SPS MONTHLY PROGRAMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPS FALL TRIPS 1992

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEPTEMBER</th>
<th>G: Alta Pk List Finish</th>
<th>George Toby, Al Conrad</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19-20 I: Smith, Siretta</td>
<td>Jerry &amp; Nancy Keating</td>
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<td>19-20 I: Striped, Goodale</td>
<td>Maris Valkass, Ron Jones</td>
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<td>25-27 I: Arrow, Pyramid</td>
<td>Igor Nazedalin, Ron Jones</td>
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<td>26-27 I: Basin Intro Trip</td>
<td>Ed Zdon, TBA</td>
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<td>26-27 M: Kearsargye List Lead Finish</td>
<td>Dave Dykeman, Roy Magnuson</td>
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<td>OCTOBER</td>
<td>M: Giraud</td>
<td>Larry Tidball, Scot Jamison</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4 I: Gayot, Joe Devel, Pickering</td>
<td>Bill Oliver, Ron Jones</td>
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<td>10 I: Goat</td>
<td>Bob Sumner, Barbara Cohen</td>
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<td>10-11 I: Siretta List Finish</td>
<td>Dave Petzold, Dave Dykeman</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-18 I: Giraud, Observation</td>
<td>Dale Van Dalsam, Ron Jones</td>
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SOME TRIPS MAY BE TENTATIVE DEPENDING ON CURRENT SNOW CONDITIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dave

BALLARD STREET By Jerry Van Amerongen

Comic contributed by Dave Petzold

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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

Congratulations and thank-you to the latest SUSTAINING MEMBERS

SUBSCRIBERS: PETER DOGGETT

New Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PETER DOGGETT</td>
<td>4121 Hathaway #5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90815</td>
<td>310-4947147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETER LETH</td>
<td>26332 Sand Cnyn Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canyon Country, CA</td>
<td>818-790-0935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91351</td>
<td>310-457-2601 (home)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREG &amp; MIRNA ROACH</td>
<td>4547 Viro Rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malibu, CA 90265</td>
<td>310-457-6789 (work)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BILL SAMPSON</td>
<td>31801 Cottontail Ln</td>
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New Emblems

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>ALFRED D. CRAUN</td>
<td>#514 Olancha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOB LATTER</td>
<td>#515 Split</td>
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New Sr. Emblem

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<tr>
<td>JANE EDGINTON</td>
<td>Florence Pk S</td>
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New Master Emblem

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<tr>
<td>LARRY TIDBALL</td>
<td>#12 Black Kaweah</td>
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New ECHO Subscriber

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DANIEL ZENK</td>
<td>241 Redondo Ave, Apt. 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long Beach, CA 90803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>310-438-0773</td>
</tr>
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Address Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOB HENDERSON</td>
<td>344 N. Orange Grove Blvd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>818-577-5405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANK D. SANBORN</td>
<td>32 Creekside Ct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Willits, CA 95490</td>
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WANTED

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

SPS LEISURE TRIPS

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

Any further comments or questions should be directed to Rick.

Rick Jali, SPS Leisure Trips Coordinator
P. O. Box 1717
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(619) 934-8430
SIERRA PEAKS SECTION ANNUAL BANQUET
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1992

PICKWICK BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER
1001 Riverside Drive
Burbank

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

Come join us for an exciting evening

Program:
CLIMBING MT. EVEREST
THE SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

Presented by
RANDY DANTA and DOUG MANTLE

Tickets $24 includes tax and tip

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

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

Pickwick Center
Banquet, Conference and Entertainment
1001 Riverside Dr. Burbank, CA 91506
(818) 845-5300
I wish to thank all of those climbers/leaders who reported on the summit registers. A great deal of appreciation goes to Outings Chair Barbara Cohen who included in her leader(s) package a SASE to me to encourage reporting. But if I ever wanted arms and legs to assist in the endeavor, five stars go to my good friend Tina Stephens who reported on 32 peaks! Bill T. reported on his various climbs - sent me info on 17! So many, many thanks to:

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

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

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

*Need Kit +Register ¼ full + Register ¼ full

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

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

Vi Grasso, Mtn. Records
OUTINGS CHAIR REPORT. by Barbara Cohen

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

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

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

THANK YOU!!!

Through the roof

If the top of Mount Everest sounds a safe bet for those in search of solitude and tranquility, think again. On May 12th this year so many climbers were waiting to reach the summit that a queue formed. By the end of the day 32 people had stood on top of the world. More climbers conquered Everest this year than in the quarter century after Hillary and Tenzing's first ascent in 1953.

Base camp at the foot of the mountain was particularly crowded and squalid; unseemly fights broke out between mountaineers from different countries. Even half way up the mountain the squabbling continued. Leaders of teams from New Zealand and America complained that a group of Russians had stayed from their designated route and cut in front of them.

Old-timers were aghast. Sir Edmund Hillary himself has said that being on Everest this year was a bit like going on a beach holiday. "What's happened to the sense of remoteness and adventure? Tenzing and I didn't have to jostle anyone," he complained to Britain's High magazine.

Not to worry. New rules just introduced by the Nepalese Ministry of Tourism will soon restore some exclusivity to Everest. From autumn next year only six groups a season will be allowed to tackle the mountain from the Nepalese side, compared with the 13 that made the ascent in the most recent climbing season.

The size of groups will come down sharply, from an average of 20 climbers last season to a maximum of seven. Everest will also get cleaner. All expeditions must in future carry their rubbish down the mountain and out of the country.

It all seems a laudable effort to prevent Everest becoming an overcrowded rubbish tip. But the Nepalese may have other motives as well. At the moment any group wanting to climb Everest must pay a fee of $10,000. From autumn 1993 that will rise to $50,000 for groups of up to five people and $70,000 for a group of seven. Controlling the number of climbers on Everest is all very well, but some mountaineers fear that the winnowing will be done on the basis of cash, rather than experience or ability.

From The Economist, 8-1-92
Contributed by Mario Gonzalez
CONSERVATION

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

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

Hang on for more detailed information in the next issue.

Mary Sue Miller

Resounding ECHOES

Bill Oliver

"Question of the Month:
Should the SPS Schedule Trips That Involve Class 3 Climbing?"
[In August 1957 the SPS was in only its second full year of existence. The above question headlined an article by then vice chair (and first ECHO editor) John W. Robinson. Controversy was raging between what became known as the "climbers" vs the "hikers." Many compromises were to be made. (The List at the time contained 217 peaks, including twelve emblem peaks.])

The question has been raised and discussed on several recent trips as to whether climbs such as Abbot and Middle Palisade should be scheduled by your Section. These peaks are not technical rock climbs, but they do involve climbing above ordinary hiking and scrambling. The Climbers’ Guide fits them in a special category called 3rd Class climbing. The Sierra is full of outstanding peaks involving Class 3 of highly varying amounts, and one can get neither his emblem nor all the 1400ers (the two big goals for Sierra Peakers) without a certain amount of it.

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

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

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

[ No definition was given of "outlaw climbs." To be continued. ]
Difficult Peaks of the Sierra Nevada
Norman Clyde

On numerous occasions the writer has received inquiries as to the character of the mountaineering which the Sierra Nevada affords. In reply it might be said that compared with the Alps or the Canadian Rockies, difficult peaks are relatively few in this range. This is due partly to the lack of snow and ice in any great quantities during the summer, to the uniformity of weather conditions, to the dependability of the rocks and the presence of at least one easy route up the majority of the mountains. In the Sierra Nevada, however, from the vicinity of Mt. Whitney at the south, to the Yosemite in the north, there are about a score of rather difficult climbs.

Mt. Whitney in summer conditions is very easy by either of the two routes usually followed. But a few miles to the southeast of it is Mt. LeConte (13,960 ft.), a somewhat stiff climb up a steep chute and a precipitous wall. Immediately to the north of Mt. Whitney is Mt. Russell (14,190 ft.) with several routes to the summit, all rather arduous, especially the one leading up a chimney on its south face. Scattered through the group are several lower, but craggly peaks, which afford interesting rock scrambles.

Almost directly westward from Mt. Whitney and across the Kern River are the Kaweahs, a spectacular and somewhat isolated group of mountains. Of these the Black Kaweah (13,752 ft.) is generally regarded a difficult climb. The standard route leads up a steep couloir on the south face. A second - accomplished but once - follows the jagged crest of the western arête. North of the Kaweahs, along the Great Western Divide, Milestone Mtn. (13,643 ft.) is a spectacular scramble of moderate difficulty; Table Mtn. (13,646 ft.) possesses some ice work in a couloir to the north and rock work up its south face, while to the north of it Thunder Mtn. (13,646 ft.) has some excellent rock climbing on its summit pinnacles. On the Kings-Kern Divide, running east and west and joining the Great Western Divide and the main crest, there is some good climbing on Mt. Ericsson (13,635 ft.), Mt. Stanford (13,983 ft.) and Junction Peak (13,903 ft.). On the main crest is Mt. Williamson (14,364 ft.), one of the finest peaks is the Sierra and a somewhat strenuous climb. All of the peaks mentioned above are within or on the borders of the Sequoia National Park.

In the amphitheater of the South Fork of the Kings River, adjoining the Sequoia Park, Deerhorn Mtn. (13,275 ft.), the North Guard (13,304 ft.), the East Vidette and Mt. Gardiner (12,742 ft.) might be regarded as moderately difficult climbs, while in the next amphitheater to the north, the isolated pyramid of Mt. Clarence King (12,909 ft.) is generally looked upon as one of the best rock climbs in the Sierra Nevada.

Probably there are more interesting and difficult climbs in the Palisade group, at the headwaters of a branch of the Middle Fork of the Kings River, than in any other in the Sierra Nevada. The finest and loveliest of these is the North Palisade (14,254 ft.). From the south it is climbed by a very excellent route - in the main up a steep chimney - discovered some thirty years ago by Joseph LeConte, Jr., while from the north can be ascended by two recently discovered ones, the easiest is a steep ice-filled chute [U Notch], over a broken cliff-face and thence along a beautiful arete climb to the summit; the more westerly by following another icy couloir [Clyde's Couloir] for a few hundred feet and thence directly up the north face to the summit. In early summer, the ice in the couloirs is usually well-covered with snow and the bergschrund bridged with it, but later in the season the latter is likely to be open and the couloirs filled with glare ice. These two climbs are among the best to be had in the Sierra.

A short distance to the east of the North Palisade is Mt. Sill (14,200 ft.). Although readily climbed from the south, two fairly difficult routes have been found up a cliff wall above the Palisade glacier and thence along an arete to the summit; a variation of this is up a steep snow chute to the northwest and along a broken wall to the same arete; still another, up a steep couloir to the northeast and from its head along the southeastern arete to the summit. To the southeast of Mt. Sill stands Middle Palisade (14,049 ft.), next to the North Palisade the most spectacular of the group and one of the best climbs in the Sierra. A chimney and face climb from the south is the only known route to the summit. To the northwest of the North Palisades are Mt. Winchell (13,749 ft.) and Agassiz (13,832 ft.): the former scalable only by several routes from the east which converge in a narrow knife-edge some distance below the summit; the latter by an easy route up it southeastern face and a difficult one up its northeastern one. In the glacial amphitheater to the north and east of the higher members of the group, there are a number of excellent rock climbs, the finest of which is Temple Crag (13,016 ft.), one of the most beautiful pinnacle crags in the Sierra. About midway down the Middle Fork of the Kings River are the Devil's Crags (12,612 ft.), a difficult rock climb made but once [Charles Michael in 1913].

Some twenty miles to the northwest of the Palisades is the Evolution group, a series of rugged, lofty peaks encircling a high basin almost entirely above timberline, an elevation of about 11,500 ft. above sea-level in this region. The most difficult of these peaks is Mt. Darwin, a flat-topped mountain attaining an elevation of 13,841 ft. Almost surrounded by inaccessible cliffs it can be scaled only by picking one's way up numerous chimneys to the southwest or by one or more chutes to the north and thence along an arete to the summit. The highest point is a rugged
gendarme standing out from the table-like top, which is rather difficult of ascent and has been climbed but a few times. The next mountain to the south along the main crest is Mt. Haeckel, a beautiful peak of a Gothic type, whose tapering pyramid affords an interesting climb.

A few miles to the north of Mt. Darwin is a lofty, isolated peak [Mt. Humphreys] with a craggy summit towering several thousand feet above a desolate basin mostly above timberline. The last five hundred feet of its ascent leads up a steep knife-edge to the highest point, 13,972 ft. above sea-level. It ranks among the best climbs in the Sierra.

Northwest a few miles from Mt. Humphreys is the Abbot group. It encircles a basin almost entirely above tree line. The hardest peak to climb of these is Bear Creek Spire (13,705 ft.), whose steep Matterhorn-like summit affords an excellent face and arete-climb up the last several hundred feet. Mt. Abbot (13,736 ft.) and Mt. Mills (13,352 ft.) likewise are good rock climbs.

In the Yosemite region difficult peaks are rather few. On the southeastern border of the park Mt. Ritter (13,156 ft.) is a fairly hard scramble and the Minarets (12,278 ft.) [Clyde Minaret], a line of sharp pinnacles to the south of it, afford rather strenuous rock climbs. Mt. Lyell (13,090 ft.), the most beautiful mountain in the park, is only slightly difficult. To the south of the lower portion of Tuolumne Meadows are a number of granite pinnacles, some of which are difficult. The best of these, both from a scenic and a climbing standpoint, is probably Cathedral Peak (10,952 ft.). The upper portion of its spire is an excellent rock scramble. Mt. Clark (11,515 ft.), a handsome peak to the south of Merced River, has some interesting knife-edge climbing near the top.

Although the above sketch enumerates most of the difficult climbs found in the Sierra Nevada, doubtless others will be discovered by enterprising climbers. None of those described are extremely difficult, but most of them are sufficiently so to interest the skillful alpinist.

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**Clyde's List**

Bill Oliver

Readers will have noticed that the SPS ballot accompanying this issue contains no proposals relating to changes in the Mountaineers' List. Joe Stephens' letter advocating a more realistic list appeared in the Dec. '91 ECHO. A very small number of members wrote to the Editor with various pros and cons. Confronted with what appeared to be a resounding lack of interest, the Management Committee chose not to recommend any changes. It is this writer's opinion that many "old-timers" hold the Mountaineers' List in very high esteem, e.g., historic, and are thus very adverse to "monkeying" with it. Concurrently, many "young-timers" don't particularly care. Still, I'm sure that there are many of us who would value a list of the more challenging Sierra climbs. With this in mind let me put forth a counter-proposal: Clyde's List.

Clyde's List, for openers, should include the 33 peaks identified in the above article. Note - two summits are route-dependent: Mt. Sill from the N (not the S) and Agassiz from the NE (not SE). This initial list can be augmented by several other peaks, some of which had not yet been named and/or climbed. What is now called Mt. McAdie was first scaled by Clyde in 1922. Although he failed to cite it in the article, Clyde and Rennie first succeeded on the final summit monolith of The Hermit during the 1925 High Trip. He is often credited with the first ascent of Mt. Jordan (cl3s4) in 1925, but it appears that the true, much harder high point was first topped by others in 1936. 1930 witnessed the first ascents (N and S routes) of (later-named) Norman Clyde Peak. That year also put Norman first atop Starlight Peak (aka the Milk Bottle) - the NW summit of North Pal - "a superb climb"; and the next year he participated in the first ascent of Thunderbolt Peak. Clyde led a 1933 High Trip party on the inaugural climb of Clyde Spires (on the crest midway between Mts. Wallace and Powell). Whorl wasn't climbed until 1933, and Clyde led a Sierra Club party the next year. The classic East Face Route on Mt. Whitney would not be an inappropriate addition. The first ascent party of four in 1931 included three future Honorary SPS Members - Clyde (honored in 1960) and Glen Dawson and Jules Elchorn (1989). Clyde seems not to have favored dome-climbing. So far I can find no mention in his writings of Tehapipe Dome or Starr King.

Let it be understood that Clyde's List has no direct bearing or influence on any other list or emblem status. The peaks so honored were directly recommended by Norman or strongly connected with him (perhaps not Whorl). Nor is it claimed that these are the hardest, most technical routes in the Sierra. Indeed, Clyde chose not to embrace the highly technical climbing that rapidly evolved with the introduction into the Sierra of piton and carabiner in 1931. "None of those described are extremely difficult, but most are sufficiently so to interest the skillful alpinist."

The legacy of Norman Clyde lives on in the many places named for him in the Sierra, in the both kind and daring words he used to enchant us about his alpine world, and in the bold challenges he identified for those who might follow after him.

What do you think?
Shepherd Pass Trail Week, 11-19 July 1992  by Campy

Trail Work

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

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

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

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

Monday it threatened rain and hail early so we did trail work rather than climbing Mt Williamson. Bill Sampson, Pete Leth, Jim Alder, and Campy worked from the pass on down, clearing out the rock slide and broadening the turns and chucking off the ankle-turners and digging out toe-stubbers. We chucked hillside rocks and boulders about to fall onto the trail. Following behind the shovellers, Pete McClouded anything bigger than a cricket down to the dead mule at the base of the switchbacks.

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

The Peaks

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

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

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

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

Recommendations

We should brush the uphill riparian next time. District Ranger should cut a deal with the packers: they owe a haul of part of our camp duffel and tools. We require a crew of 10 to be cost-effective; we need ideas for involving more fun-loving people. Do the upper trail as a shorter trip (5 days); climb two of the peaks, alternating each year. Compliments we received from hikers more than offset the sneers of the mule packers.
The weather was beautiful but a bit warm hiking up to base camp. I had a permit reservation issued in March, but the Park Service refused to put the permit in the night box. They insisted that I pick it up the morning of the hike so they could give an endless lecture on Park rules and the do's and dont's of hiking, camping, and bears in Kings Canyon Park. We were camped at Cedar Grove near the main Ranger Station, but permits are issued six miles up the road at the Roads End mini Ranger Station. It opens at 7:00 am. They were super slow. It is impossible to get an early start. We managed to get off from the Lewis Creek roadhead at 8:40. Participants in addition to the leaders were Paula and Bruce Pteerson, Roy Magnuson, Bob Meador, and Jeff Koepe. Bruce and Bob are practicing dentists. It was great to have two dentists on the same trip. They added another dimension to our happy hour and campfire discussions.

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

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

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

Happy Climbing

George

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MT. EVEREST PUZZLER

Using only eleven of the twelve letters in "Mount Everest," rearrange the letters to come up with a single new word. Hint: the new word could describe Everest summitteers like SPSers Randy Danta, Doug Mantle and Ang Karma Sherpa. Bonus points if you can also provide a two-word solution. Communicate your response to Bill Oliver by mail or home phone message no later than 11 November to appear in the next ECHO. Solutions will be announced at the 9 December Annual Banquet.
They really wanted those peaks. Two weeks prior to the trip I had a full permit of 7, plus a waiting list of 10, and a couple more coming in on their own permit. By the time we started the hike from Twin Lakes 7:00 Friday Morning I had had enough cancellations to go through most of the waiting list. 7 of us started out up the Horse Creek drainage with Delores and Dan planning on joining us in camp after picking up their own permit in Bridgeport. By the way, hiker parking at the end of the Road in Mono Village is $5.00 per car. There is no nearby free parking.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday was the appointed day for Whorl (A grudge peak for several of the participants). We started at 6:30 again and followed Bill T’s excellent route description for the 3rd class SE chute (Echo #35-5 Sept 91). I didn’t traverse quite far enough south before starting up. We went up one chute too soon with some 3rd class up over a slabby area. The correct chute is very much class 2 and sandy. Our ascent chute intersected the upper traverse to the right and we followed a couple of ducks over to the choke stone, went up the tunnel underneath, and on up to the summit 2½ hours from camp. We were back in camp, packed up and on the trail for twin Lakes by noon, and out to the cars by 4:00. We all grabbed a quick 50 cent shower before hitting the road for the long drive home.

Larry
Birch Mtn., The Thumb
August 15-16, 1992, Leaders: Jim Adler, Paul Cooley

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

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

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

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

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

CENTENNIAL PEAK (13,255')

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

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

Pete Yamagata

SEPTEMBER 3, 1992
Want a long back pack, lots of talus hopping and a good mountain to climb? Do Deerhorn!

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

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

When the slope of the northern peak is reached, we turned up and proceeded on good third class rocks until 100 feet below the false north summit. A traverse to the higher south peak hooks around a peaklet and allowed us to climb the north face ramp of the true south summit. It took us 4-1/2 hours from camp to make the top on a perfectly clear day providing great views of Mt. Ericsson and the crags nearby. No ropes or hardware were required on this one.

John was a terrific climbing partner because he quickly brewed many cups of fresh amaretto and coconut coffee mornings and evenings, to say nothing about the PANCAKES that came off his frying pan. You just have to have proper climbing priorities!
MT. RUSSELL, MT. CARILLON, MT. YOUNG, MT. HALE
(A Private Trip)
July 17-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dan Richter
BROAD PEAK and GONDOGORO LA

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

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

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

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

From conversations with liaison officers, sirdars, and porters, it appears that the first crossing of the Gondogoro La occurred in 1989 by Mohammad Fakhar-ul-Haq who served as sirdar for a trekking group from Belgium. Since that time it has been crossed several times by trekking groups and mountaineering expeditions. The 1991 Mexican
Broad Peak Expedition approached the Baltoro via this route, as did two Spanish Broad Peak expeditions this year, and Robert and Peter Green of the SCMA crossed the pass on their return from K2 this summer. I found it to be a simple route (but one porter was killed in a crevasse fall last year) and I am surprised that this route was not discovered earlier (but with the worldwide decrease in snow and ice in the last years of the twentieth century, it may have been an impassible route in 1911 and 1955!).

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

R.J. Secor

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Southern California Mountaineer's Association will be holding its annual rock climbing course beginning in January 1993. For information and an application for the class, contact John Gonzalez, 632 E. Barbara Ave, West Covina, CA, 91790.
The newly-independent republic of Slovenia is bounded on the north by Austria, on the west by Italy, and on the south by another new country, Croatia. Across the northwestern corner of Slovenia stretch the wildly beautiful Julian Alps, site of 5,394' Mt. Treglav, the highest peak in the country.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beyond the hut we found that, except for a few belled cows, we had the valley to ourselves. In the west toward Treglav, great misty clouds rolled over the summit ridge, making it impossible to distinguish which of the peaks might be the high point. About 10:30, we came upon yet another unsigned junction, where by guess alone we decided to continue to the left. At the fork of the path, we were presented with a choice of two steep climbs, we decided to follow the one on the left and begin our first ascent. Our first indication, which, thankfully, indicated that somewhere above lay the Treglavski Dom (hut) and Treglav.

At that point, 7,200' feet in elevation, all vegetation had given way to the bare rock. The only exceptions were a few tufts of grass and some dead patches of moss. The rock was warm to the touch, and we decided to climb directly up the cliff. Continuing on for a few more minutes, we came upon a large cirque enclosing a year-round snow field, where, looking up into the just-started light rain, we got our first glimpse of the Treglavski Hut, situated on ridge, 1,000' above.

We got a big surprise when we reached the hut at 11:45. Not only was the trailhead mixed with tourists, but it also contained fifty or so wet and soggy hikers. In addition to several large dormitory rooms, it also housed a well-equipped weather station and a commodious cafeteria. Because there were so few cars at the Krma Valley trailhead, we found the area was a bit quieter than we had anticipated. The next morning, after a short ride, we hiked across a small notch to the base of Treglav itself. There we got another surprise. We had understood that the final portion of the climb was steep and exposed, with steel rails to provide protection. The last thing we expected to find were several parents with small children in tow attempting to make the ascent.

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

Within a few hundred feet of the peak, a swirling mist enveloped us, obscuring our view. We watched as the clouds lifted and the Treglavski Hut gave up its view. We had a splendid view of the Julian Alps, the highest peak in the country, and the surrounding countryside. The view was breathtaking, and we decided to return to the Treglavski Hut, where we had a lunch of greasy goulash and beer.

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

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