

# The Yosemite Yell

Yosemite National Park

29 June 2013

*HAPPY  
FOURTH  
OF JULY*



# Happy Fourth of July

Our patriotic pre-holiday hike from Glacier Point to Yosemite Valley was spectacular. The waterfalls – other than a wispy Yosemite Falls – were surprisingly strong after a low snow winter, and the air was crystal clear.

Lots of people were out on the Panorama Trail.

The first guy we talked to was wearing a UNC baseball cap. That's where he said he got his master's in geology, which explained why he and his friends were hiking in Yosemite, world capital of granite.

A mile or two farther along, we ran into three French-speaking families from Montréal taking a water break. They didn't seem to be struggling, although when we saw them later one of the little ones was hitching a ride on his father's shoulders.

There were two different Japanese women at separate points along the trail clad head-to-toe in black Lycra and wearing gloves. Their faces – their only exposed skin – were shaded by long green sun visors and parasols.

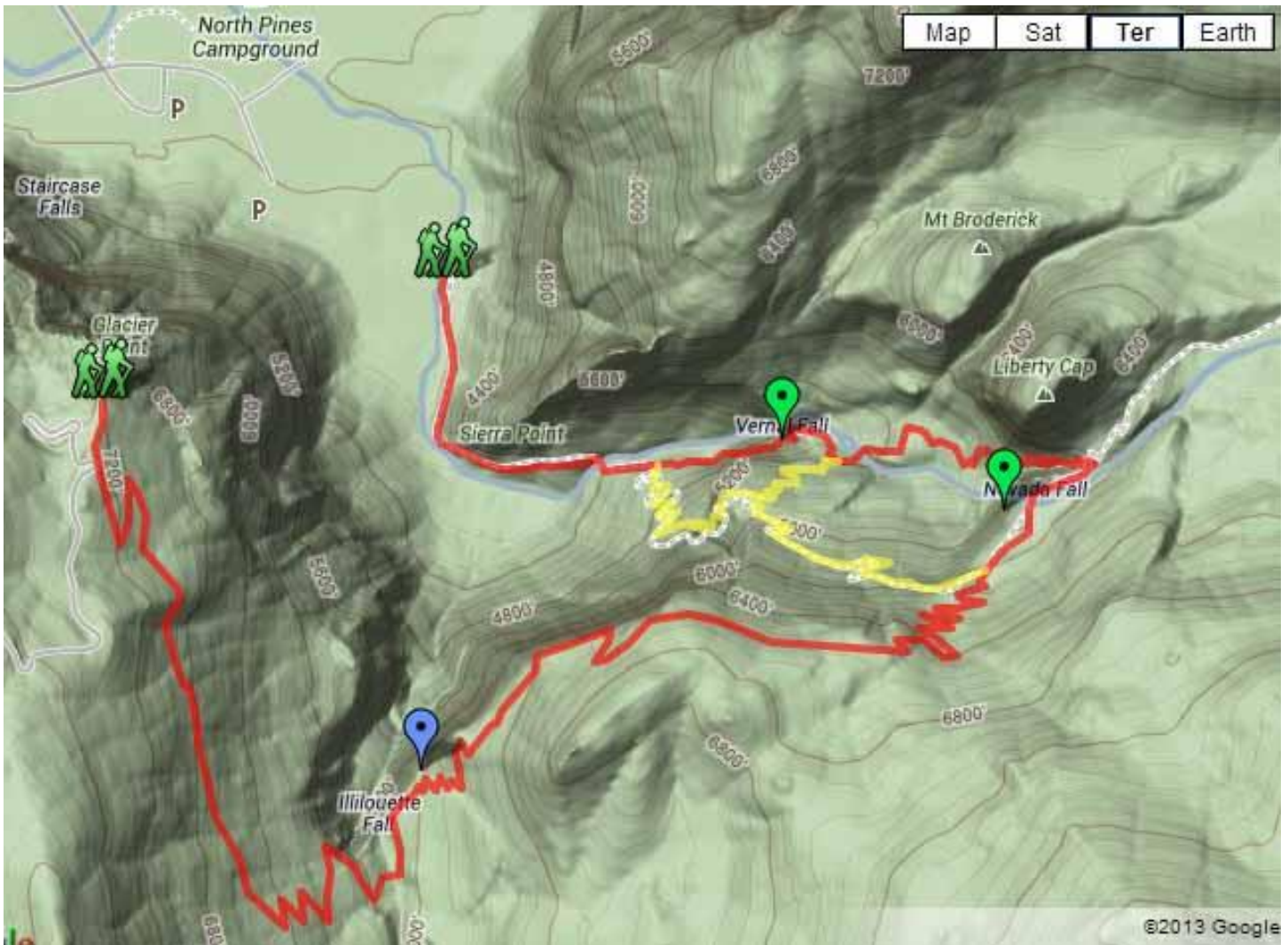
An hour or so later one was posing fresh and sweatless in a T-shirt and shorts at the edge of a thousand-foot cliff with Nevada Falls thundering in the background.

Meanwhile the heat radiated off  
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**A hiker climbs back from the edge of a cliff overlooking Illilouette Fall. The cover photo is of Emily and me beside Illilouette Creek just before it passes under our trail bridge and then over this 370-foot precipice. After our trail crosses the creek, it climbs through the trees along the cliff top on the far side. The granite peak in the background is Half Dome, 8,839 feet.**

# Happy Fourth of July



**Our hike was along the Panorama Trail, which is the red line on this terrain map. It began at Glacier Point on the left at 7,200 feet and ended eight miles later at 4,000 feet on the Yosemite Valley floor. Along the way it passes Illilouette, Nevada (594 feet) and Vernal (317 feet) falls.**

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the bare granite in invisible waves that hammered us from every angle.

It was a record 107 degrees on the valley floor and certainly near that higher up on our trail. I was stopping with Emily in every available patch of shade for another swig of warm water.

On a long dusty stretch midway into our eight-mile trek, I was passed by a woman six months into her first pregnancy

leading her husband and another couple higher up the mountain.

“Doctor said I should keep doing whatever I normally do,” she said, not even breathing hard.

We descended 3,200 feet over the course of seven exhausting hours, sustained in part by the knowledge that many people couldn’t have made it and happy to have met some of the people who did.



**Emily on the Panorama Trail shortly after beginning the descent from Glacier Point.**



**Midway through we got our first view of Nevada Fall. The dome is Liberty Cap, 7,080 feet.**

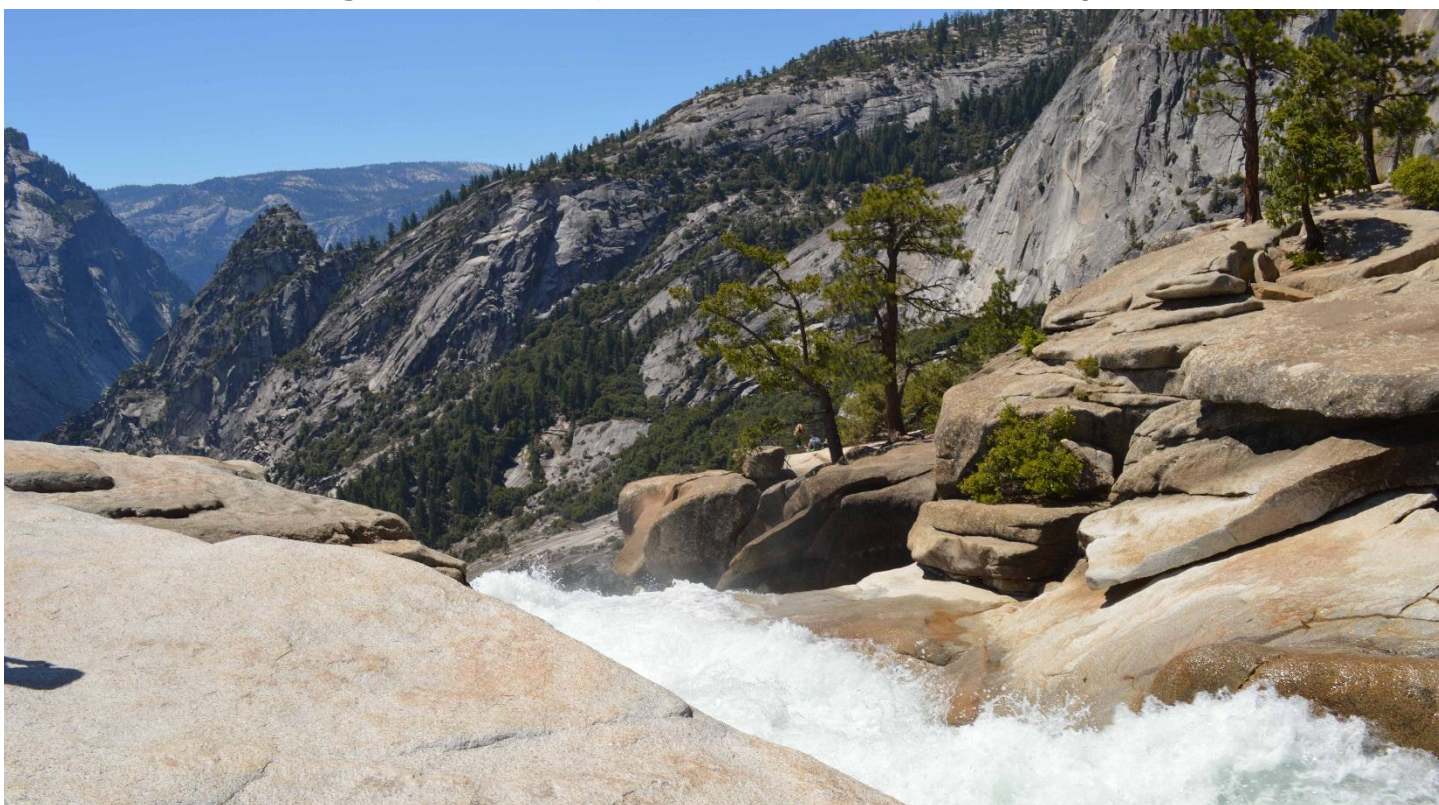
**From near the top of Nevada Fall, Emily looks back at the start of our hike, Glacier Point, which is at the right end of the longest pine branch. It's five trail miles behind us.**



**This is the reverse view of the picture above, looking from Glacier Point to Nevada Fall, the uppermost of the two waterfalls in the picture. The lower is Vernal Fall. Most of our hike is in this image. The trail heads to the right out of frame and down to Illilouette Creek, then back up along the cliff on the right to Nevada Fall. At that point the trail comes down the Merced River toward the camera to the valley floor.**



**Three miles to go and another 1,700 feet to descend from the top of Nevada Fall.**



**The Merced River rushes over the brink of Nevada Fall.**



**She said she wanted to be married in God's church, and so she was.  
Glacier Point, Yosemite National Park.**