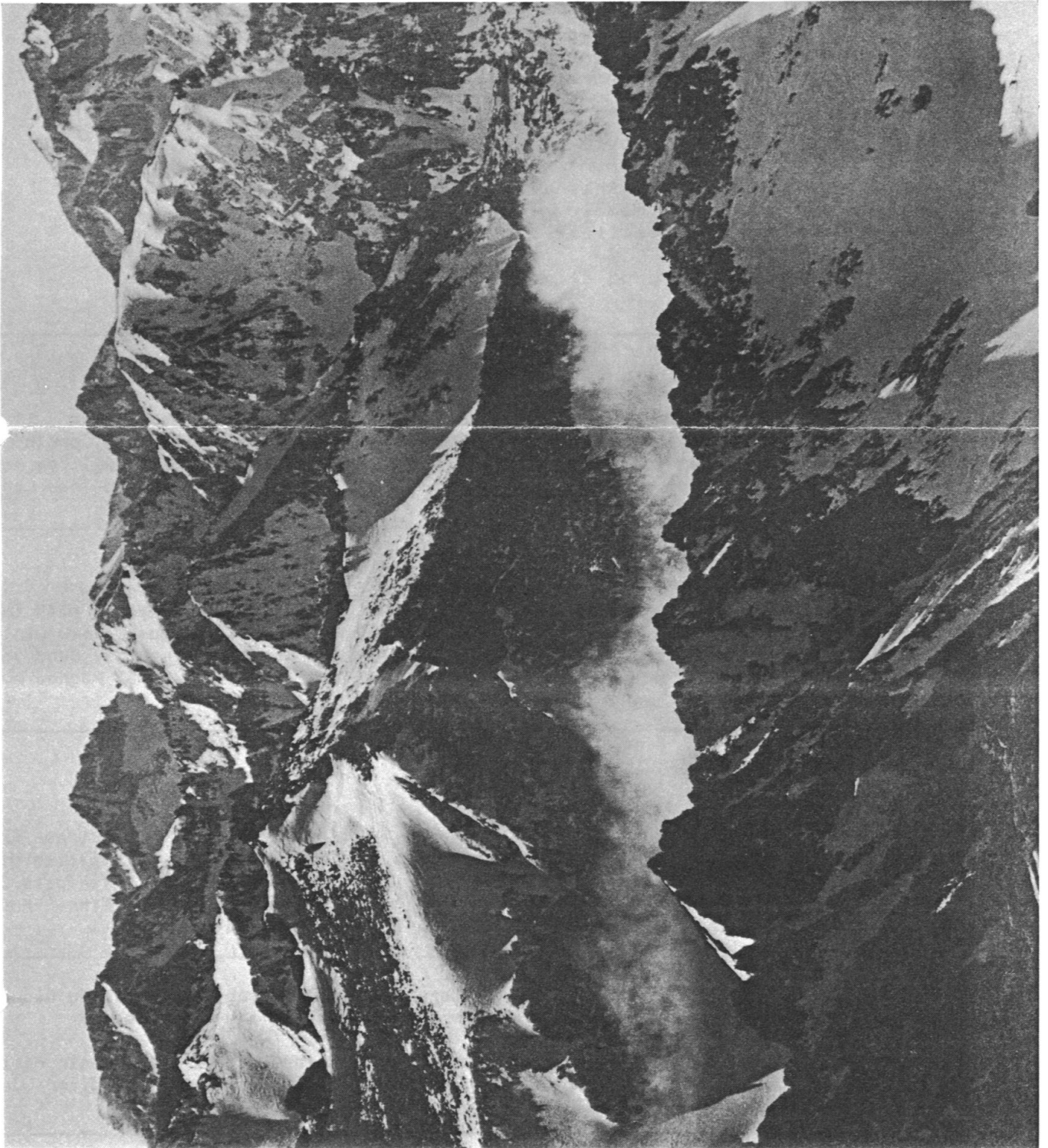
*The
Sierra*



ECHO

May-Jun 1988

Vol. 32 No. 3



ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

18 May 1988

The Sierra climbing season has finally begun. We already have had a few climbs, and unfortunately, one injury. While many accidents can be prevented by simple caution and good judgement, just by definition, they do happen. It is no fun to spend the summer or longer recovering from one, so - Watch It!

R.J. Secor reported good progress on the Shepherd Pass trail maintenance. Judging by the slides he showed us at the monthly meeting, he is right. Congratulations!

I asked Igor to publish the SPS Policies and Procedures in this issue. After the bylaws, this is the next "governing" document. While each management committee can make their own policies and procedures, most of them will follow whatever preceded them, and therefore provide some continuity in management. Please read them and become more familiar with SPS operation.

Wishing you good climbing.

Maris



ECHO INPUT NOTICE

Leaders! Climbers! 1987 was a great climbing year and the 1988 season has started! It is not too late to record your spring, summer, and fall trip experiences in prose, photo, 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.

!!! SCHEDULE INPUT NOTICE !!!

The deadline for submitting proposed trip write-ups to be printed in Schedule #249 (Nov 1988 - Feb 1989) is approaching. Experienced leaders are encouraged to propose a few winter climbs in the Sierras to keep our membership agile through the winter months. Send your proposed trip write-up to SPS Outings Chair, Bill Oliver, by June 24th (3762 Hughes Ave. #312, Los Angeles CA 90034)

PEAK INDEX

VOL. 32-3 (MAY-JUN '88)

Adams Mtn.	Freel	Mt. Humphries	Mt. Ross	Skinner Pk.
Castle PK.	Gemini	Mt. Huntington	Round Top	Spanish Mtn.
Disaster	Granite Chief	Lola	Senger	Tehipite Doe
Mt. Elwell	Highland	Mt. Muah	Seven Gables	Tinker Knob
English	Hooper	Pyramid	Sierra Buttes	

COVER PHOTO CREDIT: Tom Ross took this great picture of the Kern/King Divide during his ascent of Mt. Gould on February 16, 1967. Has the scenery changed any in 21 years?

Your photograph of the Sierra scenery or interesting climbing activity can appear on the cover of the Sierra Echo! Send your photographs for consideration to Associate Editor: Jeff Solomon, 16 Silver Fir, Irvine CA 92714.

SPS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

October 1987

*--Angeles Chapter Requirement

Each newly elected Chairperson should ensure that every member of the Management Committee reviews these Policies and Procedures annually. "The Secretary shall maintain a listing of the policies of the Management Committee" (Bylaws 1986 revision). The purpose of this listing is to provide continuity between successive Management Committees. Within the constraints of the Chapter policies and the SPS bylaws, each Management Committee may set its own policies and procedures.

1.0 Trips and Leaders

1.1 All SPS trips will be conducted pursuant to the Angeles Chapter

Outings Impact Rules, Angeles Chapter Safety Policy and the SPS Safety Regulations.*

1.2 SPS Trips

- a) must be announced in either the Chapter Schedule, Southern Sierra or the ECHO *
- b) must be rated as to technical difficulty. *
- c) must have two certified leaders, each with a Chapter rating to at least the level of the trip. Under certain circumstances the leader may be a provisionally rated leader. * One of the leaders may have a one-time rating granted by the Chapter Safety Chair (typically a person who is judged to be qualified for the trip, but is not certified at the trip level).
- d) must have leaders who are capable of leading the trip. (i.e. must have experience commensurate with the nature of the trip).
- e) must be led by a member of the SPS (asst. leader may be a non-member).
- f) will be scheduled to peaks on the SPS list and to other peaks of interest within and outside the Sierra Nevada.
- g) will not be scheduled to peaks on the HPS or DPS lists (except for joint sponsorship) unless for the specific purpose of rock climbing training or ice axe practice.

1.3 Proposed trip writeups:

- a) must be submitted to the Outings Chair (SPS Vice Chair).
- b) will be submitted by the Outings Chair to the Management Committee with a recommendation for approval or non-approval.
- c) will be announced after approval by the Management Committee.

1.4 The Outings Chair will mail copies of Sections 1.0, 2.0, 4.0 and 7.0 of these Policies and Procedures to prospective leaders of SPS trips at the time when write-ups for summer trips are requested (normally the end of January).

1.5 Changes in trip leadership.

If a leader of an approved trip is unable to go on the trip, that leader and/or the remaining leader should contact the SPS Outings Chair or the SPS Chair, if time permits, for assistance in obtaining a replacement and for approval of the substitute leader.

Responsibilities of Trip Leader:

- 2.1 At roadhead--At the beginning of the trip brief all participants of plans for the outing. Inform everyone of their responsibilities:
 - Ensure that the names, addresses and phone numbers of all participants are entered on the sign-in sheet and that the entries are legible. Ensure that all participants have the equipment necessary for the trip. It is the leader's prerogative to refuse anyone who does not meet the qualifications of the outing. Get a parental medical release for any minor unaccompanied by a parent. Determine if any participants have medical problems.
- 2.2 First aid kit--Ensure that an adequately equipped first aid kit is carried on the trip
- 2.3 Discipline--Maintain effective control over the group during the trip. Make decisions based on the welfare of the group and enforce them. Report incidents and refusals to cooperate to the Management Committee when returning the sign-in sheets.
- 2.4 Pace--Set a reasonable pace geared to the abilities of the group.
- 2.5 Rear leader-- Ensure that the rear leader remains with the slow members of the group. His responsibility for the slow participants takes precedence over his making the peak. However, it is the prerogative of any leader to turn back participants who might not reach the trip's destination without seriously hampering the rest of the party.
- 2.6 Leaving the group--Ensure that those who wish to leave the main group are qualified for what they plan to do. Such a group, if it does not have two qualified and certified leaders, will no longer be considered part of the official party and its members must check off their names on the sign-in sheet.
- 2.7 Base camp--Never abandon participants under any circumstances on a trip. Do not leave base camp until all participants have returned from the mountain. Do not leave the roadhead until all participants have returned. Make sure that all cars start.
- 2.8 Conservation--Ensure that good conservation practices are followed. Stress that litter must be carried out of the wilderness. Enforce Chapter policy with regard to campfires and use of stoves. In every way, set an example of which the SPS can be proud.
- 2.9 Additional responsibilities
 - a) On 3rd and 4th class trips--Make certain of the route before the scheduled ascent, limit the group size and have equipment suitable for the trip.
 - b) On snow and ice trips--Exercise extreme caution to avoid avalanche areas and dangerously steep, icy slopes. Do not hesitate to turn back or change the route if conditions are judged to involve too great a risk. Remember that belays can be used on snow and ice, as well as rock.

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c) Accidents-if an accident or an emergency should occur, where additional aid beyond the capability of the party is required, the leader must do the following:

- 1) Contact the Sheriff in the county where the accident has occurred or the Park Ranger if in a National Park or Monument. If possible, send two people for help with COMPLETE, written instructions, use EMERGENCY REPORT form (send one copy, keep one copy).
- 2) Contact the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team at (818) 355 1414 (24 hr service) for Sierra Club Search and Rescue Coordination.
- 3) Contact the Section Chairman and/or the Safety Chair. Keep notes and do not release information to other than the authorities listed above.
- 4) If further assistance is needed, contact Jon Inskip at (818) 790 5461

3.0 Safety and Training

- 3.1 Under the overall supervision of the Management Committee the Safety Chair establishes and enforces safety standards for the climbing activities of the Section and formulates training and testing procedures to implement them.
- 3.2 The qualified safety instructors list is established by the Management Committee upon recommendation of the Safety Chair. It is reviewed periodically by the Safety Chair.
- 3.3 The SPS schedules rock climbing and ice axe practice sessions each year. These are for the purposes of training novices and for improvement of members' skills.
- 3.4 Training equipment (ropes, etc) belonging to the Section is in the custody of the Safety Chair.

4.0 Mountain Records

- 4.1 The Mountain Records Chair maintains
 - a) a list of qualifying peaks
 - b) a record of peaks scheduled and climbed by the Section
 - c) a record of persons participating in the Section's mountaineering activities
 - d) a record of the condition of summit registers and register containers on qualifying peaks
- 4.2 The Mountain Records Chair distributes leader kits and receives filled out sign-in sheets.
- 4.3 The Mountain Records Chair maintains registers and register containers on the summits of qualifying peaks.

5.0 Membership

- 5.1 The Secretary shall acknowledge new members by letter. The original member application forms and letters should be filed. It is not necessary to keep copies of the acknowledgement letters.
- 5.2 New membership applications received after October 1 are credited

for ECHO subscription for the next calendar year

- 5.3 The Membership Records Keeper gathers all membership information and prepares the Membership Report which is published in the ECHO after March 31 each year.

5.4 Information regarding new members and new emblem holders, name and address changes and reinstated member applications should be sent to the Secretary. Renewals and ECHO-only subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

5.5 The Membership Retention and Recruiting Chair

- a) provides information and assistance to prospective SPS members
 - b) determines the reasons why members fail to renew and makes suggestions to the Management Committee to maximize the renewal rate
- 5.6 Members who wish to provide additional support to the Section may become Sustaining Members. A Sustaining Membership costs \$20 per year, receives the benefits of a regular member and will be specially recognized in the ECHO.

6.0 Peak List Changes

6.1 Peak addition criteria-Peaks considered for addition to the list will be evaluated with respect to elevation, dominance of an area, view, climbing interest, proximity to other listed peaks and other factors as appropriate

6.2 Exploratory climb-As required by the Bylaws, a peak must be scheduled and climbed by the SPS before it can be considered for Peak List addition. Such a climb is termed an "exploratory climb", with the understanding that the peak may be recommended for addition to the list. The Management Committee must grant approval for the scheduling of an exploratory climb.

6.3 Peak Additions-After an exploratory climb a member may recommend addition of a peak, in writing, to the Management Committee and furnishing an evaluation of the peak in terms of the peak addition criteria. The letter or an abstract will be published in the ECHO. The Management Committee will consider the recommendation and decide whether to place the question on the October ballot. Pro and con statements will be included with the ballot.

6.4 Timing-Sufficient time must be provided for members to climb a peak considered for addition before a vote is taken. Therefore the ECHO article describing the exploratory climb must be received by the members before August 1 or the voting will be carried over to the next year.

6.5 Deletion-A member wishing to delete a peak, or to change the designation of emblem peaks or mountaineer peaks, will furnish the Management Committee with a recommendation and reasons. The letter or an abstract will be printed in the ECHO. The Management Committee will consider the recommendation and will decide on bringing it to the members for decision on the October ballot. To be on the ballot in October the ECHO must have been received by the members before September 1 or the vote is carried over to the next year.

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1988 UNIMPAIRED SNOWMELT RUNOFF FORECASTS

These figures are the water runoff forecasts in percent of normal, based on a 50 year average. They do not necessarily represent the amount of snow on the ground, but instead indicate the water levels we can expect to find during stream crossings this coming spring and summer.

Tuolumne, 35%; Merced, 32%; San Joaquin, 39%; Kings, 39%; Kaweah, 36%; Tule, 20%; Kern, 28%; Owens, 45%; Mono, 63%. The Owens basin breaks down as follows: Long Valley, 48%; Long Valley to Tinemaha, 47%; Tinemaha to Haiwee, 38%.

R.J. Secor

SEPT 22-25

THU-SUN

SIERRA PEAKS

(Re-scheduled from the original 8/11-14 period due to permit denial.)

M: North Palisade (14,242'), Giraud Pk (12,585'): Day 1: So. Lake to Barrett Lakes (9 mi., +3600'); Day 2: Climb No. Pal via Cl.3 rte; camp in Dusy Basin (6mi., +3000'); Day 3: Climb Giraud (6mi., +2000'); Day 4: Ret. to cars (9mi); may do Agassiz if grp wishes. Good exp. req'd. Send two SASEs with exp. and carpool info to Leader: AL CONRAD. Asst: GENE MAUK

SPS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (continued)

6.6 Management Committee--In other paragraphs of this section submission of a recommendation to the Management Committee includes a review and recommendation by the Mountain Records Chair and by the Outings Chair. The letters of recommendation should be addressed to the Management Committee.

7.0 Peak Registers

Summit registers will be left in place on the peaks. Additional or larger containers will be provided when there is insufficient space in the existing container.

Illegible scraps of paper, business cards, etc. may be removed from a register container if, in the judgement of the leader, they have no particular significance. However, if such notes have records of early Sierra Club climbs or SPS climbs, they should be left. Scraps removed should be returned to the Mountain Records Chair.

Notebooks with historical significance may be preserved by copying. The original should be returned to the peak within a year. Another notebook must be left on the peak when the original is removed. Removal should be coordinated with the SPS Mountain Records Chair. Copies thus made will be retained by the Mountain Records Chair.

8.0 ECHO Announcement and Advertising

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

9.0 Member Recognition

9.1 In accordance with the SPS bylaws, recognition will be given to members who have achieved emblem status, senior emblem status and list completion status. Such recognition will be published annually in the ECHO.

9.2 Members who have achieved list completion status will be recognized in the ECHO and at an SPS meeting for achievement of emblem status, senior emblem status and list completion status after their initial completion of the list.

10.0 Shepherd Pass Trail Maintenance

In accordance with the SPS bylaws which state that it is one of the purposes of the SPS to aid in the maintenance of good trails, the SPS will cooperate with the U.S. Forest Service in the maintenance of the Shepherd Pass Trail.

The Trail Maintenance Chair will be responsible for the trail maintenance program and will be assisted by the Conservation Chair and the Outings Chair.

ECHOES FROM OUR READERS

Dear Igor, SPS members:

I noted with interest the "Echoes from the Present" section in the Jan.-Feb. Echo. Perhaps because I have recently moved to Oregon and feel removed from the SPS, and the Range of Light, I find I am paying more attention to the Echo itself, and the thoughts expressed therein. I am in fact moved to express some myself.

I see a certain amount of statistics being displayed on various summits, and an attempt to relate that to group activity. It came to mind, after reading the published reports of the injuries suffered by Ruth Armentrout and Donna O'Shaughnessy, that some members might be interested in the average number of surgeries required to finish the list, or to gain a Senior Emblem (and what the average expense incurred would be). Perhaps the appropriate members would be willing to respond to a poll to determine this (not only should surgery directly resulting from a climbing accident be considered, but also those due to attrition, or training, such as that required to repair cartilage damage to knees or to remove bone spurs on the feet).

In Oregon, at least in the Portland area, the climbing organization of significance is known as the "Mazamas" ("Mesika, Klatawa, Sahale"). Their training and conditioning program is more highly organized than that of the SPS, perhaps because they have at their disposal something called "The Gorge." Not far from Portland the Columbia River cuts right through the Cascade Range, and hikers have nearly 5,000 feet of relief to play with. Anyhow, a rating system for the training hikes has evolved:

Class A: Easy, steady pace; elevation gain under 1,500 feet; distance under 10 miles.

Class B: Faster pace; longer, steeper trails.

Class C: Rugged, strenuous; difficult terrain.

It again came to mind, after thinking about R. J. Secor's column on the "Ten Toughest Sierra Peaks," that a similar rating system could be applied to SPS ascents; especially since I see Deerhorn Mtn at position six on the list, a peak to my mind which is relatively easy; at least from the point of view of what are your chances of getting to the top of it on a scheduled SPS climb, as opposed to your chances for any old peak?

The Campus Ambiance of the SPS seems to be to climb as many peaks as possible by the easiest possible route in the shortest possible time (in order to finish the list before you get too damn old). Ok, I exaggerate, but technical climbing (that is to say, roped climbing) is avoided. I think there are several reasons for this, but the main one seems to be that it is too slow (for groups). SPS climbs being group activities, I believe it likely that this will remain true, and that the vast majority of climbs will continue to involve Class 2 and Class 3 climbing only.

But the ascents remain remarkably competitive events, and the real measure of difficulty on an SPS trip is the level of exhaustion that potentially can be produced in a participant. Before I had gone on any SPS trips, I thought this would mostly be due to which peak it is; I know better now. The exhaustion from trip to trip is pretty constant. But if I were, from my

limited experience, to pick a mountain that would stand the holotype for an SPS ascent (as long as we're talking about list and ratings) I would name Mt. Bradley, via Pinyon Creek (done in two days). I'd call that one Pretty Darn Hard. Some other, any old peak, like Diamond Pk., for instance, is a lot easier; but the group compensates by adding on another peak -- Black Mtn. -- and so the level of exhaustion for the trip as a whole remains about the same. And this is in fact typical; how hard the trip is is mostly due to how hot it is, who the leader is, who is in the group, and where the peak is located.

An informal rating system for SPS ascents already exists in an incipient state. There are harder trips than usual; we are warned, so: "This is a long, hard, grind.", "you must be in top physical condition to successfully...", "...campaign to wipe out the Whitney region...", "A small group of known climbers will attempt...", and so on. I haven't been on any of those, but they demand a different rating; perhaps another member can improve on my attempt: "Ultimate Glory."

On the other end of the scale, a backpacking trip is already referred to in SPS circles as an "easy backpack." The term apparently applies to any backpack (although we will pass over Mt. Whitney in silence). And then, if one, for some reason, were to ascend Mammoth Mtn. (which is not even on the list), I feel sure it could be described, as they used to do, as "an easy day for a lady." In fact it could be termed Not Worth Rating, and presumably not worth climbing (especially if you consider descending via the gondola) unless it were solely to experience the peculiar oddity of it all, or enjoy the view.

Every once in a while the word "easy" is used to describe a real peak; but not often, and then with a certain embarrassment, and if used with respect to something like Kearsarge Pk., there are those who mutter about the propriety of including that peak on the list.

Is there, then, any utility in officially recognizing a graded rating system for SPS ascents, which is primarily based on exhaustion potential? And would there be any interest in recognizing a category below Pretty Darn Hard, which would nevertheless still qualify as SPS caliber? The cognoscenti will anticipate me when I put forth the term Not Too Bad for this level. An example of such a theoretical ascent would be Mt. Bradley in three days, or The Thumb (just The Thumb, and not Birch Mtn) in a weekend, or both Mt. Russell and Mt. Carillon in a weekend (as long as you don't blast up to base camp before noon on Saturday).

As for Deerhorn Mtn., it is by no means relatively difficult. First of all, it is so remote that it is not worth attempting in a weekend, and so you might as well take your time on the approach; there is a trail to basecamp; and most important, there is so much Class 3 on it that the climb itself is neither too technically demanding nor strenuous. Also when I climbed it it wasn't too hot. Deerhorn Mtn. is Not Too Bad.

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The Essentials in Safety: LESLIE GIUBER of R.E.I. will present a demonstration of the latest in safety equipment, clothing and camping. Of particular interest to BMTcErs will be the importance of layering and the differences in fabric textures polypro versus cotton/wool. Glendale Federal, Studio City. 7:30 p.m. Refreshments.

AUG 10 WED SIERRA PEAKS

Egypt/Kenya/Tanzania. The Nile, Cairo the Pyramids: HICKS/McRUER/GRASSO. Climbs of Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya: HICKS/MANTLE/MANCHESTER/GRASSO. Glendale Federal, Studio City. 7:30 p.m. Refreshments.

SEP 14 WED SIERRA PEAKS

Nevada Illimani - Bolivia from the Altiplano to the Selva. Climbing on Sajama and Nev. Illimani, followed by a trek into the upper Amazon. ANDY FRIED. Glendale Federal, Studio City. 7:30 p.m. Refreshments.

Oct 12 WED SIERRA PEAKS

POT LUCK. Bring your favorite dish and stories. We'll share the first and swap the latter. Glendale Federal, Studio City. 7:30 p.m.

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Finally, in a last attempt to put my foot in my mouth, I shall venture a guess concerning "Who was that Peak?" From the position of Mt. Whitney in the background, it appears it probably has to be Junction Pk.

I miss these views. Maybe I'll come back and enjoy them again some day. In any case I wish the members of the SPS very well in all their climbing endeavors.

Sincerely,

John Reed

John Reed
301 SW Lincoln #1109
Portland OR 97201

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

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SPS PROGRAM SCHEDULE

July - August - September - October

*Williamson
10-28-44*

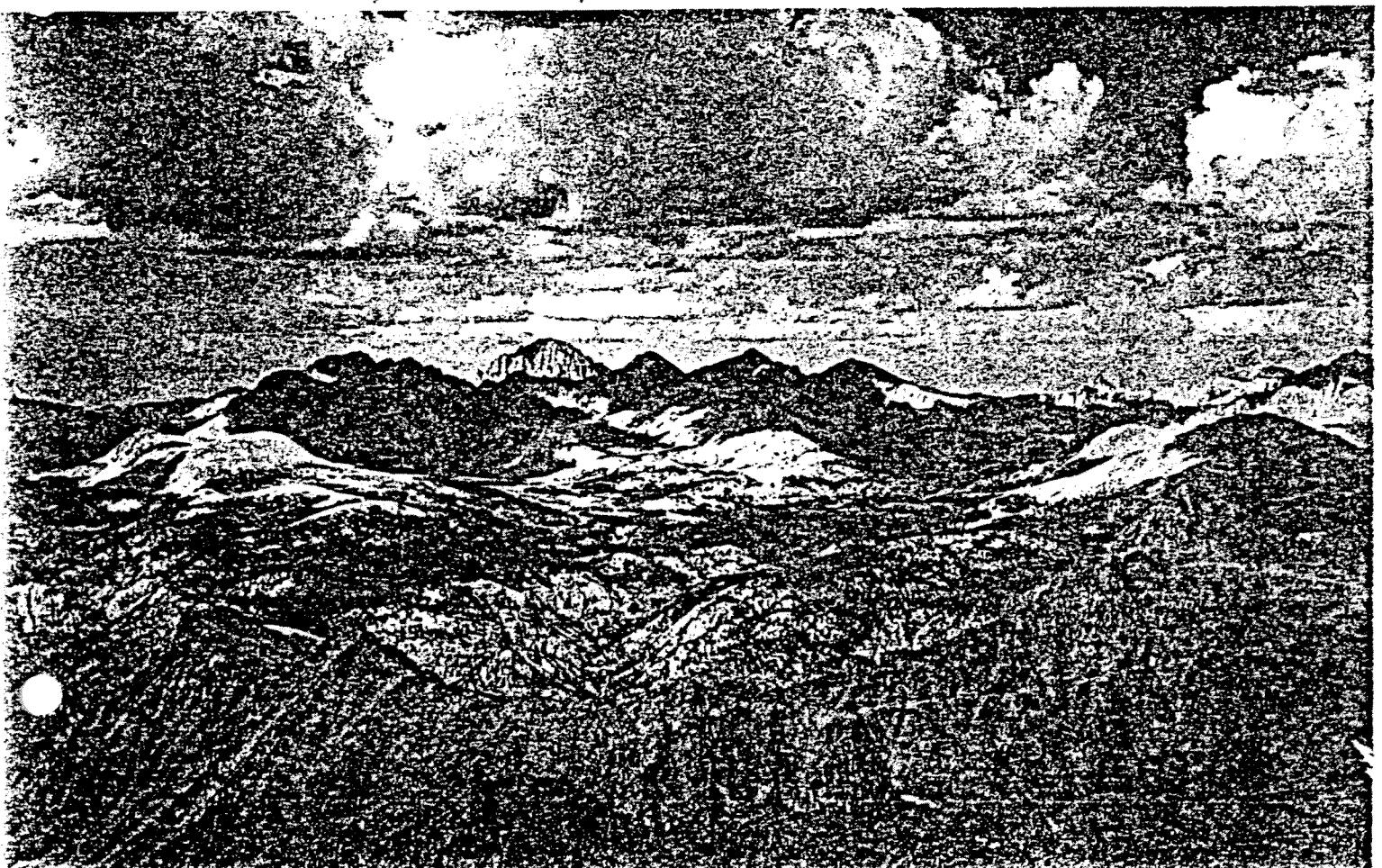
About the last mystery peak ... Well, you know how you can suddenly encounter bad weather in the Sierra? Would you believe the high altitude ruined the film? Our apologies extended for a below-par reproduction of a good photograph.

Last issue's question, "Why do you climb in the Sierra?", yielded a few answers, the excerpts of which follow: "Was marvelously lonely.", "Good to be in God's country alone or with company.", "I climb for beauty, exercise, photography, and emblem pins.", "Nothing better to do.", "The thrill of surprises such as seeing 3 mountain goats doing 4th and 5th class climbing.", "At continual war with first place, the view, is the satisfaction gained from keeping fit and completing a climb."

Perhaps these statements encapsulate your feelings about Sierra climbing. Personal specialness comes to me from childhood when my folks drove me up 395 before dawn on our way to a summer vacation. What I recall looking up at that looming wall of giants was the feeling of a distant encounter with exclusive and untouchable beings. I think it's a reverence for that aloofness that makes me want to know, and so climb in the Sierra.

Here is something John Muir had to say about it: "You know, when the pilgrims were going from England to the Holy Land, the French would ask them 'Where are you going?' and they did not speak French very well, but they would say 'Sante Terre' (Holy Land). That is where we get our word 'saunter' and you should saunter through the Sierra because this is a Holy Land, if there ever was one."

If you care to, please tell the Echo what your favorite unlisted Sierra peak climb is and why. Thanks to those who responded to last issue's question. This issue's mystery peak was taken by myself (Jeff Solomon) in the summer of last year. Send your responses to Associate Editor: Jeff Solomon, 16 Silver Fir, Irvine CA 92714 (714) 552-7237.



THE SIERRA CLUB A HANDBOOK



Edited by

DAVID R. BROWER

Editorial Committee for the Handbook

ANSEL ADAMS, WILLIAM E. COLBY, CHARLOTTE E. MAUI,

HARRIET T. PARSONS, BLANCHI STALLINGA

San Francisco.

Sierra or Sierras?

THE SPANISH word *sierra* means "range of mountains," and is usually found in combination with other words, such as Sierra Blanca (White Range), Sierra Madre (Mother Range, or Central Range), and Sierra Nevada (Snowy Range). Occasionally *las sierras* is used to designate a group of mountain ranges or ridges. In the Spanish narratives of exploration *una sierra nevada* is frequently found written without capital initials, referring simply to a snow-covered range of mountains. It was in this way that our own Sierra Nevada was first designated. Early in the nineteenth century it was sometimes called the California Range by American explorers, but gradually the Spanish phrase prevailed, and after a while it became a specific name and took its place on all maps. The Sierra Nevada is distinctly a unit, both geographically and topographically, and is well described as "*una sierra nevada*." Strictly speaking, therefore, we should never say "Sierras," or "High Sierras," or "Sierra Nevadas" in referring to it. Nevertheless, these forms are so frequently found in the very best works of literature and science that it would perhaps be pedantic to deny their admissibility. It becomes, therefore, a matter of preference, and for our part we rather like to keep in mind the unity of our great range by calling it simply "The Sierra" or "The Sierra Nevada."

Having thus promised not to look askance at "Sierras," we may perhaps be spared the pain of bearing "Sierra Nevada Mountains." Surely one does not say "Loch Katrine Lake," "Rio Grande River," or "Saint San Francisco."

This note by Francis Farquhar, the authority on Sierra place names, first appeared in the *Bulletin* in 1928. Largely owing to his editorial effort, the name "Sierras" is perhaps less admissible now than it was then. Some speakers and writers have gone farther than Farquhar would wish: they drop the terminal *s* all right, but, forgetting the unity of the range, they consider the name to be plural, e.g., "The Sierra are . . ."

The name "Sierras" is still stuck to by a few recalcitrants who have probably concluded that logic has nothing to do with the acceptance of place names, and who could cite, in accepted nomenclature, many redundancies such as Little Chico Creek (Little Little Creek). We cannot argue logically with persons who deprecate logic.]

We have been alerted to the improper use of the word "Sierras" in our publication. Steven Thaw has provided us with a citation, reprinted below, from an original authority on the proper use of the word. We are going to take immediate steps to correct the flagrant misuse of the word starting with the next issue. Remember, we climb in the Sierra, not in the Sierras! But, no matter what you call them, do enjoy them this summer!

ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

Mt. Humphreys East Arete

September 19, 1987
Dick Beach

I had not left anything on the summit of this peak except too many memories of past ascents. Of all the routes on this mountain, the East Arete is the most enjoyable. (Norman Clydes 1927 solo route) Yet, the thought of one more jaunt up yee ole arete with my wife, climbing friend Bob Good, his wife and newcomer to this adventure, Ron Stone of Bishop, all led to the idea of doing another one day, east ridge approach.

We drove a truck and dune buggy to McGee roadhead above the Buttermilks to a shepherd's camp on Friday night. It was cool and clear, by the time we arrived around 9:00 p.m. The lights of Bishop mirrored like the stars above. We were hiking by 5:30 p.m. across sagebrush to the southern valley below the south face of Humphreys.

For anyone who has done this peak knows the back chutes have a bit to be desired. Both the long hike in and crud in the chutes encountered with a group can make the ascent very discouraging. In contrast, the East arete is clean rock and can be done in one day. (Unfortunately, one cannot have everything, this would be a long day).

Our eager group enjoyed the sunrise as we walked to the beginning of the main chute to the East arete. There are two chutes (one wishes to take the closest to the South Face). By 10:30 we were on the ridge. The route is usually a fast moving class three. With five climbers and three who were new to it all, plus with this technical stuff, they slowed down to a cautious crawl. The fearless three decided to rope up immediately. Half way up a 5th class wall (one pitch) is reached. It can be passed on the south corner up an easier 4th class crack system. (one pitch).

By this time our group became somewhat weary of Bob and I saying, "Just over the bump, the hardest is behind us". But actually this was true at this point. After that section an additional one hundred feet of over and around arete climbing on loose 3rd class put everyone at the edge of the Humphreys plateau just below "Married Man's Point". Our group had several hundred feet of semi flat pleasant soft sand walking. The girls remarked this was the only normal part of the climb. Mind you they hadn't seen the final imposing summit block just over the rise. After a quick briefing of what to expect on first impressions of Humphreys summit pinnacle, we proceeded to Married Man's Point. Shreaks of terror echoed the walls around us.

Once again the old impact of Married Man's Point did it's trick. "What do you mean the hardest is behind us," seemed to be the gist of their thoughts. I pulled on some emergency mountaineering terminology by replying, "The whole face lies back." From the amount of rocks I received I don't believe I was convincing.

Once at the base I was redeemed momentarily. Then, "Belay Borden" set in. Plus the use of a new term called "pull" which seemed to sum up the flavor of the struggle. With all do respect to their ability, they were climbing much better at this point. The "pulls" just helped a bit. We managed to get everyone to the summit at the restless hour of 4:30 p.m. Although the view at this time of day was indeed spectacular with shadows and bright

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reflections covering Desolation Basin, the urgency of our descent became immediate. In order to descend off the north side, we used belay ropes on our three newcomers. Infact, for those of the progressive school of belaying new bloods, where time is of the essence, the belayer ties in the middle of the rope, leads, then brings up both ends one at a time. Even with this tack it still took too long on the ridge and down to the rapell spot. Ron had never rapelled before (what a great spot to learn) HaHa. After two excellent rapells of sixty feet he was ready for anything.

From the junction of the north ridge and north face chutes I decided to descend the quickest most direct route. The sun was leaving fast! I had brought a two piece ice axe in the event we would run out of time. Our descent was directly down 2nd class slopes to the Humphreys Bergshrund. To our surprise the shrund was covered over with rocks enabling an easy step over at a dark 8:00, (usually this place requires a short rapell - there are several old anchor pins for this). The ice axe was not necessary, yet, had I not packed the darn thing I wouldn't have considered this route! "Thanks axe".

We walked to the edge of the glacial moraine where another 3,000 feet of grunge to McGee Lake, (which couldn't even be seen). Someone took the moon it seemed. By 11:00 p.m. we were at the lake shore.

Luckily I packed an ore car out years earlier from this spot making a well implanted vision of where the old fisherman trail was (what is left of it) in my mind.

We had lamps and were definitely favoring an exploring pace, we were able to stay two out of three miles on course. Our last stretch was cross country dead reconing. Arriving at the cars at 12:00 a.m. then back to Bishop at 2:00 a.m.

The group then approached me and expressed these simple thoughts for their next climb - "We'll call you for the next outing, don't even think of calling us." Bob and I sat down on the tailgate of Ron's truck, drank one of the last beers I ever had in a toast to our illustrious three who did an incredible climb especially considering they had never attempted anything so enduring and in a mere nineteen hours!

The "Best of the PCT", Part 6

Campy

In our continuing saga, the scheduled January Pacific Crest Trail weekend was to have been spent in the Southern Sierra Jawbone Canyon area. However, a cold December and above-normal snowfall reduced our options yet further. The trail was under snow until just north where Bird Spring Pass crosses the Skodie Mountains. A storm was then forecast for the weekend, technically cancelling the trip, but we showed up at Red Rock Canyon just in case. Co-leader Jon Lutz and Betsy arrived, and so did several others, with the day sunny and clear. We drove to Bird Spring Pass to hike north into the Skodies--a sort of a "Joshua Trees to Pine Trees" kind of trail. The PCT climbs to nearly the top of Skinner Peak (7167 ft), yet there were only traces of snow. We hiked about 5 miles, had lunch where the trail meets the Horse Canyon four-wheel drive road, and then returned under worsening weather. Three of us climbed Skinner Peak; easy now, compared with the former stiff climb from Kelso Valley. Full-blown storm when we reached the cars, and we concluded that Sunday would be best spent at home.

After an all-day drive including a stop over in Reno for dinner, we arrived at Frenchmen's Lake for the start of our week's trip. Thanks to the ungodly wakeup call by Rob Roy McDonald & Gene (5-5:30 a.m.), our planned itinerary kept to the scheduled trip writeup that was sent out to about 8 prospective participants. The group ended up with 5, including leaders, and one other joining us on Monday (7/13).

Adams & Mt. Elwell (7/10) - Adams went well in the morning in spite of the prickly obstacles. Armed with 4WDs there's no problem getting past the mine, up the "right" road and up the ridge to an obvious turnaround spot. (Roy Ward's 7/31-8/6/76). There was no register on either summit. Rob Roy placed a canister on the northwest summit which appears to be about one inch higher than the one east. By contrast, a trail up and around Lakes Basin made for a pleasant early afternoon climb. We had agreed not to leave a register on those peaks that were more accessible to the general public where an SPS canister might not last very long. There was no register on Elwell, we left nested tin cans. That evening we camped below Packer Lake in an unimproved campground. Pasta & wine in RR's friendly camper relieved our hunger and comfortable seats helped assuage our sore knees, ankles, toes and whatever else ails climbers.

Sierra Buttes, Lola & English (7/11) - You can take your pick with the first peak of the day - either drive up near the summit (as so many locals do since we encountered a number of vehicles), or hike up via the PCT just to work the legs. For Lola, the road can be tricky, but once on the Henness Pass Road going west we kept a careful look (after passing many logging roads on the left side) for approx. 9 mi. and stopped at the intersection where we left Rob Roy's camper then headed southwest for the Cold Stream trail. Once on top of the peak, we looked around for a register which we finally found in a rock shelter just below the summit (a bible had been placed on it but we opted not to sign in). Rob Roy tidied up the container in the shelter and placed a new notebook. On to and around Bowen Lake to Jackson Meadow arriving at East Meadow CG around 6:00 p. Here, only Gene and I wanted English. Past CatFish Lake we parked at a log clearing a few feet past our route of French Creek. Over and up thru brush, meadow & more brush, I asked Gene if we could take the apparently less brushy ridge portion to the north (paid my price for hiking in shorts). He encouraged the route up southwest, and as usual, he was right. No register, Gene left a canister. Got out of there just as the lights went out. Back to camp around 9:30 and dinner for a starving bunch.

Castle & Rose (7/12) - On to Hwy. 40. From E. Meadow CG to Donner Pass, west toward Norden. After climbing fun Castle Peak (4WD a definite advantage) - Ron Young and I would not have missed doing the double summit - we returned to the cars and left Rob Roy to carry on with our Claire Tappan Lodge reservations. The rest of the group went on to Nev. Hwy 27 for Mt. Rose. From the Mt. Rose Summit starting at the gate to the left of the road it's approx. 9 mi. RT. A very popular peak with bikers. We hurried back just in time to enjoy dinner and jacuzzi at the

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Lodge. Next day, a wonderful breakfast and pack lunch all for \$21.50 p.p. Highly recommend this stay if you're in the area.

Granite Chief & Tinker Knob (7/13) - On to Squaw Valley where the temperature was 80 degrees by 10 a.m.! To avoid some of the heat we took the tram and headed for the Watkins Monument, then down the bowl and up trail north to the peak. Here Rob Roy placed a canister and parted company so he could pick up Chuck Stein at the A/P who would join us for the balance of the trip. Gene skipped the climb since he already had the peaks. We assigned him to do the laundry. Three of us continued on the ridge No. to Tinker Knob. The loss of 1400 ft. in that heat might as well have been a descent into hell. I left a canister. We dragged out of there finally reaching the cars at 7:00 p. Stopped for dinner in Tahoe City where we enjoyed a good dinner at "Murphy's" then arrived in camp after 10:00 p. Rob Roy, Gene & Chuck had had a much earlier arrival at our reserved KOA CG (So. of Lake Tahoe near Hwy 50/89), and did not enjoy a dinner of cold canned beans while worrying and waiting for us. Then at last hot showers - but a very late bedtime.

Pyramid &/or Highland (7/14) - Here, the group parted company. Gene & Ron Young went for Pyramid - via the regular route of Lyons Creek, while Rob Roy, Chuck & I went on to Ebbetts Pass for Highland. We followed the Mantle route (7/30-31/83) and placed a canister on the summit. The afternoon showed promise of a thunderstorm; mercifully the weather cooled down enough to send us a few drops of rain on the way out. Back at the KOA Gene and Ron had arrived. Both parties of two had had successful climbs. (Chuck still on the mend from his auto injuries had gone back to the Ebbetts Pass parking lot & Mary Sue on the mend from sore knees went to enjoy the hot waters in Markleeville). That evening we all went to dinner casino-style in So. Lake Tahoe.

Freel & Round Top (7/15) - Freel cannot be approached by the Oneida Road as described in Greg Vernon's write up of 6/9/79 and as described later on in Bill T.'s writeup. From the summit, we could sight several logging roads to the south that might approach Armstrong Pass at just about the same distance as the Oneida route. No register; Gene placed a canister. Upon our return, we found a polite but firm note on the windshield informing us we were on private property. After lunch in Meyers, Junction 50/89, we joined Rob Roy & Chuck at the KOA parking lot to head for Twin Lakes and camping at Woods Lake that afternoon (with much cooler weather), and climb Round Top -- another fun peak! Gene had made dinner reservations at Caples Lake Lodge which turned out to be a memorable experience. What a way to cap the day! a view of the peak - the lake below ... alpen glow ... all from the vantage point of the Lodge while enjoying great company, an excellent meal and wine.

Disaster (7/16) - Early drive over to Sonora Pass and Iceberg Meadow. Gene attempted to find the use trail on the ridge that leads directly north to the peak. After some sighting and debating, it really works out better if you stay on the Paradise Valley trail where a prominent ridge to the north led me to believe it was the peak. Coming up on the trail toward the plateau, however, the evident high point is to the right. Near the top the wind had picked up and gusting so we didn't spend much time on the summit. Down the backside on scree, some brush,

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crossed the canyon, and back on the trail. The drive back on this high pass and popping onto 395 felt like I'd been "let out" with the anticipation of arriving in Mammoth for our layover day. After an entertaining dinner in Bridgeport (with the waitress providing the entertainment), as promised, Motel 6 in Mammoth Lakes, hot shower and a real bed.

Mammoth Lakes (7/17) - The weather turned super-cold. Seems we had just beat out the storm up North. After a great breakfast, we leisurly started toward home stopping at Cottonwood Meadows to make ready to celebrate Dave Dykeman's SPS finish.

Muah 7/18 - This climbing and convivial celebration capped a wonderful summer vacation.

Many thanks to Gene for his invaluable assistance; to Rob Roy for the use of his camper and companionship on Highland; to Mary Sue for her contribution in giving us a ride to Highland and Castle; to Ron Young for joining us and assisting in the lead, and to Chuck Stein for being there.

Vi

TEHIPITE DOME, SPANISH MOUNTAIN

September 5-7, 1987

G. Toby, A. Conrad

A good paved road goes from Shaver Lake to the Wishon Dam. Seven climbers met Sat. (9/5) at the dam. We drove across the dam and then about 4 miles on a paved road to a large flat parking area on the right. The Crown Creek Trail is directly across the road to the east. The trail quickly crosses Little Rancheria Creek and soon heads southeast to Statum Meadows. The topo map and the trails do not agree in this area. The trails are not well marked. This is cattle country. 250 head of cattle were driven out on this trail the day before. The trail was extremely dry and dusty. The cow cabins shown of the map are much closer to the trail junction than indicated. We found the trail heading northeast from Statum Meadows and went past cow camp, Cow Meadow, Wet Meadow (not wet this year), Crown Valley Ranger Station, and down hill to Crown Creek. Crown Creek was very low and was crossed in 15 seconds. We met Rob Roy McDonald at an excellent camp 300 meters North of the crossing. He hiked in the day before.

Sunday (9/6), we ascended east on the trail to a saddle about one mile south of Kettle Dome then headed south down the ridge and creek bed to the base of Tehipite Dome. We kept to the left a short distance then went directly up the center of a 15 foot class 3 slab formation. There is a two foot step up and friction climb to the backbone of the ridge. The leader free climbed it and belayed people up. Then it is a class 2 walk up to the top of the dome. Only 7708' high, Tehipite Dome has a breath taking view of the Kings River thousands of feet below. Reluctantly, we returned to camp. We headed west up the Crown Valley Trail about 3 miles to camp to a large meadow next to an abandoned log cabin tourist camp of about 9 cabins complete with running water, tables, and toilets. There was an old blacksmith shop and 18 foot waterwheel apparently used to generate electricity. We spent a very pleasant evening there.

Monday (9/7), we headed west to the trail past the Ranger Station and about 1/2 mile to the junction with the Spanish Mt. Trail, well marked. We headed south to another junction at a little lake, then east and south on the trail to the peak. The trail goes almost to the summit. In places it is very faint and requires some route finding. We placed a new canister and register book on Spanish Mt. We returned to the little lake, then northwest on good trails to Spanish Meadow, Statum Meadow, and on to the cars. Good people and a great trip.

--George

SHEPHERD PASS, March 19-20 & April 16-17 Secor, Rohn, & McDonald

Our first two trail parties have been a great success. Eleven people signed up for our March trail party, and somehow we ended up with twelve workers! Most went to work on the thick brush that was choking the trail at the 6,500' level while a smaller group realigned the trail and did some light tread work. Temperatures during the day were just cool enough to be pleasant, and the evening was cozy thanks to Anna Lou Pinson's delicious stew and the 14' x 16' USFS wall tent provided by Marty Hornick of the Mt. Whitney Ranger District. On Sunday the brush work was pushed to the 6,800' level, and a stream crossing was constructed at the 6,600' level.

Things were a bit more ominous before the April trail party. It had stormed in the Sierra two days before the party, and the snow level was at 6,300', i.e., at the roadhead. At one point 21 people had signed up before the trip but only ten appeared at the roadhead, with occasional glances at the cloudy sky. Since the trail was covered with snow we forsook tread work in favor of brushing and managed to clear all of the brush from the trail to the 6,900' level. On Saturday afternoon we started gathering rocks for stream crossings when the impact of the LA Department of Water & Power's cloud seeding program hit us with full force, i.e., it began to rain. We spent the rest of the day in Marty's tent. Sunday was clear and it stayed that way all day. Dave Underwood and Donna O'Shaughnessy did the tread work while the rest of us constructed a stream crossing at the 6,800' level.

Here is a list of participants and the number of person-days spent working on the Shepherd Pass Trail:

John Secor-4	Robby Heath-2	Bill T. Russell-2
R.J. Secor-4	Rob Roy McDonald-2	Pat Russell-2
Dave Underwood-4	Gene Mauk-2	Fred Camphausen-1
Rich Abele-2	Donna O'Shaughnessy-2	Kevin Comone-1
Al Conrad-2	Anna Lou Pinson-2	Dave Petzold-1
Dave Dykeman-2	Ted Pinson-2	
John Foley-2	Norm Rohn-2	Total=41 person-days.

HUNTINGTON

August 22-23, 1987

Keating, Fletcher, Whisman

Tom's Place was the initial gathering place Sat. for eight persons seeking a leisurely backpack and an optional climb of an unlisted but named peak on the main crest of the Sierra.

Two persons withdrew from this joint SPS/Backpacking outing because of a family member's illness, but everyone else completed the 5-mile backpack to camp at 10,400' in the Hilton Creek Lakes drainage in about 2 1/4 hours. The weather was cloudless but cool.

After lunch, four enthusiasts headed for Mt. Huntington (12,405') via the canyon Guide, but the topo suggested several possibilities on the peak's loose North face. Because of this year's lack of snow, a route was easily found by Dick Agnos that stayed within high class 2. The route topped out at 12,000' on the crest NW of the summit without difficulty, but then involved an upward traverse--all on the NE side of the crest--across the heads of several loose chutes before reaching the stable rock in the summit area. A cairn marks the top, but no register was found. The panorama of Pioneer Basin was excellent.

The descent started along a ridge pointing directly at camp, but then turned after 100 yards directly North down a major chute. As the chute steepened, the party moved over one chute farther and followed it to the canyon bottom.

Sunday was a day to sleep in and then stroll back to the cars.

--Jerry Keating

Interest in this fishing and climbing trip into the Muir Wilderness seemed good until two days prior to its start when there were four cancellations. The leaders and Mary's (she was Gygax until very recently) husband Rayne met at the turnoff from State Route 168 to the Bear Creek Diversion Dam. The road to the dam is posted as four-wheel drive but it's really a good high-clearance route. We met our fourth member, Ed Kenney, who had gone in a day early, at the south end of Rosemarie Meadow and decided to camp right there just off the Muir Trail.

On Monday we hiked south along the Muir Trail past Marie Lake almost to the Selden Pass, turned west and followed the usual route (*Echoes* 25-3 and 29-7) over the saddle southeast of Hooper and up to its summit. All climbed the fun summit block around its left side and placed a new register and canister. The rope was comforting. Three proceeded on to Senger where they were met by a snowstorm and arrived back at camp near dark. Norm returned from Hooper via Rose Lake and a bit of exploring.

Tuesday was to be a lay over and fishing day. Some thoughtless campers left a burning fire in a wooded and duff covered spot near our camp during the night. By morning it was blazing away and covered an area about twenty yards in diameter. A few hours of work with the help of other hikers on the Muir Trail beat, shovelled and watered it down.

Wednesday we headed for Gemini over a trail marked on the Sierra Forest map but not the topo via Lou Beverly and Sandpiper Lakes. Near the Medley Lakes we went east over a saddle past a round unnamed lake at 11,000'+ and up the lake filled draw to its south and east. Here the best route is probably up that drainage almost to the Gemini-Seven Gables saddle, then south along the west face of Gemini, gaining the west spur just west and south of the northern summit. The higher south summit is then easily reached by climbing east up the talus field. After placing a new register and admiring all the SPS peaks in view in all directions we proceeded down along the west rib. Three left for Seven Gables, going nearly directly to the Medley and Sandpiper Lakes. From Sandpiper they climbed to the rocky bowl northwest of Seven Gables, up past the permanent snowfield high on the north face and up the west ridge to the summit. It's a fine peak with an interesting summit block. This route is far easier than the knife-edge approach from the south. Norm returned to camp from Gemini via Three Island Lake and more exploring of some beautiful camping areas.

Thursday we started out and things went so easily that we went all the way. Ed stopped along the Muir Trail a half mile or so south of Kip Camp trail intersection (a mile and a half down Bear Creek from the Hilgard Branch) for a side excursion to bag Recess Peak. He reported 3 hours up and 2 down. The Bear Creek Trail is a fine one, following for the most part the very good looking stream.

Drove up to the Vermillion Resort at Edison Lake for some ice and a nice dinner, then stopped at the Little Eden pool above Mono Hot Springs for a long warm soak. Delightful! Finally drove to the Jackass Meadow campground below the Florence Lake Dam for a last campfire and a night's rest. It was a fine trip. I only wish more people could have enjoyed it.

--- 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

SPS member moving east seeks climbing partners for class 3 climbs during August Sierra vacation. Have midweek permits for: 8/8 Ritter & Banner; 8/15 Emerson & Goethe; 8/22 Red Slate & Morrison. Call Joseph Boyland (Jr.) at (213) 820-8535. After May 31st contact at (617) 665-4180, 300 Park Terrace Drive, #306 Stoneham, MA 02180.

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