

BEAR
TRACKS

CAL
HIKING
CLUB

FEBRUARY

1969

HIKING CLUB HIERARCHY

General co-ordination--
Dick LaForge 444-2286
Bear Tracks editor--
Jeff Schaffer 549-3895
Equipment, Meetings--
Ron Felzer 845-2619
Refreshments--
Marida Hollos 841-9371
Slide shows--
Arlene Blum --- ----

SCHEDULE

Feb. 15-16: Snowshoeing in the Sierras.
Feb. 22-23: More of the same.
Feb. 24: Slides. 50 Birge Hall.
Mar. 1-2: Big Sur hike.
Mar. 8-9: Climbing at Pinnacles
Wed. Mon.
Mar. 9: Bike trip. 10 speed required.
Spring Break: Escalante River, Utah.
Come in Monday afternoons, from 12 to 4 pm, and see what's happening.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, contd.

Bill Cone	525-4815
Pat Curtin	848-4698
Al Fleishhmen	655-6110
John Harbuck	525-4815
Mike Haseltine	444-2286
Tom Kontuzy	849-1106
Bob Ng	841-7622
Tony Quamar	524-7572
Mickie Schwarck	652-9676
Phil Spira	843-1679
Tom Stephens	655-2334
Mary Strosberg	849-1106
Jean Taylor	841-8377

EQUIPMENT

The club has purchased hundreds of dollars worth of hiking, packing, skiing, and climbing equipment. Due to arrive soon are several pairs of snow shoes for cross-country trips. When 30 more carabiners arrive, the new climbing sets will be complete. There are two leader sets and six belayer sets. The selection of 8 Chouliard pins in each leader set ought to be sufficient for most of the major free climbs in Yosemite Valley and Pinnacles National Monument.

There has been talk at the club lately about a "canyonlands" trip over the March vacation break. Although I do not recommend the following trip for this time of year, I am going to use it as an example of what might be expected, other than spectacular scenery. The following text is based on the rangers' information sheet.

The most popular hike down the Virgin River is from Chamberlain's Ranch, which can be reached by going about 2½ miles east of the Zion East Entrance Station, then turn left onto a gravelled county road. Continue on it for about 17 miles, when you will reach the North Fork bridge on the river. Cross the stream, turn left, and go about a mile in to the ranch gate; the trail starts here.

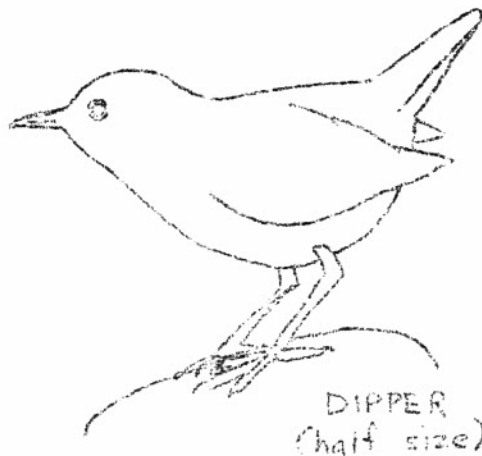
If you are a fast hiker, allow 8 hours; if you want to enjoy yourself and take in the scenery, allow 12. The best days are in late June, late September, and early October. The water will be very cold regardless when you go. Mid-summer brings late afternoon flash floods. Except for the half mile stretch of the "Narrows" (see topog. map), there is ample high ground and camping areas safe from the "floods."

In my opinion the greatest danger was not the flash floods, the quicksand, nor the rockfalls, but rather the potential danger of spraining an ankle. Except for Deep Creek, the waterfalls, and the cascades, all the water was very muddy. Although the water was usually less than two feet deep, it was impossible to see the mossy rocks on the bottom. Old boots and several pairs of socks are highly recommended. Tennis shoes are of little use.

About a third the way down this hike one passes the point of no return, i.e., a small cascade (about 8 feet high). The canyon deepens quickly past here, and by the half way point, Deep Creek, the walls are about two thousand feet high. This junction provides a nice clear water swimming hole for those who don't mind the 55° temperature. Another pool is reached by a sunny beach 500 feet downstream.

Water is not necessary although I would advise it for the first part. Deep Creek is clear, as are the cascades and falls in the last quarter of the trip around the Narrows area. It is here that one will see many Dippers (Water Ouzel), which forages in the water.

Rather than take the North Fork of the Virgin River, one may start on Deep Creek, which begins about 1 mile east of Zion View Point on State Highway # 14. Parties using this route should allow 3 days for the trip.



Editor's note: The following poems were submitted by Mr. [redacted] to the Newsletter. They were written by his friend, [redacted]

Your Own Thing

I cannot ever leave
Total immersion in water.
I've sailed in galleons and clippers like you
But they all sunk.

I tire of swimming
And smile exhausted
At the prim Captain Trimby
Who tires of oceans.

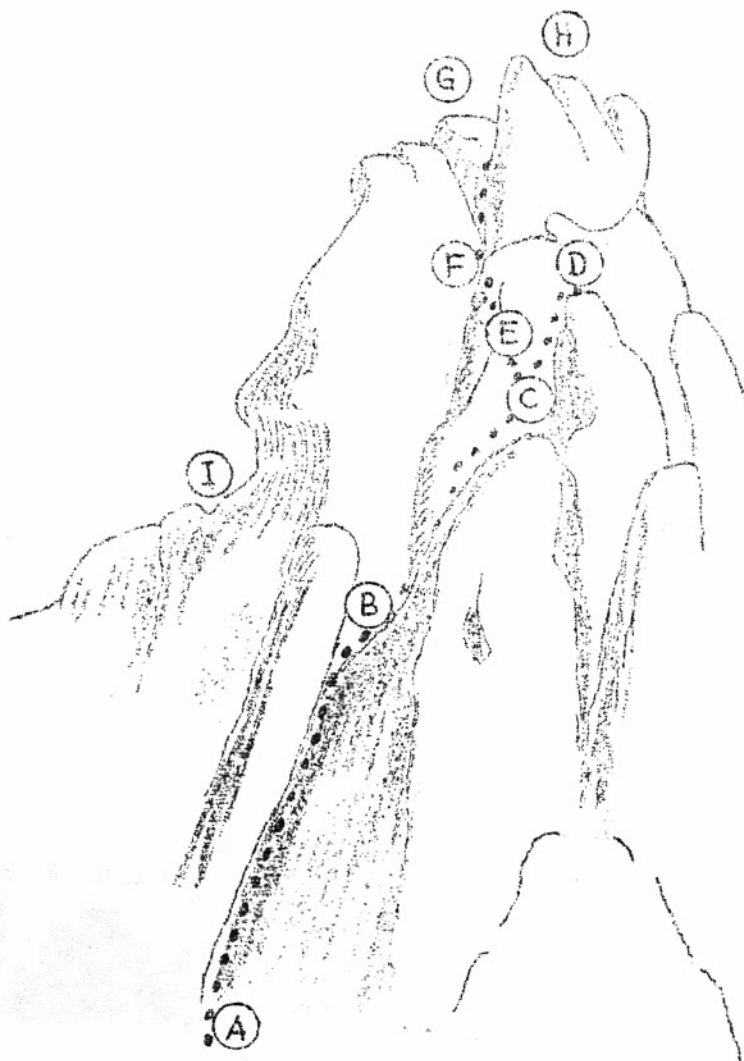
"Come up here, lad!"
He bellows to me,
"The water's no place for you--grab this rope!"
Thank God, it broke.

Many storms have passed
I marvel at the attitude of captains I've met.
But even more I am amazed
That swimmers float.

Simplicity

b.c.

I was walking with Complexity one day
And knew Reality was with us.
We got to describing the permutations of matter
And I got bored
And wandered off
To Simplicity
Who was sitting in a sidewalk cafe
Drinking wine.
He certainly is a fine fellow.
He ordered me a glass of good sherry
And we enjoyed the day in smiling silence.
After the sun had left, he still lingered.
It was an all-night cafe, you see.
And finally Reality joined us, having tired of Complexity
But we were too drunk to care.



- A Start of climb
- B 1st belay spot
- C 2nd belay spot
- D Condor Crap (for obvious reasons)
- E 5.7 face climb into the
- F Great Chimney
- G North summit
- H South summit of Condor Crags

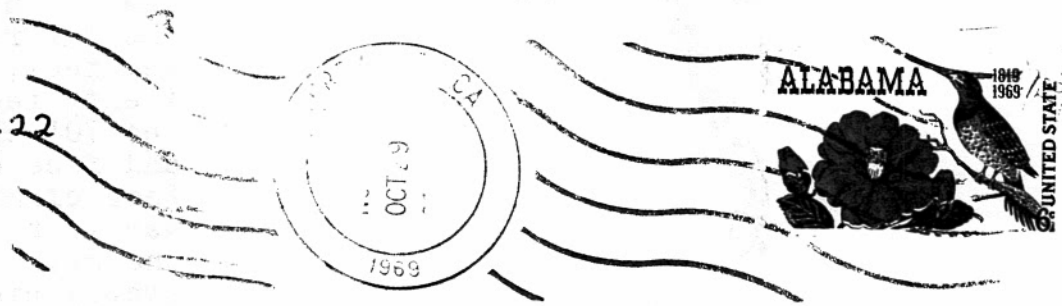
View is from lower switchbacks at the northern end of the High Peaks Lower (Tunnel) Trail

The back (west) side of Condor Crags has a remarkable grade II, 5.7 chimney system, which apparently was left untouched until we tried it on Sept. 7th, last year. This climb has two main attractions: it has a total length of about 450 feet-- by far the longest in the High Peaks area, and it is almost entirely in the shade, even in the afternoon, which makes it an enjoyable summer climb.

Bushwacking from the lower trail takes one to the 1st pitch, an 80', narrow, chock-stone-filled chimney leaning right (5.5), followed by 70' in a 3rd class gully. Two major chimney systems are reached. The 250' Great Chimney on the left (initial moves probably 5.9) is the eventual goal, but it is most easily entered by starting on the far right side. After a few feet, one traverses left twenty feet and then ascends the 70' chimney (5.5 chimney and face climbing). 4th class face climbing quickly gives way to a second class ledge (C). One may then climb the rotten, crappy pinnacle (D) 3rd class, and rappel to the high trail, or one can climb up 20' on the left wall (E) to a notch. The vertical 5.7 face, protected by a good bolt, leads to a 4th class protected traverse into the Great Chimney, which is now 3rd class. Proceed to the top.

Recommended pitons: 1" angle, 3/4" angle, 2 stubby angles or Leepers, 1 blade

Jeff Schaffer
3510 Emerald St., Apt. 22
Torrance, Calif. 90503



U. C. Hiking Club
Eshelman Hall
University of California
Berkeley, Calif. 94720