

A view from the ground looking up at a granite monolith in the Yosemite Valley.
Nick McClellan

How to scale a National treasure

Times-Delta/Advance-Register reporter Nick McClellan braves hike up Half Dome



Nick McClellan
Cables, which start coming down in early October, are very dangerous. If you don't think you can handle these, don't try.



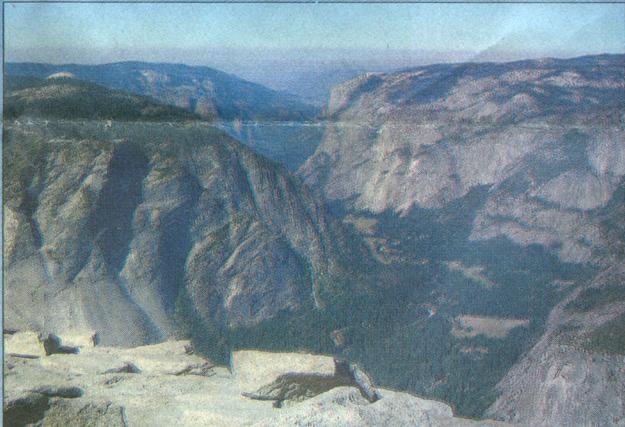
Nick McClellan
Above: Multimedia reporter Nick McClellan and friend Natalie Garcia, with packs full, begin their two-day hike up Half Dome in Yosemite. Below: A view of Yosemite Valley from the top of Half Dome.

NOW ONLINE

- Read about the hike at www.VisaliaTimesDelta.com/living.
- See a gallery online at www.VisaliaTimesDelta.com/photos.

PERMITS

Permits are available at the Yosemite Valley Wilderness Center at (209) 372-0740.



TIPS FOR THE HIKE

- Rent a hiking pack or buy your own so you can camp. Tackling a 16-mile hike in a day is possible, but not pleasant. Taking the hike over two days and camping halfway made it a lot more fun.
- To lessen the need to take lots of water, take a water-filtration system along. You can replenish your supplies at the Merced River in Little Yosemite Valley, where you can camp.
- Tackling the cables without gloves is a very bad idea. Bring some gloves along and the cables will be a lot less scary.

