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# BOULDER

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motherlode chapter-sierra club

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OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1984 / ISSUE #5

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I feel it is in Peak and Gorge and my best interest that I not be Peak and Gorge chairman next year. I do not have the interest or the time that it takes to keep Peak and Gorge active and organized. In light of this I am resigning as chairman effective as of December 31, 1984.

Since my resignation coincides with the upcoming elections, it will be an important time for Peak and Gorge members to decide who they wish to elect as chairman, or whether they even wish to elect any chairman, for perhaps a committee would better suit the needs of Peak and Gorge.

My resignation does not mean that I will not be an active member; on the contrary, I will gladly advise and assist either the chairman or committee in coordinating Peak and Gorge affairs.

It is my hope that my resignation will not stifle Peak and Gorge's progress, but rather that new leadership will be allowed to exercise its ideas and thus improve Peak and Gorge.

Harry Erl

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

October 1, 1984

Time: 7:00 PM

PLACE: 2520 Greenwood Ave. Sacramento Ph. 481-3415

PROGRAM: Potluck slide show. For details see the July-August Boulder issue as to what to bring. Since this will be a fun and social evening, there will be little business discussed-just a few announcements. Remember to bring some kind of snack!

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NOVEMBER 5th, 1984

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: 2520 Greenwood Ave. Sacramento CA. Ph. 481-3415

PROGRAM: Winter Mountaineering.

- 1). December's elections will be coming soon.
  - 2). Next year's objectives- BMTC, Trips, etc...
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TRIP REVIEW

MT BREWER (13,570) July 26-29, 1984

by Debbie Bulger

Having recently read Brewer's 1864 account of the first ascent of the peak which would later bear his name, I was anxious to make the climb. We left Sacramento Thursday evening and crawled into sleeping bags at Grant Grove, Sequoia National Park about midnight. After breakfast at 7:00 a.m. the next morning at Cedar Grove, 9 of us set out from Road's End following the South Fork of the Kings River to Bubbs Creek.

Crossing the footbridge at Bubbs Creek, I couldn't help reflecting how much easier we had it than Brewer, Clarence King and their survey party.

The stonefaced Sphinx rose high above us. "That's where we're going," indicated Jackie Stroud, our leader pointing out the scar of trail blasted into the granite. As I gazed up 3000 feet, I shrugged. No sweat. Actually, I was practicing denial--a phenomenon well known to psychologists and peak climbers.

The trail up Sphinx Creek reminded me of a miniature Highway 50 over Echo Summit. Once up the precipitous face, we left the main trail and continued up Sphinx Creek skirting a series of lakes and climbing talus slopes until we reached our base camp at an unnamed upper Sphinx Lake, elevation 11,000 feet. On the way the weather provided a little diversion, offering first rain then hail. Unbeknownst to us at the time, it also left snow and ice on Mt. Brewer. We had begun the backpack at 5,035 feet. Quite a workout.

The next morning we rose at 5:00 a.m. to get an early start, hoping to complete the climb before any afternoon thundershowers. Ascending to the 12,000 foot saddle to the south of our camp, we caught our first glance of Mt. Brewer--strong and magnificent, newly dusted with snow. As the way ahead lay shrouded in sheets of ice, we chose to skirt to the northeast, our progress made unsteady by ice-covered talus and wet lichen. Halfway to the ridge ahead, I realized I had left my camera at the saddle.

CONT...

A long snow slope brought us to the north ridge and my first glance at the sea of peaks comprising the High Sierra. How exciting this view must have been to Brewer who reached the summit unaware of what lay beyond!

The remaining class 3 section was made more interesting by the snow and ice. At the top I exhaled. This was my first view of Whitney, Tyndall, the Kaweahs and beyond. One hundred and twenty years apart, I shared this vista with Brewer. A fitting choice for my first High Sierra peak.

By general agreement we decided that conditions precluded an ascent of Northguard. We descended the southwest slope of Brewer, past Southguard

Lake, reaching camp by 2:30, where I recovered my camera from one of our party who had chosen not to make the climb.

Sunday morning while descending the 6000 feet past lakes, talus and forests flaunting ripening gooseberries, I reflected on the experience. It was a good weekend.

### NAS TRIP REVIEW

DICKS AND JACKS PEAKS--DESOLATION WILDERNESS

AUGUST 25, 1984

Interest surged over the phone lines concerning this outing during the week of the trip. Nine persons arose early to catch the worm at CSUS at 6:00 a.m. for this rigorous hike to these adjacent summits. Two persons chose to join the group at the Tahoe visitor center. Informed by the ranger that Glen Alpine had an extremely small overnight quota, probably due to the limited parking, I was issued a permit as no quota existed for day hikes.

After parking in various locations amidst the haphazardly distributed clearings, we began the hike at 9:45 a.m. I had to set a faster pace in spite of the heavy pack and gear I was carrying. We passed a stated San Francisco Sierra Club backpack group and enjoyed a few rest and snack breaks. The trail junctions were all adequately marked. A strong wind dictated the donning of parkas at Dicks Pass. An irregular and faint use trail led from the pass, and we gained the summit at 1:45 p.m. Fifteen minutes later, Jack Rankin made his appearance from the south, having been allowed to begin the climb from Twin Bridges at 8 a.m.

The traverse to Jacks Peak was finished in less than an hour. After a brief stay, we descended on the south side of the peak to glissade a few snow fields on the descent to Alta Morris Lake. The snow was icy hard underneath the thin veneer of slush, and a few persons dared the steeper sections without ice axes, risking "losing it" with no run-out. The continued descent to Half-Moon Lake was successfully made through a band of cliffs with some beautiful waterfalls.

The hike out was done on a good trail that connected back with the Dicks Pass trail. Lightning and thunder broke loose as we neared the cars, dampening us slightly. Return time was about 7:15 p.m. Dinner stops were left to the options of the various cars/drivers.

Participants on this fine trip were:

Bill Hauser  
Mark Conover  
Ben Stoecker  
Anna Chaput  
Lily Chaput  
Margo Gasse

Boris Nahlovsky  
Camille Nahlovsky  
Rex Smith  
Jack Rankin (descent only)  
ldr: Pete Yamagata

*Pete*

TRIP REVIEWS

CLOUDS REST (9926')--YOSEMITE

JULY 28, 1984

If peaks were rated strictly by view, this would be a double star for sure! The plummeting look into the grand valley 6,000 feet below and the unobstructed panorama of practically all the Yosemite peaks and domes make this one of the finest vistas available.

This grand visual feast is reached by a fairly easy 15 mile round trip over 3,000' gain all by good trail. Leo Krastins and I did it in one day from town. On the road by 4:30 a.m., we had breakfast in Oakdale, then arrived at the Tenaya Lake trailhead to start at 9:40 a.m. We crossed Tenaya Creek by stepping stones in shallow water--this is the main problem aside from staying on the trail. In late spring or early summer high water may increase the difficulty of the stream crossings, as I found on one SPS trip. We made it to the summit by 1:00 p.m. Several others made their appearance as well. The airy class two ridge apparently made one hiker queasy but experienced hikers should have no problem. The drop into Tenaya Canyon is breathtaking. A register and can were left, although peak traffic seemed very high.


After a one hour stay on top, the return to the car was finished at 5:40 p.m. We arrived at home at 11:00 after snurfing down the three taco special at Romero's in Oakdale.

WHEELER PEAK (11,664')--SWEETWATER RANGE

AUGUST 11, 1984

Leo Krastins needed this peak after failing on one attempt, so we left on Friday night to camp at Topaz Lake. The next morning we had the Ham and Eggs special (1.99) at the lodge, then proceeded to the turnoff from U.S. 395. Driving up through Swauger Creek, we left the car at about 8500' due to road closure and bad rocks. After oozing our way through a maddy, wet bog, we opted to hit the ridge to the right that leads to the peaks. Some steep rock-hopping led to the large plateau above 10,800' that typifies the scenic beauty of the Sweetwaters. After climbing a few false summits, we gained the high point about five hours after leaving the car-- a very leisurely ascent. Present was the NAS register with the past trips and some other notable entries of late. Signing in this year were Bob Michael of the DPS, a SF Bay Chapter wilderness study group outing, and the ever-ubiquitous signature of Don Palmer of Twain Harte.

The sunlight through the clouds had a spectacular lighting effect on the multi-colored walls of Ferris Canyon to the east. Light raindrops and dark clouds created some anxiety about the weather, so we started down and traversed through a Sierra-like lodgepole pine forest to contour above the bog on the floor of the canyon. Back by 5:00 p.m., we made a variation on the drive home by going over beautiful Sonora Pass to a Swedish smorgy just west of Mi-Wuk Village. This route takes about one hour longer, getting us home at 11:00 p.m.

Pete  2 more 2x's

PETE

## TRIP REVIEWS

SPS OUTING TO RUSSELL (14,086') AND CARILLON (13,552') AUGUST 4-5, 1984

Upon ascertaining the lack of interest in my OKS outing to the Kearsarge Pass area, I eagerly accepted the last minute phone invitation from Southern California to fill up the Angeles Chapter trip. Leaving Sacramento at 1:30 p.m. Friday, I had a Mammoth burger at the Stove on Old Mammoth Road and arrived at Whitney Portal at 10:30 p.m. I slept in my car next to the overflow parking area. After stuffing myself with two pecan danishes bought beforehand at Schat's in Bishop, I met the group of eight at the Whitney trailhead at 6:30 a.m. Saturday. We set out at 7:00 a.m. for the 3,000 foot backpack to Upper Boy Scout Lake. Despite five-year old memories on the part of one of the leaders, we were soon caught in large talus and horrible brush scrambling after missing the good trail up the North Fork of Lone Pine Creek. The leader set a fearsome pace, and we arrived at base camp at about lunchtime only to snooze the whole afternoon. No one elected to attempt Thor even though it lay only about 1000' above.

The leader dictated an early start Sunday, modified to 5:30 a.m. after a discussion by the assistant leader with some of the participants. We started up the scree slopes that led to the saddle between the two peaks. The standard east arete looked far above third class, though it went very nicely. There was a step-across, a knife-edge, and a "sidewalk," all with awesome exposure. Some of us fearfully awaited a hard, terribly exposed move, but none came. We gained the east summit and then traversed to the higher west summit. We were quite elated that the rope did not have to be used. Both registers did not go back more than a few years--this is a popular peak!

The descent seemed much easier than the ascent. Then we quickly completed the 400' gain from the saddle to bag Carillon. The view of Russell was awesome! We scree-skied back to camp and were off down the trail by 1:00 p.m. We found and used the famed Ebersbacher Ledges that avoided the horrible willows although the route was low third. A climber that we had met on the trail took us down an easy way to the main trail, and I said my goodbyes whenever I could. An early finish at 3:45 p.m. to such great peaks!

MT. WHITNEY DAY HIKE

AUGUST 6, 1984

The Forest Service has gone to great pains to make climbing Whitney easy for the day hiker. The permit hassle for an overnight attempt and the camping restrictions make me wonder why thousands of applications are received the first day they are accepted for the year. One starts at about 8500' with the summit a posted 11 miles away at 14,495'. There are a few dips on the way!

There was very limited parking Friday night, but plenty of room Monday. About a half-mile up the trail is a convenient self-register for day hike wilderness permits, making the wait at the Ranger Station in Lone Pine unnecessary. Next to the trailhead is a walk-in campground for \$2.00 per space with bathroom and water. The small cafe opens at 7 on Saturday with regular hours being 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. One can have breakfast and lunch and dinner, with various sandwich and hamburger selections. Also cold beer and soft drinks.

I began the hike at 6:00 a.m. and arrived at the top at about 1:45 p.m., not accounting for about a half-hour spent trying to climb Mt. Muir. I returned to the car by 7:45 p.m. This time could be easily beaten by not carrying five pounds of camera gear and by not doubling up on rain gear and carrying bivouac equipment with two liters of water (however, this came in handy) to start. An enjoyable effort with gorgeous weather--a true 5D!

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We encourage you to send articles and letters pertaining to Peak and Gorge activities. Please send single spaced copy to the Editor prior to the first of odd numbered months.

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