

UTAH TRIP JUNE 2012: TRIP REPORT PART 4 OF 4

Mt. Wheeler Great Basin National Park, Dome Peak Canyon, Crystal Crag Mammoth Lakes, Top of Yosemite Falls

From Utah, we headed to Baker, Nevada, to check out Great Basin National Park on our way home. Our plan was to hike to the top of Mt. Wheeler, but when we went to the ranger's station in the morning the forecast was for 30+ mph winds with gusts up to 50 mph. We decided to attempt the hike anyway, and we got to just before the last steep stretch with its elevation gain of 1000 feet. At this point we had been walking for a while in 30 mph winds, and as we reached an area where the trail leveled out for a short ways we saw a rock shelter. As we approached it, the wind grew stronger, so we stopped for lunch in hopes the wind would subside a little. However, the 50 mph winds continued through lunch, so one member of the group continued on while the rest (including me) returned down to where the wind was less. This panorama photo was taken from the trail through a meadow before the ascent of the peak began:



Panorama photo from where I turned around:



On the suggestion of a citizen of Baker, we checked out the Dome Peak Canyon area. Although this mountain range looks a little like those in Death Valley, the canyons are not very similar. I think the main interest in this area is the fossils and geology. Photo of the Dome Peak Canyon area:



After Baker, our next stop on our return trip was Mammoth Lakes. This photo is of Crystal Crag Lake, Mammoth Lakes:



For our last hike of the trip, we went to the top of Yosemite Falls. The overlook trail reaches a high point to the side of the falls where you can get a great view of the valley. Then it descends over the cliff to a viewpoint of the falls. This photo was taken near the top of Yosemite Falls, on the viewpoint trail:



This HDR panorama was taken on the way back from the top, from the spot where the trail levels out and gives great views of the falls and the valley:

