

south summit on the left via 3rd/4th-class ledges, and go west to the saddle above Tower Lake. Hike down past Tower Lake to the trail.

DAN MERRICK

*Mt. Walt, Northwest Ridge.* While cragging on the west side of Little Slide Canyon, one naturally admires the Incredible Hulk, across the drainage. Less obvious is Mt. Walt, lurking above and behind the Hulk. A low-angle but sharp ridge descends from the summit area before fading into the face below. This face, which is immediately left of the Hulk, has an obvious left-facing corner system that leads to the sharp ridge. Micha Miller and I had climbed the corner for five pitches a few years earlier but got chased off by a thunderstorm. We returned in August 2008 and worked our way up, finding fun, exposed climbing on the narrow ridge and challenging cracks and corners above. We unroped after 10 pitches (5.10a) and scrambled to the exposed summit pinnacle. An easy descent to the northeast leads into the Blacksmith Creek drainage and eventually the car. Fun day.

DAVID HARDEN, AAC

*Mt. Ritter, West Arête.* The west escarpment of Mt. Ritter (13,157') stretches over the headwaters of the San Joaquin River. This impressive wall is steep and the rock suspect, but an arête leading from Ritter Lakes basin to the summit too hard to resist, especially since there weren't any climbing routes on this side of the peak. I mobilized the smarter-with-age squad of Mort Testerman and Jim Keating. As we planned the trip, the days of living our lives out of our cars seemed a hundred years ago, but divvying up the gear at the trailhead we stepped back into a like-yesterday routine. Who gets the rack, who gets the rope, did you bring matches? No, but I brought film for the Brownie. We camped at the west end of Thousand Island Lake, ahead of the Labor Day backpacker invasion. The next morning we hiked past Lake Catherine and over to Ritter Lakes. Hiking time: two ibuprofen.

The obvious arête looked great from the lakes. From the inlet of the middle Ritter Lake we gained a couple of hundred feet to the toe of the arête. We stayed either on the arête or on the north side to the summit. Two thousand vertical feet of class five, up to 5.7, with some easier scrambling, brought us to the summit.

We made it back to camp by 6 p.m., twelve non-stop hours after we'd started. It was great to dust off the hardware of the rack and the software of our minds.

CLAUDE FIDDLER, AAC

*Ken Minaret, Broken Rib.* The northeast face of Ken Minaret features a sharp ridge that leads directly to the summit. In August 2008 Kevin Hartigan and I climbed nine pitches (Broken Rib, 5.9) along this prominent rib in a long day from Devil's Postpile. We enjoyed great views and I was happy to tag my final Minaret summit. R.J. Secor lists 19 named Minarets in his guidebook, and though some folks have cruised most of them in a day, I am pleased to have spread it out over 37 years since my first attempt on Clyde in 1971.

DAVID HARDEN, AAC