

*The
Sierra*



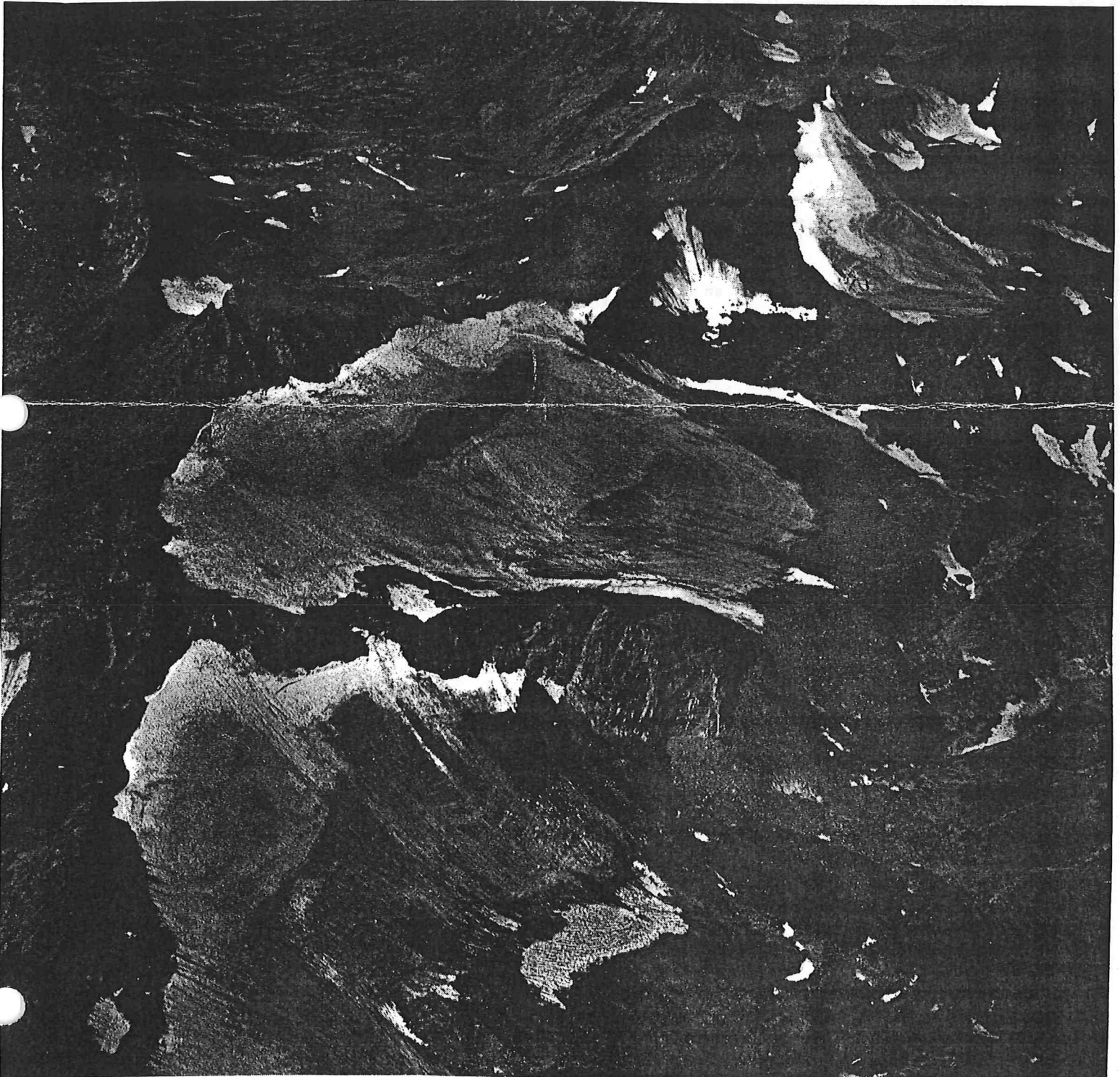
ECHO

VOLUME 35

1991

MAY-JUNE

NUMBER 3



SPS SPRING 1991 SCHEDULED CLIMBS

JUNE

15-16 I: Rockhouse, Taylor Dome
Dave Petzold, Carolyn West

22-23 M: Moses, N. Maggie
Kathy Price, Bob Hartunian

29-30 I: Taylor Dome, Sirretta, Smith
Charles Knapke, Barbara Cohen

JULY

3-7 I: Florence, Vogelsang, Davis, Foerster, Electra, & Rodgers
Dave Petzold, Dale Van Dalsem

NOTE: Unfavorable snow conditons may require cancellation of some of these trips.

SUMMER/FALL CLIMBS, SPS 1991

Month	Date	Location	Climber(s)
JULY	13-14	M: Kearsarge, Dragon	Larry Tidball, Scot Jamison
	13-14	I: Gibbs, Koip	Jim Raiford, Barbara Cohen
	13-14	I: Tunnabora, Carillon	George Toby, Al Conrad
	13-14	I: Royce, Marriam	Jim Adler, Karen Leonard
	13-14	M: Goode, Gilbert, Johnson	Doug Mantle, Randy Danta
	19-27	M: McDuffie, Black Giant, Charybdis, Scylla, Goddard, Fiske, Huxley, McGee, Emerald, Henry	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
	19-21	M: Julius Caesar, Hilgard	Doug Mantle, Vi Grasso
	20-21	M: McAdie, Irvine	Larry Tidball, Bill Oliver
	20-21	I: Florence, Franklin Lakes	Eivor Nilgson, Ron Young
	20-21	M: Mystery Peak	Maris Valkass, Jim Farkas
27-28	I: Arrow, Cardinal	Virgil Talbott, Randy Danta	
AUGUST	2-5	M: the Kaweahs	Reiner Stenzel, Bill Oliver
	2-10	M: Henry, Emerald, Mendel, Goethe, McGee, Scylla	George Toby, Al Conrad
	3-4	M: Dade, Mills	Dave Dykeman, Roy Magnuson
	3-4	I: Gould, Bago	Barbara Cohen, Jim Raiford
	10-11	M: Mystery Peak	Maris Valkass, Jim Farkas
	17-18	M: Center Peak	Dave Dykeman, Don Borad
	22-25	M: Deerhorn, W. Vidette, E. Vidette, Bago	Bill T. Russell, Bill Gray
	24	M: Mt. Gould	Kathy Price, Randy Danta
	25	I: Kearsarge	Jim Adler, Randy Danta
	30-2	I: Triple Divide, Lion Rock, Stewart	Igor & Suzanne Mamedalin
SEPTEMBER	30-2	M: Carson-Iceberg Wilderness	Gordon MacLeod, Neko Colevins
	30-2	I: Marion, Pyramid, Wynne, Pinchot, Striped, Goodale	D. Van Dalsem, Vi Grasso
	31-2	M: Foerster Peak	Dave Dykeman, Nancy Gordon
	31-2	M: Brewer, M. & S. Guard, Farquhar	Bill Oliver, Larry Tidball
	7-8	M: Russell, Thor, Carillon	Bill Bradley, Fred Camphausen
	13-16	M: E. Vidette, Deerhorn, W. Vidette, Center, Bradley, Bago, Rixford	D. Van Dalsem, Larry Tidball
	14-15	I: Morrison, San Joaquin	Patty Kline, Bob Hartunian
	21	I: Dana (Jim's list finish)	Jim Murphy, Steve Thaw
	21-22	M: Thompson, Powell	Dave Petzold, Larry Tidball
	21-22	M: Wallace, Haeckel	Randy Danta, Bill Oliver
OCTOBER	28-29	I: Johnson, Cloudripper	Larry Tidball, Steve Thaw
	28-29	I: Lone Pine, Mt. Mallory	Igor & Suzanne Mamedalin
	28-29	I: Mt. Tom, Basin	Ed Zdon, Bruce Parker
	5-6	I: Three Sisters	Dave Petzold, Carolyn West
	12-13	I: Clouds Rest	George Hubbard, Mary McMannes
	12-13	M: Harrington, Kennedy	Vaughn Sherman, Bruce Parker
	19-20	I: Silver Peak	Dave Petzold, Carolyn West
	19-20	I: Scodie Mtn, Lamont Pk	Jerry & Nancy Keating, Walt Whisman
	26-27	M: Sawtooth, Needham	Ed Zdon, Bruce Parker

SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JULY 10 WEDNESDAY
"The Andes." Join Larry Tidball on an adventure in South America.

AUGUST 14 WEDNESDAY
"Makalu." Jim Farkas speaks about the American expedition to the fifth highest summit in the world.

SEPT 11 WEDNESDAY
"Mexican Volcanoes." RJ Secor presents a program on climbing the lofty volcanoes of central Mexico.

OCT 9 WEDNESDAY
"The Khumbu." Patty Kline speaks on the heart of the Himalayas, the Khumbu region of Nepal.

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE L.A. DEPT. OF WATER AND POWER AT 111 N. HOPE STREET IN THE L.A. CIVIC CENTER. AUDITORIUM ON LEVEL A (1 FLOOR BELOW MAIN LOBBY). 7:30 PM. REFRESHMENTS SERVED. NEWCOMERS WELCOME!

PEAK INDEX

Devil's Crag #1
Eastern Europe Pks
Finger Pk
Granite Pk, Montana
Nepal Trekking Pks
Mt Reinstein
Tunemah Pk

PAID ADVERTISING

HOLLADAY FLYING SERVICE: On demand charter: Passenger - Freight, IFR/VFR, 4 seat twin Commanche. \$170/hr. Will, 805-541-5207. Also coastal tour flights - Hearst Castle.

For Sale: Avon Pro boat (excellent shape). Adjustable frame w/ main & rear decks. 4 each: 10' ash oars, life jackets, H2O bags. Carlson pump. \$2000. Will, 805-541-5207.

COVER PHOTO: Lyell Glacier from northeast, August 24, 1972. Photo by Austin Post, #72R2-77, USGS Ice & Climate Project, Tacoma, WA, 98416. Thanks to R. J. Secor for supplying this photograph.

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

Snow

After three or more years of lackluster Sierra snowfall, it appears that Spring of '91 will witness a significant deposition. Although this is welcome news for drought relief, it will undoubtedly force many of our early-to-mid summer trips to be cancelled or "privatized." Citing the problem is far easier than offering constructive solutions.

DWP Meeting Site

Starting 10 July, join us at our new monthly meeting site at the Department of Water and Power Bldg. (111 N. Hope Street). Centrally located in downtown LA, it offers free, secure parking, a good cafeteria serving til 7 pm, and a large projection screen. Refer to the map in the April ECHO for freeway details. Tell the parking kiosk guard that you're attending the Sierra Club meeting.

[Late Breaking Update: while the Auditorium is under renovation for a few months, we will meet in the Stage Area of the Dining Room.]

However and with whomever you go, climb high, climb safe, come back and share the glad tidings.

Bill O.

SIERRA CLUB MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

The Angeles Chapter Hdqtrs was the site of the 6 April meeting of this body, which convenes spring and fall. Attending were Bruce Hope (Chair), John Cheslick (MTC), Bill Oliver (SPS), Bill T. Russell (DPS), Jerry Abad (Bay Area RCS - a social club), and Bill Rausch (Loma Prieta). Topics pursued included:

Insurance - Current climbing restrictions (no ropes, no ice axes) remain in place and the underwriter is unwilling at this time to discuss any additional modifications to these restrictions. Annual premiums remain prohibitively expensive (on the order of \$500K).

Separate Incorporation - Our present corporate organization makes it all but impossible for us to purchase climbing insurance. Creation of a separate corporate structure for "hazardous" activities may remain our last chance for returning mountaineering to the Sierra Club. Bruce Hope has requested to be a member of the taskforce which is being organized to work on this issue. He is in communication with Phil Berry of the Club's Legal Committee.

Environmental Issues - Regarding bolting on rock climbs, a preliminary policy statement was developed. (A) The Club strongly discourages the excessive placement of bolts and pitons, particularly in Wilderness Areas. Clean climbing, with all its attendant benefits to the environment, should receive renewed emphasis. (B) The Club believes that the use of power tools (e.g., rechargeable electric drills) to place bolts on climbs in designated Wilderness Areas should be prohibited.

The Fall Meeting will be on 29 September in San Francisco.

(Taken from the Minutes as recorded by Bruce Hope)



United States
Department of Agriculture

Certificate of Appreciation

Awarded to

**Sierra Club
Sierra Peaks Section
Angeles Chapter**

Thank you for volunteering hundreds of hours of time and labor to maintain the Shepherd Pass Trail during the Adopt-a-Trail Program, 1988-1990.

Date 10 April 1991

Arthur L. Gaffrey
Arthur L. Gaffrey
District Ranger



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Sierra Peaks Section
Attn: R.J. Secor
2366 Las Lunas
Pasadena, CA 91107

Reply to 1830

Date 1 May 1991

Dear R.J.,

This certificate of appreciation is only a small token of our thanks to you and the Sierra Peaks Section of the Sierra Club, for your devotion to the Adopt-a-Trail program on the Mt. Whitney Ranger District.

Your work parties the past 3 years have allowed us to repair, reconstruct, and maintain the Shepherd Pass Trail to a standard that would have been difficult without your help. We know this work was accomplished by volunteering hundreds of hours of people's time to plan, organize, drive long distances, and toil doing heavy physical labor. The dedication of the Sierra Peaks Section in caring for this special part of the Sierra is truly appreciated.

We hope to work with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Arthur L. Gaffrey

Arthur L. Gaffrey
District Ranger

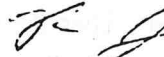
Dear Vi,

I want to formally thank you for the pen set which you gave me in recognition of my work on behalf of the SPS on the Shepherd Pass Trail.

I had a similar pen and holder on my desk, until the earthquake of October 1987 smashed it to smithereens. I gradually got used to using the pens in my pockets, but I found myself still reaching for the non-existent pen up until last month.

You have selected a very useful and appropriate memento, and I use it every day. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

Sierraly,


R.J. Secor

Note: a successor to R.J. has yet to come forward. He's available to assist in continuing this worthwhile effort. Think about it and give him or Bill Oliver a call.

RESOUNDING ECHOES by Bill Oliver

The following three items first appeared in the Sierra ECHO of October 1972:

LIST OF UNCLIMBED PEAKS DWINDLES

With the SPS's 17th season nearly complete, only seven of the 242 qualifying peaks remain to be climbed on a scheduled trip.

They are Disappointment (which Dennis Lantz hopes to lead in 1973), Round Top, Disaster, Highland, Lola, English, and Adams.

First scheduled ascents were made in 1972 of State (Doug Mantle), Observation (Dick May), Scylla (Jerry Keating), Emerald (John Robinson), Electra, Pettit and Volunteer (Paul Lipsohn), and Elwell (Steve Harding).

- - Jerry Keating

DID YOU STOP TO FIGURE THIS UP?

Now that the price of topographic maps has gone up to 75 cents (that's from the USGS - stores will charge more) - SPSers may be horrified to find out that it takes 44 maps (mostly 15-minute series) to cover all the peaks on the current SPS list of 242 peaks.

The biggest bargain is the Mt. Whitney quad with 43 peaks, followed by Mt. Goddard with 34, Mt. Pinchot with 21, Mt. Abbott with 15, Big Pine with 11, and Triple Divide Pk with 11. All other maps cover less than 10, and 15 have only 1 peak each!

- - Barbara Lilley

FILM CANS WANTED

Barbara Lilley would like to have empty film cans for use as registers on seldom climbed, numbered peaks. Bring them to SPS meetings - she will see that Andy Smatko receives a large share of them also!

Current Comments

1. All listed peaks (247) have now been led by the SPS. With the current insurance restrictions, however, not all can still be led (bummer!).
2. All our peaks are now available on 7.5-min quads (\$2.50 minimum). Does anyone care to figure out the biggest bargain among the 7.5-min quads? Send responses to the ECHO Editor.
3. It is assumed that, by now, Barbara Lilley has enough empty film cans and, most likely, so does Andy Smatko. Is anyone else in need?

Mountain Records

by Bill T Russell, Chair

For many years the SPS has been the designated Sierra Club entity to maintain registers on SPS listed peaks. SPS climbers have done great work, but the job is never done. Therefore all SPS members are hereby made members of the Mountain Records Committee and urged to send in reports on the status of registers and to place containers and books as needed. We do this for all climbers because signing a register adds to the sense of completion of the climb; it adds to our enjoyment.

We have a big red loose leaf notebook with one page for each peak. Past Mtn Records chairs have entered data as they received it but some of the data is ambiguous and 2/3 rds of the entries date from 1988 or earlier. Therefore we ask all of you to send data. What kind of container? What register books? Starting and ending dates? If the container won't hold any more books, bring down the oldest but otherwise leave the full books on the peak.

The SPS has register books for you to place. They are 6.1 inch by 4.7 inch, side stiched, memo books with 144 pages. These books are available at bigger stationery stores. We recommend against use of spiral bound memo books. They fall apart, are hard to bend and take up too much space. The SPS books have a glued on label which says:

PLEASE

- Fill the old register before opening this one.
- Write sparingly--only name, date, brief remarks. Make the register last for years.
- Fill every page--several entries per page.
- Leave this register here when full for future climbers to enjoy.

The SPS has cylindrical aluminum register containers. We thank Charles Gerkens, a long time Sierra Club member, for making these for us at a very reasonable price. Our records indicate that containers are needed on the following peaks:

Arrow	Eisen	Huxley	Morrison	Thor
Black Giant	Genevra	Iron	Powell	Three Sisters
Clyde Minaret	Gray	Jordon	Senger	Tinemaha
Cotter	Henry	Mallory	The Hermit	Tunemah

If you are going to one of these peaks, Please get a container and carry it up!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Reactivated Members

Rodney Schaerer
410A E. 21st St.
Long Beach, CA 90806
213-599-7103

Roberts, Jim & Doris McClure
P.O. Box 16329
Baltimore, MD 21210

New Member

Shalaby, Hoda
1030 W. Huntington Dr. #27
Arcadia, CA 91006
818-447-0331

Address Changes

Bailey, Scott & Kris Hutchin
6311 De Barr Road
Anchorage, AK 99504-1799

Freimanis, Harry
256 Kauai Lane
Placentia, CA 92670
714-579-1403

New Echo Subscribers

Ottolini, Rick
2721 Quail Ridge
Fullerton, CA 92635
714-529-2550

Lucas, Fred
23305 Cohasset St.
Canoga Park, CA 91304
805-254-6042

Parker, Bruce G.
756 S. Ridgeley #210
Los Angeles, CA 90036
213-388-7320

Wright, Ralph L.
28 Galloway Dr.
Concord, CA 94518
415-682-3006

Yager, Chris
2464 El Camino Real #500
Santa Clara, CA 95051-3002
408-243-3026

CONSERVATION

If you've been to recent meetings, you've heard of a new group, the High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA). Started by author Peter Browning only a few months ago, the group already has over 150 members. In the future, the group will be addressing all sorts of High Sierra wilderness issues such as cattle grazing, but its impetus now is concern over the number of pack animals that the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and adjacent wilderness areas may be allowing into these areas under rules currently being formulated. Although at the date of publication of this Echo, it is too late to get your personal input into the Parks' plan for limiting use of stock, the HSHA has submitted two proposals. One would ban stock use in the backcountry, while the other contained detailed stock management guidelines for the area. I have sent a donation to HSHA and have asked to be on their mailing list. I will keep you further informed on the progress of this group and hopefully we can get in on the ground floor with our letter-writing on the next issues of mutual concern. Donations and a request for your own copy of their newsletter may be sent to:

Action Alert
HSHA
P.O. Box 9865
Truckee, CA. 95737

Before closing this column, I will call your attention to a new approach to creating environmental awareness. Photographer Richard Misrach has rebelled against "Sierra Club photography" believing that you should "take the least beautiful landscape and think about what it means and what you're doing to it." To this end, he has published a coffee-table photography book entitled, Bravo 20: The Bombing of the American West. It commemorates the ravaging of the high desert by the American military and even proposed a new national park for the bombed site in Nevada.

Bring your own cup to meetings-any meeting.

Mary Sue Miller

FLASH FROM YOUR COUNCIL REP:

Gregg Solkovitz, Editor-in-Chief of The Southern Sierran, would like feedback from Outings Leaders. At the April 22nd Council meeting, he asked reps to carry out the message the SS wants to expand its scope of coverage to include contributions from trip leaders. Gregg remarked the publication is not just for conservation and political issues, and would like to see contributions from other Club entities' activities. If you have a writeup of your trip, private or lead, you wish to have published in the SS, submit it to the Editor in typed, double-spaced form.

Na

PROPOSED

RANGE OF LIGHT NATIONAL PARK

GREATER SIERRA NEVADA ECOSYSTEM

Some of the areas that would be fully or partially encompassed by the proposed Range of Light National Park:

- Yosemite National Park
- Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park
- Devils Postpile National Monument
- Ansel Adams Wilderness
- Golden Trout Wilderness
- Hoover Wilderness
- John Muir Wilderness

**RESOLUTION
IN HONOR OF CENTENNIAL YEAR OF FOUNDING OF
YOSEMITE AND SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARKS**

Whereas 1990 is the centennial year of the founding of both Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park, the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club endorses a visionary goal for the second century of these parks: the establishment of the RANGE OF LIGHT NATIONAL PARK. We envision this grand Range of Light National park, which is to include expanded Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks, and the John Muir Wilderness between them, as the culminating central focus of a coordinated administrative unit extending from the area of Lake Tahoe to south of Walker Pass to be known as the GREATER SIERRA NEVADA ECOSYSTEM.

BACKGROUND: These parks, the most northern and the most southern of the national parks of the Sierra Nevada, have been closely bound up with the history of the Sierra Club. As we look ahead to the second century for these parks, we see new concerns for national parks in general -- problems that require coordinated, integrated protection for whole ecosystems. Our two centennial parks, valuable as they are, are but a portion of a greater national treasure -- the entire Sierra Nevada ecosystem. The continued arbitrary fragmentation of the public lands of the greater Sierra Nevada ecosystem into three separate national parks, seven separate national forests and national forest administrative units, and several Bureau of Land Management units, while once valid as a phase in our country's history, becomes less justified for the future.

The above resolution was Approved by the San Francisco Bay Chapter executive committee on January 8, 1990, with wording slightly changed from the ORIGINAL resolution passed by the Bay Chapter wilderness subcommittee at its regular meeting on Dec. 19, 1989, and approved by Bay Chapter conservation committee. Jan. 4, 1990.

Vicky Hoover, chair, wilderness subcommittee



ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

GRANITE PEAK, MONTANA 12,799'
August 28, 1990
Rich Gnagy

This peak, the highest in Montana, is usually climbed by either of two routes. Both routes can start from the Mystic Lake Hydroelectric Plant. The first goes up the trail to Mystic Lake and takes the Phantom Creek Trail up to Froze to Death Plateau then cross country past Froze to Death Mtn to near Tempest Mtn where many previous climbers have left stone wall shelters. From here the route drops down to the saddle between Tempest and Granite. The other route starts the same but proceeds along the south shore of Mystic Lake to near the west end where Huckleberry Creek comes in. Proceed up Huckleberry Creek past several lakes to the Tempest-Granite saddle. In spite of many warnings about the latter route we chose it, because we felt that there would be less exposure if the weather turned bad and because we were more sure of having water late in the season. Also, John wanted to do some fishing.

We used the Granite Peak, Montana, Provisional Edition, USGS 7 1/2 minute topo map. The Approach to the roadhead is shown on Forest Service Map, Custer National Forest (Beartooth Division), Montana and Wyoming. State Route 78 goes between Columbus and Red Lodge, Montana. Turn west from this road about 2.8 miles south of Al-sarokee, drive through Fishtail then follow the signs to Mystic Lake. The last 14 miles could be called a good dirt road except for a washboard surface.

My son John and I got to the roadhead late in the afternoon and started up the trail about 4:30 and made camp at Mystic Lake just past Huckleberry Creek. (about 5 miles and 1,100 ft net gain but 1500 ft with ups and downs)

The next morning we proceeded up the west side of Huckleberry Creek past Huckleberry Lake to the north end of Princess Lake following various use trails and ducks. From here we went southeast up the stream not shown on the map which drains from Cold Lake. From Cold Lake there is tedious, huge talus to our campsite at the north end of Storm Lake. From our camp John caught seven trout in about half an hour.

The summit day was long and tedious, primarily because of the seemingly endless expanse of huge talus blocks along the east side of Storm Lake. The glacier was steep dirty ice so we opted to hike up to the saddle on solid ground east of the glacier.

Between the Tempest-Granite saddle and the summit of Granite there are four ribs or ridges dropping off to the south. The route from the saddle to the summit stays on the south side of the main ridge all the way. From the saddle head up the obvious route to the top of the first ridge just south of where it meets the main ridge. This ridge overlooks a steep snow filled gully. The far side of the gully is the second rib. It looks interesting. The notorious "snow bridge" described in previous writeups was apparently at the top of this

gully. An easy traverse to the top of the gully and about three easy steps in soft snow and we left the snow behind us. From this spot a duck can be seen part way up the face west of the gully. Traverse south and climb up to this duck. If you explore left from this duck you will find a ramp angling down and around the second rib. Don't take it. Instead, climb up from this duck to the next duck which we left on the way down. From here it is easy to pass around the second rib to the face between the second and third ribs. Climb high and traverse over to the third rib which is passed easily. Climb up and traverse across the face towards the fourth ridge, which drops down from the peak to the saddle between Sky Top Glacier and Avalanche Lakes. As you get to the steep rock below the summit, switch back to the right climbing up and traversing east then back to the west to climb up and over the fourth ridge. There are several rappel slings on this portion of the route and the route is well ducked. From the top of the fourth ridge it is an easy scramble to the summit.

We did not need our iceaxes but were glad to have our rope along. Most of the route was third class, but there are a couple of places where many people would feel better with a rope, especially on the descent.

On the way back to camp we passed two climbers coming up from the roadhead to camp at the Tempest-Granite saddle. There are two nice tentsites at the saddle, but one must either bring water from below or melt water from the glacier. The next day they climbed the peak and returned to the roadhead over Froze to Death Plateau, getting there before we did.

When we returned to camp after the climb, we found that two mountain goats had taken over our camp. They entertained us all through dinner and on into the night. A solo climber whom we met and who joined us on our climb to the summit mentioned that he had seen several goats on Froze to Death Plateau the previous day. We saw other wildlife on the trip but, fortunately, no bears. There were many snacks along the way, also, wild raspberries, blueberries (huckleberries), and gooseberries.

If I were to do this peak again, I would probably do it over Froze to Death Plateau, which is probably the fastest and easiest way. An experienced party in reasonable condition could do the peak round trip from the car in two days, but I rather enjoyed our more leisurely trip.

The day after we got out, we went over Beartooth Pass, through Yellowstone Park, and had dinner at the Jackson Lake Lodge in the Tetons before heading back to California, a fitting finish to a successful vacation.

FIRST ASCENT OF THE DEVIL'S CRAGS—CHAS. W. MICHAEL

On July 21, 1913, I left my camp on the headwaters of Rambaud Creek to try for the summit of the Devil's Crags, and after scanning the north wall of the mountain carefully, concluded that it was not feasible. I went on across the pass west of the peak, turned east and climbed a peak just south of the main peak, where I obtained a good view of the south wall. This seemed to be the only possible route, so I decided to make a try. I reached the summit at twelve o'clock after a difficult climb up a very narrow chimney. I came out on the knife-

edge about 100 yards east of the highest point.

The whole summit is nothing more than a very sharp knife-edge. I stayed on the summit till one P. M., and returned by the same route, arriving at the base camp at four P. M.

I discovered an old trail leaving Grouse Meadow going up Rambaud Creek, and crossing the Black Divide about a half mile east of the Devil's Crags.

Contributed by Steven Thaw

DEVILS CRAG #1
(Private Trip)
August 31 - September 2, 1990
Don Borad

At 6 AM on the Friday before Labor Day Lois Olsen, Beth Epstein, Phil Marquez and myself left South Lake for Grouse Meadow. This required us to cross Bishop Pass and camp well below our cars. The hike was long but not difficult and the weather was perfect. At 7 the next morning we waded across the middle fork of the Kings River at Grouse Meadow. The river is wide, slow and relatively shallow there and the crossing was easy. The marshy area on the opposite side was no problem in this low water year. Since I dislike bushwhacking I attempted a route suggested by Bill T. Russell in his Echo report. I headed up the hill south of Grouse Meadow on a dead South heading and hit a bench at 8800 ft. From there we contoured upward toward the headwaters of Rambaud Creek. We found easy paths through some manzanita and met Rambaud Creek at about 9800 feet. We could have delayed the meeting longer but I got thirsty. We made camp at the larger of the two lower lakes. This area is really pristine. Take care of it if you go there.

Not being list driven we decided to forego Wheel Mountain and spend the remainder of the day in relaxation. At 5:50 Sunday morning we set out for the peak. We found the Henry Cutoff easily and climbed it (not easily). This chute is a ghastly thing to behold without snow. A sneeze causes rock fall! At the top we went through the eastern most of two notches and contoured around the southwest side of White Top (Tip?) to the saddle south of it and scrambled up 100 feet of class 3+. At that point we decided to rope up and climb in two rope teams. Constant use of ropes made us feel more secure but was a mistake that cost us later. In my opinion the crux of the climb was a short (maybe 50 ft.) section where there is a very awkward and insecure shimmy down a rock with awesome exposure on both sides followed by a knife edge traverse. We did not fix a rope here but climbed through both ways. Though there were at least two other 4th class pitches none was as "exciting." We reached the summit at 2:30 PM and enjoyed the old register. I was eager to be able to put my name in the same canister with those famous people. We passed it around to make sure everyone had seen the Norman Clyde signature. If you decide to do this climb bring some scotch tape to repair the old register. We reversed direction and reached the Henry Cutoff at pitch dark. We couldn't proceed safely so we bivouacked. The superb weather continued and though we were miserable we survived the night. The reason for our slow pace is traceable to the continuous use of ropes during the climb. We were efficient but could have moved much faster if we had limited rope use to the 3 or 4 points where ropes were a necessity.

In the morning (Monday) we returned to camp where we packed up and left for home. Beth had to be at work on Tuesday so she left about 9:30 AM and reached her car by 7 PM. The rest of us moved more leisurely and came out Tuesday as planned.

We had some hardware but never used it. Eight or ten double length slings with a few carabiners are enough. Two ropes of 120 ft. are useful, especially for the longest (100') rappel. A note of caution on Devils Crag rappels. Just because you see old slings on an apparent anchor don't take the anchor for granted! I noticed that one was quite loose and chose another. I don't know what holds the mountain together but it was a terrific climb.

Thanks to Lois, Beth and Phil. They're great friends and great people to climb with. Thanks also to Bob Hartunian for his diagram and many others for their Echo reports that helped make the climb easier. Special thanks to Rene Mevey, who had to cancel from the trip but got all those Echo reports for me.

Some high points of Eastern Europe

July 11-30, 1990

by Vic Henney & Sue Wyman

Sue and I rented a car this summer in Frankfurt, West Germany, and headed for Eastern Europe to do some sightseeing and to climb a few high points. We had obtained our visas for Yugoslavia and Hungary in advance to save time. Visas are no longer required of U.S. citizens entering Czechoslovakia and we climbed the high point of Poland, which lies on the Czechoslovakian-Polish border, from the Czechoslovakian side. We needed gasoline coupons only in Czechoslovakia, which were readily obtainable within the country, though we did manage to buy gas once without the coupons at the much lower (50% lower) local price. Most stations wanted to see the coupons in advance. Stations handling unleaded gas were few and far between (and sometimes out of unleaded gas) in all the countries, but locations of these were available at the various border crossings. With the influx of Western European tourists, unleaded fuel will probably become more readily available.

Yugoslavia

We climbed in two areas of Yugoslavia, both of which were in the Republic of Slovenia and were incredibly beautiful areas. We hiked and climbed 3 days in the Julian Alps and in particular in Triglav National Park, in which Mt. Triglav, the high point of Yugoslavia, is located. We also climbed for 2 days in the Kamnische Alps, an area along the Austrian-Yugoslavian border, north of Ljubljana, and almost as high as the Julian Alps. We stayed in huts while in the mountain areas. The huts were quite modern. The hut system in Yugoslavia is as well developed as in any area of Europe that we've been in. We spent a day in Ljubljana, a very pretty and interesting city and the capital of Slovenia and stayed in a private home, arranged through the local tourist office. Between English and German we had little difficulty with language. When given a choice, most younger people seemed to prefer English, more of the older people German, but in the more touristy areas most people spoke at least a little of a number of languages. Yugoslavia was by far the most expensive Eastern European country that we visited. Prices were comparable to those in Austria and Germany.

Mt. Triglav, 9393'. We had several books that provided some limited information on the area of Triglav National Park. We initially drove to the town of Bled, on Lake Bled, but could find little information on the National Park other than a very good map. So we headed for the Krma Valley (a beautiful valley on the north side of the park), the only route for which we actually had a description. This turned out to be an excellent choice and off the normal tourist routes. In fact, of the 10-12 cars parked at the trailhead, we had the only non-Yugoslavian license plate there. This route took us to a very modern hut high on the east ridge of the mountain, the Triglavsky Dom, from

which a spectacular, but well "secured" route led to the summit. On our first day of hiking and in spite of a somewhat late start, we hiked all the way to Triglavsky Dom and then on to the summit and returned to Triglavsky Dom to spend the night. With a good start one could easily day-hike the peak, but our plan was to spend at least 3 days in the area as there were other routes and peaks that we wanted to explore. The routes, like many in Europe, often have cables or chains and metal pegs for hand and footholds. This results in some incredible routes up and across otherwise sheer faces, quite exciting if not a bit questionable from an environmental point of view. On the summit we met a guy selling beer to earn money for a local climbing club. Needless to say he was doing a good business.

On our second day we hiked around to the south side of the mountain to another hut, the Planika Dom, and ascended the mountain via a route from the south (probably the easiest route on the peak) and descended via a route to the west. We headed down to another hut, Trzaska Koca, and then to another peak by the name of Kanjavec, and finally to Vodnikova, a hut where we spent the night before hiking out on our third day. The weather was near perfect, which is not often the case in these mountains.

After our hike out of the park, we drove around to Lake Bohinji on the south side of the mountain. It's a very pretty area and the area from which most people climb the mountain, but a few too many tourists for us. We headed for a room and a nice dinner in Ljubljana.

The Kamnische Alps. This was one of the most beautiful and one of the least toured areas that we visited in Eastern Europe. We drove around the eastern periphery of the mountains and into the center of the mountains from the northeast via the Logarska Valley. From here we did a 2-day loop trip spending the night in a very modern hut, Kamniska Koca. One of the other people staying at the hut for the night was an old man with an accordion who spent several hours playing and singing local folk songs. Again the trails and the scenery were really spectacular and we hated to leave. We drove to the town of Ptuj where we spent the night and then on to the Hungarian city of Pecca.

Hungary

We spent 5 days in Hungary and did more sightseeing than hiking. We found that most people coming into contact with the public spoke German, a few English also. We stayed in private homes, again arranged through the local tourist offices. This is an inexpensive and very interesting way to travel, but we found that the people we stayed with spoke little if any English or German. Our knowledge of Hungarian is very limited, but we managed reasonably well with what little we did know. Much of the area of Hungary that we went through was pretty flat, but was nice farm country nonetheless. We enjoyed stopping in little towns for coffee or something to eat or to shop in the local grocery stores. We always found people friendly and

helpful.

We spent a day in Pecs, a city dating from Roman times. There are at least a half dozen different excavated sites, tombs, church foundations, etc. dating back to the 4th century. Prices are very inexpensive in Hungary, in comparison to Yugoslavia, as was evidenced by the thousands of cars we saw in Pecs with Yugoslavian license plates.

We spent three days in and around Eger in the heart of the "mountains" of Hungary. It's an area of forest covered rolling hills, numerous trails and tens of thousands of people, especially on the weekends due to its proximity to Budapest. Eger itself is a city of considerable historic interest with among other things a large castle/fortress above the town and the northern most minaret in Europe. For about a nickel one can climb to the balcony of the minaret which is an experience. The steps are very narrow and steep and only one way traffic is possible, so only six or seven people can go up at a time - maximum capacity on the balcony. This town had some really superb places to eat. Eger is a wine growing area and the famous Eger's Bull's Blood is a very good wine.

Kekecs (Mountain), 3330'. This is the high point of Hungary and a drive up, though we elected to hike one of the many trails that come from all directions to the top of the mountain. Kekecs is the center of the Matra Mountains to the west of Eger. To the east of Eger are the Bukk Mountains which are almost as high. One is never alone in these mountains. The official top of Kekecs is a rock painted in the colors of the Hungarian flag. This rock literally sits in the shadow of an enormous communications tower which one can go up to get views of the surrounding countryside. We went up the tower but the haze that day did not allow much of a vista.

Czechoslovakia

From Eger we drove almost due north into Czechoslovakia and on toward the High Tatra Mountains on the Slovakian-Polish border. We drove to the town of Stary Smokovec at the base of the mountains and went to the tourist agency. Accommodations were more difficult to come by in Czechoslovakia and the official tourist agencies a bit more difficult to deal with than the tourist agencies in other countries. We had planned to stay in the area for only 3 nights (we later decided to stay 4 nights) and were told that accommodations in private homes were not available for less than 4 nights and that the only hotel available was the Grand Praha Intourist Hotel. It sounded very expensive and a bit sterile but it turned out to be an interesting old hotel and quite inexpensive by our standards - \$35 a night for with a very good breakfast buffet included. We never could eat enough to reach our allowed limit, even when we made ourselves a couple of sandwiches for lunch as we found everyone else did also. We were told later that other accommodations were available a little more out of the central

tourist area, but that these would not be available through the tourist agency. Food was incredibly cheap throughout Czechoslovakia. We ate dinner at different hotels in the area and even with appetizers, several courses, dessert and wine, the bill for the two of us never exceeded more than about \$4.

The High Tatras are just one of several mountain areas in Czechoslovakia. It's about 40 miles long and encompasses numerous peaks in the 8-9000 ft area and is a popular area for rock climbing in Eastern Europe. There are lots of good trails through a lot of very pretty areas. The five days that we spent in the area were not enough to see nearly as much as we would have liked to.

We made an interesting discovery not to far from our hotel, in the town of Horny Smokovec, a business called the Sports Centrum, which had been started by four young people just a few weeks earlier, a new venture in private enterprise and one of the most popular stores in the area. In addition to climbing and outdoor equipment of all types, they offered a climbing school, guide service, hang gliding instruction, and mountain bike rentals and outings. We had a chance to talk to one of the owners, a fellow by the name of Robert, at length. It was an interesting venture and they were struggling with numerous problems including getting goods to sell, especially goods from outside of the country since their currency is still non-convertible, learning to advertise, and competition from the official establishment. My guess is that they'll do quite well. One should definitely make a point of dropping in there if one is in the area.

We met a fellow by the name of Peter who worked with the Sports Centrum as a guide and who was also active in the mountain rescue service in the area. Normally one must use the official guide service to climb Mt. Gerlach or get their permission by establishing that you have the proper credentials or membership in a climbing organization that they recognize. This is true even though the climb is not difficult, some moderate to easy class 3 at best, but it's their monopoly and the fine is quite steep if caught on the mountain without a guide or permission. The information that we had been able to obtain in advance indicated that the usual charge for a guide was \$50-\$75 per person. Peter offered to take us up for \$10 for both of us. He said that he could not officially act as a guide, but that he had special privileges because of his position with the rescue service.

Mt. Gerlach, 8737'. Mt. Gerlach is the high point of Czechoslovakia. We left our hotel at 4 a.m. to drive to the trailhead and then proceeded to hike to the Slietzsky Dom, a large hotel like "hut", where we met Peter at 6 a.m. and had a quick breakfast of bread, butter and coffee the consistency of thick mud. We hiked up the Velicka Valley, quite beautiful, for about an hour and then turned left and followed a use trail directly up a steep narrow couloir to the ridge top. En route we encountered several ladders, chains and various other aid to allow us to get around and over some precipitous waterfalls. The climbing was

Thaw, Murphy, and Gordon

never difficult though there was some easy to moderate third class in several places and the rock tended to be slick. From the top of the ridge, we began an ever ascending contour around several high points, in and out of fog that hovered around the tops of the higher peaks. We finally reached a broad couloir on the opposite side of the mountain just below the summit and quickly reached the summit. We met three other groups on the mountain, each one from a different country. We were always introduced as the Americans. The return trip was down a couloir on the far side of the mountain, down another beautiful valley and finally back around to the hut where we had started.

Peter took us to the guides' hut where we got our certificates of recognition and pins for climbing the peak and where we sat around and ate bread and sausages and drank lots of Budva beer for about three hours with Peter. Peter spoke excellent English and we learned a great deal from him about the mountains, the history of the area, the people, etc. He has been able to travel a fair amount outside of the country as a member of various expeditions, three of which have been to Spitzbergen. He's also part of a group going to Nepal in 1991 and hopes to climb his first 8000 meter peak. His mother is a professor of Slavic languages at a university.

We also took a few other hikes in the area, one of which was a good long day hike up Mt. Krivanske, 2494 meters. Timberline in the High Tatras is about 6000'. There are more similarities to the Sierras than to our eastern mountains, though the humid climate makes for a lot more greenery and the mountains are much more compact and not on the same scale as the Sierras. It is nonetheless a beautiful area that we'd like to some day spend more time in.

Poland

Mt. Rysy, 8199'. Mt. Rysy, the high point of Poland, is also located in the High Tatras and is situated on the Polish-Czechoslovakian border. It is climbed on good trail from both sides of the border by great numbers of people. We took the trail from Strbska Pleso, which is about 9 miles and a 4000' gain to the summit, stopping briefly at a small hut a few hundred feet below the summit. There's very little evidence of a border any more, other than an occasional marker along the ridge top. We walked a short way down the trail into Poland just to get a better view into some really beautiful valleys on the Polish side. Next time we hope to do some more extensive hiking in the Polish High Tatras. There were probably close to 50 people on the summit of Mt. Rysy at the same time we were there and we detected probably no fewer than 10 different languages being spoken, but no other English.

We were extremely disappointed to have to leave the High Tatras and Slovakia and head back toward Frankfurt and our long flight home. There is so much more to see in all the countries that we visited. We were only able to hit a few "high points" in each country in the time that we had.

Our five days of mountain charm started at the Woodchuck Trailhead which is about 1/4 mile beyond Wishon Dam. At 0700, we hefted our packs for the 14-15 mile jaunt to Halfmoon Lake over the dustiest trail I have ever travelled. We would have liked to have gone beyond Halfmoon, but no one objected when we dug in our heels there at 1700.

Day 2: At 0730 we strolled on to peaceful, pleasant Portal Lake where we set up camp and ate lunch before heading for Reinstein at 1200. Most of us boulder-hopped unnecessarily as we approached too close to the southeast ridge. The south slope direct is the best route. The 12,604' summit rewarded us with fantastic views of Martha Lake, Goddard Canyon, and the Enchanted Gorge. Pete Yamagata had ample time to take advantage of the photographic heaven before us, and Robert Wilkinson, on his first SPS trip, got some incite into why we climb peaks. That night the alpen glow and the moon were unusually spectacular.

Day 3: At 0615, only the three leaders propelled themselves out of camp and headed for Tunamah Peak (11,894'). Our route took us on a rollercoaster meander past Midway Lake, Kettle Ridge, Finger Peak, Pass 11,046, and Alpine Creek to the base of Tunamah, where Steve exclaimed, "Head for the trees and lumber on up!" By traversing right of the west ridge line, one avoids the boulder horror. Although we took different routes up the steep, loose western slope of Tunamah, we summited within a minute of each other at 1200. Upon return to camp, we could not pass Finger Peak (12,404') without giving it a go, even though we had scheduled it for the next day. The fickle Finger proved more difficult than anticipated, probably because we were weary and no one had brought route information along. We struggled with a third class ridge route, dropped down to the sandy ledges, then rushed into some more third-fourth class as we made a beeline for the summit, wandering where the second class route was. Pete had soloed the peak earlier that day. Jubilant to have made both Tunamah and Finger summits, we spirited ourselves back to camp before dark.

Day 4: "Club Med Day" - We were up and ready to leave Portal Lake at about 1100. Kick back and chill out! We breezed into Halfmoon Lake for a late lunch and early happy hour at 1400 hours with only the "tree people" present. We set the toes free! Jim almost immediately bagged his body (only 8 peaks to go on the SPS list!); "Polar Bear" Thaw rhapsodized on the wilderness and John Muir; Nancy enjoyed a leisure bath to wash off the many layers of trail dust; Robert explored Halfmoon Lake; and "Panda Bear" Yamagata meditated on how to obtain the Master Emblem.

Day 5: Well rested and energized, we stormed Crown Pass and flew down the trail so that we could lunch at the Mexican restaurant in Shaver Lake. Personally, this 60-mile, 16,000-foot gain trip is my least favorite SPS trip made tolerable only by the unique summit views, the agreeable company, and the "Club Med" mentality.

N.G.

High Points of the National Forests

I have always been interested in visiting new and different places, including perhaps someday every National Forest. I am also interested in geography, and conceived the idea of writing an article on the topography of the National Forests so as to give some public benefit to the endless hours I spend looking at maps. One facet would be to compare the vertical relief of National Forests to that of the states they are located in. Since the U.S.G.S. publishes a list of high and low points for each state, I wrote to every Forest Supervisor asking about Forest high and low points.

In many cases, this information was already available in printed brochures or known to Forest staff, while others thought it a reasonable request and found out! A few Forests replied that it would be too time-consuming to look up, and some didn't reply at all. But I got enough information for my article, and it may appear someday if I ever quit looking at maps.

Inevitably, word of my research has attracted hikers interested in visiting high points. While I have been to a lot of Forest high points and certainly expect to visit more in my travels, it is not my expectation to visit them all, as out of 155 National Forests there are probably a few with technical difficulty exceeding my ability. For a complete high points list, a substantial amount of additional map research would be required to expand and update the information I have. For example, some Forests gave the highest point within Forest boundaries, while others gave the highest point owned by the Forest Service. Some used the highest peak entirely within the Forest and omitted higher ones on the boundaries. One gave the highest and lowest points on the Forest road system. One Forest noted that the commonly-assumed high point is not correct. And at least one sent the wrong highpoint, compared to my research using USGS 7 1/2' maps. This list is also subject to change when Forest boundaries change, hopefully by acquisition of more and higher peaks!

I am still interested in developing the complete list, but as this will require looking at thousands of maps, I would be glad for any assistance I might receive. Since few hikers could afford a complete set of 7 1/2' maps of the National Forests, this would probably require use of one of the map depository libraries mentioned on the back of index maps. Persons interested in assisting with this project can write to me, preferably including a list of researched high points! Lists of fire lookout sites also desired. Roy Schweiker, 12 Chapel St., Concord, NH 03301

Preliminary list of National Forest high points, California

Forest	Point	Elev.	USGS 7 1/2' quad
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Angeles	San Antonio, Mt	10064	Mount San Antonio
Calaveras Big Tree	East boundary	5500	Boards Crossing
Cleveland	Monument Peak	6271	Monument Peak
Eldorado	Round Top Peak	10381	Carson Pass
Inyo	Whitney, Mt	14491	Mount Whitney
Klamath	Caribou Mtn	8563	Caribou Lake
Lassen	?	ca. 9000	
Los Padres	Pinos, Mt	8831	Sawmill Mountain
Mendocino	South Yolla Bally	8092	South Yolla Bally
Modoc	Eagle Peak	9892	Eagle Peak
Plumas	?	8372	
San Bernardino	San Gorgonio Mtn	11490	San Gorgonio Mtn
Sequoia	Florence Peak	12432	Mineral King
Shasta	Shasta, Mt	14162	Mount Shasta
Sierra	Humphries, Mt	13896	Mount Tom
Six Rivers	Bear Mtn	6424	Devils Punchbowl
Stanislaus	Leavitt Peak	11569	Sonora Pass
Tahoe	Lola, Mt	9748	Independence Lake
Toiyabe	Dunderberg Peak	12374	Dunderberg Peak
Trinity	Thompson Peak	8994	Thompson Peak

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