

**BOOT 'N BLISTER REUNION TRIP, 1998
KAISER WILDERNESS OVERNIGHT BACKPACK**

September 2, 1998

Dear Boot 'n Blister alumni and alumnae,

I'm sad to report that Charlie is no longer with us. Charlie Bloom passed away May 21 this year in Arcata. Kay, Vern, and Tim all told me that there was quite a gathering for Charlie's memorial service. For generations of hikers and for the world's fish populations, things will never be the same. On a hike I took last month, it occurred to me that, until this summer I hadn't put a pack on since I was 17 when I *didn't* know Charlie. These highlights I've excerpted from Linda Van Dorn at the *Times Standard*. Charlie was born in Passaic, N.J. on Oct. 21, 1922. He attended Yuba College and Cal getting his master's in English with a stint in WWII in Australia in the middle. He taught a bit at UCSB then went back to Berkeley for his library degree. He came to Humboldt in 1952 where we all got his help in the natural sciences. I recall the fun contrast between his bow-tie dress at the library and his fisherman's garb in the back country. As far as I know, Charlie was the foundation of Boot 'n Blister from the Club's beginning to its on-campus end. His mythical quest was always for the great Moby Trout. He retired in 1983 to give flower gardens and fishing more of his time. One thought several of us had via a bit of emailing was to add to the new *Charles Bloom Endowment* for the Library from Boot 'n Blister. We could make checks out to the "Humboldt State University Foundation," and write "Charles Bloom Endowment from Boot 'n Blister" on the memo line.

With Charlie joining us from now on, we are headed back to the Sierra Nevada for the second time this decade, this time to the Kaiser Wilderness out of Huntington Lake/Fresno. Kaiser Ridge is the same latitude as Mt. Humphries, but on the west side of the Sierra northwest of Kings Canyon National Park. It's farther south than we are apt to get for several more years. So, if you are a southerner, this is your best chance to hit one of these hikes. On an historical note, Kristie met Norm in this neck of the woods.



The trip last year was a snow-camp and day hikes rather than the intended backpack at Lassen Park. The weather was bad the week before we got there and clear and sunny just before the weekend. Well, it takes more sunshine than that to clear the snow. Despite Don's motto: "I don't bungee jump and I don't snow camp," we

camped in the snow at the closed gate to the Visitors Center. We had a grand time day-hiking through the woods around Manzanita Lake and throwing snowballs. We moved our camp below snowline Saturday night and went through some lava-flow caves for the Sunday outing. Some of us southerners went home via the east side of the Sierra to Donner Summit so we swung through Janesville to visit Norm and Kristie which was quite nice. The gang last summer consisted of Martha & Katherine, Sandra, Bill, Bob, Rita & Cliff, Rick, Chris & Carol, Linden, Jay, Wayne, and me. You can see photos of the trip on a Web site I built for Boot 'n Blister: <http://www.diggles.com/bnb/> where I hope to add both future years' and past years' pages as well as a piece on Charlie with his epic Christmas poems from about 1970 to 1994.

This year puts us back into the standard overnight backpacks. For base camp, we will drive to Badger Flat Campground (see enclosed topo map) on Friday evening, October 9. The next morning we will hike the Potter Pass trail from the campground. (A split of that trail starts in the village of Lakeshore on Huntington Lake and is the only trailhead shown on the old 15' map; don't take that one). We will hike a there-and-back trip of about 12 miles with excursions to adjacent lakes and/or Kaiser Peak (10,320'). We will camp at Upper Twin Lake on Saturday night. We will come out on Sunday, October 11 and be able either to drive home or spend another day Monday visiting the central Sierra. Further information can be had from the Sierra National Forest, P.O. Box 559, Prather, CA 93651, (209) 855-5360.

Let me know if you might attend so that I can get an idea of how many to expect; I also love to hear from you folks. Carol will get a Wilderness Permit for us when we have an idea of how many will attend. I'll add a few so you can attend even if you pop in on Saturday morning. They drop the limits sometime in September so they just like to track use.



I have included a datadump of my address file for the Club. The list includes about 150 addresses that are good enough that I mailed this flyer to them. Many Area Codes have changed; I got a lot of them but likely missed many. I added the year that I thought the data were accurate after each entry so you can get an idea of how accurate they are today.

My usual lost-people list follows. If you know where any of these folks are, please write or call me:

Karen J. Anderson, Tonio Bachrach, Betty Baker, Evelyn Banks, Ron Barager, Mark Batts, Paige Baudrey, Betsy Baumann, Georgia Becker, Dave Belisle, Bruce Bonifus, Dale Bridges, Madilyn Brown, "Smokey" John Butcher, Tom Campbell, Marie Canavese, Pam Cannon, Joyce Carroll, Donna Cobb, Sandi Cohn, Sue Cox, Robbie Criswell, Karen Davis, Dotty DeMulder, Meryl Altha Dickinson, Judy Doolittle, Dick Dorn, Jan DuPace, Caryn (Fitch) Ely, Jeff Ely, Virginia Evans-Neuman, Mike Feldman, Chuck Fesler, Sidney Fisher, Judy Fleshman, Susie Forester, Barbara Foster, Shari Franklin,

Sandy Gagnon, Bonnie Gates, Randy Gillarducchi, Jim Gordon, Marilyn Green, Donna Hamilton, Roger Haynes, Peggy (Fluarty) Heliwell, Lloyd Hess, Carrie (Morris?) Hostetter, Skip Howard, Aletha Humphries, Laurel Humphries, Ron Huntsinger, Mary Ellen Jackson, Terry Jackson, Loren Jamison, Grace Jarvis, Mary Ellen Jeske, Gayleen Johnson, Sharon Jones, Pete Katzmaier, Bob Kerby, Anny and Roger Kohlenberger, Bob Kohlenberger, Mary Ann Kost, Steve Kurtz, Ron Lengel, Matti and Jim Lieb, Del and Val Maddon, Gary Markine, Sierra Marks, Michael Mathews, Will Miller, Clair Morris, Jan Newman, Carol Noetzli, Cathryn O'Conner, Cheryl Peabody, Rick Pederson, Bruce Peet, Richard Pietrell, Sara and Jennifer Pond, Theresa Prenduci, Linda Pulliam, Rich Purdey, Joe Pveillo, Connie Reese, Paulette Respini, Dan Roach, Ann Robertson, Patricia Rogers, Mike Rosoff, Cindy Burr Russell, Linda Slater Scancellia, Lenn Schager, Dan Sealy, John Sisson, Sandy Smith, Ona Solomon, Kay Spensko, Jim Stamper, Paul Stoffels, Hank Switzer, Patty and Bill Taplin, Alice Teel, Sue Turdick, Ron Van Weeman Van Nord, Chuck Vargo, Rick Veeh and Patricia, Kieth Voges, Ray Wagner, Linda Ward, John Watanabe, Bill Weber, Jane Wells, Kay Wensco, Bob Wielk, Bonnie Wilbur, Roger Willmarth, Linda Winters, Peter Wittlesie, Jan Wofford, Dru Yee, Monte Yttreiness, and Jim Ziegler.

or (650) 329-5404 commercial. Fax:
(650) 329-5453.

Email: mdiggles@usgs.gov

<http://www.diggles.com/bnb/>

Bring ideas of where to have the trip next year and the year after. Is the hike too short? Too long? Should we stay closer or range farther from Humboldt? Marvin and I discussed going up Swift Creek out of Trinity Center to Granite Lake. I think it is about 5.5 miles. Let me know other ideas.

Mike Diggles

Home: 154 Rutherford Ave., Redwood
City, CA 94601-3511, (650) 369-6094

Work: U.S. Geological Survey, MS-951,
345 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park, CA
94025. Phones: (800) 223-8081 x 5404

TRIP INFORMATION

The following write-up on this 1998 Kaiser Wilderness Boot 'n Blister backpack was made mostly by excerpting Karen and Terry Whitehill's fine book *Best Short Hikes in California's Southern Sierra* from The Mountaineers. I highly recommend that you buy a copy for this trip or for doing an armchair hike if you don't attend this one. The Geology section is from Warren Hamilton, Ed du Brey, Davie Dellinger, and copied out of the *Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project* report (v. II, ch. 18 by Diggles <wink>) from U.C. Davis/USGS. An additional useful resource is the Sierra Nevada North CD-ROM from Mountain Images.

Hike Location

Twin Lakes, Kaiser Wilderness, central Sierra Nevada, California east of Huntington Lake from the end of Highway 168 out of Fresno.

Dates

October 9-11, 1998

Hike Length

The trip is about five miles each way with side trips to adjacent lakes and/or to Kaiser Peak.

Terrain

Roadhead elevation 8,200 feet
High point 8,980 feet
Camp at Upper Twin Lake .~8,600 feet
Total climb 1,350 feet

Maps

U.S. Geological Survey Kaiser Peak (and Mount Givens) 7½' (1:24,000) quadrangle
U.S. Geological Kaiser Peak 15' (1:62,500) quadrangle (out of print)
Sierra National Forest recreation map
AAA Yosemite and Central Sierra road map

Driving Instruction

Seventy Five miles northeast from Fresno on Highway 168 to its end at Huntington Lake, Turn right onto the Kaiser Pass Road (signed for Mono Hot Springs and Florence Lake). Continue 4.8 miles from the junction. If you drive from the north on Highway 99, you can take a shortcut before Fresno at Herndon and hit 168 just north of Clovis. If you come from the south into Fresno, take Highway 41 north seven miles to the 168 split. (see enclosed overview map). Base camp is at Badger Flat Campground on the south side of the Kaiser Pass Road.

Trailhead

The Potter Pass trail takes off from the north side of the road across the street from Badger Flat Campground. The trail is numbered 24E03 and is signed *Twin Lakes - Potter Pass trail*.

Hike Description

Here is the trail log from the Whitehills' book:

- From the roadhead, begin climbing immediately, ascending a lodgepole-covered hillside in a score of switchbacks. This hillclimb lasts 0.4 miles.
- Enjoy easier going for a short time, and then resume climbing to cross a stream at 1.0 mile where there is a meadow with shooting star, bisort, Sierra wallflower, and Macloskey's violet (Carol: note that I mentioned the first flower before the first rock <grin>)
- Climb gently to a saddle, and then more-level walking through a red-fir forest. At 1.6 miles, you'll get a view down to Huntington Lake as you cross an open hillside "...with broadleaf lupine, mule ears, and bright purple larkspur" (*this* time of year?).
- The ascent continues to the crest of Potter Pass at 2.1 miles. From this pass, you can see

see north to the Minarets and 13,157' Mt. Ritter. If you hoof it up the small knoll left of the pass, the view is even better.

- The descent from the pass is rapid and a bit rocky for about 0.4 miles and then continues gently downward. Reach a junction at 2.8 miles from the trailhead and go left for Twin Lakes, climbing moderately with views of the Minarets.
- You'll reach the shore of granodiorite-backed Lower Twin Lake (OK, Carol, my turn...) at 3.3 miles but it is shallow, muddy, and small so keep going after your break. Continue with the level trail to find Upper Twin Lake at the 3.6-mile point. This is where the group will camp but there is more hiking to be done today or tomorrow if you want. Kaiser Peak dominates the scenery above Upper Twin Lake and a large rock island graces the lake; take a swim. Be sure to check out the lake's remarkable outlet stream; it dives underground as it exits the lake and then reappears a little farther down.
- If you want to make a longer day of it, an additional 2.5-mile round trip will take you steeply uphill to attractive Lake George. There are only two camp sites at this lake so it doesn't seem like it'll serve our needs as a camp.

The return is the same as the trip in (except for you macho types; see my notes below).

Peak-bagging Opportunities

Kaiser Peak is two miles west of our camp and is 10,320' high. If you drag your pack up there Sunday, you can take a trail south and bag College Rock (9,076') and hike on into the town of Lakeshore and wait for a ride (that you arranged first <grin>). Mt. Givens (10,648) would make a good Monday trip; it is east of the Kaiser Pass Road from where the highway crosses Kaiser Ridge at Kaiser Pass.

Weather

If we don't have any early storms, the central Sierra Nevada can still be a lot like the middle of summer in October. We are a couple weeks past Equinox so there are fewer than 12 hours of daylight. Expect mostly sunny skies, warm daytime temperatures, and cold nighttime temperatures. The snows don't tend to come until November but a Gore Tex shell might be a good idea anyhow.

Hazards

Water needs to be run through a water filter to avoid *Giardia*. Many of us use a Katadyne or Sweetwater filter pump now that our First Needs all got clogged. Bears are an issue in the Sierra so I'll be using my Garcia bear canister. Otherwise, use the double-weight rope technique to hang food, toothpaste, sunscreen, etc. We should be there too late in the season for bad mosquitoes, but I always bring my Cutters anyhow.

Geology

The two principal granitic rock bodies in the Kaiser Wilderness are the Mount Givens Granodiorite and the granodiorite of Dinky Creek. These rocks are 88-93 and 105 million years old respectively. The two plutons are separated almost everywhere by septa of metamorphic rocks. This contact zone is right around the Twin Lakes where we will be camping. The granodiorite of Dinky Creek, on the southwest side of the contact, is light to medium gray and contains abundant mafic inclusions. The Mount Givens Granodiorite is one of the largest plutons in the Sierra Nevada and is typically light to medium gray and texturally variable. The metamorphic rocks are Triassic or Paleozoic quartzite, schist and hornfels, calc-hornfels, and marble. The tungsten mineral scheelite can form when granitic rocks intrude marble and form hornfels.

If I'm feeling buffed out, I'll bring my blacklight along, we can stumble around at night and look for some.



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Photo by Mac

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