

Great Outdoors OC/LB chapter presents
Margaret Lakes Backpack
Trip (7 nights)
Aug 8-15, 2016



**High Sierra adventure in
Sierra National Forest
John Muir Wilderness**

Leader: Rob Talbert E-Mail: rob@roberttalbert.com Mobile: 949-395-4169

Rating: Moderate on-trail backpacking

Trip Type: Lollipop Loop trip

Total distance About 18 miles, 7000' gain/loss

Elevations: 8058 feet to 10,531 feet. Most of the trip we will be between 9300 and 10,300'.

Description: Join the GO Annual Perseid meteor shower backpack. We will start Lake Edison on the west side of the Sierra. The start of the trip is on Onion Springs OHV road 5.7 total miles one way 800' gain. Depending on conditions and vehicles available we may shuttle the packs and people to the trail head at Arch Rock Trailhead or hike this portion. Trailhead. The plan is head over Arch Pass to Frog lake and then do a counter clock-wise loop around the Margaret Lakes Basin. Bring your poles for stream crossing.



Arch Rock on Saddle Mountain (10,300')

One of the nicest arches in California but due to its remote location gets very few visitors. The arch, which has a span of 40 ft and a height of 50 ft, is high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in the Sierra National Forest.

Trip Plan:

Sunday Aug 6 or Monday Aug 7: Drive up to Lake Edison on the west side of the Sierra. Minimum of 8 hours from LA basin. Camp at the Trailhead camping area we used last year. It is unregulated and had lots of space for privacy. It is the trailhead for Devil's Bathtub / Goodale pass and is beyond the Vermillion Valley Resort and beyond the Vermillion campground. It's just beyond the pack station. We found lots of sites in the western loop of the trailhead parking area. It will take an entire day to reach Lake Edison. The last couple of hours are a windy paved, at times one lane road. Beautiful but

slow. Consider coming up early and spending a day or two acclimatizing at Mono Hot Springs.

[Mono Hot Springs](#) is before you reach Lake Edison and is one of the prettiest hot springs in the Sierra. They have cabins, a small store and a restaurant. There is a campground there but it is smoky and sites are very close with lots of kids. Not recommended. There are lots of low key places to camps in the entire area.

Tues Aug 8 to Tues Aug 15:



Trip start with 5.7 miles Onion Springs OHV road. Description of the road: High clearance 4WDs are recommended, though most stock SUVs are acceptable. Expect a rough road surface with rocks larger than 6 inches, but there will be a reasonable driving line available. Patches of mud are possible but can be readily negotiated; sand may be deep and require lower tire pressures. There may be stream crossings up to 12 inches deep, substantial sections of single lane shelf road, moderate grades, and sections of moderately loose road surface.

Looking across Big Margaret Lake 9980' from the NE side of the Lake, Cockscomb in the background

Starting from Onions Spring Trailhead 8081', hike up to Arch Pass 10,531' (4 miles and 2582' gain). Decent to Frog Lake 9783' (1.5 mi and

+328, -1053). This could take two days or one depending if we drive or hike the OHV road. Rest day at Frog Lake or 3 miles RT optional day hike to Rock Creek Lake. Descend from Frog Lake to start of Lake Loop is 1.3 miles with +279', -427' gain loss. From there the loop around the lake is 4.8 miles minimum elevation 9390, maximum elevation 10,338' (+1417, -1417). Plan to camp at Big Margaret Lake 9980' and Rainbow Lake 9869', and Coyote Lake 9665' and back to Frog Lake Monday night then over pass and out on Tuesday. One or two rest days depending on speed and conditioning of the group. Optional side trips on rest days.

Maps:

Overview map: Tom Harrison: Mono Divide High Country

7.5 maps: Sharktooth Peak Quadrangle

Caltopo Downloadable maps:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0ByVvZUVIZPPjaTc4eV9icGdLM1E>

Target pack weight:

Base pack weight 20 lbs + Food 12 lbs = Total pack weight 32 lbs

Other Details:

- Group size is limited to 8 people.
- Probably 1-2 rest day depending on our speed and where we camp. Optional side trips on rest days.
- “Food must be stored in bear resistant containers, or counter balanced at least 15' above the ground, and 10' from tree trunk.” I’m bringing my Ursack.
- The [2017 Perseids Meteor Shower](#) will peak on the night of August 12 and early morning hours of August 13. This year, a Waning Gibbous Moon may hinder a good view of the meteor shower.

Prerequisite: Having been on at least 4-day backpack with leader or equivalent.

Contact Leader for Registration Form
Rob Talbert rob@roberttalbert.com Mobile: 949-395-4169

Lakes of the Glacier Divide Backpack Distance Gain - Aug 2017	elevation		Stats to next location		
	meters	Feet	miles	Gain	Loss
Onion Spring Trailhead	2456	8,058	1.90	1332	-167
Trail Jnt - Trail come in on Right	2810	9,219	2.00	1427	-112
Arch Pass	3210	10,531	0.85	157	-856
Jnt Above Frog Lake	2997	9,833	0.71	266	-302
Frog Lake Campsite	2945	9,662	1.12	269	-309
Loop Jnt	2945	9,662	0.70	397	-108
Fern Lake	3033	9,950	1.15	620	-528
Big Margrate Lake Campground	3042	9,980	0.90	249	-420
Rainbow Lake Campground	3010	9,875	0.95	131	-607
Swamp Jnt	2865	9,400	0.89	476	-203
Coyote Lake	2948	9,672	0.18	7	-16
Loop Jnt	2945	9,662	1.12	309	-269
Frog Lake	2945	9,662	0.71	302	-266
Jnt Above Frog Lake	2997	9,833	0.85	856	-157
Arch Pass	3210	10,531	2.00	112	-1427
Trail Jnt - Trail on left, stay right	2810	9,219	1.90	167	-1332
Onion Spring Trailhead	2456	8,058			
		Total miles	17.93	7077	-7079