

1948 High Trip

(The 43rd High Trip)

**High Trip 1 – Paradise Valley, upper Woods Creek,
Bench Lake, Marion Lake, Simpson Meadow**

**High Trip 2 – Sphinx Creek, Cloud Canyon Kern-Kaweah,
Milestone, lower Center Basin, and East Lake**

To get people into the mountain wilderness, where they can explore and enjoy it – and thus come to protect it – a full series of wilderness outings has been planned for this summer. There will be eleven two-week periods in all – total capacity, 600 persons – between July 4 and August 28. A description of each type of trip that the club conducts is given in the Member's Handbook, which also contains comments and lists on outing equipment. With so much material already in print, this announcement need consist of no more than bare essentials – itineraries of each trip, the procedure for signing up, dates, deadlines, and deposits. The keynote drawings are by Milton Hidlebrand. It is assumed in the following paragraphs that the fascination of the Sierra in any summer is well known, even a summer that follows such a desiccated winter as California is now enduring. If worst comes to worst, it will then be possible for outing people to find out where each of the Sierra's residual glaciers lies; otherwise, the peaks will probably be only slightly lower and the season will advance a little sooner, but it will still be the Sierra.

High Trip

High Sierra country new to most high trippers is on the fare for this year's (the forty-third) High Trip. It is country in which beauty is so far-flung that two national parks had to be created to preserve it all – Sequoia and Kings Canyon.



First camp will be at Zumwalt Meadow, under mile-high cliffs in Kings Canyon. Then, every one or two or three days will bring a new trail and a new camp – at a site that can be the starting point for exploring strolls and climbs, for leisurely hours in near-by meadows and lakes, or for lazy fun down by a rope corral, where mules and packers are often at odds in an unrehearsed rodeo.

New this year, at the suggestion of Neva Snell, will be a not-too-formal bit of instruction for newcomers and non-experts on how to get along well with the Sierra – how to find soft bedsites, firewood that burns, trails that follow contour lines, how to be comfortable though walking, and such Sierra miscellany. Old-timers will share their knowledge.

The first two-week-period campsites, in order will be: Paradise Valley, upper Woods Creek, Bench Lake, Marion Lake, Simpson Meadow (and a side trip to Tehipite), and Dougherty Meadow – all north of Zumwalt.

Second two-weekers will camp at: Sphinx Creek, Cloud Canyon (near Colby lake), Kern-Kaweah, Milestone, lower Center Basin (with a chance to share tea with near-by Base Campers), and East Lake – all south of Zumwalt.

Most of the commissary faces will be familiar – Dave Brower and Ted Grubb as leader and assistant leader, Jim Harkins and Charlotte Mauk watching skillfully over the menus, several Bristow sisters and many others who were along last summer to help. Ike and Dina Livermore will be indistinguishable from commissary – except for their horses.

The deposit per two weeks is higher than we'd like it to be; most prices are the same way these days and that's what did it. For persons who feel hesitant we suggest this rationalization: compute what it would cost to dine out for two weeks (or four), add what you think it is worth per day to get a mule to carry your duffel and grub, and throw in what you'd willingly pay to have some of your weight redistributed and reconditioned; then subtract the cost of the High Trip – and see what you save by vacationing on the trail with congenial people!

Saddle Trip

This year's Saddle Trip (the 6th) will start from Onion Valley on August 4, and will proceed south on the Muir Trail to last campsite on August 9 at Crabtree Meadows, ending the trip August 11 with the final day's ride including the ascent of Mount Whitney and the crossing of Whitney pass. The number of riders will be limited to 20. In order to offer a reasonably economical trip in the face of present rising costs, the Outing Committee feels that a shorter trip will offer club members an excellent chance to see one of the finest stretches of the High Sierra without having to stand the substantial expense of a longer saddle trip. Riders are allowed up to 50 pounds of dunnage. The party will be organized by Ike Livermore.

The first day's ride will be over Kearsarge Pass to camp in Center basin, where the following day in camp will allow fishing and side trips in the superb Center Basin region. From here, riders will on the next day's ride cross Foresters Pass, highest on the Muir Trail, to camp on lower Wright Creek, where side trips can be made to the famous fishing lakes, Wright, Wallace, and Wales, and to Tulainyo Lake, highest in the United States.



The party will then move to Crabtree Meadows, at the base of Mount Whitney, where a day of side trips will enable riders to explore the Crabtree and lower Rock Creek areas. Final day's rider will include the ascent of Mount Whitney, where the lunch mule will serve "the highest meal in the U.S.A.," and the spectacular descent to road's end at Whitney Portal, most altitudinous pack station in the High Sierra.

Excerpt taken from the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, February 1948
Illustrations by Milton Hildebrand.