

SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB

An adventure hiking club for intermediate and advanced hikers

Issue No. 6

Jan-Feb 1992

We have a club design, special thanks to Betty Sterrett! I will inquire about the cost of pins.

Besides the usual number of strong SD area hikes, we also have a fun mountain bike ride, whale watching trip, Baja trips, canoe trips, orienteers and a exciting easy trip in this schedule. Jim Sugg and Al Holden are leading about the best two months of hiking I have seen. Every Wednesday is a winner, especially in January!

I want to welcome new club members: Sue Pease, Lisa Freundlich, Dave and En Lee Jurasevich, Steve Spiller, Kurt Weiss, Ken Heffner, Dave Walters, Tom Pileggi and John Smythe. We now have 64 members. Wow!

You know, I'm having soooo much fun, taking members on my favorite desert hikes. Yes, I have a lot of favorites. In fact, I think I could schedule hikes for three or more years without doing a repeat. I just don't have enough free time to hike all the places that I want to go to. I also want to stay in touch with my very dear desert friends in LA (in the DPS), so most of Feb is spent with them.

Something is bothering me. Most of you SD people don't know how to have fun and relax! Example: After climbing Indianhead 14 hikers were invited to a jacuzzi at Ram's Hill and only two of us went! Three stayed in camp and 9 went home immediately. Sunday's hike featured 5 new hikers. I know people are busy, but you have to ask yourself what is important as you go through life. Make time for yourself or you won't stay healthy. \*\*\*\*\*

NOTICE!!!!!!

The time has come for everyone to sign a waiver. One is included in the newsletter. Please sign it, date it, and mail it to me. Every club member must do so. \*\*\*\*\*

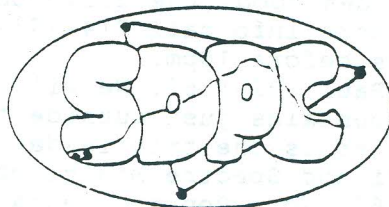
Hiker of the Month

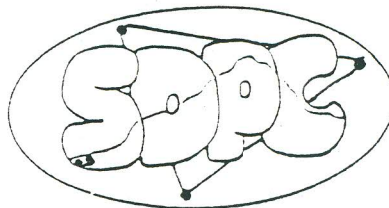
The hiker of the month of January is Paul Freiman. He was a unanimous choice among the voting committee. In November he finished the list of 105 peaks. Hazzah, hazzah.

The hiker of the month of February is Dennis Richards. Dennis leads wonderful hikes. He is an excellent leader, tops with map and compass, and he leads the tougher hikes for the Sierra Club. He recently completed his intermediate COL qualifications. Hazzah, hazzah! Embarrassingly, he is not leading a hike for SDPC during his HOTM month. That's ok, he is active in the Wilderness Basics Course during that time.

Membership

Dues are \$9 per year. The year runs June to June. Family membership is the same price as individual membership, since the main cost is mailing. Make checks payable to Paul Freiman, 4421 Maryland St, San Diego, CA 92116-3902. (619)692-1367 before 2:30 pm.





### WEEKEND CALENDAR

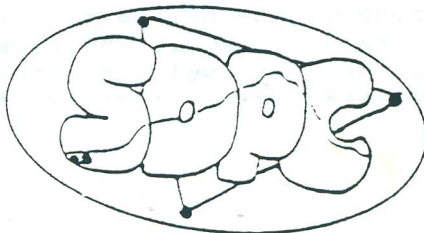
The hikes with the star (\*) are appropriate for the bird woman to bring her hiking stick with her.

- Jan 11-12 Sombrero Peak and Tule Mtn. Dennis Richards 462-3643. Dennis will do these peaks from McCain Valley with an overnight at Cottonwood campground. (Schad p.254) Saturday's hike is 6 hrs RT. Sunday's hike up Tule is 2½ hrs RT.
- Jan 11-12 DPS. Mitchell, Edgar and Providence Pt. Hike above the beautiful Mitchell caverns. Strenuous. Paul 692-1367. The drive is 4½ hrs to near Needles. Don't know why I like this climb. Perhaps it's because I got to see the caverns. Perhaps because it's a nice hike, or perhaps because I got to meet Ang Karma Sherpa (who climbed Everest) on my last trip.
- Jan 18 SDO. Dead Indian Wash. Palm Desert. Paul 692-1367. This is a new orienteering site.
- Jan 19 \* Mecca Hills. Palm Desert. Paul 692-1367. Come out for the day or spend the weekend (3 hrs drive). Wes Shelberg showed me the route on this amazing maze of mud hills. Everyone always considers this one of their favorite hikes! Yes, it is that good! Two separate hikes, a 3 hr RT and a 2 hr RT, make for a fun day. Both hikes are easy, and I encourage spouses to come along. The pace will be easy.
- Jan 25 Coyote Canyon Clunker Classic Mountain Bike ride! Meet in Borrego at Christmas Circle, load your bikes onto the U-Haul trucks, and load your body onto one of 5 buses for the drive up to the top of Coyote Canyon at Anza for the 32 mile ride back to the Circle. Normal riding time is 3-4 hours (fastest is under 2, but who wants to do that!). You arrive back to an Elliott-famous "all you can stand" barbeque. Plus you are now sporting your new Clunker Classic T-shirt! Very trendy! All for \$40. 300 riders rode last year (latecomers were turned away, so enter early!) Entry form in this newsletter.
- Jan 26 \* Red Top and Pepperwood trail hike. Paul 692-1367. This is a combination hike to help Steve Spiller finish all the hikes in Jerry's book. He has less than a half-dozen left to do. (Schad p.259). We will start in McCain Valley and drop down to Canebrake wash where Paul's group will climb Red Top and Steve's group will finish Jerry's described trip. Steve's trip is moderate and Paul's is strenuous. Five people have climbed Red Top since 1978 (Gordon MacLeod, Barbara Reber, Wes Shelberg, Al Holden and Paul). Add your name!
- Feb 7-10 Canon Providencia, Sierra San Pedro Martir, to ten tier waterfall. Class 3-4, extremely remote and strenuous backpack. Carl Johnson 448-8542. (But Carl, you're not an advanced COL, hee hee hee).
- Feb 8-16 Baja Whale Watch trip. Ron and Leora Jones have put this trip together with Adventure Travel guide and friend, Elden Kidd. (Those watchers of American Gladiators may remember Elden as a finalist a couple years ago). Ron knows more treasure places "away from the crowd" than anyone I know. Elden is one of the most interesting people I know. The cost of \$650 includes food, the drive down and flight back from La Paz. For more info call 714-773-5570 mornings from 6-9am and evenings before 10pm.
- Feb 15-16 DPS. Silver Mtn. Paul 692-1367. We will flirt with illegality by climbing the mountains just outside the China Lake Weapons Center. A BLM ranger is the trip leader.
- Feb 22-23 DPS. Chili cookoff and Spectre Mtn climb (past Joshua Tree). Paul 692-1367. Join Ron and Leora Jones for the 2nd annual cookoff. Last year we had 5-6 kinds of chili and 15 tasters. Practice up on your horseshoes, we had an exciting climax to last year's event! Climb is Sunday.

WEEKEND CALENDAR continued

- Feb 29 San Diego River (Schad p.96). Carl Johnson 448-8542. Meet at 6:09am in Ramona for this 11 hr hike. See where Jim Sugg was bitten by the rattler! Strenuous. 10½ mi.
- Mar 1 \* Iron Mtn. Paul 692-1367. Easy local Poway trail hike. 10 miles, 5 hrs. Loop hike. Gee, we will be doing this 10 miles over 6 hours faster than yesterday's 10 mile hike. *7AM START*
- Mar 14-15 Canoe trip!!!! This will be my 3rd annual trip on the Colorado river. This will complete the third in a trilogy of trips. The first featured hot springs by Hoover Dam, the second featured petroglyphs in the Topock Gorge by Needles, now we move downstream to around Yuma. This trip will have two full days (18 mi each day) of canoeing, which is much more than my trips usually do; but Carl Johnson, Beth Davis and Robin Tucker all say it is a very lovely trip. Trip fee includes canoe rental, five sumptuous meals and a cook to culinize the cuisine starting at breakfast on Sat and ending at lunch on Sunday. The feast will include blueberry pancakes, eggs, and Hillshire sausage sauted in onions and mushrooms, orange juice and coffee. For dinner we have steaks, chicken and pasta (in, of course, pesto sauce). Soda pop, beer and wine is included. Fee is \$75. The fee does not include \$35 per car for shuttling costs. This is because it is such a long way betwixt the beginning (Walter's Camp), and the end (Martinez Lake). Driving time from SD is 4 hours. Paul 692-1367. Calling me doesn't reserve a spot, sending me payment in full does! I will return any monies I can, if you change your mind, but I don't know what the canoe rental refund policies are yet. I think I'll throw in a \$5 nonrefundable clause.
- Mar 21-22 Canon Palomar. Baja. Carl Johnson 448-8542. Richard Hughes assisting. Carl is going to do this canyon instead of Tajo. It is the next canyon. They will be leaving on Friday. Strenuous backpack. Carl promises spectacular scenery with a possible hot spring side trip!
- Mar 22 \* Pyramid and the Wonderstone trail (Schad p.207). Paul 692-1367. This is the second of three hikes designed to help Steve Spiller finish Jerry's book. I didn't think it was that hard, but Jerry sez 11 mi, 4000 foot gain, 10 hrs.
- Mar 28 \* 6K Ridge. By Burnt Rancheria in Lagunas. Paul 692-1367. Al Holden designed this hike. One of the best in the Lagunas! Jim Sugg's group has done it, so I know everyone who is in SDPC can do it. It takes about 5 hours. Hopefully we can do it without the thunderstorm that hit us the first time we did the trip. We were wet puppies.
- Mar 29 Pinyon Mtn- North approach. (Schad p.229). Paul 692-1367. Join us as Steve Spiller closes the book on Jerry's hikes. Jerry sez 3100 ft, 14 mi, 10 hrs for this desert trip. I say champagne on the peak! Help Steve celebrate!!!!

NOTICE!!!! I am delisting Lyons Pk because Jerry sez there are private property problems. I am also delisting Donohoe because it probably should not have been added in the first place. I will wait until June to add some.\*\*\*\*\*



WEDNESDAY WALKABOUTS

- Jan 1 Sombrero Peak from McCain Valley. Start the New Year off right with Jim and Carol.
- Jan 8 El Cajon Mtn traverse. Start at Wildcat Canyon and go up the ridge road to the top, then scoot down to El Monte Park where some shuttle cars will be waiting. This is a long, strenuous hike.
- Jan 22 Eagle Peak and 3 Sisters Waterfall. Shame on you if you miss this goodie!
- Jan 29 Guatay Mtn. Four great hikes in a role! Wow! What a way to start the year. This is my favorite Sugg hike because I showed him an unglamorous hike and he scaptured it into a beautiful walkabout. Showed me that simple peakbagging loses out sometimes.
- Feb 5 Middle Peak and Sill Hill. Al leads. I think this is his favorite hike.
- Feb 12 TBA
- Feb 19 Manza- Noble Canyon loop. Another 1st time lead. This starts in the Lagunas utilizing the new Sunset trail for the first mile, then cuts down an old hunter's path to Noble Canyon, but first you climb a slope with wonderful views of the future on Manza.
- Feb 26 TBA

Organizing these walkabouts is Jim Sugg. 224-7895. The hikes are all about 11 miles and 5½ hours with 500-1000 feet of gain (El Cajon is longer, harder).

Bits and Pieces

I have been forgetting to thank Beth and Ralph Davis for their gracious help. One of the things they are responsible for are the mailing labels.

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Want ads! Anything for sale? Let me know and I will put it in the next newsletter, subject to space requirements. Next issue at end of February.

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David Eisenberg, the editor of the HPS Lookout newsletter, has done it again. You may remember, in this growing saga, that last issue I printed a letter to the editor that he refused to publish. In the letter I suggested the that the "Hundred Peaks Section" change their name to reflect the growing trend of the club. The club should be called the "Hundred Award Section", because they were getting away from hiking and just "bagging" awards, not peaks. Now word had come down from LA that he and three others have taken to bagging the peaks by helicopter. He "bagged" Sheep, Martinez, Rabbit, Villager and Rosa in a day. I understand he has more journeys planned. I feel like I am watching the Michael Fay (of New Zealand America's Cup fame) of the hiking world. Flex the 'rules' to their maximum. I was taking to Ron Jones (current outgoing chair of the HPS, past chair of the SPS and DPS, and current editor of the DPS Sage newsletter) about the lack of definition of the HPS Pathfinder award (everyone views what constitutes a new route differently). His reply was that the he didn't want to make it too burdensome, that peakbagging has always been a matter of honor anyway (ie. you take the person's word that she/he bagged the peak).

I have been asking myself why am I upset about this. I think it is because I use to be proud to have done 100, 200 and list finish on the HPS. Now the "Hundred Award" group of the HPS have attempted to cheapen my efforts. Are 'Klingons' the only people who have 'honor' nowadays? Damn yuppy disease! I know they mean well, but their addictive personalities screw things up. \*\*\*\*\*



Okay, here's my New Year's Resolution: I will get rid of all the gear that I never use. But first, my Holiday Wish List:

I also want a backpacking camera. It should be small, of course, and lightweight. But, most important, it should have a judgment compensator. That way, when I try to take a picture of dawn gently flirting with craggy old peaks and the dappled morning light glistening like dew-drops on a perfect little camp in the foreground, the judgment compensator will kick in and an electronic voice will say, "who do you think you are: Ansel Adams?" I'll slink off and leave the picture in my memory, where it belongs, instead of taking yet another snapshot that'll be too dark at the bottom and too light in the middle. Save a lot of money that way.

I want a portable lie detector. That way, when the leader says "it's just over that hill" the lie detector says "BRAAAAAP!" and there you have it. Trouble is, the lie detector won't know where you are, either.

Speaking of knowing where you are, how about a smart compass? After all, if we can build bombs that know how to get from here to there, why not a compass? You could even hook it up to the lie detector. That way, when you're reading a map and saying to yourself "this is that ridge

over there, and here's Sheephead Mountain, so we must be right here," the compass says "BRAAAAAP!" and there you are. Even better would be to hook it up to the camera with the judgment compensator (it's a modular system). Then, when you're considering heading off cross-country through the desert to get over to that next wash, an electronic voice says "who do you think you are: Ansel Adams?" and everyone looks confused because Ansel Adams had nothing to do with map and compass, except that he took some pretty good pictures while wandering around the wilderness, probably

lost because he didn't have this modular compass system.

You've heard of insect repellent. Well, the last thing on my Wish List is cholla repellent. Cholla is also called "jumping cactus." Jump, hell. It'll walk 40 miles through a sandstorm just to poke holes in you. All in all, something well worth repellent.

As soon as I get all that, I'll get rid of all the other gear cluttering up my garage. Because that's my New Year's Resolution, you see.

Pogo



"Second floor, please."

How Jim Subg Entered The Hospital!

## Poetry Corner

### SNOW 5:35

Music by Loreena McKennitt  
Lyrics by Archibald Lampman

Recorded at Glenstal Abbey, Ireland  
Loreena McKennitt: vocals, harp, tin whistle

White are the far-off plains, and white  
The fading forests grow:  
The wind dies out along the height,  
And denser still the snow,  
A gathering weight on roof and tree,  
Falls down scarce audibly.

The road before me smooths and fills  
Apace, and all about  
The fences dwindle, and the hills  
Are blotted slowly out:  
The naked trees loom spectrally  
Into the dim white sky.

The meadows and far sheeted streams  
Lie still without a sound:  
Like some soft minister of dreams  
The snow-fall hoods me round:  
In wood and water, earth and air,  
A silence everywhere.

Save when at lonely intervals  
Some farmer's sleigh, urged on,  
With rustling runners and sharp bells,  
Swings by me and is gone:  
Or from the empty waste I hear  
A sound remote and clear:

The barking of a dog, or call  
To cattle, sharply pealed,  
Borne echoing from some wayside stall  
Or barnyard far afield:

Then all is silent and the snow falls  
Settling soft and slow  
The evening deepens and the grey  
Folds closer earth and sky  
The world seems shrouded, far away.

Its noises sleep, and I as secret as  
Yon buried stream plod dumbly on and dream

Ride the Heights of SD County:  
Los Coyotes Hillclimb up  
lovely 6,533' Hot Springs Mun.

The San Diego County  
Mountain Bike Special!

\*M\*G\*E\* Racing presents

# COYOTE CLUNKER CLASSIC VIII

Sat. & Sun., Jan. 25-26, 1992

Featuring:

**Sat. am - Coyote Canyon Challenge**, a ride  
32 mi. from Terwilliger to Borrego Springs,  
Rugged and strenuous with 3000' elev. drop  
to lowest point in San Diego County.

**Sat. pm - Coyote Cookout**  
BBQ in Borrego for all participants.  
Roast coyote, house special!

**Sun. am - Los Coyotes Hillclimb**  
7 mi. to highest point in San Diego County,  
10 mi. scenic loop return ride.

Ride the Depths of SD County!  
Coyote Canyon Challenge down  
to the desert thru the gorge.

- \$40.00 entry fee includes:
- o Bike & rider bus trip to Terwilliger
  - o Commemorative T-shirt
  - o BBQ cookout on Sat.
  - o Liability Insurance

Please make checks payable to  
Ralph Elliott and mail to:  
Ralph Elliott  
Coyote Clunker Classic  
1058 22nd St.  
San Diego, CA 92102

\*\*\*\*\* Entry deadline: Sat, JANUARY 18, 1992 \*\*\*\*\*  
Limited to the first 300 mailed entries.

A complete package of event information, including hotel and camping info, and start locations and times, will be mailed to you when your entry has been received. For additional entry info, please call Ralph Elliott (619) 239-4321.

## Coyote Clunker Classic - Entry and Liability Release Form

Name of entrant: \_\_\_\_\_ M/F Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Make/type bicycle: \_\_\_\_\_

Club affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt: S M L XL  
Extras \$14.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Riders under 18 years of age must have a written parental consent for medical treatment, in case of injury.**

In consideration of the acceptance of my application for entry in the above named event, I hereby waive, release, and discharge any and all claims for damages for death and for personal injury or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me, as a result of my participation in said event.

I further understand that serious accidents or death occasionally occur during off-road bicycle riding. Knowing the risk of off-road bicycle riding, nevertheless, I hereby agree to assume those risks and to release and hold harmless Ralph Elliott, the NORBA, all the sponsors, promoters, and any involved municipalities or government agencies, or other public entities from and against any and all liabilities arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in said event.

SIGNATURE OF ENTRANT \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent or guardian of minor \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\* Entry deadline: Sat, JANUARY 18, 1992 \*\*\*\*\*

