

# The 1962 High Trip

## (The 57<sup>th</sup> High Trip)

**B**oth two-week High Trips will offer each member the option of a trail climb to the summit of Mount Whitney. Although it can no longer, since Alaska joined the Union, claim the title of the highest mountain in the United States, it is still just as high as it was before that event. But the chance to reach its summit is only one of the offerings of the 1962 High Trip. Each two-week outing will make four camps in the high country of the upper Kern River Basin of Sequoia National park, and one camp on the eastern slope of the Sierra.

High Trips follow a formula, developed sixty years ago, for enjoying the high mountain regions with moderate exertion on the trail and a minimum of work in camp. The skilled hands of the commissary crew organize the camp and prepare the meals. Mules under the able tutelage of the packers, carry the load – the food, dunnage, and commissary equipment. Trip members, carrying just their personal and noontime needs, choose their own pace and companions as they follow the trail to the next campsite. The group will move for a day, then rest for a day or two, then move again, and so on, through this magnificent mountain country.

There's always plenty to do on the layover days for those who don't want to rest – though that too can be an honorable occupation in the High Trip camp. Layover-day offerings may include mountaineering, rock climbing, and perhaps a session of map-reading instruction; fishing, photography, and exploration of the nearby terrain. When you have found your mountain legs you can add to the fun of the trip in many ways – help with the cooking, prepare a campfire skit, lend a hand to set up the new camp, or assist in any number of duties required to keep the outing on schedule.

The High Trips of 1962 will start from roadheads out of Owens Valley on the east side of the Sierra. The first moving day of each trip will be spent hiking up the trails of the eastern slope, with an overnight stop short of the main crest. The balance of the trip will consist of a series of camps at high points along the upper Kern basin. Moving day hikes will vary from seven to twelve miles, and the camps will be at elevations from 9,000 to 11,000 feet in this biggest Sierra landscape.

### **High Trip 1 – Rock Creek, Miter Basin, Bighorn Plateau, Crabtree Meadow, Mount Whitney – July 22 - August 4**

The first High Trip will start from the roadhead above Carroll Creek and make camp on Little Cottonwood Creek. Following the crossing of the main crest at Army Pass, Camps will be made on Rock Creek, Whitney Creek, Wright Creek, and at Crabtree Lakes. Each of these camps will afford opportunities to climb to the high peaks of the Whitney ridge. Fishermen will find a real challenge in the many lakes of Miter basin and in Wallace and Wright lakes. Few places in the Sierra offer such spectacular beauty to photographers as the sweep of view seen from the bighorn Plateau. The more active members may want to knapsack to Milestone Bench. On the last day of the trip, those who wish to add the summit of Mount Whitney to their list of 14,000-foot peaks can make a five-mile round trip to the summit before starting down the trail to the roadhead at Whitney Portal. Leader -- Larry Williams.

**High Trip 2 – Mount Whitney, Crabtree Lakes, Milestone Bench,  
Tyndall Creek, Shepherd Pass – August 5 - 18**

Whitney Portal is the roadhead for the second High Trip, which after a short first day will stop at Whitney Outpost (Bighorn Park). The one-night camp here will give everyone more time to become acclimatized to the new and unaccustomed altitude. The itinerary for the balance of the trip, after crossing the crest at Whitney pass, will consist of camps at Crabtree Lakes, Wright Creek, and Milestone Bench. The last camp will be on Tyndall Creek, from which point the group will leave the mountains over Shepherd pass. This trip too will offer many opportunities for the climber and the fisherman. Several of the 14,000-foot peaks north of Mount Whitney will be within reach, as will Milestone Mountain and the other peaks of that ridge. The headwaters of the Kern River and Lake South America are known for fine fishing. The beauty of Milestone Bench will lure those who know it, and will be a treat in store for those who have never been there. Leader -- Ted Grubb.

Excerpt taken from the *Sierra Club Bulletin*, February 1962