

# The 1959 High Trip

## (The 54<sup>th</sup> High Trip)

**H**igh trips of today and of bygone years have three important elements in common: people, mules, and country – big country. Mixed together in varying proportions these three ingredients always produce a new and worthwhile wilderness experience.

Old-timers can tell us wonderful tales about the long, dusty journey to the mountains by rail and wagon. We cover those miles quickly today, and eat different foods, but modes of back-country travel have changed little during the past half-century. The High Trips proceed through the trail country at a leisurely pace, moving camp about every third day. Trail distances between camps vary from seven to twelve miles. On moving days, after an early call for breakfast, supplies and dunnage are loaded on pack stock. Trip members move from camp to camp on foot. High Trips are open to adults and teenagers (who must be accompanied by adults responsible for them).

A commissary crew prepares meals and assists with moving-day operations. Layover day activity can be strenuous or not, depending upon your mood. While the country at hand usually entices all but the most lethargic into an exploratory climb or walk, each layover day will provide extraordinary opportunities for spontaneous loafing.

We do, however, invite your help in running the machinery of the trip. Your tools – an axe, a shovel, a spatula or vegetable peeler; a shoulder and match at campfire time; a pencil for a skit and spirit for a song; friendly advice for those who want to know about their wilderness environment; a sharp eye to insure that where we go we leave no sign; an attentive ear to the club's reason for sponsoring the trips, and conservation's need. A group as large as ours could wrench the solitude from the mountains, but by keeping the mountains foremost we have also kept them big enough to absorb our numbers into a mountain tranquility not too often disturbed by mountaineering and managerial yodels.

On split moves: High Trip logistics in the Sierra are necessarily different from those in other ranges which grow more feed for mules. Therefore, camp must be split for any moves greater than seven miles.

### **High Trip 1 – Elizabeth Pass – Roaring River Country – July 5 – 18**

Starting from Wolverton in Sequoia National Park on July 5, we shall make the trip over Elizabeth Pass into the Roaring River country, then out to Zumwalt Meadow near Cedar Grove via Avalanche Pass. Camps along the way will include Bearpaw Meadow, Lone Pine Meadow, Deadman Canyon, Cloud Canyon and Sphinx Creek.

**High Trip 2 – Sixty Lakes – Glen Pass Country – July 9 – August 1**

Our second period begins at Zumwalt Meadow in Kings Canyon on July 20. We will move up the Kings to our first camp in Paradise Valley. Successive camps will be on Woods Creek, in Sixty-Lakes Basin, at Charlotte Lake via Glen Pass, and at East Lake. The High Trip will return to Zumwalt Meadow on August 1.

The country through which both trips will travel offers many opportunities for knapsack excursions away from the main group. There will be an ample supply of light foods and knapsack equipment, so if you are interested in such activity don't forget to include a sizable knapsack in your equipment list, one large enough to carry your sleeping bag and a small amount of food.

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