

The Sierra



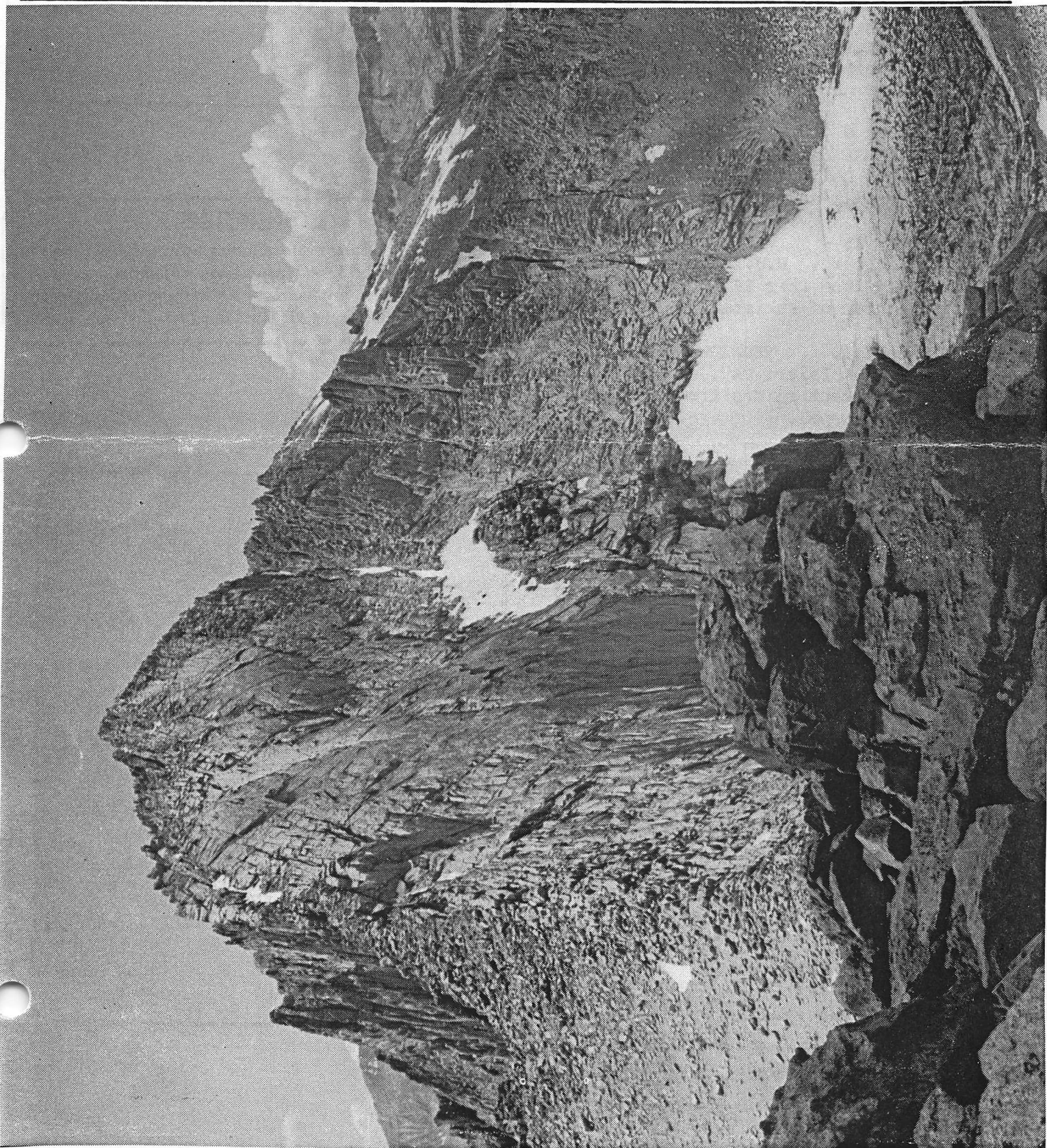
ECHO

VOLUME 36

1992

SEP-OCT

NUMBER 5



SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 14 WEDNESDAY
"Kamchatka Exploration". Jon Otter shows slides from a Soviet region closed to visitors until 1991.

NOVEMBER 11 WEDNESDAY
"The Grand Canyon". Fred Achenbach will share slides from his numerous trips to this Arizona wonderland.

DECEMBER 9 WEDNESDAY
SPS ANNUAL BANQUET. "Mt Everest: Peak-bagger's Delight". Randy Danta and Doug Mantle will share their expedition.

JANUARY 13 WEDNESDAY
"Broad Peak". R.J. Secor will show slides from this 26,400' peak in the Karakoram of Pakistan.

FEBRUARY 10 WEDNESDAY
"Mt Mera & Island Pk". Dave Petzold will present slides from his recent trip to Nepal.

Monthly meetings are held at the L.A. Dept of Water and Power Bldg at 111 N. Hope St in the L.A. Civic Center. Auditorium on Level A (1 floor below main lobby). 7:30 PM. Newcomers welcome!

COVER PHOTO: Mt Russell's northeast face. Photo taken by Christina Galuga from Mt Carillon, 7-18-92. (Story on page 16).

ADVERTISE!

Advertise your private climbing activity in the Sierra or elsewhere for \$1.00 (first 4 lines, additional lines are \$1 each). Other product/services ads and announcements are accepted at the \$1.00 per line rate.

PEAK INDEX

Birch Mtn
 Broad Pk
 Mt Carillon
 Centennial Pk
 Deerhorn Mtn
 Mt Hale
 Mt Harrington
 Kennedy Mtn
 Matterhorn Pk
 Mt Russell
 Shepherd Pass Trail
 Slovenia Highpoint
 The Thumb
 Twin Pks
 Virginia Pk
 Whorl Mtn
 Mt Young

SPS FALL TRIPS 1992

SEPTEMBER

19	O: Alta Pk List Finish	George Toby, Al Conrad
19-20	I: Smith, Siretta	Jerry & Nancy Keating
19-20	I: Striped, Goodale	Maris Valkass, Ron Jones
25-27	I: Arrow, Pyramid	Igor Mamedalin, Ron Jones
26-27	I: Basin Intro Trip	Ed Zdon, TBA
26-27	M: Kearsarge List Lead Finish	Dave Dykeman, Roy Magnuson

OCTOBER

3-4	M: Giraud	Larry Tidball, Scot Jamison
3-4	I: Goyot, Joe Devel, Pickering	Bill Oliver, Ron Jones
10	I: Goat	Bob Sumner, Barbara Cohen
10-11	I: Siretta List Finish	Dave Petzold, Dave Dykeman
16-18	I: Giraud, Observation	Dale Van Dalsem, Ron Jones

SOME TRIPS MAY BE TENTATIVE DEPENDING ON CURRENT SNOW CONDITIONS.

ECHOES FROM THE CHAIR

At long last the revised SPS Management Committee Policies and Procedures have been approved. This was a long and tedious process which I'm glad is finally over. Hopefully the revised document will function for years to come. Many thanks to Carolyn West and Kathy Price for their word processing skills.

Chuck Stein has asked the Management Committee for assistance in building support for the SPS Adopt-a-Trail Program. Our response has been to establish weekends for trail work well in advance so that trip leaders can avoid scheduling regular outings on those weekends. This is a vital program and I urge all SPS members to participate. The specific dates for the trail work weekends will be announced by the Outings Chair.

Anyway, I hope everyone is getting their desired peaks and having lots of fun in the process. Remember, banquet tickets are now available at \$24 each. And don't forget to buy your SPS T-shirts before they're all gone. So long for now and keep climbing!!

Dave

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

I'm working toward my senior emblem and would be grateful to be led to CLARENCE KING and NORTH PALISADE. Mario Gonzalez,
(213) 614-2344.

WANTED: Plastic Boots Women's size 7 - Contact Vi Grasso
(W) 310-826-5202 or (H) 310-207-3875.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Bob Wyka

Congratulations and thank-you to the latest SUSTAINING MEMBERS
SUBSCRIBERS: PETER DOGGETT

New Members

PETER DOGGETT 4121 Hathaway #5 Long Beach, CA 90815 310-4947147	PETER LETH 26332 Sand Cnyn Rd Canyon Country, CA 91351	GREG & MIRNA ROACH 4547 Viro Rd La Canada, CA 91011 818-790-0935	BILL SAMPSON 31801 Cottontail Ln Malibu, CA 90265 310-457-2601 (home) 310-457-6789 (work)
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New Emblems	New Sr. Emblem	New Master Emblem	New ECHO Subscriber
ALFRED D. CRAUN #514 Olancha BOB LATTE #515 Split	JANE EDGINTON Florence Pk S #106	LARRY TIDBALL #12 Black Kaweah	DANIEL ZENK 241 Redondo Ave, Apt. 25 Long Beach, CA 90803 310-438-0773

Address Changes

BOB HENDERSON 344 N. Orange Grove Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91103 818-577-5405	FRANK D. SANBORN 32 Creekside Ct. Willits, CA 95490
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WANTED

Volunteer to serve as ECHO Editor beginning in January 1993.
Contact Dave Petzold or Bob Sumner if you are interested in
this coveted position.

SPS LEISURE TRIPS

12-16 Nov (Thurs-Mon) Owens, Spanish Needle, Lamont, Sawtooth#1
This trip will be run as a shuttle or two car camps, depending on
circumstances and the desires of the group. These peaks are
easily reached from the PCI between Indian Wells Canyon and Nine
Mile Canyon roads. A side trip to Mt Jenkins may also be made.
Anyone interested in this trip should contact Rick Jali.

Any further comments or questions should be directed to Rick.

Rick Jali, SPS Leisure Trips Coordinator
P. O. Box 1717
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(619) 934-8430

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION ANNUAL BANQUET

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1992

PICKWICK BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER

1001 Riverside Drive
Burbank

No-host Cocktail Hour from 6:30 p.m.
Dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Come join us for an exciting evening

Program:

CLIMBING MT. EVEREST
THE SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

Presented by
RANDY DANTA and DOUG MANTLE

Tickets \$24 includes tax and tip

Make checks payable to Sierra Peaks Section
Send stamped, self-addressed envelope to MARIO GONZALEZ
Indicating entree preference - chicken or fish
R.S.V.P by November 25th

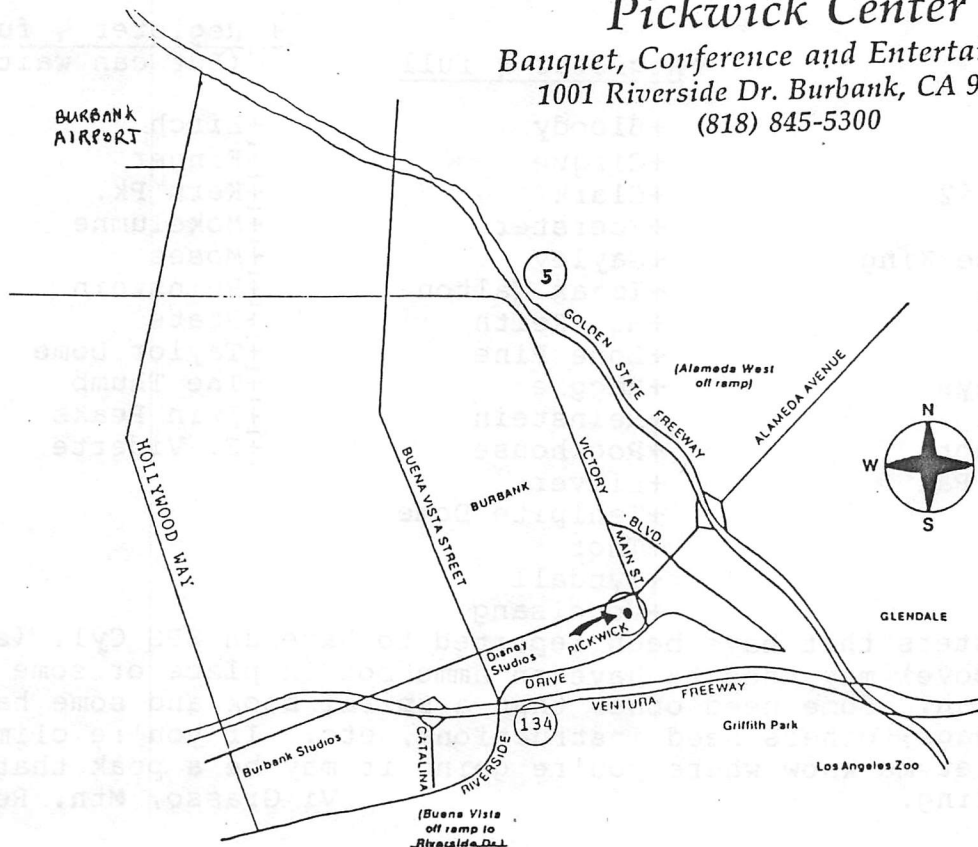
MARIO GONZALEZ, 707 Wilshire Blvd (W10-1), Los Angeles, CA, 90017
(H) 213-384-1731
(W) 213-614-2344

BUY your tickets early -
LIMITED SEATING!

Tickets available now

Pickwick Center

Banquet, Conference and Entertainment
1001 Riverside Dr. Burbank, CA 91506
(818) 845-5300



MOUNTAIN REGISTER REPORT

I wish to thank all of those climbers/leaders who reported on the summit registers. A great deal of appreciation goes to Outings Chair Barbara Cohen who included in her leader(s) package a SASE to me to encourage reporting. But if I ever wanted arms and legs to assist in the endeavor, five stars go to my good friend Tina Stephens who reported on 32 peaks! Bill T. reported on his various climbs - sent me info on 17! So many, many thanks to:

Jim Adler	Patty Kline	Bill R. Russell	Geo. Toby
Henry Arnebold	Bill Lingle	Tina S. Stephens	Dale VanDalsem
Fred Camphaussen	Ed Lubin	Scott Sullivan	Bob Wyka
Barbara Cohen	Kathy Price	Bob Sumner	Ed Zdon
Ron Jones	Dan Richter	Larry Tidball	

The following peaks needs a register and/or container. The ones marked + need a register as soon as someone gets up there. The ones marked + need an additional register because the existing one is just over half full, so whenever. The peaks marked with an * need a "kit" (register, container, pencils & sharpner). Those interested in contributing please contact me and I will be glad to meet you anywhere ('cept at the summit) before you leave, if not at the Wed. meetings.

Sadly, some of the good summits have been found to have nothing on top! Though at one time we know the peak was previously crowned with a register, I can only assume two disasters taking place: 1) man made - tossing the whole thing over the cliff (or a collector that likes SPS containers enough to take 'em home); 2) weather - winter snow slabs causing a drag on the summit(?); quakes shifting rock(?), - give it the benefit of the doubt 'till proven otherwise. Those peaks are marked with **.

<u>*Need Kit</u>	<u>+Register ½ full</u>	<u>+ Register ½ full (But can wait)</u>
*Basin	+Bloody	+Birch
*Gray	+Cirque	+Finger
*Pyramid #2	+Clark	+Kern Pk.
	+Foerster	+Mokelumne
**Clarence King	+Gayley	+Moses
**Conness	+Izaak Walton	+Reinstein
**Emerson	+Mt. Keith	+State
**Goode	+Lone Pine	+Taylor Dome
**Humphreys	+Maggie	+The Thumb
**LaConte	+Reinstein	+Twin Peaks
**Matterhorn	+Rockhouse	+E. Vidette
**Middle Pal	+Silver	
	+Tehipite Dome	
	+Thor	
	+Tyndall	
	+Vogelsang	

The registers that have been reported to have an SPS Cyl. (some not listed above) may need to have an ammo box in place or some other nesting can. Some need other than a spiral book and some have had water damage; others need instructions, etc. If you're climbing & wish to let me know where you're going it may be a peak that needs knit-picking.

Vi Grasso, Mtn. Records

OUTINGS CHAIR REPORT by Barbara Cohen

As the climbing season draws to a close, we would like to thank everyone who helped to make it so successful. There were 42 scheduled SPS trips from April thru October. Here are the people who made it possible:

LEADS

Dave Dykeman 5
Larry Tidball 4
Ron Jones 4
George Toby 2
Bob Sumner 2
Barbara Cohen 2
Dale Van Dalsem 2
Dave Petzold 2
Ed Zdon 2
Patty Kline 2
Chuck Stein 1
Fred Camphausen 1
Virgil Talbott 1
Igor Mamedalin 1
Maris Valkass 1
Bill T. Russell 1
Ed Lubin 1
Bob Wyka 1
Scot Jamison 1
Jim Adler 1
John Cheslick 1
Dan Richter 1
Gordon Macleod 1
Jerry Keating 1
Rick Jali 2

ASSISTS

Dave Petzold 6
Ron Jones 4
Barbara Cohen 4
Bill Oliver 2
Maris Valkass 2
Charlie Knapke 2
Al Conrad 2
Scot Jamison 2
Roy Magnuson 2
RJ Secor 1
Fred Camphausen 3
Virgil Talbott 1
Igor Mamedalin 1
Suzanne Mamedalin 1
Frank Goodykoontz 1
Dave Dykeman 1
Nancy Gordon 1
Duane McRuer 1
Paul Bloland 1
Jim Raiford 1
George Toby 1
Ron Young 1
Larry Tidball 1
Don Sparks 1
Paul Cooley 1
Asher Waxman 1
Nancy Keating 1
Gene Mauk 1
Vi Grasso 1

THANK YOU!!!

CONSERVATION

The Sierra Now conference held August 7-9 in Sacramento established a Sierra coalition that will operate similarly to the Greater Yellowstone coalition. Sessions included our interests which center on recreation and tourism. I have been out of California most of the summer and was therefore unable to attend the conference. I do expect to receive a detailed report on its achievements, and I hope to attend a meeting of the Eastern Sierra committee on October 10. This committee is a thirty year old bioregional group that I hope the SPS can become more fully involved in. My scant information at this time encourages me because The Sierra Now conference established that we do recognize that grave problems affecting the Sierra exist. Among the problems recognized are lumber cutting of old growth forests, degradation of streams and riparian habitat, grazing, and air quality. The Sierra Coalition will actively work for solutions.

The gravity of this job can be illustrated by the problems facing wilderness managers who have authority under the Clean Air Act of 1977 to protect pristine wilderness areas. The Act has worked successfully when the pollution source is a large visible entity close to the wilderness area in question, but is failing to protect the air from non-point pollution such as that emitted by cars in the San Joaquin Valley. Forty million driver-miles in this area result in 1,600 tons of pollutants daily. The effect in west-facing slopes in the Sierra is chlorotic mottling (among others) which has started a chain of destruction in that habitat. However a proposed one-point source that would emit only 100 tons would trigger a review process by the Clean Air Act.

Hang on for more detailed information in the next issue.

Mary Sue Miller

Resounding *ECHOES*

Bill Oliver

"Question of the Month:

Should the SPS Schedule Trips That Involve Class 3 Climbing?"

[In August 1957 the SPS was in only its second full year of existence. The above question headlined an article by then vice chair (and first *ECHO* editor) John W. Robinson. Controversy was raging between what became known as the "climbers" vs the "hikers." Many compromises were to be made. (The List at the time contained 217 peaks, including twelve emblem peaks.)]

The question has been raised and discussed on several recent trips as to whether climbs such as Abbot and Middle Palisade should be scheduled by your Section. These peaks are not technical rock climbs, but they do involve climbing above ordinary hiking and scrambling. The Climbers' Guide fits them in a special category called 3rd Class climbing. The Sierra is full of outstanding peaks involving Class 3 of highly varying amounts, and one can get neither his emblem nor all the 14000ers (the two big goals for Sierra Peakers) without a certain amount of it.

The main point in the affirmative viewpoint is that Class 3 climbing is a must in order to really enjoy the Sierra fully. Rule out 3rd Class and you rule out the Palisades, Ritter, Lyell, Abbot, and many other outstanding peaks. Only in the Whitney area do you find Class 2 routes up most of the major peaks. Class 3 is not dangerous if a climber is careful and in good physical condition.

The negative viewpoint admits the desirability of Class 3 but says it should be limited to outlaw climbs. They point out that when the SPS schedules a trip we are responsible for the welfare of persons attending. Class 3 may be safe when a person is careful but everyone makes mistakes occasionally and one serious fall could mean disaster. If a person was injured or killed during semi-exposed Class 3 climbing on a SPS trip, our Section's reputation would be very hard hit. It could mean the end of the SPS.

There you have, basically, the pro and con. The issue seems to boil down to either taking a certain amount of risk and scheduling some tremendous climbs, or playing it safe and continuing with the mediocre. Or is it that simple? What do you think? Write in and tell us. JWR

[No definition was given of "outlaw climbs." To be continued.]

ECHOES OF OUR CLIMBS

Shepherd Pass Trail Week, 11-19 July 1992 by Campy

Trail Work

The leaders were Chuck Stein and Campy. Chuck strong-armed a week long effort from people who could have spent their vacations coping with other pleasures. We phoned Diana Worman of the Lone Pine Ranger District; she's in charge of the District trails. She indicated that just below Shepherd Pass the trail was in poor shape and she promised to join us there during the week. Chuck was under temporary doctor's orders to avoid altitude so provisional M leader Kathy Price filled in as asst. leader.

We had 10 sign-ups but people canceled during the week; this can be expected. Unexpected was a valiant who asked to be allowed to come to work, not to climb, and during the weekend only.

Our four-some pruned the riparian missed in May when snow cancelled the usual Spring trail weekend. The Symmes Creek growth is now easily handled in 4 hours because of earlier prunings by RJ and his crews. After lunch we went on ahead with shovels, a McCloud, loppers and a saw, and our 9 days of rations. We decided to camp at Mahogany Flat rather than going all the way to Anvil.

Six drops of rain fell on our sleeping bags during the night but at dawn only hesitant rain clouds drifted about. Stashing day-packs and tools, we completed our carry of gear to Anvil and we set up our tents. Then we returned to Mahogany Flat and did some brushing until lunch. Valiant Jay then left for home (thanks for the Pepperidge Farm cookies, Jay). It then started to rain in earnest and we speeded up to our camp.

Monday it threatened rain and hail early so we did trail work rather than climbing Mt Williamson. Bill Sampson, Pete Leth, Jim Alder, and Campy worked from the pass on down, clearing out the rock slide and broadening the turns and chucking off the ankle-turners and digging out toe-stubbers. We chucked hillside rocks

and boulders about to fall onto the trail. Following behind the shovelers, Pete McClouded anything bigger than a cricket down to the dead mule at the base of the switchbacks.

Diana was there to work with us on Thursday. Jim, Kathy Price, Pete, Diana, and Campy cleared the trail back down to Anvil, and shoved aside one fair-sized boulder. Pete plays basketball at Pepperdine while still in high school in Canyon Country, and his McCloud handle was too short to reach the ground. Bill Sampson lives only 110 feet above the beach volleyball court at Malibu and he worked the trail and climbed Mt Williamson, and then he got altitude sick. Kathy was always saying "I'm slow" but I thought she was a pretty quick learner. Jim talked our ears off. We all sympathized with Diana when she told us what she has to do to clean out the Trail Camp solar toilets.

The Peaks

Tuesday brought better weather for climbing **Mt Williamson**. Kathy ably led the climb and earned her M Leader checkoff. Boulton Brown Route 14 July 92; Kathy, Bill, Jim, Pete (2x), Campy (4x).

Mt Keith 15 July 92; Pete and Campy (2x) via the scree chute.

Junction Pk 17 July 92; Pete, Kathy, Jim.

Mt Tyn-dall 18 July 92; Pete, Jim, Campy (2x), NW Ridge, desc. N Rib (RJ: Cl. 2, not 3).

Recommendations

We should brush the uphill riparian next time. District Ranger should cut a deal with the packers: they owe a haul of part of our camp duffel and tools. We require a crew of 10 to be cost-effective; we need ideas for involving more fun-loving people. Do the upper trail as a shorter trip (5 days); climb two of the peaks, alternating each year. Compliments we received from hikers more than offset the sneers of the mule packers.

Harrington & Kennedy
Aug 7-9, 1992 George Toby & Ron Young

The weather was beautiful but a bit warm hiking up to basecamp. I had a permit reservation issued in March, but the Park Service refused to put the permit in the night box. They insisted that I pick it up the morning of the hike so they could give an endless lecture on Park rules and the do's and don't's of hiking, camping, and bears in Kings Canyon Park. We were camped at Cedar Grove near the main Ranger Station, but permits are issued six miles up the road at the Roads End mini Ranger Station. It opens at 7:00 am. They were super slow. It is impossible to get an early start. We managed to get off from the Lewis Creek roadhead at 8:40. Participants in addition to the leaders were Paula and Bruce Peterson, Roy Magnuson, Bob Meador, and Jeff Koepe. Bruce and Bob are practicing dentists. It was great to have two dentists on the same trip. They added another dimension to our happy hour and campfire discussions.

FRI. The hike up to Frypan Mdw was beautiful but uneventful, except we noticed two sets of bear tracks on the trail going our way. First a small bear, then close to camp a mature bear. 3400' gain and 6 mi to a beautiful campsite at Frypan Mdw 7900', but no bear boxes. There was a small running stream about 2 feet wide. It will probably be dry by mid September. We were hanging our food on a large tree in the meadow, with branches spaced just right, when I almost stepped into two piles of bear scat at the base of the tree. The bears were around. We did not see any and they did not get our food.

SAT: We set out for Harrington. At the North end of Frypan Mdw there is a non maintained trail, faint at times, that goes to Grizzly Lakes. We followed it to near its end then climbed Westerly up to the North face of Harrington. This is a very good looking, impressive peak. The steep class 3 rock looks very intimidating but it goes well. Lots of hand holds. No rope. All made the summit of 11,005' in good style. We were back at camp about 3:30. Too late to go for Kennedy. So we enjoyed a leisurely afternoon, early dinner, and campfire.

SUN. The Petersons decided to bug out for home early, so the five of us hit the good trail to Kennedy Pass, then a short class 1 juant up to Kennedy 11,033'. Not much of a climb but outstanding views. Worthy of being on the SPS list. We hiked back to camp, picked up packs and out to the cars by 3:30. Over 7,000' of downhill. There were some sore knees and feet. About 10,200' gain & loss and 27 mi for the trip. A nice satisfying, fun trip. My thanks to Ron Young for assisting and Roy Magnuson for leading the rock assault on Harrington.

Happy Climbing

George

MT. EVEREST PUZZLER

Using only eleven of the twelve letters in "Mount Everest," rearrange the letters to come up with a single new word. Hint: the new word could describe Everest summiters like SPSers Randy Danta, Doug Mantle and Ang Karma Sherpa. Bonus points if you can also provide a two-word solution. Communicate your response to Bill Oliver by mail or home phone message no later than 11 November to appear in the next *ECHO*. Solutions will be announced at the 9 December Annual Banquet.

Virginia, Twin, Whorl, (& Matterhorn) August 14-16, 1992 Tidball/Jamison

They really wanted those peaks. Two weeks prior to the trip I had a full permit of 7, plus a waiting list of 10, and a couple more coming in on their own permit. By the time we started the hike from Twin Lakes 7:00 Friday Morning I had had enough cancellations to go through most of the waiting list. 7 of us started out up the Horse Creek drainage with Delores and Dan planning on joining us in camp after picking up their own permit in Bridgeport. By the way, hiker parking at the end of the Road in Mono Village is \$5.00 per car. There is no nearby free parking.

Two miles up Horse Creek, the maintained trail veers off to Cattle Creek, and a good use trail continues up Horse Creek. We followed this use trail as it disappeared into a tangle of bushes 20 feet beyond the Hoover Wilderness sign. I Guess they mean it when they say *Wilderness*. Once past the brush the use trail was fairly obvious most of the time, crossing a talus side-hill prior to ascending the big talus slope(Your pick from the many use trails). Above the talus the trail comes into a good campsite. From the campsite do not follow the ducked obvious trail up the side-hill. The correct route(as we found on our descent) goes through the trees parallel to the creek to emerge in the valley beyond. The wrong trail from this campsite switch backs up the hill, and then ends with you looking at the real route far below. Once in the upper portion of Horse Creek, the correct use trail goes, if you are careful, most of the way to the pass. It's easy to lose in some of the talus fields.

Five of us arrived at our planned campsite (near a small lake just over the pass Southeast of Matterhorn Peak) at 1:00PM just in time to get our tents set up before a big hard hail, thunder and lightning storm hit. Scot was sweeping with Barbara R. (a bit slower than the rest of the group) and they waited out the storm in a sheltered spot below the last rise to the pass. Also taking shelter nearby was Dan & Delores. The storm quit about 3:30 and both groups arrived in camp about 30 minutes later.

Our Group, now all together consisted of: Dan Sherman, Delores Holladay, Barbee Hoffmann, Barbara Reber, Ret Moore, Gisela Kluwin, Ellen Miller, Scot Jamison & myself. This is a beautiful campsite situated at about 10,600' in an alpine basin surrounded by 4 listed peaks.

Saturday we were up at 5:30 and off at 6:30 for **Twin** and **Virginia**. Our hope was to be back in camp before the threatening skys let loose again. 8 of us (Barbara stayed in camp)headed across the green slopes and short talus field to the base of **Twin**. We then climbed straight up to a deep chute reminiscent of the one on the SW face of Black Kaweah. We followed this deep & narrow chute to the summit ridge heading for a point near the apparent highest pinnacle as seen from camp. A little bit of 3rd class near the top put us on easy class 2 slopes about 100 yards North of the summit. We were on top at 8:30 and after a brief break to look through the 1964 era register we headed for Virginia. We headed south along the ridge and soon passed the top of a broad chute that looked like a class 2 route all the way from camp. The ridge continuing on towards **Virginia** drops off and becomes 3rd class but this goes easily and soon we arrived at the saddle North of Virginia. At this point, Delores and Gisela headed back to camp(they both already had Virginia). From the saddle a use trail heads up just to the right of the ridge all the way to the summit(class 2). We placed a new SPS register can and book on the summit to replace the missing ones. Thanks to Barbee for carrying the canister! We left the top of Virginia at 10:20, and after dropping down from the pass north of Virginia., we traversed above the cliffs back towards camp arriving at 12:25 PM.

The weather was still holding off, so while most of us had a leisurely lunch in camp, Barbée, Ellen and Ret climbed **Matterhorn** by the SE slopes. They left camp about 1:00 and were on top at 2:30 and back in camp by 3:30 just in time to get into their tents to miss the afternoon thunderstorm. They reported that the register and the canister are missing.

The storm was brief and we were able to get the Happy-Hour under way as scheduled. As usual we had a great spread of food and most of us didn't have room for dinner afterwards.

Sunday was the appointed day for **Whorl** (A grudge peak for several of the participants). We started at 6:30 again and followed Bill T's excellent route description for the 3rd class SE chute(Echo #35-5 Sept 91). I didn't traverse quite far enough south before starting up. We went up one chute too soon with some 3rd class up over a slabby area. The correct chute is very much class 2 and sandy. Our ascent chute intersected the upper traverse to the right and we followed a couple of ducks over to the chock stone, went up the tunnel underneath, and on up to the summit 2¹/₂ hours from camp. We were back in camp, packed up and on the trail for Twin Lakes by noon, and out to the cars by 4:00. We all grabbed a quick 50 cent shower before hitting the road for the long drive home.

Larry

Birch Mtn. , The Thumb

August 15-16,1992, Leaders: Jim Adler, Paul Cooley

After many cancellations, a small group of five climbers met at the junction between the McMurray Meadow Road and the Jeep road to the Birch Lake Trail. We left two low clearance vehicles on the McMurray Meadow Road and eventually all consolidated into my Jeep, leaving the other two vehicles at the point where a gate crosses the Jeep road. We then drove in to the end of the road and started down the trail. Unfortunately not the right trail. We started up a trail that goes along Birch Creek that was a miserable grueling hike in 90° weather, until we climbed over the ridge to the right trail. (The right trail is found by turning right at a junction in the Jeep road .7 miles beyond the gate and following this road until it turns into a trail. We went straight ahead.)

We arrived in camp at Birch Lake in the afternoon and set up camp in the very few lumpy spots available near the outlet. In the evening we had a community salad including a wide variety of vegetable contributions, including Paul Cooley's home grown tomatoes.

Sunday morning we left camp at 6:15 and climbed Birch by heading towards the saddle between Birch Creek and Tinemaha Creek, and turning up a wide chute leading to the ridge just southwest of the summit. We reached the summit at about 9:30 am. After descending down the same chute, two of the party returned to camp and three of us went on to climb Thumb.

We approached Thumb by crossing the moraine to the west of Birch and heading straight for Thumb. We reached the summit at about 2:00 pm and enjoyed the spectacular view. We returned to camp at about 4:40 pm. We then broke camp and hiked out, except for two party members who elected to stay and hike out the next day. We took the good trail all the way out and reached the Jeep by 7:30 pm.

Many thanks to the fine group and Paul Cooley for making the trip a success. Participants included: Bill Heubach, Martha Flores, and David Lake. - - Jim Adler

CENTENNIAL PEAK (13,255')

SEPTEMBER 3, 1992

In 1990 the Sequoia Natural History Association dedicated this peak to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Sequoia National Park. On this year of the Sierra Club's centennial, I did this summit, being in the vicinity.

One can directly follow a ridge from Colby Pass (12,000'), with some scree traversing and some cl. 2 talus hopping. A very nice look at the summit pinnacle of Milestone and a good view of the Kaweahs is had, with part of the southern extension of the Great Western Divide visible. A bear canister with a steno notepad comprises the register. I was the only one to sign in for 1992, with a few Northern California peakbaggers signed in for 1991. Only 3 pages were filled, with no SPS'ers at all! I guess the peak's remoteness and its non-listed status probably tended to that!

Pete Yamagata

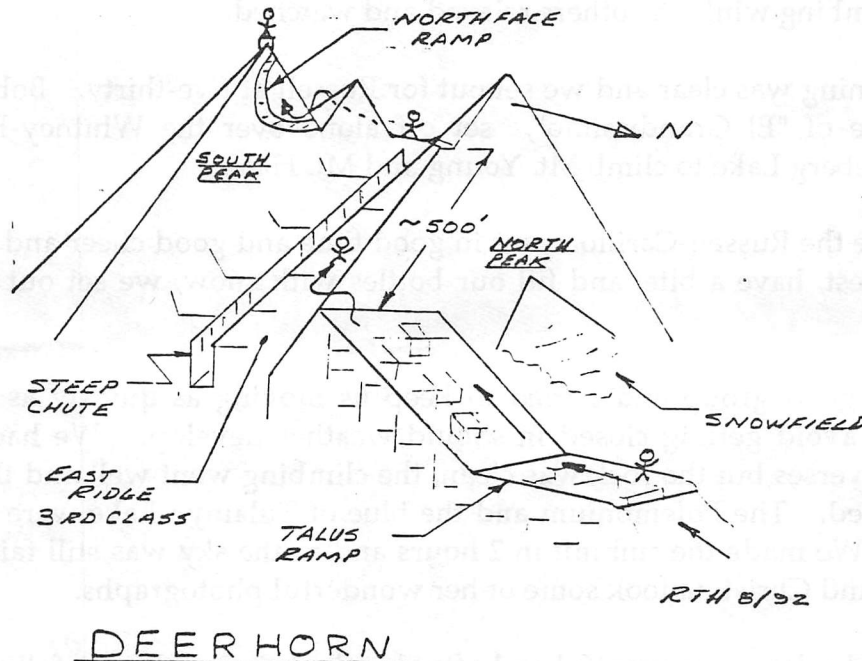
DEERHORN

Bob Hartunian
8-23-92

Want a long back pack, lots of talus hopping and a good mountain to climb? Do Deerhorn!

I took John Watcher, a strong potential SPS'er, over Kearsarge Pass, down to Vidette Meadows and southeast along the Muir trail about 1/2 mile to a right branching trail that crosses south over Bubbs Creek. An old log cabin sits 100 feet from the creek and marks the 3 mile trail up to Vidette Lakes. Our camp was made at the upper lake below a rocky bench that leads to higher lakes and Deerhorn, approximately 2 miles away. The fishing for cutthroat trout was good.

The approach to Deerhorn ascends the bench, stays on the right side of the lakes and climbs up continuous talus to the ramp shown on the diagram. Many of the talus blocks are loose and require care in descending.



When the slope of the northern peak is reached, we turned up and proceeded on good third class rocks until 100 feet below the false north summit. A traverse to the higher south peak hooks around a peaklet and allowed us to

climb the north face ramp of the true south summit. It took us 4-1/2 hours from camp to make the top on a perfectly clear day providing great views of Mt. Ericsson and the crags nearby. No ropes or hardware were required on this one.

John was a terrific climbing partner because he quickly brewed many cups of fresh amaretto and coconut coffee mornings and evenings, to say nothing about the PANCAKES that came off his frying pan. You just have to have proper climbing priorities!

Bob

MT. RUSSELL, MT. CARILLON, MT. YOUNG, MT. HALE

(A Private Trip)

July 17-19

Myself, Devra Wasserman, Bob Sumner, Erik Siering, Tom Randall, Ellen Holden, Asher Waxman, and Christina Galuga met Friday morning at Whitney Portal. Asher, Ellen, Tom and I were scheduled to do the East Face of Whitney. The rest hoped to do the Mountaineer's route led by Bob.

Weather had been our worry for days before, and our concerns deepened at Lower Boy Scout Lake as rain clouds formed and the thunder rolled. We made camp early at Upper Boy Scout Lake in the rain. The weather being very erratic, we decided to cancel the East Face and opted for Russell with an early start in the morning so the we could be down early should the weather start up. As the afternoon cleared we set up a top rope and Tom, Ellen, Asher and I did some climbing while the others relaxed and watched.

The morning was clear and we set out for Russell at five-thirty. Bob, true to his nickname of "El Grandissimo", set off alone over the Whitney-Russell Pass above Iceberg Lake to climb Mt. Young and Mt. Hale.

We made the Russell-Carillon pass in good time and good cheer and after a brief stop to rest, have a bite, and fill our bottles with snow, we set out up the East Ridge.

It was a good group and I tried to keep us moving as quickly as care would allow to avoid getting closed in should weather develop. We had two small snow traverses but the rock was clean, the climbing went well and the rope was not needed. The Polemonium and the blue of Tulainyo Lake were particularly lovely. We made the summit in 2 hours and as the sky was still fairly clear we relaxed and Christina took some of her wonderful photographs.

The way back was uneventful and after lunch at the saddle we followed Erik to the top of Carillon. As we were reaching the top we watched and chatted with a fellow on a hang glider who circled Erik's head.

All were back in camp by three. "El Grandissimo" had arrived back at two-thirty. He found the pass above Iceberg easy class two and had found Young and Hale pretty easy from the slopes west of Arctic Lake. He came back over the col into the cirque above Upper Boy Scout Lake. He found it to be a bit messy and had to search a bit to stay off fourth class terrain.

After a good rest that night we returned to the Portal Sunday morning and all agreed it was a fine weekend.


Dan Richter

BROAD PEAK and GONDOGORO LA

I joined a commercial expedition to Broad Peak (8060m; 26,443') in Pakistan this summer. The international expedition was organized by Himalayan Kingdoms of Bristol, England, and the leader was Martin Barnicott (Wales), with climbing leader Russell Brice (New Zealand). The clients included Fulvio Fresia (an Italian who lives in Paris), Dr. Stuart Hutchinson (a Canadian who is moving to LA), Mikko Valanne (Finland), David Craven (England), and Constantin Lacatusu (Romania).

The most serious injury on the expedition occurred before the expedition started. I managed to get hit by a polo ball while viewing a game in Skardu on June 14. On June 16 we took jeeps to Dassu, where we successfully negotiated our way across a 'broken' bridge, and the next day we rebuilt a washed out road before arriving at Askole, the trailhead. Our 104 porters approached the mountain with us the classic way, via the Baltoro Glacier, and arrived at base camp beneath the standard 1957 west spur route on June 23. There was a lot of snow on the mountain, and we were welcomed by a huge avalanche that dusted our camp shortly after our arrival.

We established Camp I at 5800m (19,000') on June 28, Camp II at 6700m (22,000') on July 2, and Camp III at 7300m (24,000') on July 8. After a few days of rest at base camp while sitting out some inclement weather, we returned to the site of Camp III on July 15, only to find that it had disappeared, presumably in an avalanche. The snow was up to my thighs while climbing between Camps II & III, an exhausting experience. It was decided to abandon the climb due to the deep and unstable snow conditions. Constantin Lacatusu elected to join an American expedition, and he reached the summit of Broad Peak in early August. But he suffered frostbitten toes on the summit day, and he is recuperating in a London hospital as I write these words. The rest of the expedition and a trekking party of 7 left base camp on July 22 with 74 porters.

We returned to civilization via the Gondogoro La, a pass that links the Baltoro with the Hushe River valley to the south. The search for a southern approach to (or exit from) the Baltoro has an interesting history. In 1911 William and Fanny Workman visited the "Ghondokoro" Glacier, and determined that no pass existed that lead to the Baltoro. The 1955 Harvard Karakoram Expedition reached the same conclusion. In 1974 a party under the leadership (or "directorship") of SCMA Honorary Member Nick Clinch succeeded in crossing the Masherbrum La, the first known crossing between the Baltoro Glacier and the Hushe Valley. But Masherbrum La is a technical route (a north to south crossing involves rappels; a south to north crossing would require front-pointing through ice falls) and it is not suitable for porters.

From conversations with liaison officers, sirdars, and porters, it appears that the first crossing of the Gondogoro La occurred in 1989 by Mohammad Fakhar-ul-Haq who served as sirdar for a trekking group from Belgium. Since that time it has been crossed several times by trekking groups and mountaineering expeditions. The 1991 Mexican

Broad Peak Expedition approached the Baltoro via this route, as did two Spanish Broad Peak expeditions this year, and Robert and Peter Green of the SCMA crossed the pass on their return from K2 this summer. I found it to be a simple route (but one porter was killed in a crevasse fall last year) and I am surprised that this route was not discovered earlier (but with the worldwide decrease in snow and ice in the last years of the twentieth century, it may have been an impassible route in 1911 and 1955!).

In any event, from Broad Peak Base Camp we hiked past Concordia and up the western bank of the Vigne Glacier. We camped close to where the western branch of the Vigne Glacier meets the main glacier at 4900m (16,100'). On July 23 we ascended the western glacier and climbed to the top of Gondogoro La; the angle never exceeded 30° but there were some huge crevasses that had snowbridges. Our porters from Hushe crossed the pass without undue difficulty; most wore crampons over their sandals or worn-out galoshes. My altimeter read 18,800' (5730m) on the summit of the pass, and if K2 and Gasherbrum IV were in the correct places, and if my compass wasn't giving false readings, then I estimated that Gondogoro La was located at 35° 39.0'N, 70° 29.5'E. The south side of the pass consisted of steep, loose rock (class 3 in places) with patches of snow, followed by loose scree at the bottom. We followed the northern lateral moraine of the Gondogoro Glacier down to where the eastern lobe of the glacier forks at a nice gravel campsite among some meadows at an elevation of 4700m (15,400'). Two more days of travel down the Gondogoro Glacier brought us to the village of Hushe. We travelled by jeep from Hushe to Skardu on July 26, with considerable delays along the way to sample delicious apricots.

R.J. Secor

ANNOUNCEMENT

Roy Keenan has a complete set of the ECHO beginning July 1968 thru Spring 1992. He would like to donate these issues to an interested party. If you are, contact him at 27849 Longhill Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, 90274 or at (310) 377-8536.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Southern California Mountaineer's Association will be holding its annual rock climbing course beginning in January 1993. For information and an application for the class, contact John Gonzalez, 632 E. Barbara Ave, West Covina, CA, 91790.

IN HIGH PLACES: SLOVENIA

Burton A. Falk

The newly-independent republic of Slovenia is bounded on the north by Austria, on the west by Italy, and on the south by another new country, Croatia. Across the northwestern corner of Slovenia stretch the wildly beautiful Julian Alps, site of 9,394' Mt. Treglav, the highest point in the country.

Charlie Winger and I decided to climb Treglav from the Krma Valley, on the peak's east side, rather than the Aljazev Dom route, to the west, because of our guidebook, which contended that, although both starting points were equally accessible by road from the town of Mustrana near the Austrian border, to ascend Treglav from the west involved the climb of a 100 meter cliff by means of a hanging steel cable.

And that, for the most part, was the extent of our knowledge regarding Treglav National Park when we arrived at the rustic lodge, four kilometers from the end of the Krma Valley road, that first afternoon. Fortunately, however, we shortly discovered Katrina, an attractive Slovenian teen-ager, who was pleased to practice her English on us. Between the information she gleaned from a group of picnickers and from our own scrutiny of a fading mural-map of the area on the lodge's dining room wall, we soon believed we had a good idea of how to make the climb.

Later that evening, after a tasty dinner at the lodge, I decided to take a stroll. Above the Krma Valley, a summer haze softened the fading lemon sky. Dark pines climbed the slopes to either side, rising to the rugged limestone cliffs high above. Along the lush valley floor, tall broad-leaved trees stood hushed awaiting the oncoming night. The meadow was still. The only sign of man was the white gravel roadbed, glowing faintly in the gathering dusk. The Julian Alps were magical.

The next morning at 7:00 a.m., standing at the 3,200' trailhead at the road's end, Charlie and I weren't so confident of our previous evening's plans--there were no trail signs to lend us any comfort. Fortunately, as we stood there scratching our heads, two hikers passed by and assured us we were, indeed, on the Treglav route. Treglav National Park may be a popular Slovenian holiday destination, criss-crossed with trails, but it is definitely not well-signed.

The trail to Slovenia's high point begins in a forest of maple-like trees (the area must be gorgeous in the autumn), then climbs steeply to the southwest. In early August, at the time of our visit, the valley was ablaze with wildflowers. Above us, wispy clouds clung to the limestone cliffs, reminiscent of a Chinese painting. In the west toward Italy, a storm was brewing, but for the morning remained warm and pleasant.

After an hour and a half of strenuous hiking, we reached the head of the valley where three or four trails (all unsigned) led off in as many different directions. Choosing path most well-traveled, we continued on for another fifteen minutes until we came to a cowherd's hut, where six hikers were finishing up a tea break. One of the hikers, a young fellow who could speak English, offered us further directions, and also asked the cowherd to brew us a glass of his special tea, which was made from the dried leaves of a large nettle-like plant growing next to the hut. Charlie and I lingered on there for a half an hour, sipping the spicy drink and trading gestures with the jolly cowherd. Our host became so animated, in fact, that before we left he pulled out a bottle of

schnapps and insisted that we join him in a toast to friendship. What Slovenia lacks in trail signs is more than made up for by warm Slovenian hospitality.

Beyond the hut, we found that, except for a few belled cows, we had the trail to ourselves. In the west toward Treglav, great misty clouds rolled over the summit ridge, making it impossible to distinguish which of the peaks might be the high point. About 10:30, we came upon yet another unsigned junction, where by guess alone we decided to take the fork to the left. Following an additional half-hour of steep climbing, we discovered our first trail sign, which, thankfully, indicated that somewhere above lay the Treglavski Dom (hut) and Treglav.

At that point, 7,200' feet in elevation, all vegetation had given way to a landscape consisting of barren, taupe-white limestone. Continuing on for a few more minutes, we came upon a large cirque enclosing a year-round snow field, where, looking up into the just-started light rain, we got our first glimpse of the Treglavski Hut, situated on ridge 1,000' above.

We got a big surprise when we reached the hut at 11:45. Not only was the building much larger than we had expected (five stories), but it also contained fifty or so wet and soggy hikers. In addition to several large dormitory rooms, it also housed a well-equipped weather station and a commodious cafeteria. Because there were so few cars at the Krma Valley trailhead and even fewer hikers on the trail, we concluded that most of the damp climbers had arrived via the Aljazev Dom route. Despite our guidebook, I am convinced that the most popular way to approach the peak is from the west.

We wrote and mailed a few post cards at the hut (yes, there's even a mailbox), then we hiked across a small notch to the base of Treglav itself. There we got another surprise. We had understood from Katrina that the final portion of the climb was steep and exposed, with steel rods driven into the rock to provide protection. The last thing we expected to find were several parents with small children in tow attempting to make the ascent.

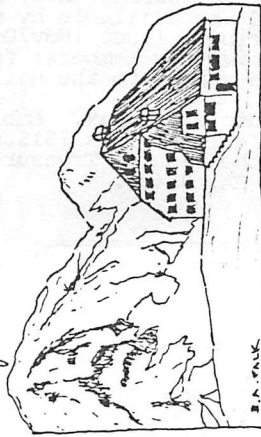
Yet, there they were, children as young as 6 or 7, clambering up the rock. Granted, the smallest were wearing chest harnesses and short leashes--but still! Watching the kids climb the footholds carved into the steep limestone face and negotiate the narrow summit ridge gave me cause for several anxious moments. I have no idea what their parents were thinking.

Within a few hundred feet of the top, a swirling mist enveloped us, occluding our view and causing the smooth limestone trail to become slippery and treacherous. Upon the summit itself, we found a round, pissoir-like steel structure, just large enough to hold two or three standing climbers. Draped from the side of the shelter was the blue, white and red flag of Yugoslavia--we made the climb 1989, prior to Slovenia's independence--flapping dully in the cold breeze. We took the requisite photos, then beat a hasty retreat to the Treglavski Hut, where we had a lunch of greasy goulash and beer.

Our return to the car was speedy and uneventful. We left the hut at 2:00 p.m. and arrived at the parking area at 4:30.

Still later that afternoon, as we began our drive down the gravel road, a soft haze was once again forming over the Krma Valley. With a touch of sadness, I realized that, because there were so many mountains to climb and so little time in which to climb them, I'd probably never again return to enjoy the magic of an evening in the Julian Alps.

Treglav & Treglavski Hut



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SIERRA PEAKS SECTION BALLOT

Below are the nominations for the 1993 Sierra Peaks Section Management Committee. Please vote for no more than 5 people. Indicate your selections by placing an "X" in the box next to the name.

1993 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOMINEES

- BARBARA COHEN
- JIM FUJIMOTO
- BARBARA HOFFMAN
- PATTY KLINE
- RENE MEVAY
- DAVE PETZOLD
- LARRY TIDBALL
- DEVRA WASSERMAN

Please return these ballots to Mario Gonzalez no later than 11/9/92.
You may also bring them to the SPS meeting on 11/11/92.

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