Safety has always been the strong forte of the SPS. This year we have an added challenge. Heavy snows and heavy run-offs mean swollen streams. Normally quiet streams may be raging torrents and hard to cross. All leaders are asked to take along a rope for belaying people across streams or use as a static line. To reduce weight a lighter and shorter rope than normally required for rock climbing may be used. A sling and a couple of carabiners might be useful. Belaying is up to the judgement of the leader. If there is a real danger, that is other than getting wet or loss of dignity, a belay should be used. A belay may not help people from falling in and getting wet but it can save them from drowning or getting dashed against the rocks. In setting up the belay consider the possible line of fall and the pendulum action the rope will take. A person stationed at this point on the bank could effect a speedy rescue. A hand line or a long pole for the rescuer might be useful to keep him from falling in and become another victim. The farther the belay point is upstream the better. A wrap of the line around a small tree makes a good belay stance. Allow plenty of slack in the belay line if the crosser has to jump from one point to another. Usually stream crossings provide a natural break point and a cool drink. This year it appears wise to collect the group at a stream crossing and take advantage of the rope and strength of the group. Solo crossings of any dangerous stream should not be permitted.

General Crossing Tips- Beware of wet logs and algae on rocks. Both are very slippery. Before any crossing unfasten the waistband of the pack so it can be jetisoned in event of a fall. Think out and mentally rehearse the sequence of moves to get across. Once you start crossing keep moving. Balance may be for only a split second on any one rock or step. Move smoothly, do not lunge on the last few steps. On small logs the shuffle step of one foot behind the other is more secure than placing one foot in front of the other. A pole or ice axe can be used for balance. When using a pole as a third leg in the water, place it upstream. We all search for dry crossings but if you must wade, any depth over knee deep in a fast stream can sweep you away. Water pressure against the body is deceiving. The first across should be belayed. If a static line is set up hang on to the downstream side or use a carabiner and sling to slide along the rope. Never cross barefoot. Cold water can numb feet so you have little feel of the bottom and sharp rocks can really do you in. Remove socks and wear boots in the water; on the far side drain boots dry off feet and preferably put on dry socks from the pack. May no one lose more than their dignity in stream crossings this year.

GEORGE TOBY

GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS: Wilderness Permits are required for:
Cottonwood Pass, Trail Pass, Mulkey Pass, Olancha Pass (Sage Flats),
South Fork Kern, Tunnel Airstrip, and for the following listed peaks:
Olancha, Kern, Muah, Cartago, N. Maggie, Moses, Coyote, Angora, Vandever,
Florence, Cirque. Permits for east side approaches can be obtained from
the Lone Pine Ranger sta., and from the west side from Kernville Ranger.

COVER PHOTO: The Hermit summit block. Top stander and contributor-
Barbara Reber, Back stander- Cuno Hanschau, Bottom stander- Bob Pohl,
Photo taken in August of 1976. Summit has to be rated class 5.
The Golden Trout Wilderness encompasses a total of 306,000 acres. It is located at the southern end of the Inyo National Forest (adjacent to the John Muir Wilderness) and the northern end of the Kern Plateau and the Little Kern Basin of the Sequoia National Forest. Of this total area, 163,145 acres are administered by the Inyo National Forest and 142,855 are administered by the Sequoia National Forest.

The Golden Trout Wilderness derives its name from the native trout of this area (classified as a "unique" species) called the Golden Trout (California's State Fish) and its subspecies, the Little Kern Golden Trout. Elevations range from 4,800 feet at the Forks of the Kern, to 12,432 feet at Mt. Florence (borderlines the Golden Trout Wilderness and the Mineral King area), and 12,900 feet at Cirque Peak (borderlines the Golden Trout Wilderness and the John Muir Wilderness). The western portion of the Wilderness could be described as a large drainage basin surrounded by high, rugged mountains. The eastern portion is an extension of the Kern Plateau. Many mountain streams feed the two main rivers within the Wilderness (the Kern and the South Fork of the Kern Rivers).

Vegetation ranges from digger pine, pinyon pine, oak, and chaparral (at lower elevations), to eastside pine, mixed conifer, and true fir (at higher elevations). Portions of this Wilderness are above timberline and support an occasional foxtail pine, western white pine or juniper. Geological studies indicate that most of the Wilderness is of granitic origin; however, there are several large areas of metamorphic, intrusive and volcanic origin. In northern portions of the Wilderness, there is evidence of glacial action. There is a hot springs on the south-eastern end of the Wilderness.

Wildlife consists of deer, bear, numerous varieties of fur-bearers such as coyotes, raccoon, bobcat, marten, fox, skunk and weasel; rodents and other small mammals; and reptiles (including the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake) that are common in the Central and Southern Sierras. Fish species include the Rainbow, German Brown, Little Kern Golden and Golden Trout; the western sucker and squaw fish. There is a wide variety of birds that are also common to the Sierras, including some of the birds of prey that are on the endangered list. The California condor is occasionally sighted in the area. Hunting and fishing is permitted in accordance with State regulations.

The idea behind the Wilderness designation of this area is to protect and preserve the area's "wilderness character" by leaving the land and its community of life untrammeled by man, retaining its primeval character and influence, and providing outstanding opportunities for solitude. Motorized vehicles or equipment are not permitted within the Wilderness area.

You can help us in preserving its wilderness character by developing a minimum impact attitude. This can be accomplished by:

1. **PACKING OUT ALL YOU PACK IN.** Burying or burning garbage is no longer acceptable; animals often dig up buried trash or it could present a fire hazard, and campfire ashes all too often contain particles of foil.

2. **NOT CAMPING OR DISPOSING OF HUMAN WASTE WITHIN 100 FEET OF WATER.** Do not camp along trails, in meadows or other soft vegetated spots. Construction of rock walls, log benches, large fireplaces, lean-tos, stream crossings, etc. detracts from the wilderness character of the landscape and is not permitted. Bury human waste.

3. **USING GAS STOVES.** We recommend using gas stoves as wood is scarce at higher elevations. Besides, rotting wood recycles nutrients into the soil.

4. **USING SWITCHBACKS.** Switchbacks are expensive to construct and maintain. Cutting them hastens trail erosion.

5. **LIMITING GROUP SIZE.** The maximum group size is 25. No matter how careful, large groups tend to compact campsite grounds.

A number of trails lead into the Wilderness. For trail information and to get your required Wilderness Permit contact these Ranger Stations:

- **Tule River Ranger District**
  - 32588 Highway 190
  - Porterville, Ca. 93257
  - (209) 539-2607

- **Cannell Meadow Ranger District**
  - P.O. Bx 6
  - Kernville, Ca. 93238
  - (714) 376-2294

- **Mt. Whitney Ranger District**
  - P.O. Box 8
  - Lone Pine, Ca. 93545
  - (714) 876-4660

For Trails From:
- **Mineral King Highway 190**
- **Lloyd Meadows Road**
For Trails From:
- **Sherman Pass Road**
- **Highway 395 via Nine Mile Road**
For Trails From:
- **Highway 395 via:**
  - **Horseshoe Meadow**
  - **Sage Flat**
  - **Haiwee Pass**
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<tr>
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<td>Rockhouse Pk, Taylor Dome</td>
<td>Ron Jones, John Robinson</td>
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New Members

(714) 481-0972
BLOLAND, Eric
232 - 9th St.
Del Mar, CA  92014

ROSENRETER, Diane
602 B Marguerite
Corona Del Mar, CA  91214

Name Changes

LANTZ, Meridee (Mueh)
CAMERON, Betty (Kabler)
VAN CLEAVE, Beverly (Shultz)

New Phone

JONES, Ron and Mary Sue
(714) 372-5740

Address Changes

BRUMER, Harry
1356 Douglas St. Apt. 5
Los Angeles, CA  90026

BUTLER, Sean M.
2975 Eucalyptus Ave.
Long Beach, CA  90806

787-9830
CAMERON, Cliff
7036 Bevis Ave.
Van Nuys, CA  91405

379-1886
FAULKNER, William
650 The Village, No.308
Redondo Beach, CA  90277

Address Changes, Cont.

HILL, Walt
1023 N. Beverly Glen
Los Angeles, CA  90024

JENKINS, Thomas H.
2043 Cherri Dr.
Falls Church, VA  22043

KUHNS, Darryl
1590 Hillside
Reno, Nevada  89503

McMAHON, Jane
1125 B Cypress Ave.
Hermosa Beach, CA  90254

SALE, Charles
1204 E. Lexington Dr., No.4
Glendale, CA  91206

Zip Code Correction

RUSSELL, Richard
90732

Echo Sub. Address Changes

WEYER, Stephen A.
13 Happy Hollow Lane
Menlo Park, CA  94025

New Emblem Holder

Don Sparks  #371

New Echo Subscription

KOON, Jack  13248354
Chief Inspector
BP ALASKA FOX Project
Santa Fe Engineering Service
P. O. "Drawer R"
2033 Clement
Alameda, CA  94501
June 18, 19, 1977 - Le Conte, Mallory, Irvine, Lone Pine

Leaders: Joe Vasilik and George Hubbard

After lunch at our campsite at Lower Meysen Lake, a couple of climbers followed George up Lone Pine Peak, two people stayed in camp and the rest followed me up a snow chute to Mallory. Part of this group continued on with Doug Mantle to Mt. Irvine while the rest of us went back down the long snow slope making good steps in the soft snow in anticipation of hard snow for the next morning's climb back up to Mt. Le Conte.

Sunday morning was overcast and the snow was hard, so the steps made the previous day proved to be a good thing. We set-up two ropes above the ice chute just below the summit. It was another picturesque day on top. An attempt was made to pick our way thru much up and down country to Mt. Corcoran, but we ran short of time. With reluctance, the scouting group turned back to join the rest. We were soon repelling down the ice chute with lite snow falling. It got cold. That's when I lost my reluctance to give up Corcoran and was glad that we were heading back to the cars.

1-5 July 1977: Black Kaweah, Red Kaweah, Grey Kaweah, Eagle Scout, Lippencott, Eisen

Leaders: Joe Vasilik and George Hubbard

Five fairly well matched climbers made the long backpack into Big Arroya on a beautiful first day. The second day we did Black Kaweah. On the summit, it was discovered that Bill Russell's infallable compass showed that all of the surrounding peaks had wandered 4° off-course. It wasn't until the next day on the summit of Red Kaweah that it was noted that the surrounding peaks and Black Kaweah were in the right spots. So, Black Kaweah was the culprit! It was the source for the crazy compass readings, or maybe the peaks just move around once in awhile to keep us on our toes.

The third afternoon, two of the climbers that hadn't already bagged Big Kaweah, accompanied George to the top of his Senior Emblem Peak. Congratulations George!

The fourth morning proved to be the highlite of the trip as Bill Russell showed us a bag of tricks on the friction slabs of Eagle Scout. Then, for variety, we did some class III scrambling which put us on the top of a very photogenic summit block with clouds billowing up around us and then dissipating to reveal some great views of the Kaweahs and the Hamilton Lake areas.

After bagging Mt. Lippincott that afternoon, we made a new camp at Little Five Lakes. The last day we made the miserable traverse from Black Rock Pass to the summit of Mt. Eisen as per the Climber's Guide. A much better route appears to be an ascend from the lowest of the Little Five Lakes, up the east chute to a prominent saddle south of the summit. This route has been done by some SPSers.

Ron Bartell did all of this with one climber's boot and one runner's shoe and Mike Lohr kept us partially sane most of the time.

It was a satisfying experience.

Joe
We enjoyed perfect weather and a leisurely Labor Day weekend to do two scheduled peaks. Sat., nine people hiked over Kearsarge Pass, down to Vidette Meadows and South on the Muir to a superb campsite on Bubbs Creek. This was a jewel of a camp. It is directly in line with the East Ridge of East Vidette Pk and ½ mile south of a sturdy cattle gate marking the Fresno-Tulare County line. Bubbs Creek was crystal clear and had more water in it than expected for a dry year. Sun. we left camp at 7:00 and climbed East Vidette by the class 3 East Ridge. It is a straight shot up on good rock all the way, except for a detour around a gendarme near the base of the mountain. We descended a loose chute north of the East ridge. It was cruddy but fast. The chute is broad enough to spread out so no one is below another climber. All were back to camp by 11:30. After lunch we struck out for Center Basin and climbed Center Pk by the easy south slopes. We enjoyed some really outstanding scenery from the summit, especially the glacier polish reflecting in the sunshine below in Bubbs Creek.

East Vidette is not a giant of Sierra peaks. It just stands there bold and sassy, guarding the entrance to upper Bubbs Creek Canyon. It just gave one a good feeling to climb it. On the way out Monday, four people climbed Gould from Kearsarge Pass, and two left the group earlier to climb Bago. They stayed over a day and did Mt Rixford and Mt Gould. Three people qualified and joined the section. A productive and satisfying trip.

MT. MILLS, MT. ABBOT SEPT 24-25, 1977 GEORGE TOBY, JACK KOSHEAR

Camp was set up at a small pond half way between Ruby Lake and Mills Lake. It was cold and breezy with threatening clouds looming over the peaks. The rivelets near the pond were frozen. Almost Jerry Keating weather. We left for Mills at 11:00 am and by careful counting selected the third chute described in the Climbers Guide for route #3 up the East face. We negotiated the chockstone and headed up the chute. This must be the cruelest chute in the Sierras for rockfall. We were thankful there were only four of us. At times we had to go one at a time to the next safe spot. A large group would be a disaster. On the summit we found a cozy spot out of the wind and enjoyed a leisurely hour. The clouds remained friendly. Descending at the chockstone we descended to lower the day packs. Jack was already down and attempted to throw his hauling rope up but missed. Anyone needing a 50 foot rope and a biner can get a freebie by climbing 20 feet up the vertical canyon wall. Barbara Reber hiked up during the day and joined us in camp.

Sunday dawned sunny and clear. All five climbed Abbot by the NE buttress route. Lots of loose rock but not as bad as Mills. A lot of class 3 but no one needed the rope. An enjoyable climb in good company. The old register dates back to the 1920's and is a who's who of the Sierra Club. Barbara Reber gained her Senior Emblem and Jack Koshears his regular Emblem on this climb. Congratulations to both of them. This peak had been their nemesis; it was the fourth attempt for each. Toby climbed it the second time to make sure they got it.
We met at the parking lot at South Lake on schedule with a full compliment of 13 climbers on Saturday morning. Two had gone in on Friday and planned to meet us in the afternoon. The trip in was uneventful except that our leader, the only person on the trip who had done the route before, had to turn back because of a bad knee problem. One other member went with him, and we were down to 11. We continued over Bishop Pass, turned left and headed for Thunderbolt Pass expecting at any moment to find our two other members. We didn't. After setting up camp about 300 feet below and just south of T-bolt Pass, we had a few hours to enjoy the scenery and the beautiful weather and to worry about our two lost companions. It was after dark when we heard a shout and discovered that they had gone over Bishop Pass and into Dusy Basin then over Knapsack Pass into the Barrett Lakes basin expecting to find us camped on one of the Barrett Lakes. We were back to 13.

Saturday morning we left camp at 7:30 a.m. and worked our way over talus south around the base of the mountain to what appeared to be the correct chute and started up. We had our bad moment when we suspected we were in the wrong chute, but we found the left leading ledge described in the climber's guide and knew we were on route. Everything went well and just as described in the guide except that because of the lack of snow, a large chockstone in the third chute had to be climbed fourth class. We reached the top about 1:00 p.m. and spent an hour and a half lunching and toasting with champagne the four members celebrating their Emblem Peak: Hal Compton, Mike Wilkinson, Deanne and Gerald Holleman. I don't know if this is a record for one peak, but it must be close.

Other climbers were coming up the ridge from the V-notch and up the east face when we took our leave and scrambled down the same route we came up. All 13 had reached the summit in beautiful weather and without mishap. After spending another night at camp, we followed our steps back to the roadhead. Don Sparks made us all feel a little less than adequate by climbing Mt. Agassiz on the way in and Mt. Coode on the way out and still getting in ahead of some of us.

The only route problem, if the climber's guide is followed, is finding the right chute to start up. It is the first really wide climbable chute south of T-bolt Pass and is just beyond the farthest ridge that can be seen from T-bolt Pass looking south.

This trip could not have continued after the loss of our leader except for the cooperation and help of all the members of the party and especially the leadership help from Ron Jones and Jan Pritchard and the rope handling help from Chuck Sale and others. My thanks to you all.

Ted Pinson

From 'Everest: The West Ridge' by Thomas Hornbein

...The sun still rises in the east, and for nearly two centuries now mountaineers have been setting out to meet him each summer's day, after consulting the stars and the cold....

Grey limestone or ruddy granite, ice of the gully or the serac, blown snow or snowy cornice, smell of rock, scent of flowers, delicate saxifrage or sub-Himalayan forest, starlight or storms, sun-scorched terrace, unreal frontiers, friendship between two beings for better or for worse—to these do we belong.

—Gaston Rebuffat

...our vivid and day-long consciousness of the mountain, of each other, and of the drama which we and the mountain played out at length together, cannot be faithfully reproduced. It has even escaped all but our own general recollection. The mountaineer returns to his hills because he remembers always that he has forgotten so much.

—Godfrey Winthrop Young
Mt. Thompson

Only 2 others braved the threatening weather forecast and joined the leaders for the scheduled climb of Mt. Thompson. The road was plowed completely clear of snow until we met a 4-foot embankment at Aspendal, a couple miles below Lake Sabrina. (A locked gate at this point prohibits car traffic to Sabrina during the winter months even if the road is clear of snow.)

Friday dawned with clear skies, and a splendid backdrop of snow-covered peaks in the first light. The snow was 2 to 4 feet deep and relatively firm for snow shoeing. Our trail led up the road to the dam, across frozen Lake Sabrina then up the stream bed to Blue Lake... much easier said then done. We got to Blue very tired, around 2 pm in overcast, lightly snowing weather and decided there was no way we could make upper Baboon Lake which was our first day objective. So we settled on just another hours hike to Donkey Lake.

In the morning we were greeted with snow flurries and low clouds - no weather to climb a mountain. We decided to move our came to Sunset Lake just below the mountain so as to maximize our chances of making the peak and getting out to the car on Sunday the third day. After a relatively short hike we spent a long afternoon in the tent with stormy, cold weather outside.

It was 1° above, but mostly sunny when morning came. We slogged on snowshoes through soft snow up the moraine edging Sunset Lake, across the Thompson Powell bowl and toward the low spot on the ridge south-west of Thompson Peak. The snow was very soft and very steep near the crest of the ridge making for slow progress. We were met at the saddle with cold winds and by now wispy clouds which periodically enveloped us in a white-out. It had been our intention to drop down the other (south) side and maneuver over to the reported second class slope leading to the summit. However, the drop from the ridge on the steep, only partially snow-covered rocks changed our minds, and it was decided this would be the limit of our climb. There was then only an uneventful, if bone-wearing hike back to the car. The snow scenery throughout the trip was unsurpassed in 10 years of winter mountain trips.

Hal Winton and Ron Bottorff made the trip with the leaders.

T-SHIRTS TO THE SUMMIT

In 1978, post-monsoon, the American Women's Himalayan Expedition will attempt Annapurna I (26,545'), the first American all-woman expedition to a major Himalayan peak. Eight of the ten members are from the Western USA—Arlene Blum, leader, Irene Miller, Vera Komarkova, Vera Watson, Joan Firey, Margi Rusmore, Ann Whitestone and Pio Dramar (expedition physician). The expedition has the endorsement of the American Alpine Club. To help raise money, expedition T-shirts are being sold, which feature a schematic mountain emblazoned on the front labeled "Annapurna" with a slogan which reads, "A woman's place is on top". Colors are blue, rust or yellow in polyester-cotton, sizes S-M-L-XL for men (round neck, $8.00) and for women (U-neck, $10.00) and can be ordered from AWHE, 846 Lathrop Drive, Stanford, CA 94305. Include some extra for postage. (A "missionary version" without the slogan is also available.)

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