

BOOT 'N BLISTER REUNION TRIP, OCTOBER 10-12, 2003

PEAR LAKE, SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK, BACKPACK

Last year, on the South Warner hike, Ralph Holsinger suggested this be the 2003 trip. This is the farthest south we've had a BnB trip so you folks from the southern end of our group's habitat be sure to make this one.

Last year, the Boot 'n Blister hike was led by Ron Barager who took us to the South Warner Wilderness in the northeastern corner of California. The gang consisted of Ralph Holsinger, Ron Barager, Roger Willmarth, Jeannie McGurk, Roger's brother, Ken Willmarth, Roger and Ken's brother-in-law Alan Green, Ron's dog Roxie, Jay Stuart, and Mike Diggles. Ron also happens to be the Wilderness Ranger there. That meant he didn't have to drive as far as we did and it also meant that we had a local expert to plan a grand backcountry trip. He even hiked to our planned campsite at Patterson Lake the week before this hike to check it out. Or perhaps he did that because it is his job? <whatever!!!>. There were a total of ten on this trip counting Rusty and Roxie. Ralph's wife Rusty stayed in the RV at the roadhead and enjoyed some alone time. Ralph was 77. Jeannie is the kid; she turned 50 early that year. Alan was 72 and kicked everybody's butt except Ralph's.

For this year's information sheet, I pulled the text out of a wonderful CD-ROM set I bought from Mountain Images called Sierra Nevada South. The maps are from my Garmin GPS CD-ROM set.

Marvin Goss pointed out that Wolverton is just a picnic area and to camp, we need to go to Lodgepole. He said sites 99-116 are best because they are on the river. I camped there last year with my cousins when we climbed Mt. Silliman. There is a restaurant there that we can perhaps use for dinner Friday night and even <gasp> for breakfast Saturday morning. There is also the possibility that their showers will be open Sunday night. Bring a lot of quarters, a towel, and soap and we can clean up for dinner before we all part ways.

I was canoeing with Rick Robinson last month and he thinks it is about time that in 2004, we finally suffered the long drive and do the Kings Range beach hike. It is 33 miles from Punta Gorda south of the mouth of the Mattole River down to Shelter Cove at Point Delgada. We only have to do five or ten of them, then turn around and go back but if you want, you can arrange a car shuttle and do the whole thing. It may be in September since it gets dark early in October that far north. I'll keep you posted.

September, 2003. Mike Diggles, 1-800-223-8081, ext. 5404
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Pear Lake

This is a popular trip out of Wolverton to some delightful little lakes (Heather, Emerald, Aster and Pear). The most interesting route contours high above Tokopah Valley, but it is a bit exposed; this can be avoided by taking the more direct "hump" route.

Where:	Out and back from Wolverton Trailhead
Distance:	11.9 miles
Elevation @ start:	7277'
Altitude change:	3916' gain 3916' loss
How to get there:	From Visalia take Hwy 198 into Sequoia National Park. After climbing to the Village, continue on the highway (Generals Highway) approximately 3 miles to the turnoff on your right to Wolverton. Follow that road to the parking lot and trailhead.
Maps (USGS 7½):	Lodgepole

Trail Sections

From start (mi)	Direction	Description
0.0	Wolverton Trailhead Heather Lake 4.1 Aster Lake 5.1 Emerald Lake 5.1 Pear Lake 6.2 Alta Peak 6.7 Bearpaw 11.3	A few minutes to a junction with a trail leading to Lodgepole.
0.1 mi, 23' gain		
0.1	Lakes Trail	The trail ascends a ridge with Lodgepole campground to the north and gurgling Wolverton Creek to the south.
1.6 mi, 728' gain, 16' loss		
1.7	Heather Lake 2.3 Pear Lake 4.4	A short climb to the trail fork.
0.3 mi, 180' gain		
2.0	Heather Lake via Watchtower	This trail is a bit longer to Heather Lake but more interesting if a bit airy in places. The trail winds through the forest and then switchbacks up to the top of the Watchtower (a large rock monolith best appreciated from below in Tokopah Valley). The trail then continues high on the S side of Tokopah Valley. At places it is cut out of the side of the rock with the canyon 1500' below. A bit airy.
1.8 mi, 1372' gain, 342' loss		
3.7	Heather Lake	Picturesque Heather Lake (day use only) is nestled in a rock cirque. From Heather Lake the trail contours around a buttress and descends slightly to Emerald Lake with Aster Lake (day use only) below and to the left. There are good campsites at Emerald Lake at numbered areas with bear boxes and a solar toilet. After leaving Emerald Lake the trail contours around another buttress (Aster Lake now visible below to the west) and then reaches a spur trail that leads to the
1.8 mi, 592' gain, 391' loss		
5.5	Pear Lake	After a short climb Pear Lake is reached. There are 12 fair to poor campsites here along with bear boxes and a solar composting toilet. Fires not allowed.
0.4 mi, 193' gain, 79' loss		

