

The Sierra



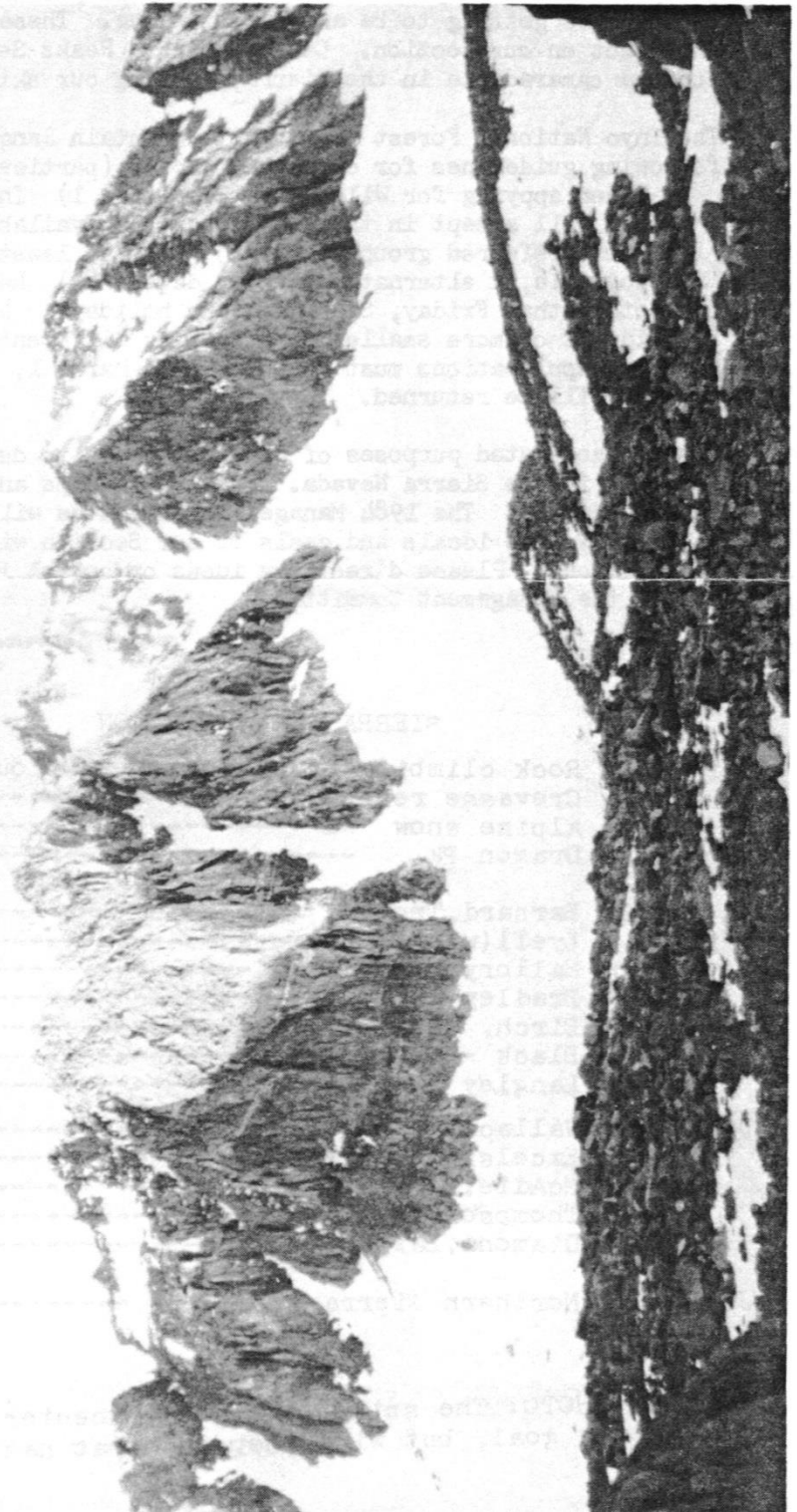
ECHO

VOLUME 28

JAN - FEB

1984

NO. 1



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

The Sierra Peaks Section is a tradition oriented climbing group. Most of us resist change; however, there are forces beyond our control that are bringing changes we find distressing. Trail Quotas are drastically reducing the size of our climbing groups. Getting a permit to lead a trip is proving to be quite a feat. Getting on trips is getting to be an elitest thing. These restrictions are bound to have an effect on our Section. Can the Sierra Peaks Section persevere in the spirit of fun and camaraderie in the Sierra, testing our skills and our tenacity?

The Inyo National Forest News, White Mountain Ranger District, has offered the following guidelines for organized groups (parties of 10 or more) in 1984:

"When applying for Wilderness Permits: 1) Indicate the minimum size group you will accept in the event that the available quota cannot accommodate your preferred group size. 2) List at least 2 alternate trailheads and, if possible, 2 alternate starting dates. 3) Request wilderness entry dates other than Friday, Saturday, and holidays. 4) Consider splitting the group into 2 or more smaller groups using different trailheads."

Remember applications must be postmarked March 1, 1984, or later. Earlier reservations will be returned.

One of the stated purposes of our Section is to develop and expand interest and activity in the Sierra Nevada. Promoting trips and mountain climbs in the Sierra is our priority. The 1984 Management Committee will be taking a good look at how to preserve the ideals and goals of our Section within the constraints of permit restrictions. Please direct any ideas or useful information in this regard to any one on the Management Committee.

Nancy Gordon

SIERRA PEAKS SECTION

Spring '84 schedule

Mar 8	Rock climbing practice, mt Rubidoux	Erb
18	Crevasse rescue -----	TITUS, JETER, ROBERTS
24-25	Alpine snow -----	TALBOTT, ROBERTS
Apr 7-8	Dragon Pk -----	ROBERTS, PATTERSON, DEGENKOLB
28-29	Barnard, Trojan -----	TIDBALL, PATTERSON
May 4-6	Lyell (with skis) -----	Mantle, Danta
12-13	Mallory, Lone Pine -----	TITUS, HEANEY
12-13	Bradley -----	TEMPELMEIER, HOAK
19-20	Birch, Thumb -----	MACHLEDER, DYKEMAN
19-20	Black -----	MURPHY, MCRUER
19-20	Langley -----	ROBERTS, MCCLURE
Jun 9-10	Wallace, Haeckel -----	HOLLEMAN, HOLLEMAN
16-17	Excelsior, Dunderberg -----	STEIN, BLAUVELT
16-17	McAdie, Irvine -----	ROBERTS, MCCLURE
16-17	Thompson, Powell -----	DYKEMAN, GORDON
23-24	Diamond, Baxter -----	RUSSELL, MCRUER
30 to		
Jul 8	Northern Sierra Pk bagging -----	DYKEMAN, GORDON

COVER PHOTO: The spire to right of center, Thunderbolt, looks like a worthy goal, but will they get that nasty summit block? Stay tuned.

NEW USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS OF THE SIERRA NEVADA

The United States Geological survey has issued new 7½' (1:24,000) maps covering portions of the Sierra Nevada of concern to the SPS. These maps are not listed on the current topographic map index for California. Aside from greater detail, these maps also show revised elevations and new geographic names that are not on the current 15' (1:62,500) topographic maps. For example, Mt. Goode is now 13,085'; Mt. Agassiz is 13,893'; Mt. Winchell is 13,775'; Thunderbolt Peak is 14,003'; Mt. Sill is 14,153'. The name "Polemonium Peak" is now official, but the name has been applied to a 13,962' peak three-tenths of a mile southeast of the one I have climbed

The locations of the new maps are shown below, in relation to the 15' maps. They are \$2.25 each from the USGS. Note: 15' quadrangles are gradually being phased out. Those who prefer the 15' quads may want to stock up before they go out of print.

Lone Pine 15' quad: SE corner, Lone Pine 7½'; SW corner, Mt. Langley 7½'; NW corner, Manzanar 7½'.

Mt. Goddard 15' quad: SE corner, North Palisade 7½'; SW corner, Mt. Goddard 7½'.

Blackcap Mtn. 15' quad: SW corner, Courtright Reservoir 7½'; NW corner, Ward Mtn. 7½'.

Huntington Lake 15' quad: NE corner, Dogtooth Peak 7½'; SE corner, Nelson Mtn. 7½'; SW corner, Dinkey Creek 7½'; NW corner, Huntington Lake 7½'.

Kaiser Peak 15' quad: NE corner, Sharktooth Peak 7½'; SE corner, Mt. Givens 7½'; SW corner, Kaiser Peak 7½'; NW corner, Balloon Dome 7½'.

Mt. Abbot 15' quad: NE corner, Mt. Abbot 7½'; SE corner, Mt. Hilgard 7½'; NW corner, Graveyard Peak 7½'.

Mt. Tom 15' quad: SE corner, Tungsten Hills 7½'; SW corner, Mt. Tom 7½'; NW corner, Mt. Morgan 7½'.

R.J. Secor

MARCH FIRST is the time to mail applications for WILDERNESS PERMITS. Lack of openings keeps people off SPS trips. We'r asking rated leaders to expand planned private trips to scheduled status. Permits for groups can be difficult to get. MAIL APPLICATIONS ON MARCH FIRST. Send in schedule writeups by them.

Dave Dykeman

WANTED:

NEW MEMBER

Don Keeler
1232 E. Maple Ave.
El Segundo, CA 90245

USED RACK OF CLIMBING HARDWARE--
CHOCKS, STOPPERS, HEXES, BINERS, ETC.
CALL STEPHANIE (213)393-3257

SPS Banquet - December 14, 1983

The 27th annual banquet was held at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Glendale on December 14th. Members and guests gathered for a cocktail hour at 6:30 followed by a buffet banquet at 7:30. The evening was highlighted by multi-media presentation "The Eiger Direct" given by John Harlin III.

With Jim Murphy acting as master of ceremonies, the program commenced with the recognition of those people who contribute to make the section the successful climbing organization that it is. The trip leaders were introduced followed by the list finishers (one-time and two-time), senior emblem holders and emblem holders. Jim Murphy, the 1983 chairman, introduced the 1983 management committee and then introduced the 1984 chairperson, Nancy Gordon. Nancy then introduced the remainder of the 1984 management committee: Dave Dykeman (vice-chairperson), Maris Valkass (alternate officer), Randy Danta (treasurer) and Mary Sue Miller (secretary).

The drawing for the door prizes was emceed by Jim Murphy. The generous donors and lucky winners were:

<u>DONOR</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
Mountain High LTD	Optimus Rider Stove	Gene Olsen
Mountain High LTD	Shirt Pocket Flourscent Lantern	Don Sparks
Mountain High LTD	Dolt Whitney Pack	Mary Gygax
Mountain 'n' Air Sports	\$10 Gift Certificate	Barbara Lilley
Holubar	Holubar Arapahoe Day Pack	Gordon MacLeod
Sports Chalet	Pair of Conti Sport Boots	Marta Solman
Tex's	\$25 Gift Certificate	Rob Roy MacDonald
Westridge	(3) Rental Choice; ski or backpack	Bob Scharlach, Mary McMannes, Daphie Mahone
Westridge	Dolt Day Pack	Howard Gates
The Mountain Shop	Swiss Army Knife	Barbara Reber
Hostelhaus	"Bummer" Fanny Pack	Delores Holladay
Pat's Ski & Sport Shop	\$25 Gift Certificate	Mel Lees
Little Stone's Wilderness Shop	Four Day Cross Country Ski Rental (for 2)	Randy Danta
Sports LTD	Optimus 731 Stove	Sue Hanna
REI Co-op	MSR Firefly Stove	Sherry Harsh
Al6, Inc	Gore-Tex Bomber Hat	Mario Gonzales
R. J. Secor	Secor: Mexican Volcanoes	Ski Camphausen
R. J. Secor	Secor: Mexican Volcanoes	Yolanda Gonzales
Dolt	(3) Snow Fanny Packs	Vic Henney, Bryan Rennie, Vieve Weldon
Dolt	Toad Daypack	John Irwin
Dolt	Sm. Cargo Pack	Betsy Lutz
Dolt	Ski Bag	Susan Carter

The banquet was a tremendous success. Much thanks and appreciation go to our Banquet Chairperson, Mary Sue Miller, and to all those who assisted in making it most enjoyable.

Bob Emerick

Bob Emerick, SPS Secretary, 1983

WILDERNESS PERMITS

A frequent topic of conversation among climbers these days are problems with permits. Prior to last summer, climbers could phone up the ranger station and find out if a permit would be available for the coming weekend; then make a reservation for a party and pick up the permit Fri. night as they drove to the roadhead, thus allowing for an early start. Approx 80% of the permits could be arranged this way with the balance held for drop-in.

In an effort to reduce costs, and to be fair to all those requesting permits, a new procedure was introduced (see ~~pages 3-4~~). The results have been somewhat unsatisfactory. Many people booked permits far ahead so as not to be left out. Often these permits went unused (granted it should be remembered that the weather was somewhat abnormal this season) thus the permits were added to the 50% that were held for same day pick up. How does this affect the climbing community? A typical weekend climb involves 2 or 3 people leaving L.A. (or some other far away town) after work on Friday. They drive to the roadhead (if they have a permit) sleep in the car or on the ground, eat a granola bar in the morning and start up the trail as soon as possible so as to reach their objective, climb, and return to the car early Sunday evening for the long drive home and work Monday AM. As weather snow conditions are important variables, plans are frequently not made more than a week or two ahead of the trip. With the write-in procedure, the turn around time is three weeks. Option number two is to drive up Fri. PM & camp on the lawn of the ranger station, wait in line for your permit-- thus losing the Friday night acclimatization, and insuring a later start, at best--at worst the 400mi plus drive results in the area being "full". A secondary objective may be an option, however climbing is not like hiking, and the secondary objective may be a very poor second. Option number three is to ignore the permit and hope that you don't get caught. Many people are now opting for the third choice, having found the other alternatives unworkable.

If voluntary compliance breaks down, will it then be replaced with forced compliance? Will we see the forest service become an alpine traffic police force looking for violators and issuing costly citations. Would this be a cost effective way of managing wilderness use? Perhaps another policy could be devised that would be workable, equitable, and manageable with limited funds. The need for some changes are clearly indicated, so I wish to put forth some proposals for discussion.

- 1) Return to the old system.
- 2) Issue 50% of the permits by mail as is now done, and let climbers /users arriving Friday night write their own permits out of the 50% held for first come basis. No show permits could be re-issued at 8AM the following day.
- 3) Ranger Stations could stay open 24 hours on Friday night to issue permits (again this would be from the 50% held for first come basis). Permits for Sat entry could be issued after 6PM on Friday. No show permits issued after 8AM on Sat. Permits could be issued from both Bishop and Lone Pine at night for either area with co-ordination by phone. Costs to be made up by closing outlying stations, or closing on Sunday.

Andy Fried

HIGHLAND DISASTER JULY 30-31

While bagging remote peaks is nice, our main goal, naturally, was to experience the long drive and in new ways. One did it by tackling Ebbetts Pass at night with the lights off. Another waited in Bishop until all gas stations were closed. Others apparently drove up and back nonstop, as we never did see them.

At any rate, with the road into Highland Lakes still snowbound, we followed the Akawie route on Highland, shown apparently only on the new 7 1/2' topo: Take the Pacific Crest Trail (a few mi E of Ebbetts Pass), follow it into the canyon bottom below Nobel Lake. Circle around the canyon to a ridge going mostly East toward the saddle South of the peak. Several hundred feet below the ridge, contour slightly North, directly into the saddle, then up the easy ridge to the summit.

We descended North along a ridge, then shot down excellent scree (to the tune of "I Got Rhythm") to the canyon, then followed its trail down the creek North to the roadhead which is perhaps 1 1/2 miles above Silver Creek Campground. We knew we would have no difficulty hitchiking a driver back up the road the four miles or so to the car.

I was still walking this road at about 3.9 miles when two of our party zipped past, having obtained a ride after a mere 642 cars had failed to stop.

We eagerly piled into the vehicles for a bonus drive: down to highway 395, up over Sonora Pass, down past Dardanelle to the Clark Fork Road, then up to within a mile or two of roads end (Iceberg Meadow), to one of the very lovely, if crowded, campgrounds.

Saturday dinner was a nine-way goodie melange--gazpacho, salmon, caviar, hearts of palm, Dr. Oliver's biscuits (?), brandied peaches, etc. I personally had to ward off a near-attack by jealous campers. Unfortunately, frisbee throwing was limited to 15 minutes. Tragically, we failed to insist Lance Dixon (of the JOP group) offer instruction on juggling.

On Sunday, after a false start (to be followed later by a false continuation), we set out for disaster. Make that "Disaster". The trail begins just short of road's end and the meadow and is not clearly marked.

We failed to locate the trail that cuts to the SE and passes South of the peak. While we rummaged around in search of it, Duane used the opportunity to get in some extra stream crossing practice.

We took the trail to the Paradise Valley cutoff, followed the latter East for perhaps a mile, now in view of the peak. Amidst some bog and mumbling we angled cross country almost directly to the peak, a good route. Descent was off the southern backside, via scree and brush directly to the canyon and trail about 1 1/2 miles from the cars. Soon we were back rolling along our beloved highway toward home. And rolling...

DOUG MANTLE

P.S. This marked the 10 year anniversary of the first SPS trip to these lovely rambles. I think I'll lead them a third time in '93.

Ten climbers met at 7:30 Fri am at Glacier Lodge, only to find that the road beyond the backstation had been closed due to flood, so we couldn't shuttle packs the the extra mile as usual. We set off up Big Pine Creek, and shortly were stopped by the back country ranger. Fearing that it was a bust, we approached cautiously, and discovered to our delight that it was Bob Schrieber, former SPS climber! He advised us that the N. Pal bergschrund was terrible this year, and that we would certainly have trouble crossing it. We continued on thinking "how bad could it be?". (It wasn't until the next day that we found out!). Wood fires had been prohibited in Sam Mack Meadow, so we carried firewood up from Big Pine Creek to a bench above the meadow where we made camp on a rocky outcropping above the snow. The campfire that night brimmed with stories and high spirits. It was during this memorable campfire that Doug Mantle was introduced to Yukon Jack. Doug seemed to enjoy the campfire so much that after everyone else had gone to bed he could be heard singing long into the night.

The next morning at 6 we set off for N. Pal. Most were wondering about the bergschrund. Not Doug. He turned back to relive the evening. The group arrived at the North Pal bergschrund at 7:30, and were horrified to stand facing a 20' near vertical ice wall. Unwilling to admit defeat, we set about chipping steps in an effort to put up a route over this icy menace. After an hour of flailing axes and spraying ice chips, we succeeded in putting a man above the bergschrund. In an impressive display of skill and determination, the entire group followed, utilizing rarely used ice climbing skills, and by 12:30 we had all succeeded in crossing the normally walkable bergschrund. Once over the 'schrund we scampered to the top of the U notch and climbed the first of two 4th class pitches. Due to a judgement error, the leaders had brought only one rope, so we couldn't start the second pitch until all were up to the half-way point. So it was well into the afternoon when the second pitch was led. The next climber speedily followed, but by now it was 4:30, and soon to be dark. With a tear in our eye and the summit in sight we did one of those painfully "right" things and turned back. After an uneventful but exhausting descent, the last of the group reached camp at 7:30PM.

Sunday morning at five, we awakened to Mark Reynolds singing a stunning collection of tasteless songs reminiscent of a bachelor party. As we discussed the plans for the day, three climbers decided to pack out, mumbling something like "You can't get T-Bolt with one rope anyway", one stayed in camp to enjoy some rest, two signed out to climb Winchell, and at 6 the official group of five struck off for Thunderbolt. By 7 am we had crossed the bergschrund on the north side of T-Bolt. By 8 we were on the ridge dividing Palisades from Dusky Basin. After some struggling around rocky ribs on the north side of the divide, we made our way to the prominent North-South notch between summit of T-Bolt the large pyramid shaped block seen from the Sam Mack area. A short 4th class pitch led us out of the notch, where a short traverse across a steeply angled slab brought us next to the true T-Bolt summit block. The block is approachable on two sides, and stands about ten feet higher than the nearest point where one can walk up and touch it. Some climbers reach the top of the summit block by a difficult 5.8 route up 5' of vertical and 5' of angled slab climbing. We chose to avoid this difficulty by following Eric Schumacher on his famous step-across move. From a nearby flake about 5' to the east of the summit block (and only 5' below the top), hold both ends of a rope, throw the center portion over the summit block so it forms a loop around it. Gather in the slack and pull yourself across to the angled summit slab, and walk up the 45 degree slope pulling up on both ropes for the last few feet to the register. (We were belayed from the other end of the rope.) This technique was so successful that we were all off the summit by 11:00, and back in camp by 1 PM. After lunch, we packed out, and were back to the cars by 5. (Cont. doc. next page)

August 13-15, 1983 Stanislaus and Koip

Kabler & McMannes

I met Mary and the lone surviving participant, Al Franz, in Bridgeport for breakfast Saturday morning, and we agreed that given the nature of the weather, threatening, and the condition of Mary's feet, blistered still from a wet-booted excursion into the Clark Range the weekend before, we should scratch Tower and do a series of dayhikes instead. Mary drew up the list from stuff she didn't have, Stanislaus, Koip, and North. I had already climbed them all; Al was interested chiefly in getting two more peaks so he could join SPS. I argued weakly for Blackhawk and lost. Al had done it already. So, we drove over Sonora Pass, parked about a mile beyond, and followed a dirt road, which degenerated to a trail, then to nothing, up to the summit of Stanislaus and then walked back to the cars and drove through rain back to a late lunch and loafing around Bridgeport. In the late afternoon, we went back to Lee Vining and I arranged for a Monday permit to climb North. Sunday morning we left for Koip on the Mono Pass trail that begins about a mile beyond the Tioga Pass entrance station. The trip was long, straightforward--mostly on trail, and uneventful except for a lot of rain. We probably had rain gear on for seven or eight of the twenty miles of the trip. Sunday evening, once out, we decided to cancel the Monday climb of North because no one felt like spending a wet night in the mountains. Dinner in Lee Vining, then home to Los Angeles. (W.K.)

September 17, 1983 McAdie (Private Trip)

Kabler & Rohn

After years of listening to people boast of their dayhikes of Whitney, and unable to get an overnight permit for the Mt. Whitney trail, Norm Rohn and I set off at 6:30 am to dayhike McAdie. We arranged for a permit through the RS in Lone Pine and picked it up from their night box, but there's a write-your-own-day use permit-system in effect on the Mt. Whitney trail, and those who want to go on the spur of the moment will find the station a few yards past the North Fork turnoff. I figure the trip at 15 miles with about 5,500 feet gross gain the way we did it. We stayed on the trail a bit longer than we needed to, then dropped 100 feet or so down to Consultation Lake. Smart climbers will leave the trail at Trailside Meadows and cross-country up a short snow/talus slope to the lake. Once at the lake, we contoured around the east side, and, following various route descriptions (Smatko, Roper, and a Bill Russell writeup), we headed up toward Arc Pass, staying left (with Norm on talus and me on snow) until we could break right on a ledge system that took us the two or three hundred remaining feet to the pass. From there, Norm led to within twenty feet or so of the middle summit, where we broke right. A keyhole, if you see it, sets you up perfectly for the drop to Bill's "platform" (I'd call it a ledge), which you follow left until you hit the 3rd class downclimb to the notch between the middle and north summits. Norm and I both thought that the north summit looked lower when we saw it from Arc Pass, but it is higher than the middle and south summits. In the notch, we scrambled over what Bill identifies as a vestigial rib, and started up the north summit. About twenty feet up from the notch, we found ducks that led erratically to the left. We followed the ledges to the west side--2nd class with maybe one easy 3rd move--to a flattend three-rock cairn. A hard right turn at this marker takes you the remaining hundred or so feet to the summit, which is visible. Lunch and back to the car. About twelve comfortable hours round trip. (W.K.)

For those interested in climbing North Pal from the east under similar bergschrund conditions, I advise taking several ice screws and setting up a diagonal fixed line which can be followed hand-over-hand while cramponing up the existing ledges and cut steps. This may speed things up as it avoids technical ice work for the majority of the party. Randy Danta - Aug 83

TRIP REPORT
MOUNT DADE 13635', MOUNT ABBOTT 13715'
AUGUST 27 & 28, 1983

GRAHAM H. BREAKWELL
RON JONES

An early wilderness permit application had provided a trip for ten. Thirty-five applied, twenty were turned down, three cancelled, one no show and one for a day hike; this left us with eleven on Saturday and ten on Sunday.

After an unexpectedly cold night we set off from Mosquito Flat campground at 7, reached Treasure Lakes where we camped that night, and set off for Dade at about 10. The weather was beautiful and despite hard snow, icy in places where steps had to be cut since we had no crampons, we reached the summit of Dade without much difficulty in time for lunch. Terry Rivera and Dick Akawie achieved their 6th and 185th (?) SPS peaks respectively. A stroll back to camp, with a little care taken on the icy spots, allowed us to enjoy the happy hour for at least three. An absolutely magnificent array of cheese, meats and canned fish helped us enjoy the sunset.

A visit from nearby campers at 9 in the evening informed us of their unreturned friends who had left for Bear Creek Spire at 6, that morning; tired footsteps through our campsite at 11:30 told us of their return - apparently delayed due to route finding problems.

An early start allowed an uneventful climb of Abbott, having chosen the relatively easy Northeast chute and ridge, reaching the peak at 11. We had anticipated a leisurely break to celebrate Don Cook's emblem status but since the sun and blue sky were betrayed by a near freezing temperature we scurried down. We rejoined Eivor Millson, Adrienne Knute and Rick Little at camp, who had sensibly stayed in bed and enjoyed the lake that morning, and reached the cars at 3:30.

The Copper Kettle in Bishop supplied all ten participants with a hearty dinner before our long drive home.

Neurotic: Builds castles in the air.	"I saw a flying saucer once."
Psychotic: Lives in those castles.	"When was that?"
Psychiatrist: Collects the rent.	"When a nudist spilled hot coffee in his lap."
Instinct: Designer genes.	Threethree: costume for an oversized ballerina.
Rushmore: A favorite rock group.	

- I) Campsites: We stayed at Upper Monarch Lake, adjacent to the dam. Suitable places to go to sleep are limited to about six, which was ok for our group of the same number. Camping at Lower Monarch Lake was decided against, although campsites were much more plentiful. I felt that the camping area was overused, and that later on in the afternoon and evening we could possibly have to share the area with many more parties. Our campsites were sandy and flat, well protected from the wind (we were just below the dam), and offered excellent vistas of the Mineral King area.
- II) Suitability of season: Excellent. During the day it was warm and clear, with never a hint of wind, even atop Sawtooth Peak. During the evening it was comfortably cool, although late at night it got down to freezing. There was still a good deal of snow.
- III) Trail to basecamp: Excellent. The trail was well defined, with a consistent gradual slope. The $4\frac{1}{2}$ mi. hike in took four hours with a 2,800 vertical gain.
- IV) Climbing routes: The planned route was to hike around Upper Monarch Lake from base camp, then ascend the ridge southeast of the lake and follow the ridge due north to the top of Sawtooth. However, since the only snow in sight was that around Monarch lake, the decision was made to head directly (northeast) for the peak and avoid the snow. I had been advised by a ranger that crampons and iceaxes would not be necessary. Although steeper, the route proved not difficult, ranging from class 2 to 3. The summit is a jumble of very large boulders with no evidence of and no place to have a trail register. (Too many other people climb this peak to try to keep a register there. Ed).
- Having arrived atop Sawtooth early in the pm, the group was eager to go for Needham the same day, rather than do the peak on Sunday. With prominent pinnacles blocking the ridge between Sawtooth and Needham, my group dropped below and south of the ridge. Unfortunately the drop in elevation (from 12,343 to 11,600), placed us in a position where we would have to cross three steep, hard snow chutes (without ropes, ice axes, or crampons). After making a precarious, sidehill crossing, it was decided to be too dangerous to cross the remaining chutes, and that it was too late in the day to drop some 800' to below the snow and attempt the southwest face or south ridge of Needham.
- To get back to camp my plan was to cross the saddle between Upper Monarch and Amphitheater Lake. However, the saddle proved to be class 3, bordering on class 4, and I decided that it would not be safe for us to continue. Instead it was necessary to climb back to near the top of Sawtooth to get over the saddle and its south ridge and back to camp. While it only took us two hours to ascend Sawtooth from our base camp, it took over $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours to get back. The next morning four of our group of six were not interested in doing Needham after the long day on Saturday. Instead Maris Valkass, George Schane and I decided to do a morning attempt on the north ridge of Mineral Peak, immediately south of Upper Monarch Lake. No problem getting up to the summit block and the last 400-500 feet. However, the north side of the summit block is strictly class 4 with some class 5 and lots of exposure. Finding no safe way up we turned around.
- If I were to do it again, I would have followed the original plan I had put in the schedule--that was to do an easy backpack to Upper Monarch lake on Saturday, then get an early start on Sunday and do both Sawtooth and Needham.

JOE DEVEL TRIP August 27 - 29, 1982

After two last minute dropouts and one "no show," five enthusiastic climbers left the Horseshoe Meadows road head a little after 7 a.m. on Friday. The group consisted of the leaders, Ret Moore and Jay Titus, Walt Kabler, Viene Weldon, and Bill Woods. The mountain had seen rain every day this week, but this day began clear and we had a pleasant, uneventful hike over Cottonwood Pass and north along the Pacific Crest Trail. Ret detoured to climb Cirque Peak, while the others continued on to camp near the confluence of upper and lower Rock Creeks. This is a spacious camp site situated at the junction of the trail to upper rock creek. It's only disadvantages are no nearby firewood and the hordes of large mosquitos which quickly make the short trip from the nearby meadow as soon as anything moving appears in camp. When the lone climber arrived at 4 p.m., the others had setup their tents under gathering clouds, and were enjoying a leisurely afternoon in camp. Although there was a little rain in the late afternoon, it was not sufficient to disturb the normal camp routine.

Saturday dawned relatively clear and we crossed the nose of a ridge above the small lake, which is situated just below camp. We proceeded up the easy south side of Joe Devel Peak without need of our raincoats, but by the time we reached the summit of Joe Devel, the sky was completely overcast and the view was impaired by heavy moisture in the air. After only a short stay on the peak, the five climbers traversed the Class 2 ridge to Mt. Pickering. By noon when we arrived at the summit of Pickering there was a strong wind blowing and it was snowing fine ice crystals. This necessitated a chilly lunch in the shelter of some large rocks just below the register. The weather seemed to worsen during lunch, and by the time we were ready to start toward Mt. Newcomb, the clouds had dropped to a level well below the summit so that visibility was down to about 100 feet and the driving snow had not let up. Under these conditions, we made a decision to abort our climb of the third peak and returned to camp by way of Erin lake.

On Sunday all who had already done Mt. Langley returned by way of Cottonwood pass, and the remainder struck out for Army pass, detouring at the pass to climb Mt. Langley. There was a strong wind blowing on top of the peak and the temperature was well below freezing, but the air was crystal clear and a magnificent view of the Kaweaks was available to the west. From this 14000-foot level, it was easy down hill travel all the way through the Cottonwood Lakes to the road head, which was reached a little before 3 p.m. and permitted a comfortable ride home that evening. All registers were in good shape except for Cirque Peak, which was completely filled.

This is a fine trip, which with good weather, comfortably permits a climber to bag five peaks in three days.



There once was a wee little elf,
Who kept apple juice on the shelf.
'Til a little rogue gnome
Ran away with it from ghome.
And the poor little elf??---
she was becider self!

There once was a dozzie named Laddie
Who hadn't had a girlfriend now haddhe?
So he jumped over each fence,
On the doggondest chence
That he'd find one to love him like maddie
An unemployed jester is nobody's fool!

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