

Secor Lake Italy Section

1.) Mt. Julius Caesar 1.5 mi 1,989' up from Lake Italy South Ridge via Italy Pass

Mount Julius Caesar (13,200 ft+; 13,196 ft)


First ascent August 12, 1928, by Alfred and Myrtle Prater. First winter ascent March 18, 1965, by Tom Ross and Peter Lewis. The west ridge, the southwest slope, and the south ridge from Italy Pass are all class 2. The southeast ridge goes class 3-4 by keeping to the southwest side of the crest and then crossing the ridge crest at a notch, marked by a less-jagged section of ridge; first ascent September 22, 2001, by Dee Booth and Arun Mahajan. A party led by Steve Eckert climbed the class 2 southeast bowl above Chalfant Lake on August 8, 1997; first winter ascent April 14, 2002, by Paul Richins.

The peak has been climbed from the western cirque between Mount Julius Caesar and Bear Creek Spire. Climb south from the cirque up a class 2 slope to the top of the Sierra crest, and follow the crest (class 3) to the summit. This was first done on August 9, 1953, by Jim Koontz, Pete Murphy, Al Wolf, and Ed Toby.



2.) Mt. Gabb 2.3 mi 2,537' up from Lake Italy South Slope and Southwest ridge

Mount Gabb (13,741 ft; 13,711 ft)

 *South Slope and Southwest Ridge.* Class 2-3. First ascent June 17, 1917, by H. H. Bliss and A. L. Jordan. Go north from Lake Italy to a band of cliffs south of Mount Gabb. Climb through these via chutes and gullies, and go left to the Southwest Ridge. Follow the ridge to the summit. It is possible to continue up the south slope to the summit, but this increases the difficulty to class 3, interspersed with broad, sandy chutes.

Southeast Face. Class 3. First ascent June 17, 1993, by Yorgos Marinakis and Harry Marinakis. There are three ribs on the southeast face of Mount Gabb. This route ascends the left-hand rib. The difficulty increases from easy class 3 at

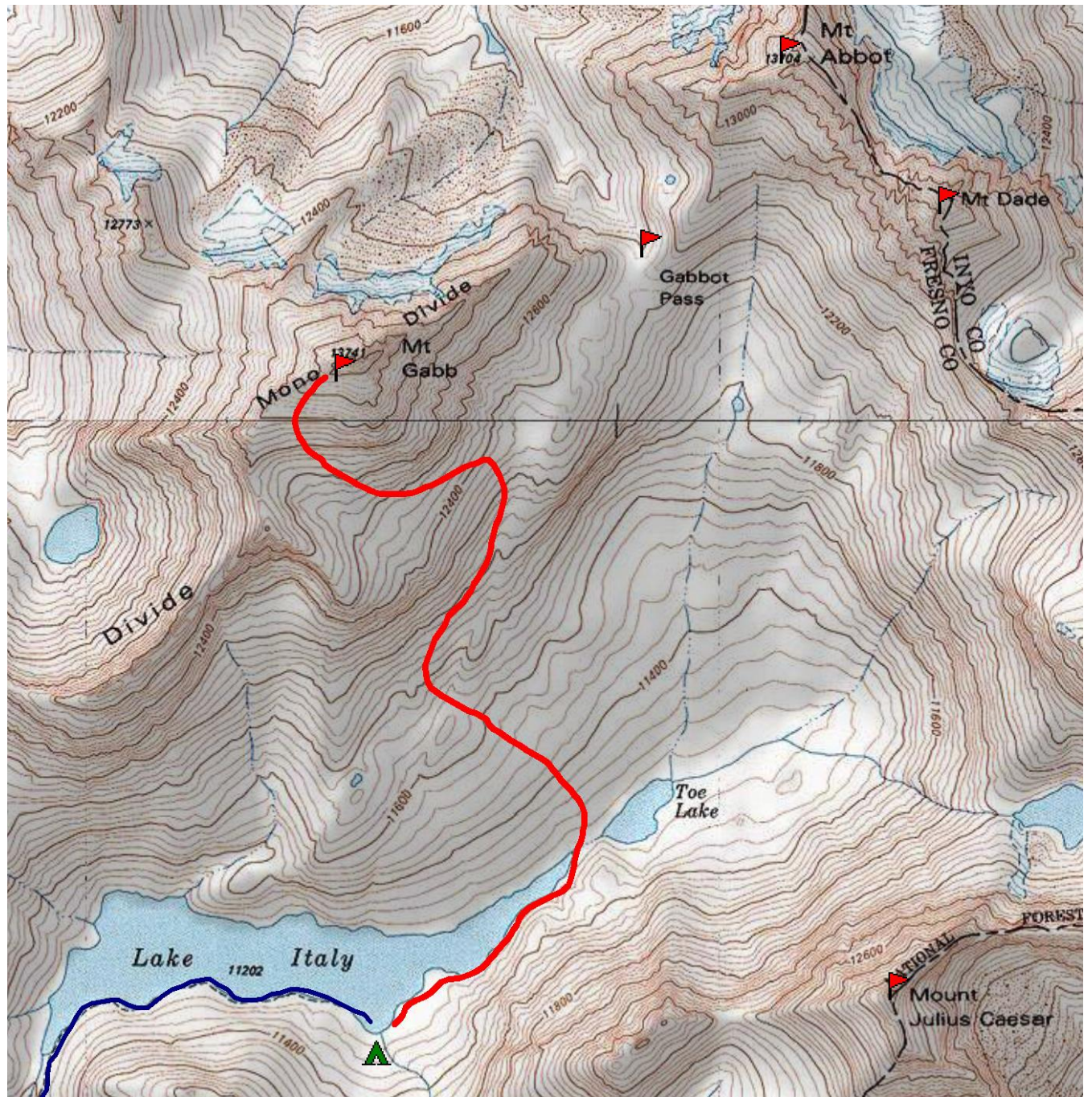
the bottom to more difficult class 3 near the top.

Northeast Ridge. Class 3. Keep to the far southeastern side of this ridge while climbing it from Gabbot Pass.

North Face. Class 4. First ascent August 13, 1953, by Jim Koontz, Ralph Perry, Fred Peters, George Wallerstein, and Al Schmitz. Cross the glacier on the north side of Mount Gabb to a point that is west of the prominent split on the North Face. Ascend slabs to the split and follow it up and right to a large chockstone. Pass the chockstone via exposed ledges, a 25-foot crack, and a 20-foot chimney, and continue to the top of the west wall of the split. This leads to the Northwest Ridge. Follow the northwest ridge to the summit.

Glacier Route. Class 2. Head southwest from Upper Mills Creek Lake to the glacier beneath the saddle on Mount Gabb's Northwest Ridge. Cross the glacier and climb the scree headwall to the saddle. Climb over large blocks along the Northwest Ridge to the summit.

Northwest Ridge, East Spur. Class 3. From Upper Mills Creek Lake ascend steep, unstable talus to the notch that is right (west) of the prominent gendarme on the East Spur of the Northwest Ridge. Follow the ridge from the notch to the summit.



3.) Mt. Abbott 2.6 mi 2,500' up from Lake Italy Southwest Chute via Gabbot Pass

Mount Abbot (13,704 ft; 13,715 ft)

North Couloir. Class 3. First ascent July 11, 1934, by David Brower, Hervey Voge, and Norman Clyde. First winter ascent December 30, 1967, by George Barnes, Lowell Smith, Margaret Young, Pat Buchanan, Bob Summers, and Dave Duff. This is the easiest route up Mount Abbot from Little Lakes Valley. Climb the prominent snow couloir that is north of the Northeast Buttress. Class 3 rock leads right from a point about halfway up the couloir. Go up and right to the north ridge and follow it south to where it becomes a knife edge. At the first large boulder that blocks progress, pass on the left (east) side of the ridge. Then, cross to the right (west) side of the ridge where a ledge system (class 3 in places) below the crest is followed. Climb back onto the crest of the ridge

at the northern end of the summit plateau. *Variation:* Class 5. First ascent August 1984 by John Moynier. The North Couloir can be followed all the way to the summit. This 1000-foot, 50-degree couloir is followed by a short rock wall, which is overcome by means of a blocky chimney. *Further reading:* Fiddler, pp. 294–295.

Northeast Buttress. Class 4. This buttress is left of the North Couloir. It has much loose rock, but may be the preferred route in early season when snow covers most of the loose rock.

East Side. Class 3–4. Descended August 19, 1932, by Samuel W. French. Cross the glacier east of Mount Abbot and aim for a small, poorly defined ridge south of a prominent snow gully on the east side of the peak. (This snow gully is south of the Northeast Buttress.) Climb up and over ledges to the south of this small ridge. These lead to the plateau beneath the summit. There is a lot of loose rock on this route. *Variation:* In early season it may be preferable to climb the snow gully to where it is possible to go left onto ledges to the north of the small ridge. This reduces exposure to rock fall.

Southeast Buttress. Class 3. First ascent August 19, 1932, by Samuel W. French. This route ascends the buttress at the left side of the east face of Mount Abbot. Climb the southern

side of the buttress, with occasional detours onto its northern side. There is a lot of loose rock on this route.

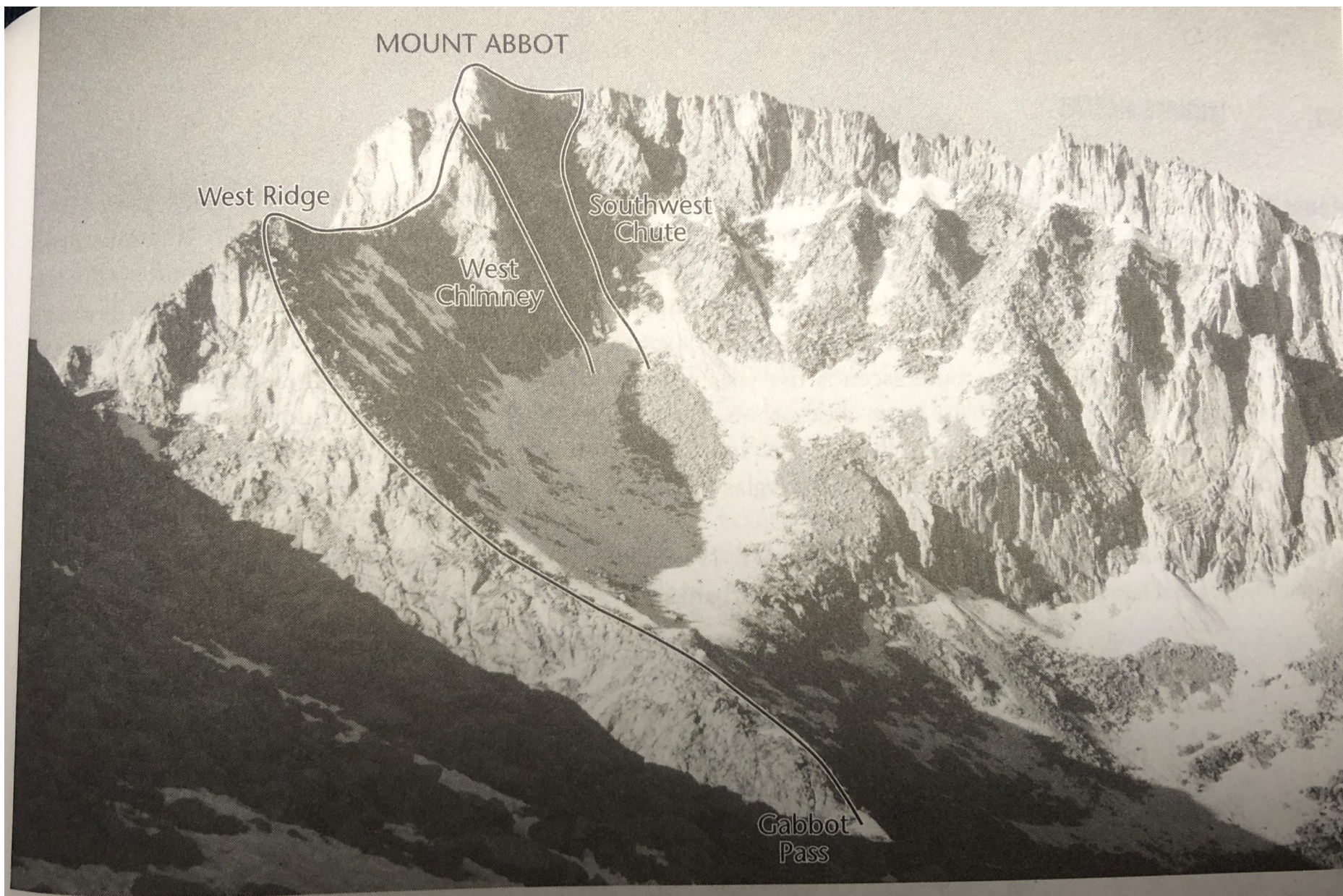
→ **Southwest Chute.** Class 3. First ascent July 13, 1908, by James Hutchinson, Joseph N. LeConte, and Duncan McDuffie. Follow a talus slope east from the southern approach to Gabbot Pass and climb to the top of the talus, beneath the summit of Mount Abbot. Three chutes are visible from this point. Climb the central chute; the entrance to this chute is just to the left of the top of the talus fan and close to the rock wall that descends directly from the summit. Ascend the right side of the chute to the class 3 headwall, which is much easier than it looks. The headwall ends at the summit plateau, and the true summit is a short talus walk to the left (north).

West Chimney. Class 4. First ascent July 22, 1953, by C. N. LaVene and Hervey Voge. This route ascends the farthest left of the three chutes visible from the top of the talus fan along the Southwest Chute. A chockstone in this chute is passed on its left side, and the chute (or chimney) leads to a notch between Mount Abbot and an overhanging spire on the West Ridge. Climb up and left from the notch to the summit plateau.

West Ridge. Class 4. First ascent August 30, 1927, by

Robert Yatman and Maurice L. Higgins. Ascend the West Ridge of Mount Abbot from Gabbot Pass. Some deviations from the crest of the ridge are needed to keep the difficulty at class 4.





Mount Abbot from the southwest