

# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

*February*  
1950

**ANNOUNCING THE 1950 WILDERNESS OUTINGS**

# Miscellany

I-V.

In the January issue we told you about the proposed project to reprint Volumes I-V of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. Response has been good, but not quite good enough. Hoping that there are many members who have intended to act but have not yet done so, we are following up the original notice with this reminder that there is still time to place an order at the prepublication price—\$20.00 for the five volumes, or \$5.00 per volume, payable now or on shipment of books (which will probably not take place until August). A business reply card is attached to facilitate your response. If the project is to succeed there must be more orders on hand and we hope that many of you will place your order now. The deadline for prepublication orders is March 27.

Richard L. Pollett, a Park Consultant, in a recent issue of the *Detroit Times*, gave a few punch lines which we quote: "The wealth of a nation is in its soil, its water, its forests, and the things they produce and reproduce." "Practical politics has no place in practical conservation." "When

all the gifts of nature that can be commercialized have been converted into dollars and cents, this will be a poor place to live."

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*Cover:* In Tuolumne Meadows, by Ansel Adams. This is the gateway to the Yosemite highlands the High Trip and Burro Trips are to explore.

The Benson-Squaw Valley map is by Alan Stiles, as is the description of the route. The outing announcements are by the various trip leaders. The Jackson Hole story is from the National Park Service.

**THE SIERRA CLUB**, founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast. Since these resources receive best protection from those who know them well, the club has long conducted educational activities, under the committees listed below, to make them known. Participation is invited in the program to preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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# Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 35

FEBRUARY, 1950

NUMBER 2

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE...

## For the February Record

### *Joseph N. LeConte*

[The Board of Directors, at its February meeting, adopted the following as an expression of its great loss occasioned by the death of Joseph N. LeConte.]

*The directors of the Sierra Club are inexpressibly grieved to learn of the death of one of the club's most beloved members, Joseph N. LeConte, who grew up with the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club owes a large part of its prominence and prestige today to the inspiration and effective work of Professor LeConte, who was a charter member, Treasurer, Secretary, President and, for years prior to his death, Honorary President of the Club. His death in Carmel, California, on February 1, 1950, brought an end to the life on earth of a most lovable character, who will still live in the memories of his devoted friends. He was one of the Sierra Club's outstanding leaders who contributed most generously toward making it the effective force for conservation that it is today.*

[The 1950 Annual magazine will carry a full-length article about Professor LeConte, written by his lifelong friend, James S. Hutchinson.]

### *Conservation Week*

Emphasizing a program that must be a year-round activity, the California Conservation Council is sponsoring the annual California Conservation Week, March 7-14, 1950. School and club programs during the eight days—opening as always on

Arbor Day—will observe the occasion with a variety of activities under the theme, "Conservation—The People's Business."

The California Conservation Council, a coordinating organization headed by Miss Pearl Chase of Santa Barbara, concentrates on effective conservation education, particularly in the elementary schools.

Through the work of the council, school and club leaders can obtain information on conservation source materials and suggestions for their use. Inquiries may be addressed to California Conservation Council, 912 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, California. One of the most important activities of the Council is the annual fall meeting, through which workers in many agencies—governmental, educational, and private—enjoy the opportunity of conferring with other conservationists.

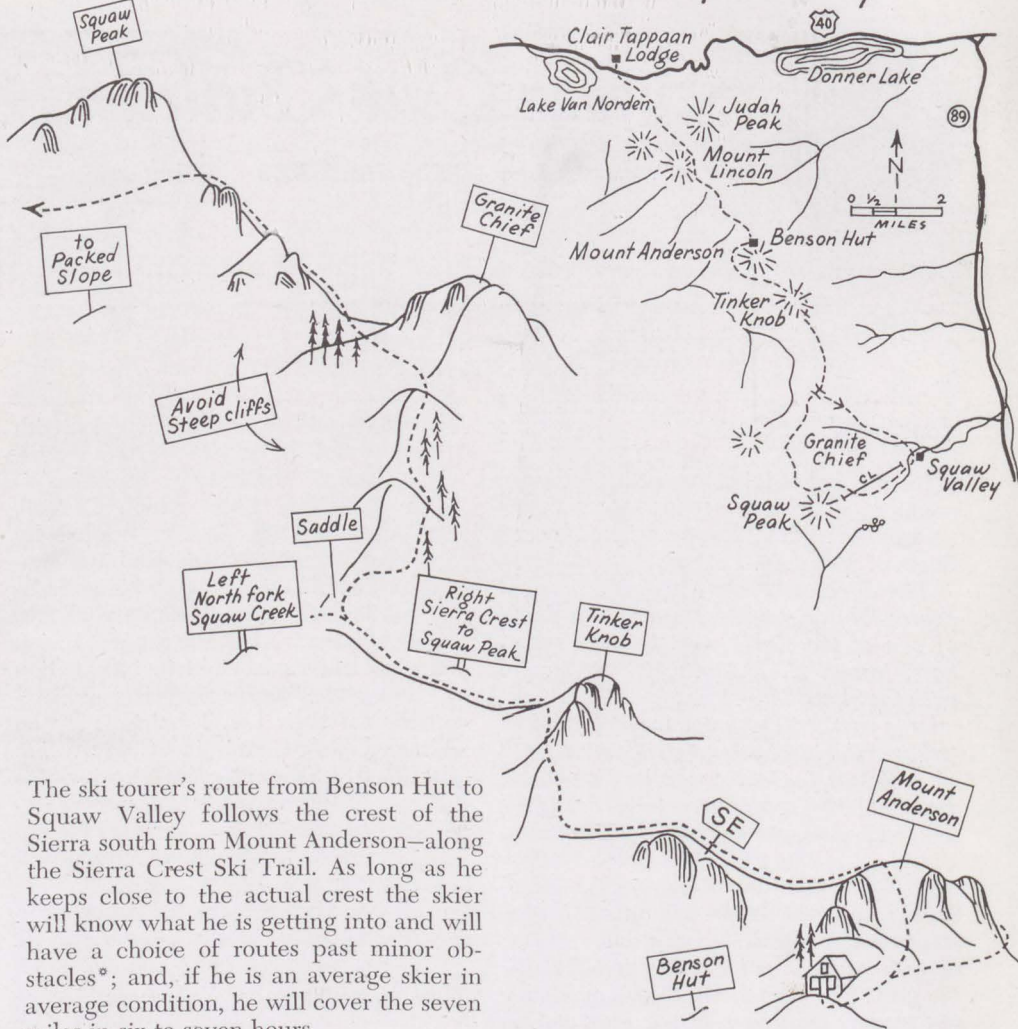
### *The Snowpack on February 1*

From the California Coöperative Snow Surveys Bulletin for February come several figures relating to Sierra snowfall for 1949-50. The figures show, by watershed, the percentage of normal snowpack on February 1, 1949:

Sacramento, Pit . . . . .	90
Feather, Yuba . . . . .	110
American . . . . .	130
Tuolumne . . . . .	115
Kings . . . . .	130
Kaweah . . . . .	135
Kern . . . . .	130
Los Angeles . . . . .	.....

March 1 figures will be viewed dimly.

## Sierra Crest Ski Trail: Benson to Squaw Valley



The ski tourer's route from Benson Hut to Squaw Valley follows the crest of the Sierra south from Mount Anderson—along the Sierra Crest Ski Trail. As long as he keeps close to the actual crest the skier will know what he is getting into and will have a choice of routes past minor obstacles<sup>o</sup>; and, if he is an average skier in average condition, he will cover the seven miles in six to seven hours.

For more details: From Benson, traverse the summit of Anderson or contour around the west flank to the southeast ridge, which leads directly to Tinker Knob. By-pass the summit block along the east shoulder and shuss gently down the wooded ridge south of Tinker to the saddle at the head of the north fork of Squaw Creek, down which (and over a few bluffs) lies the low (short) route to Squaw Valley. The high route continues toward Granite

Chief up moderately wooded terrain, cuts across the east face of the peak and emerges on the ridge leading to Squaw Peak. Well along this ridge an open spot in the cornice allows access to the packed slopes serviced by the chair lift. If there is no open spot, the skier loses three points. Habitual late starters should reform and allow enough time to enjoy the scenic aspects of the trip and to finish without running a contest with darkness.

<sup>o</sup>The newspapers report that four Sacramento skiers who did not keep up on the crest missed a very important feature of the Donner-Squaw Valley route—the Benson Hut—and spent a cool night out. Moral: the crest is best.



HIGH SIERRA STREAM, NORTHERN YOSEMITE

Ansel Adams

## Announcing the 1950 Wilderness Outings

[To get people into the mountain wilderness, to enable them to explore and enjoy it and thus know well the importance of protecting it, a full series of summer wilderness outings is presented once again. There will be twelve two-week periods in all—total capacity, 800 persons—between July 3 and August 27. Further details about each type of club trip are given in the Member's Handbook, which also contains comments and lists on outing equipment. The following announcements consist of itineraries, procedure for making reservations, and keynote drawings by Milton Hildebrand.<sup>1</sup>

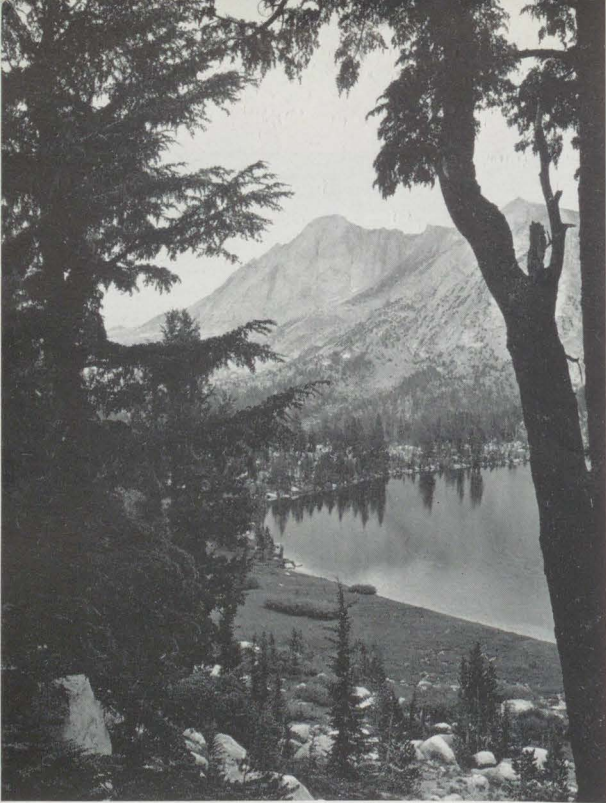


### The Forty-Fifth High Trip (Six Weeks of It)

#### *A New Kind of Trip to Seldom-Seen High Yosemite Country*

There must be a better word than “drastic” to describe the change planned for the 1950 High Trip to the little-known but magnificent back country in Yosemite's High Sierra. Whatever the word is, the change is sweeping and, we believe, all for the good. The trip will be physi-

cally easier to make than ever before, even though it will still be a traveling trip—very much so. The new plan for operating the trip will cut the burden on Sierra Meadows just about in half. And the cost is substantially reduced. The one foreseeable disadvantage is that we shall not be



NORTHERN YOSEMITE COUNTRY

Ansel Adams

able to travel so far between camps as has been required in all High Trips since 1902.

### *What Have We Done?*

Most Sierra travelers have probably seen pack trains go by in which the ratio of mules to men has been about four to one. This summer the Sierra Club will just about reverse that ratio—surpassing two-fold its own unsurpassed record for packing the most people through the mountains with the least grass. This year no regular moving days will exceed 7 miles in length. The shortness of the move will allow the stock to move equipment in the morning, then double back and bring up dunnage in the afternoon. We are announcing now that this ought to be a be-kind-to-mules summer, for to make this type of trip possible the mules must walk four times as far as the people. Since the footburners will average 42 miles for each of the three two-week periods, this means that the packers will have ridden nearly 500 miles to serve the trip.

### *Where Do We Go?*

So much for the revolutionary changes. Still the same will be the general plan of the trip—a plan that has brought the enjoyment of traveling through wilderness to thousands of persons since William E. Colby invented the trip at the beginning of the century. Mules carry the load—the food, dunnage, and commissary equipment. Skilled hands (old-time High Trippers are happily familiar with the names of Jim Harkins, Charlotte Mauk, and Paul “Digger” Kaufmann) will prepare their mountain repasts. And the High Trippers, carrying a minimum of noon-time needs, will explore the Sierra countryside or laze around to suit their tastes. Each period of the trip will follow the successful pattern for maximum enjoyment of the mountains. We come into a campsite from one point of the compass, lay over in that site for a couple of days to enable everyone who wishes to explore two more points of the compass, then we leave by the fourth point for a new campsite, where horizons are new. Each campsite is one in which several days could be enjoyed, from which many fascinating side trips could be made; but we like to leave each site while we are still wanting more of it, to be tantalized into wanting to come back to it again another year, to show it then to someone else. We are willing to leave one scene fairly soon because there are so many more Sierra scenes yet to become familiar with.

### *Campsites for the first two weeks— Virginia Lakes to Buckeye Creek, July 17–29*

*Virginia Canyon.* One of the most beautiful in northern Yosemite National Park. A fine base for side trips to Mount Conness, Little Lost Valley of Shepherd Crest, McCabe Lakes, Spiller Canyon. A good possibility for a knapsack route to Benson Lake via the Matterhorn and Slide Canyon.

*Matterhorn Canyon.* Traditionally good fishing. Beautiful views of Sawtooth Ridge, with its Three Teeth, Cleaver, and Doodad. Miles of broad calciated canyon to

explore, and some of the finest mountain hemlocks in the Sierra.

*Benson Lake.* The Benson Lake beach is without peer in the Sierra. Neall, Rodgers, and Smedberg lakes are readily accessible. There are fine climbs right in camp for the Polemonium Club, and the presidential route hasn't been touched since 1941. A fine meadow at the base is ideal for spectators. Ask anyone who has been in the Benson Lake country.

*Lower Kerrick Meadow.* One of the broad, granite-rimmed grasslands for which northern Yosemite country is famous. Side trips to Rock Island Lake, Tower Peak, Suicide Ridge, and Crazy Mule Gulch. Four-weekers may want to strike out for Tilden Lake from here while waiting for the second two-weekers to join the party.

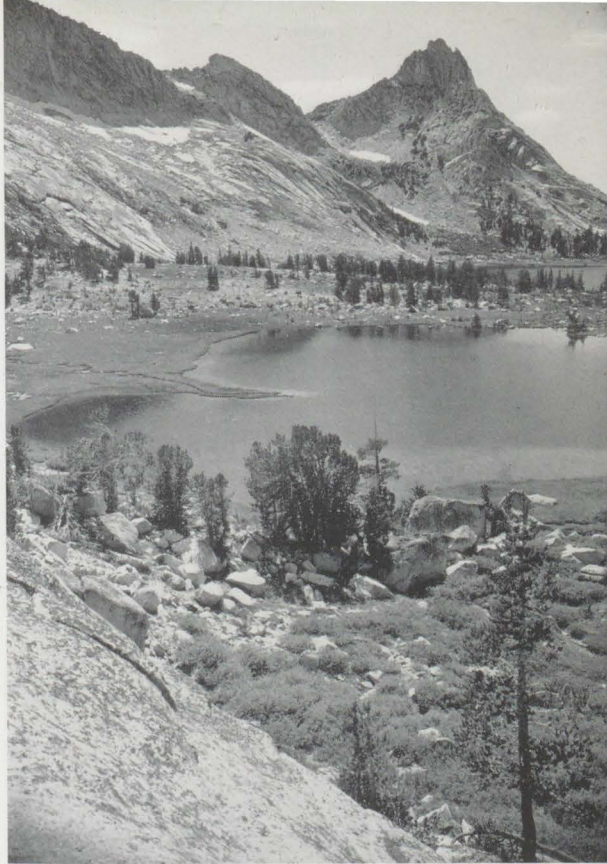
*The Roughs.* Across Buckeye Pass, at the head of Buckeye Creek. A chance to explore peaks which have long been blank on the Mountain Records Committee's map. Here we'll try to discover how the place got its name, first two-weekers will go out, and the second group will come in from the roadhead out by the Bridgeport Ranger Station.

#### *The Second Period—Buckeye Creek to Tuolumne Meadows, July 31—August 12*

*The Roughs.* An easy day up a gradual glaciated canyon and a chance to acclimatize while the mules move the food stores over Buckeye Pass.

*Upper Kerrick Meadow.* The general scene is essentially the same as described for the first period. There will be the same places to explore. For those who were not on the first period, there will be opportunity for a knapsack trip to the next camp via Benson Lake and Camp Creek.

*Upper Slide Canyon.* The most spectacular part of Northern Yosemite. Camp will be right under Sawtooth Ridge. Mountaineering galore, and a chance to explore the many glaciers that descend north from the ridge. You can say you climbed the Matterhorn—and get away with it—provided that people don't press you too closely. The trail down Slide Canyon has



NORTHERN YOSEMITE COUNTRY

Ansel Adams

long been abandoned (we come in via Snow Pass), and fabulous fishing should be unavoidable.

*Matterhorn Canyon.* See description for first period. There will be two routes from Slide Canyon to here: one, over Burro Pass and down canyon to camp; two, for those who want something unusual, via the abandoned Slide Canyon Trail past Tallulah and Shamrock lakes.

*Virginia Canyon.* See description of first period. The mules go out via Cold Canyon and Glen Aulin. Those who wish may go out to Virginia Lakes and pick up dunnage by driving up the Tioga Road to the Sierra Club Soda Springs property.

#### *The Third Period—Dana Meadows to Lake Ediza, August 14—26*

*Parker Pass.* The Parker Pass Trail is misnamed. It should be the Koip Pass Trail, inasmuch as Parker Pass is hardly perceptible and Koip is one of the most

spectacular in the Sierra. We'll camp as close under Koip as we can, and make the most of a rare opportunity to explore Mono Pass and Bloody Canyon, the Helen Lake country, and the Parker and Koip glaciers.

*Alger Lake.* Here on the edge of a lake-filled shelf overlooking Reversed Creek and the Mono Craters we can learn the last mysteries of the unclimbed peaks of Koip Crest and study the geology where old roof pendants and granite meet.

*Rush Creek.* A wild, undisciplined basin, heading in Rodgers Peak and Mount Lyell, Yosemite's highest, which bears the second largest glacier in the Sierra.

*Garnet Lake.* Truly a gemlike lake, with a vista of alpine splendor unequaled in the Sierra. No other peaks have quite the rugged quality of Banner and Ritter.

*Lake Ediza.* A last chance, perhaps, to see this region as you'll want to remember it—unspoiled. A new view of Banner and Ritter, plus the spires of the Minarets, Iceberg Lake, and the Minaret Glacier. It seems almost inevitable that this country is to be turned inside out for its mineral resources. See it, and rack your brain for a way to save the region as you strike out for the Agnew Meadow roadhead and look back!



The trip has been softened, yes; younger and older people can handle it. The age bracket through the years has been 8 to 80, so we shouldn't expect to push the extreme limits very far. More people who themselves are pushing the extremes should, however, feel fewer reservations about traveling High Trip style. But you needn't feel that there will be too little exercise to keep your appetite up. We'll start pushing those who show signs of flagging appetites out on more and more side trips.

Of course there'll be plenty to do—natural sciences to study in their habitat; mountaineering; climbing, camping, and map-reading instruction; fishing, photographing, campfire entertainment . . . And there'll be plenty *not* to do for those who feel strong need for a quiet place in the

half shade of the high country, far from ringing telephones.

### *Commissary*

Most of the commissary faces will be familiar: the Browsers and the Goldsworthys leading and assistant leading; menu watcher-overers as listed above; Bruce Morgan, Ike Livermore's right-hand man, watching over the mountain transportation and calling mountain dances when we find enough flat granite; Toni Bristow seeing to it that the right cases of food are set out to go to the right places; Bob Golden, Don Scanlon, Steve Jory, Sam VanWyck, Ted Ginno, Helen Smith, Sally Harkins, and a few other old faces and new, uncommitted as yet.

The commissary crew has to be large on any moving trip (it takes manpower to make and break camp), but it is never large enough. As long as there's a High Trip there'll always be ample opportunity for volunteer wielders of ax, shovel, and hotcake-or-trout turner!

### *How to Rationalize the Deposit*

The deposit is good news—\$60 per two-week period, \$45 for children under 14 (but check with the management to see how far under they can be and still be likely to get along). The substantial saving over the last year's figures results from our having so revised the trip that we'll be using no more than six strings of mules. Otherwise this year's trip would have cost \$75—\$80 per period.

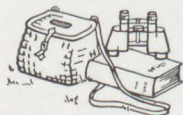
A High Trip shouldn't be very hard to rationalize if from the modest deposit you deduct what your expenses at home would have been for meals at home or taken out, entertainment, city transportation, and medical attention for body and nerves. For example, a very economical, carless couple we know lives on \$150 per month, excluding rent. Since two can live as cheaply as one, it follows that a single person would spend \$70 per two weeks to stay home and would therefore save \$10 by going on the High Trip. A car owner would save even more, since expensive city driving could be eliminated. So you can't afford to stay out of the mountains!





SIERRA CREST,  
with Mounts Powell and Haeckel  
and Midnight Lake  
in center foreground.

A. E. Taylor



## Base Camp

### *Four Weeks in a Land of Surprises*

If you like to explore out-of-the-way and little-known places, you'll find new adventure in the Middle Fork of Bishop Creek with the Base Camp this summer. I can't understand why this readily accessible region—for it is only seven miles over an easy trail from Lake Sabrina and the roadhead—has been neglected for so long.

If you want to see raw geography on edge and in the making, you'll find glaciers here still at their destructive work. If you like surprises, you'll be thrilled with unexpected lakes and waterfalls hidden away in a bewildering network of

streams that make up this chaotic watershed. If you've wondered why they labeled these lakes Topsy Turvy, Drunken Sailor, Hell Divers, Baboon, Fish Gut, Bottleneck, etc.,—then take a look-see and you'll admit they are well named. There are hundreds of other unmapped lakes still awaiting names. If you have imagination, here's your chance.

If you are a kodachrome fan and like color, go up and shoot deep blue-black Midnight Lake, or high-cliffed Moonlight Lake, or the most exquisite of them all, Blue Heaven with its floating icebergs. If

BLUE HEAVEN LAKE,  
with Mount Haeckel  
in the center skyline.

A. E. Taylor





MOUNT HAECKEL  
AND ITS DYING GLACIER.  
The lake is unnamed.

A. E. Taylor

you would like to solve one of California's glaciological mysteries, come with us up on Powell Glacier and see a river of ice that is burying itself, causing it to be called "the inverted glacier." Every base camper will be given the opportunity of visiting a live glacier, so come prepared. If you have an ice ax and crampons, bring them with you.

If you prefer unusual climbs, you'll have a chance at familiar mountains from a new and sportier approach—over glaciers and up ice and snow chutes. If you want summit panoramas, with the desert on one side and the ragged crest on the other, you can find a new one every day. If you want to relax, you'll find a protected meadow and a pleasant brook near camp with a gorgeous scenic backdrop in the distance. But we warn you, bring plenty of resistance as the lure will be great and our enthusiasm for this region is irrepressible. Don't get a topo map, as it is both inac-

curate and incomplete. We will supply you with a basic pencil sketch, which you can fill in as you go.

Most of the regular Base Camp leaders expect to be there, also looking for new adventure. Come and help them find it. Dean Curtis providing the menus, Bob Thompson overseeing camp activities, John Thomas Howell in charge of natural sciences, Pete Friedrichsen and Frank Bailey on the heavy end of commissary, and Oliver Kehrlein as perennial leader.

Those desiring to become acclimated beforehand may camp at Lake Sabrina camp grounds and eat at Camp Sabrina. Saddle animals can be obtained from the packer and bus transportation will be provided if warranted. Tents may be rented at the usual charge. Reservation for all of these should be filed when making application for the outing.

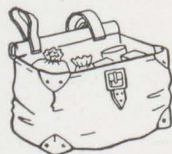
As on the High Trip, there is a low rate for children under 14.

## Burro Trips

The burro trips will be based at Tuolumne Meadows, each two-week trip going over Donohue, Agnew, Koip, and Parker passes. Each group is limited to 20 people.

Burro trippers are expected to share in packing and chasing the stock, making camp, and preparing chow. Prior experience with stock is welcome but not necessary, as one learns quickly by doing, with informal instruction. However, some previous experience in the Sierra is strongly recommended. One trip should qualify those who wish to make similar private trips.

The burro trips should be considered



more strenuous than the High Trip because of the extra activities; however, one does not have duties every day and is free on layover days. Each trip will have five layover days. Camps will be at Lyell Base Camp, Thousand Island Lake, Shadow Lake, near Agnew Pass, Alger Lake, and Bloody Canyon.

Leaders will be Harry Abraham, Bob Braun, and George Templeton.



## Knapsack Trips

The purposes of the Knapsack Trips are to visit and explore isolated mountain areas away from trails where stock cannot go, and to follow a route where good fishing and spectacular scenery can be expected and where there are some peaks for those who like to climb. Several layover days are provided for the enjoyment of individual hobbies. The trips are designed for those who like the freedom of knapsacking and who are strong enough to carry their personal gear and camp equipment plus food between caches. Food and camp gear will be about 15 pounds for the Sierra trip and 10 pounds for the out-of-state trip.

Considerable cross-country travel is necessary and this can sometimes be somewhat of a scramble. But there is no reason why anyone, man or woman, in good physical condition—who can keep his personal gear down to 15 pounds and who can carry 30—cannot have a good time on a Knapsack Trip. It is not recommended, however, for those who have not completed something considerably more strenuous than any of the other Sierra Club trips, unless the individual is confident of his strength and physical condition.

*The Sierra Knapsack Trip* will start from South Lake and end at North Lake. The tentative route will be via Bishop Pass, Palisade Basin, Deer Meadow, LeConte Canyon, Muir Pass, Martha Lake, Goddard Canyon, Evolution Valley, and out to North Lake by a knapsack route from Darwin Canyon to Lamareck Creek. Leader will be E. R. McKenzie, who led the 1948 and 1949 Knapsack Trips in the Sierra.

*The Out-of-State Knapsack Trip* will go to Glacier National Park. The trip will start at the lower end of Kintla Lake just below the Canadian border and go via Boulder Pass and Brown Pass to Janet Lake, then back to the lower end of Bowman Lake. Leader will be Bill Badè.

Reservations are limited to 20 for each trip.



## Saddle Trip

This year's saddle trip will be a nine-day circle trip through the famous Golden Trout Creek and Kern Canyon country. The trip will start and end at Carroll Creek pack station, south of Lone Pine.

Leader of the group will be Bruce Morgan, well known as Sierra Club member, manager of Mt. Whitney Pack Trains, and head man of packing on the High Trip. Morgan's many years of Sierra experience include packing, high country cattle operations, and his annual twenty-mule team trek from Lone Pine to Death Valley.

First night's camp, July 2, will be in Horseshoe Basin, scenic and extensive high meadow country on upper Cottonwood Creek. From here, riders will pass Mulkey Pass, via Tunnel Ranger Station, famous for its unique geology and cattlemen's wars, to camp at Little Whitney Meadows on lower Golden Trout Creek.

On the Fourth, from camp at Little Whitney, riders may make the side trip to Lewis Camp in the Kern River Canyon, a beautiful ride past Volcanic Falls and including the spectacular Kern River suspension bridge. Or they may stay in camp and fish Golden Trout Creek, original habitat of the world famous golden trout.

Third traveling day will be to Rocky Basin Lakes, a group of lakes perched on the rim of Kern Canyon. These lakes have never been visited on an organized club trip. They are well known locally, however, for their picturesque camp-sites and excellent fishing.

From Rocky Basin Lakes, riders will cross an unnamed pass to camp at Big Whitney Meadows, one of the most beautiful and extensive meadows of the Sierra. From here, side trips can be made to the upper Rock Creek-Mount Langley region, and to Tunnel Ranger Station.

On July 9, riders will cross Cottonwood Pass to camp on Cottonwood Creek near Cottonwood Lake Basin, renowned for its scenery and fishing.

Final day's ride will be the return to Carroll Creek via the Golden Trout Camp

trail, a short but interesting ride featuring extensive views of the Owens Valley and surrounding mountains.

In order that proper choice of saddle horses may be made, the following information should accompany riders' deposits: approximate age, sex, height, weight, and previous riding experience. Each rider will be assigned his horse before the trip's start at Carroll Creek. Previous riding experience, although helpful, is not at all necessary. Helping guides and packers will be available to riders at all times, and suitable riding and horsemanship instructions, too.

The trip will be limited to 24 riders.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Outings are open only to members of the Sierra Club or similar clubs. With the exception of children under 12, all members of a family must be members of the club.

Since the trips are at high altitudes and fairly strenuous, all persons must be in sound health, and a *physical examination is strongly advised*. Those intending to go should take some local walks and climbs to get into condition. Shoes that are to be worn in the mountains should be used and checked on these preparatory trips.

Those who do not have lightweight equipment would do well to begin acquiring it, for overweight can only be carried by individual advance arrangement with the packer.

Transportation is usually by private car.

### Deposits and Deadlines

The Sierra Club outing is a cooperative enterprise and each person partaking of the benefits assumes his share of the responsibilities, both financial and for help on the trip. The deposits listed will probably cover the expenses; *full deposit is required* with the reservation (see table).

First come, first served. Get your reservation in early. It will cost you only \$2 if you find you can't go and notify the Outing Committee *one month* before your particular trip period starts. That much time is necessary to permit changes in food purchases, packing arrangements, etc. Because of the additional expense involved in making last-minute changes, a charge of \$5 will be made for reservations or cancellations made less than one month before your trip. There can be no refund if you cancel within 5 days of the start of your trip unless a replacement is found.

Remit to "Sierra Club" and be sure your reservation includes *the names and addresses of all persons* for whom it is made, and that it specifies *which trip periods are wanted*, by name and number (or date). Please state *whether transportation is desired or can be provided* for others whose names the office may suggest to you; if applying for burro or knapsack trips please list briefly your *relevant experience* and give your *sex and age*. Add your *height and weight* to this for the Saddle Trip.

Outing	Total deposit	Dunnage limit	Starting dates for each period
High Trip	\$ 60	30 lbs.	No. 1, July 17, north from Virginia Lakes
Children	45	30	No. 2, July 31, south from Buckeye Creek No. 3, August 14, south from Tuolumne
Burro	42	25	No. 1, July 16; No. 2, July 30; No. 3, Aug. 13; No. 4, Aug. 27
Knapsack	30	15	No. 1, Bishop and Muir passes, July 16
	42	15	No. 2, Glacier National Park, Aug. 8
Saddle	140	50	Rock Creek and south, July 2-10
Base Camp	40	30	Bishop Creek, No. 1, July 16; No. 2, July 30
Children	30		

## Ski-Touring Schedule, 1950

Following are the ski tours scheduled for this year. For all tours, if you would like to go but have some doubts of your skill, ability, or the difficulty of the particular trip, get in touch with the leader and see what he or she thinks of your problem.

For all trips, indicate if you will need or if you can provide transportation. All indicated driving distances are from Berkeley (one way), more or less.

*Mar. 4-5. Benson Hut, from Tappaan Lodge.*

Leader, Emile Lacrampe, 1532 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. 4th class skiers minimum. Climb from Sugar Bowl over Mount Lincoln and then traverse ridge to hut site. Bring your own food and sleeping bags. Driving distance, 180 miles.

*Mar. 11-12. Ostrander Hut, Yosemite.*

Leaders, Suzanne Bond and Rita Wieland. For information, write Rita at 1634 Walnut, Berkeley. Same trip as described above. Almost guaranteed fine skiing on Horse Ridge. Bring cameras, the scenery is magnifico!

*Apr. 1-2. Pyramid Peak Region.*

Leader, Neil Anderson, trip arrangements through Emile Lacrampe. Snow-camping trip starting from Echo Lake. Bring your own food, bed, house, stove, etc. Moonlight skiing if we're lucky. Ski ability, about 4th class. We would like some stamina and muscles, but you don't have to climb to the top of the highest mountain. Drive, 190 miles.

*April, May ? ? Mystery Trip No. 1.*

Depends on roads and weather. Follow the leader to ? ? Prepare to eat and sleep out, but not on the snow. Skiing for all sorts of skiers. We'll send you off in different directions depending on how good or bad you are. Drive about 250 miles. Emile dreamed up this one. Watch the *Yodeler* for precise dates or keep asking him until he tells you when.

*Date unknown, Mineral King.*

The date on this one depends on when the road will be cleared of snow. Live in cabins, bring and cook your own food. Phil Bettler will lead. For more information write Camping Committee at 1532 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. Come see what the skiers rave about and why. Trip is long and difficult for a two-day week end. Tends to produce sore muscles and results in extreme fatigue but it's wonderful country. Drive, 290 miles.

*May-? Mystery Trip No. 2*

This one will be exploratory, depending on road conditions for precise scheduling. Camp out, but not in snow. Climb to rather high elevations. Should be for skiers just a bit better than 4th class. To be planned and led by Emile Lacrampe.

For detailed information on what to bring for these touring trips, and what to expect from them, consult the *Manual of*

*Ski Mountaineering.*

In addition to these listed trips note that the Benson Hut, on Mount Anderson, and the Peter Grubb Hut are available to skiers at any time. It is hoped that impromptu trips can be arranged from the Clair Tappaan Lodge to these places on demand. Please check with the management if you can lead or participate in such trips. Ski heil!

SNOW CAMPING COMMITTEE



TOURING NEAR BEAR CREEK SPIRE →

## Sierra Club Outing to a Desert Wonderland

This year the Outing Committee is sponsoring a desert trip without peer: ancient cliff dwellings, including Montezuma Castle, the White House, and many others; Meteor Crater; Petrified Forest; Painted Desert; Canyon de Chelly, one of the most picturesque of desert canyons; Monument Valley, with age-carved stone monuments, one of the slender shafts rising to a height of 1,006 feet; Rainbow Bridge, the greatest known natural bridge in the world; and the south rim of the unparalleled Grand Canyon. The dates are August 6-19.

Nowhere else in the world can so many desert scenic wonders be visited in a two-week trip. Moreover, the fantastically eroded cliffs, canyons and pinnacles are highly colored, inviting color photography.

Travel will be by automobile, and each car will form an independent commissary unit.

Experienced leaders will guide participants, and the nightly rendezvous around remote desert campfires will be under the direction of Marion Jones and Mary Galton.

A limited number of saddle and pack animals will be available at Rainbow Bridge; most of those who wish to visit the Bridge must be able to make the trip down the canyon to the Bridge and out again (14 miles each way) on foot.

Camps will be made at elevations of five thousand feet or more, escaping as much as possible the summer heat of the lowlands.

Itinerary and detailed information will be available June 1.

Leader, P. E. Beito; assistant leader, William Dorris; Reservationist, Ruth Aiken, 4270 West Avenue 40, Los Angeles 65. (Albany 0610—until 9 P.M.)

No deposit required. All costs are paid directly by the individuals concerned.

## John Muir Trail Trips

Two trips over the John Muir Trail between Whitney Portal and Tuolumne Meadows are being organized for 1950. The first leaves Whitney Portal July 16 and arrives at Tuolumne Meadows August 11; on August 13, the second leaves Tuolumne Meadows to arrive at Whitney Portal September 9.

Each of these will be scheduled in sections of approximately one week, with divisions at points on the Muir Trail near Kearsarge Pass, Bishop or Piute Pass, and Duck Pass near Mammoth Lakes. This makes possible participation on a basis of

one, two, three, or four weeks. Fresh supplies will also be brought in at these places.

Some plan to walk and others to go horseback. A few extra horses for hire will be available for those who may wish to rest their shoes. (Extra hiking shoes are not available, however, for riders who may wish to exercise their feet.)

Cost of the entire four weeks' trip is \$205 walking, and \$345 horseback.

For further information and reservations, write: Joe Wampler, 1940 Hearst Ave., Berkeley 9.

## Death Valley Expedition

The College of the Pacific Death Valley Expedition, April 1-8, total cost, \$57, is open to Sierra Club members. Applica-

tions as late as the day before the trip are usually accepted. Telephone 99901 or write to College of the Pacific, Stockton.

## Rockefeller Gives Jackson Hole Lands

A gift by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., of 33,562 acres of land in Grand Teton National Park and the adjoining Jackson Hole National Monument, in Wyoming, was made to the people of the United States on December 16. Secretary of Interior Oscar L. Chapman accepted the lands on behalf of the Federal Government and the National Park Service, which will administer them.

The presentation was made by Laurance S. Rockefeller, President of Jackson Hole Preserve, Incorporated, and son of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. It was as a result of the latter's public-spirited interest and generosity that the lands were acquired and maintained over a period of a quarter of a century, at a total cost of more than \$2,000,000, in order to preserve unspoiled the beauty of one of the most spectacular regions in America. The details of the project were handled by Jackson Hole Preserve, Incorporated, a nonprofit corporation formed to hold and manage the lands during the acquisition period.

"It is a matter of great good fortune to present and future Americans," Secretary Chapman stated, "that Mr. Rockefeller's interest was enlisted during the middle '20s in the preservation of these lands for public use, and that he was willing to devote his funds so generously to their acquisition.

"The lands were acquired," he added, "with the sole purpose of turning them over to the Federal Government for national park purposes. Transfer of the lands is taking place at this time because it is felt that the project now has reached the point where it should be taken over by the National Park Service and administered as part of the great National Park System.

"As an assurance to the public that the lands will be preserved in perpetuity for national park or monument purposes," the Secretary said, "the deeds specifically provide that the lands so transferred shall be used for no other than public park purposes; and they will automatically revert to Jackson Hole Preserve, Incorporated,

should the Government for any reason find it necessary to divert their resources to other purposes." He made it clear, however, that he could conceive of no foreseeable conditions under which such reversion could possibly be necessary.

Secretary Chapman expressed his gratification that the Rockefeller family will continue their interest in the area, despite this passing of jurisdiction. He pointed out that this interest will continue, through Jackson Hole Preserve, Incorporated, in the restoration of historical structures, such as Menor's Ferry, which was restored last summer and put into use during the tourist season; that operation by that nonprofit corporation of the tourist lodges on lands just ceded to the Government will continue; and that the corporation also will continue to participate in the administration of the Jackson Hole Wildlife Park. The arrangement that Jackson Hole Preserve, Incorporated, has had for participation in the Jackson Hole elk herd management, through providing hay for winter forage, will also be continued. The entire question of the management of the Jackson Hole elk will be worked out later by the National Park Service, the State of Wyoming, and others interested.

"Transfer of the lands today to Federal ownership," the Secretary stated, "will in no way affect leases entered into in recent years with local citizens for cattle and dude ranching operations. Such leases are fully protected until their expiration date.

"The right of Teton County to tax reimbursement for the lands taken out of private ownership through this gift to the Federal Government has been recognized. For several years the Department supported legislative proposals that would give relief to Teton County. These proposals, however, have not yet been enacted into law.

"The full story of Mr. Rockefeller's generosity to the people of the United States," the Secretary continued, "will never be known. In addition to his fine

contribution in Grand Teton National Park and Jackson Hole National Monument, he has made other important gifts that show his faith in the national parks as the Nation's greatest places of beauty and wonder. To defray one-half of the estimated cost of acquiring lands for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, in North Carolina-Tennessee, he contributed \$5,000,000. To Acadia National Park, in Maine, he has contributed approximately \$3,000,000 in lands, roads, and improvements. To save a magnificent stand of sugar pines in Yosemite National Park, California, he has donated approximately \$1,650,000 in lands and cash. He has also contributed to Yellowstone National Park, in Wyoming-Montana-Idaho, Crater Lake National Park, in Oregon, Mesa Verde National Park, in Colorado, and Shenandoah National Park, Colonial National Historical Park, and George Washington Birthplace National Monument, all in Virginia.

"Those who enjoy California's famous Redwood Highway owe him much, for through the Save-the-Redwoods League he gave over \$2,000,000 to the State of California to preserve the cathedral-like grove of Coast Redwood giants in Bull Creek Flat and other groves of these coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*). His monumental restoration of Colonial Williamsburg is of especial interest to park-minded people, since Williamsburg is part of the colonial picture presented by historic Jamestown and Yorktown (both in Colonial National Historical Park), and is connected with them both by the Colonial Parkway.

"To Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Mr. Laurance S. Rockefeller, and the other members of the Rockefeller family, and to their associates in Jackson Hole Preserve, Incorporated, who have so faithfully carried out Mr. Rockefeller's plans in this region, go the thanks of the Nation for the splendid gift I have had the honor of receiving today on behalf of the American people. Our children and our children's children—and others yet to come—will continue to reap the benefit of this gift. For all who will enjoy use of these lands, I say a heartfelt "Thank you."

## Northern Annual Dinner

The Florentine Room of the Hotel Claremont, Berkeley, California, will be the setting for the 1950 Annual Dinner on May 6. The reception is at 6 P.M., dinner at 7. There will be a speaker of note, to be announced later. After dinner there will be motion pictures and slides for those interested, as well as an orchestra for dancing until one.

It is at this dinner that the new officers and directors of the Club are announced; it is the best occasion of the year to meet them. Also, there is an excellent opportunity to formulate plans for the Summer Outings, as many of those who will be on the trips as well as the leaders of the various trips attend this dinner.

The cost is \$4.00 per person. Tickets may be obtained from the Sierra Club office, San Francisco, until May 3.

E. H. CRUBB, *Chairman*

*Northern Annual Dinner Committee*