

BOOT 'N BLISTER REUNION TRIP
OCTOBER 7-9, 2005
RUSSIAN WILDERNESS, PAYNES LAKE BACKPACK

Last year, on the Kings Range hike, we finally had a trip with no altitude and no elevation gain. We keep not doing the Kings Range because the drive is a bit much, but it wasn't getting any closer so off we went.

We've been wanting to go the King Range again for a decade or so. We kept not doing it because it is a pretty long drive but it doesn't get any closer and we don't get any younger. The King Range is in southern Humboldt County and runs from about Point Delgada/Shelter Cove up to about the mouth of the Mattole River. It is out past Honeydew and Petrolia and the beach is the only bit of roadless coastline in California. There were nine of us on it. The group consisted of Rick Robinson, Mike Diggles, Deanna Clayton-Diggles, Maurie Hamilton, Maurie's friends Eley & Yoneko, Chris and Carol Rush, and Marvin Goss. A few others would have come but there are too many outings to go on. Sandra was climbing Mt. Thompson that day; Ken and Cathy were renting a lookout tower that weekend. Jeannie tried to get up before dawn and come late but it was too far and she couldn't get going that soon after all. Terry married a Brit and is in England. Don and Kath, Wayne, Roger, Ken... they all chimed in and wanted to go but couldn't. See <http://diggles.50megs.com/bnb/2004/BnB2004b.html> for a photo essay.



Group shot before the Kings Range hike, 2004

This year we'll go to the Klamath Mountains, our old stomping grounds. The Klamaths include the Trinity Alps in the south, the Marble Mountains in the north, and this little jewel of a place

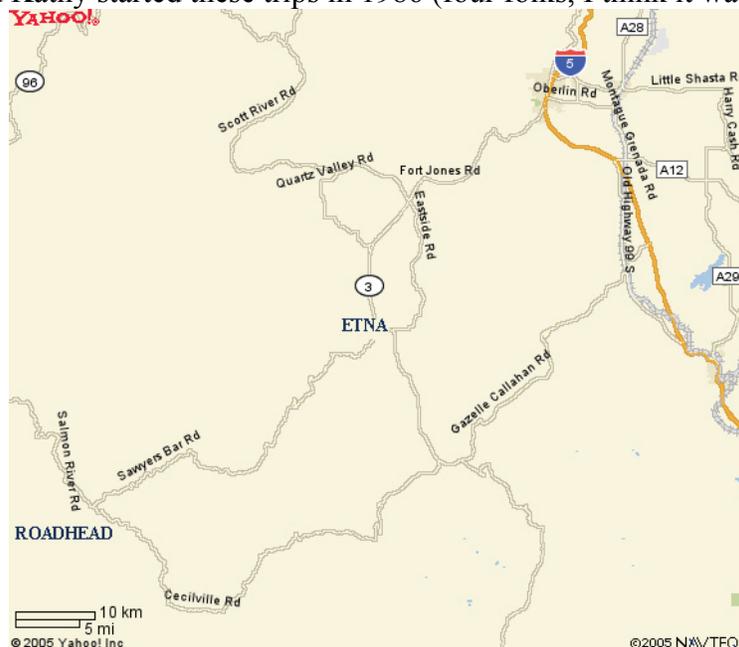
between the forks of the Salmon called the Russian Wilderness. The Pacific Crest Trail runs right through it. It is just west of Etna and Callahan, and has been stomping grounds for some BnB folks over the years. Ron Barager said that their trip to Big Blue Lake was quite nice but the trail route is quite steep and the less-steep route (up the creek) is cross-country. With kids and dogs along and most of us having never been there, I thought I'd find a lake on a nicer trail: Paynes Lake. We'll have our Friday-night car-camp party at Idlewild Campground down the hill to the west from Etna Summit along the North Fork of the Salmon River.

DRIVING:

- * From I-5, take the South Yreka/Highway 3 exit. Follow Highway 3 to Etna.
- * For trailhead access to Etna Summit, follow Sawyers Bar Road from Etna. From Arcata, go via Willow Creek, Hoopa, Somes Bar, Forks of the Salmon, Sawyers Bar, and on up to the east to the campground.

HIKING:

The destination lake is Paynes Lake. It is 6,450' in elevation and a fairly large lake - 16.7 acres. It is fifty feet deep (at the west, upstream side, I'd guess). The hiking route we'll take is from Etna Summit so we park the cars fairly high making it only a moderate hike. It is 6.5 miles to the lake from the roadhead. If you look on a map, you'll see a Paynes Lake roadhead camp only three miles to the east but it starts out low and is straight up from there the entire way. You can also get in from the west via Music Creek but that's too short and up a long dirt road to start. Our way has grand views most of the way and is much nicer. If this place looks to used, we can just pop up and over the west to Albert Lake or even Upper Albert Lake against the cirque wall and likely have the place to ourselves. Get a copy of the Eaton Peak 7 1/2' USGS topo map and you'll have the entire Wilderenss on one sheet of paper. The Etna quad has the first mile or two on it from the roadhead up along the ridge to the south to the Wilderness boundary so I'll bring that one also. Bring your bear canisters to keep Bigfoot out of your food. Bring a water filter or borrow mine. Bring a 2-gigabyte chip for your camera, and perhaps some wine; this is the 20th year since Don and Kathy started these trips in 1986 (four folks, I think it was).





Etna Summit with a Stanford Geology class in 2001

GEOLOGY

Gary Ernst (<http://www.diggles.com/pgs/2000/PGS00-11.html>) published his map of this area as California: Calif. Div. Mines and Geol., Map Sheet 47. The Sawyers Bar area consists of three tectonically juxtaposed supracrustal units: (a) on the east, the Stuart Fork metabasalt + metachert + metagraywacke terrane above the low-angle, east-dipping Soap Creek Ridge thrust; (b) the medial North Fork ophiolitic terrane, comprised of intercalated St. Clair Creek laminated cherts and fine-grained quartzofeldspathic argillites, interstratified with, and overlain by two mafic igneous, largely extrusive suites—North Fork *sensu stricto* mildly alkaline basalts, and Salmon River basaltic + diabasic + gabbroic arc tholeiites; and (c), the cherty, Eastern Hayfork metagraywacke mélangé terrane west of the minor, high-angle Twin Sisters fault. Mineral and bulk-rock elemental + isotopic data, integrated with geologic mapping, document deformation and fluid-rock interaction in the upper few kms of a suprasubduction-zone basaltic arc during tectonic accretion to the western margin of North America or a nearby offshore arc.

NEXT YEAR

It will have been three years since we were in the Sierra and even longer since we were in the Cascades. Let me know your thoughts.

--Mike and Deanna

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