



An entry from Will's Sierra High Route (SHR) Journal



SHR Day 0: 8/15/09

At present, I'm bivouacked at road's end in King's Canyon National Park (KCNP). I had not planned to camp here, but I made a last minute decision to wait until morning so I can get a permit. Miniature mosquitoes buzz through the warm evening, hovering around me working up the courage to land. Once they do, they quickly perish and are consumed. Sleeping here isn't exactly endorsed by the park...but I don't see any "no camping" signs, besides, no one will ever know that I was here... unless they happen to read this.

This morning, I woke behind my friend Lindsey's cabin at 6:00, in some bushes next to the stream where they set up their experiments. Linds was kind enough to give me a ride to Onion Valley, bless her, and we stopped for a light bite along the way. There was a bit of confusion about which road went to the trailhead, but we soon found it. The drive up switch backed up a fairly steep slope, and the occasional sense of exposure made Linds so uncomfortable that she would move into the oncoming lane when it was on the inside. Luckily, despite the number of people and cars at the trailhead/campground, traffic was minimal, especially downhill.



One thing about the Eastern Sierra, it isn't coy; the climb up Kearsarge Pass was an abrupt insertion into the alpine environment. A climb up the east side hits you immediately in the gut/soul with the Sierra's brilliant beauty: glowing granite spires, luminous sapphire lakes, and crystal clear skies. Range of light indeed!

From the pass I dropped down to the blindingly blue lakes below. Not paying attention to where I was going, I accidentally wandered off on a minor side-trail. No matter, I just followed the drainage cross-country, playing connect the dots from lake to lake, revealing a truly spectacular landscape by the time I reached the PCT where the hanging valley dropped into Vidette Meadow. I followed the PCT briefly down to the meadow before joining the Bubb's creek trail and following it along the creek as it descended a glacial staircase to King's Canyon, among the most spectacular canyons in the Sierra. There were a large number of tourists at Road's End, playing in the S. Fork King's River and returning from day hikes. The permit station had closed at 3:00 and didn't open until 7:00am, so I quickly hitched down to the visitor center to see if I could grab one there. ... <http://www.willpowerresearchfund.com/articles/SHRAug09.pdf>

Next Newsletter...January 2010 if not before.