

EASTERN SIERRA WILDERNESS TRIP

Forty-plus years ago, my Dad took my brother and I on a trip into the John Muir Wilderness area of the Eastern Sierras. We crossed Mono Pass at 12,000 feet altitude on horseback and dropped down into the Pioneer Basin and the six lakes and streams located there. There was great fishing for brook and golden trout and some of the most spectacular scenery on earth.....it was a wilderness adventure we still talk about. The fish weren't the trophies that are discussed most often in this newsletter, but they were plentiful and fun. I did a little research and found out the outfitter we used in the 60's is still in business and is now operated by the original owners son. With the advent of and promotion of exotic fly fishing travel, traffic into the Sierra wilderness areas has actually declined over the last 30 years. The decline in customers seeking high country getaways resulted in many Sierra outfitters/packers going out of business. The result has been that our outfitters of the 60's have expanded the areas they can pack into to include Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park, Yosemite National Park and the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses. While you can explore these areas with a pack on your back, the "more comfortable" approach is to have a string of pack horses, a cook and wrangler to provide the expertise in setting up a pleasant camping environment (or you can leave the cook out if you enjoy that aspect yourself). They can access the best Golden Trout areas on earth as well as a multitude of great fly fishing waters, far away from the crowds. We actually did this trip three consecutive years in the 60's, the last of which was with my new bride, Marte, as our first vacation. Fortunately, I didn't scare her away. We've added this adventure to our list of destinations. Have maps and info – let me know if you'd like to know more.

TRIP REPORT

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