

## SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB

An adventure hiking club for the intermediate and advanced hiker!

Issue No. 8

May-June 1992

In May the San Diego Peaks Club will be one year old!!!HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! We now have 72 members. At the end of May we will have a birthday hike. The club will turn one, I will turn 40, Dave Hardy will turn 50 and Gail Hanna will turn 52. I hope everyone can help us celebrate!

I have a correction to make for the elevation of Mile-High. It is 5260 feet. The UTM coordinates are 759921 on the Font's Point 7½ minute map. Richard Carey and Gail Hanna put the current register there. Please note: It is not at the 5260 mark on the map, but is at the across the saddle to the west where the other ridgeline comes up.

Welcome new club members Patty Kline, Ted Caragozian, Bob Pinsker, Barbara Raab and Rheta Schoeneman! Patty is very active in the HPS and DPS (She lives in Topanga Canyon). She is an HPS list finisher and past chair of the HPS. Ted, better known as "Ranchita Ted", will be remembered by Sierra Clubbers as the author of the letter to the editor, "Fuming over Zealots", a true epic! He also suggested the newest peak, Palm, which I enjoyed so much that I am making it an EMBLEM peak.(More on this in "trip reports"). Bob is a Sierra Club Singles leader, a brilliant PhD, and the world's greatest procrastinator. You can read how he spent his winter vacation elsewhere in this issue. Barbara is an HPS list finisher and 4wd explorer. Rheta, an emergency room head nurse normally, on weekends turns into a very strong hiker. She is working on the DPS list of desert peaks. She is also a SC Singles leader who is running for the Chair of the Singles section. There you have it, a great bunch!

### Mini-macho y Machette

Terri Sutor, the dynamo that finished the HPS list 3x, is now a mini-machette. She is bagging the SDPC list on weekdays and spending her weekends assisting her husband, Ed, to finish the HPS list.

Bob has also hiked over 50 peaks. Bob who? As soon as he becomes a member I'll remember his last name.

Laurie Jenkins is the latest to earn her mini-machette, on the Thimble hike. Laurie solos a lot of her peaks, thus enjoying "adventure hiking" to the fullest. I have the greatest respect for someone who solos Rabbit. She mountain bikes a lot of the peaks.

### Hiker of the Month

The HOTM for May is Gail Hanna. Gail is an HPS and DPS list finisher. She is also an excellent orienteer who got first in the recent Tucson 8 hour event. Gail injured her leg after only 2 hours of the 8 hour orienteer. She continued on with her partner, club member Donna Gookin, and squeaked by with a close win. (One participant observed, "I notice that all the winners have come in injured." It's true, they were.) You may recall that she was a member of the Mexican Volcano trip that climbed Orizaba (18,700 feet) at Christmas. She is also a frequent leader of hikes. Congrats, Gail!

The HOTM for June is Cindy Outlaw. Cindy is climbing Mt. McKinley (20,320 feet) in June. Hope the weather is good for you, Cindy. Be sure to take a photo of the HOTM pole on top of the peak!!!!

### Membership

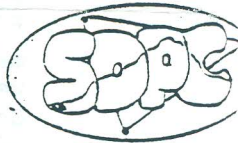
Dues are due! Dues are due! Dues are due! Dues are due! Dues are due! Get the hint?! SDPC is a year old and dues are delinquent June 1st.

Here are the club members who have already re-upped: Beth and Ralph Davis, Ed and Terri Sutor, Betty Sterrett, Robin Tucker, Laurie Jenkins, Ron and Leora Jones, Patty Kline and Ted Caragozian. Send checks to Paul Freiman, 4421 Maryland St, San Diego, CA 92116-3902. (619)692-1367. Dues are \$9.00, which will put you in good standing until June 1993. Family memberships are the same price as individuals.



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WEEKEND CALENDAR

- May 16  
Saturday Orienteer-SDO. Filaree Flats, Mt Laguna. Edwin and Donna Gookin 286-7958. A super site. The weather is usually perfect for this meet.
- May 17  
Sunday Manza hike. Mt Laguna. This Al Holden designed hike incorporates the new (not yet completed) Sunset trail, the Noble Cyn trail and a beautiful use trail route complete with scenic waterfall. Paul 692-1367. About a 6 hour hike, 1000 feet gain. Easy-mod.
- May 22-25 Rio San Antonio Falls. 3rd trip, extremely remote and strenuous backpack. Memorial Day weekend. "Baja Carl" Johnson 448-8542
- May 24  
Sunday Lost Ruin hike. Myer Valley, Jacumba Outstanding Area. See Schad p.278. The route follows Jerry's description at the start, then deviates to Frank Nichol's old house ruins by a spring that doesn't show on the map. About 6 Hours. Moderate. Paul 692-1367.
- May 30  
Saturday Pine Valley Creek. This is a rescheduling of the 19 mile, mostly trail hike down the Pine Valley Creek from Pine Valley to Horsethief Canyon. This follows a new, not yet open trail along an old flume route. I want to thank Wes Shelberg and Jim Sugg for my awareness of this area. Paul 692-1367.
- May 31  
Sunday Morena Butte. The Birthday Hike!! Happy B-D to Paul, Dave, Gail and the SDPC!!! Champagne on the peak! Be sure to bring your plate, fork and cup for the goodies. This is my favorite local hike, discovered by Paul and route assistance by Jim Sugg and friends. Paul 692-1367. Easy-moderate.
- June 6  
Saturday Ken. Join Larry Carleton (578-9427) and Bob Pinsker for a SC hike up the newest HPS peak. The route up is 8 miles, mostly on the PCT. It is a "long moderate" 9 hour hike.
- June 13  
Saturday Oriflamme Mtn and the Roost. Lagunas. This is a super hike, mostly trail, but with a bit of heavy brush. The loop will take about 5 hours. Moderate. Paul 692-1367.
- June 14  
Sunday Fry Creek-Palomar Mtn hike. This will be a variation of last year's hike that everyone enjoyed so much. Paul 692-1367. Easy.
- June 18-23 Paria River-Canyon. Utah, backpack. "World's best slot canyon". Carl Johnson 448-8542. Sierra Club, Carol Murdock assisting. I sure wish I could do this backpack, but someone else has the vacation days. I sure am envious.
- June 20  
Saturday Orienteer. Green Valley, Cuyamaca State Park. SDO, Jeff Jacobs 236-1491. Want to learn to read a map better? Just bring a compass (or rent one) and come out at 10 am. All levels from beginning to advanced. On any orienteer you can call the meet director or Bill Gookin 578-9456.
- June 20-21  
Weekend Fish Creek, San Geronio Backpack peakbag. Bag Heart Bar, Grinnell, Lake, 10000 Foot Ridge and Constance on this wonderful trip. This is my co-favorite area in the Gorgonios. Dennis Richards 462-3643. Sierra Club, limited group size. This is a treasure of a hike to satisfy those of you who want a backpack.
- July 4th weekend Picacho del Diablo, west approach. "Baja Carl" 448-8542. Very strenuous!! "Not really that hot". Carl should know, he's done this peak oodles of times.
- August 21-30 Sierra Tarahumara (Copper Canyon) train-hiking trip. Not luxury or expensive. Dave and Peggy went with Carl on last year's trip. They give it the highest rating- two COWABONGAS! Baja Carl 448-8542.





WEDNESDAY WALKABOUTS with Jim Sugg 224-789

- May 6 Palomar South loop. Al leads.
- 13 Corte Madera
- 20 6K Ridge. Al leads.
- 27 Pine Valley Creek- North loop. This is a new hike that Jim sez is absolutely FANTASTIC!
- June 3 Morena Butte. Al leads.
- 10 Fortuna Mtn
- 17 Monument Peak loop.

TRIP REPORTS

- Mar 1 Iron Mtn- Betty Sterrett, Cindy Outlaw and Mary McLain joined me for this Poway trail hike. The wet weather broke that morning and we had a gorgeous day.
- Mar 21 Palm- Ranchita Ted and Borrego resident Jerry Martin lead Beth Davis, Tiki Swain, Laurie Jenkins and me on an absolutely wonderful trip. They lead us through the slot canyons of this calcite infested area, then popped out at the right spot and bagged the peak. A register had been put there by ol' Wes, who had been there several times in the past. On top we admired the artistry of Tiki, a 17 year old from Australia, who makes sketches rather than shots photos of her journeys throughout the world. Ted and Jerry took us on a loop trip and we descended to some natural rock tanks. I enjoyed this area so much I am declaring this new peak an EMBLEM peak! The hike was only the first course. We then traveled down the road to Ram's Hill, where Ralph Davis joined us for a nice long soak before pasta dinner at Jerry's home. And what a home! Two stories, plus basement, this solar efficient palace was quite a contrast to Ted's home, a bus! Beth and Ralph had another event to get to the next day, and Laurie hadn't come to dinner, but Ted, Tiki and I accepted Jerry's gracious hospitality and spent the night.
- Mar 22 Pyramid- Ted, Tiki and I, after a delicious breakfast went out to meet Laurie for the 8 am start. I guess I had forgotten to tell Laurie what time the start was and she took off for the peak at 7 am, solo. We had a great time. Even the small rain showers didn't dampen our spirits (sorry, but I couldn't resist the pun). On top of Pyramid we spotted an orange box 600 feet below on the east side. We couldn't resist the exploration and went to check it out (Laurie had also visited the mysterious box earlier). What was it? How did it get there? You can see for yourself next time you're up there!
- Mar 28 6K Ridge- Dave and Peggy, Lisa Freundlich and Dave Walters joined me for an Al Holden designed hike. This hike follows the 6000 foot ridgeline to the east of Burnt Rancheria in the Lagunas. We had nice conditions, but it was partial whiteout conditions when we were enjoying lunch on top. Pity, because the views are normally spectacular.
- Mar 29 Pinyon Mountain-North approach: Back in 1984, when I was going through SC leadership training they asked us to mark a route on the map of a hike we would like to lead some day. The route I marked was the exact route that Jerry lists in his book(p.229). With me were Steve Spiller, Laurie Jenkins, Tom Pileggi and John Strauch. I wasn't aware of the sheep tanks at Blue Spring. I'd like to investigate this area more in the future. I understand some petroglyphs can be found in the area.
- Apr 12 Sunset trail- The Pine Valley Creek hike originally scheduled for today was canceled and Peggy Crunican, Dave Hardy and I went on a new, unopened trail in the Lagunas instead. This will be close to the hike that is lead May 17 with waterfalls, peaks and creeks.



#### BITS AND PIECES

Robin Tucker has attained another milestone, that of GRANDMA! Robin's daughter gave birth to Kaira. Daughters seem to run in the Tucker family line.

Jerry Schad is putting the finishing touches on the revision of "Afoot and Afield in San Diego County". He is deleting 12 hikes and adding 28! Some of the hikes that he will be deleted will be merged in the text (eg. Fortuna Mtn-west approach will be dropped, but mentioned and mapped). Some hikes are being dropped because of developments, some because the vegetation is getting too heavy, and some because of ranger request. The new edition will be coming out late in the year, probably.

Steve Spiller has one hike to go to finish all the hikes in Jerry's book: Rockhouse Canyon 25 mile backpack, 4000 feet of gain, 16 hours. Gee, I may lead it in the fall.

Mark Adrian informs me that Pat's Ski and Sport has closed shop in SD. He called a branch store and was told that they have closed 3 of 7 shops recently.

#### WANT ADS

For sale. Raichle mountaineering boots. All leather, medium weight, stiff, Norwegian welt, excellent condition, with innersoles. Fit size 7½ to 8 or female equivalent with wide heel. \$40. Gail Hanna 272-5141 (7-9pm).

#### BERNARDO and BATTLE MTNS

Bob's letter points to a problem with gaining access to Bernardo Mtn. I researched this recently and came up with two ways:(1) North I-15 to left on Via Rancho Pkwy all the way to Del Dios hwy. Just before Del Dios turn left on Lake and follow it to the county park at Lake Hodges. Hike to the southeast side of the mountain on a county trail, then leave the trail and find a use trail up to the peak. Yes, the mountain is on private property(Mr. Turner), but the east face is not going to be developed. It is to remain open space! It is not hostile or adverse trespassing and local hike there frequently. This drive in is only good on Weds and weekends when the park is open. Otherwise, turn left on Via Rancho Pkwy a short way to left on Ave Hacienda. Right on Calle de la Paz, and another right at the end, then left on Calma. There is a trail between two houses you can use to get out to the lake trail system. This was told to me by Peggy Gentry, Chair of the San Dieguito River Park Trails committee. She asks that we not park on Calma when using this route, because the people on the street do not like their spaces being taken up by fisherman, etc. Battle Mountain has the same situation as Bernardo, ie. that the east face is open space and will not be developed. It is climbed by locals daily. This is also not hostile trespassing. Just respect the property (no spray painting, etc). I have Battle Mtn on the list because of historical significance. During an Indian battle a 'brave' soldier escaped the 32 miles to the fort at Presidio and got reinforcements. When I first came to San Diego I use to hear of the Sierra Club having an annual jaunt from Battle to Presidio (then, of course, Mayor Pete Wilson and the city council let the developers exempt the growth plan ad nauseum until we have today's mess). Let me know if you would like it taken off the list. It's not much of a hike, but I enjoy the cross and the reflections.

#### Dr. Bob's and Alan's letter

I want to intro the next two letters on the following pages. Dr. Bob Pinsker displays what happens when first attempting adventure hiking. Yes, I had very similar experiences when establishing the route on Morena Butte, when doing Bell Bluff and Bernardo. These mistakes are my mistakes too. Bob, you will make less errors as time goes on, since your judgement gets better. But I'll bet you have more fun adventure hiking than you would if you were taken up by someone who knew the way!

Alan Coles is the Chair of the HPS. I was upset at the way some of the HPS was obtaining the peaks (see past newsletters). He wrote this as a response. I abbreviated his letter to me to the appropriate parts. I believe the HPS will move away from the current "any way you can bag a peak counts" and return to the real reason we peakbag, to explore different areas.



REPRINTED  
FROM BICYCLING SAN DIEGO  
WINTER 1985

# Peak Bagging By Bicycle

by Amentia Allegro

A few miles from the San Diego beaches, Mt. Whitney, void of snow and backpackers, rises from its environs. Several miles north Mt. Olympus, without mythological surroundings, and also barren of snow, stands tall. And then there's Lyon's Peak, and Oniflamme Mountain, and Fuzz Hill, and . . . Perhaps you didn't know that mountains with such unusual and mystical names exist here in San Diego County. But they do, and unless you're a "Peak Bagger By Bicycle" you probably haven't combed the local map stores and libraries in search of trivia regarding San Diego's extraordinary mountain ranges. And unless you're a "Peak Bagger By Bicycle" your mountain bike may be parked in the garage with neither dust, nor mud, nor the odor of sage, accumulated upon it. However, if the two of you are longing for high, windy places and are willing to sweat for it, San Diego County offers some of the best scenery in such a well-endowed state.

"Peak Baggers By Bike" is not a real organization. In fact, the members are more like banditos. The name is actually stolen from the Sierra Club, which sponsors a hiking chapter called "The Hundred Peaks Section". These folks walk around with a list of some 270 mountain peaks to climb in Cali-

fornia that are 5,000 feet or taller. Some of the members have scaled all of the mountains on the list more than twice!

Members of the "Peak Baggers By Bike" (P.B.) like to remain low key. They have no names, addresses or telephone numbers, and they don't pay dues (at least the monetary kind). Their main purpose in life is to sneak around with their private list of San Diego peaks which are suitable for climbing by bicycle and "bag" them. However, the mountains are so numerous in San Diego County, that after several years of work the P.B.'s "unclimbed list" is still larger than their "climbed list"!

This author was fortunate enough while climbing a mountain to come upon a snoozing P.B. one day, and obtain that secret list of climbable San Diego peaks. However, before you run out the door with your mountain bike in hand and visions of grandeur dancing in your head you'll need some advice on how these P.B.'s operate.

Most P.B.'s never travel in groups larger than 4-6 riders. This is because mountain bicyclists have had such a nasty welcome from the State Parks Dept. and various conservationist groups. To date, there have been no complaints or incidents of trail damage or

hiker/horse/bicycles confrontations in San Diego County, but the ever-paranoid State Parks Dept. has closed a major portion of Cuyamaca State Park to bicycle riders. So if you're going to be a Peak Bagger, you'll want to keep a low profile in a small riding group and pay attention to the "Rules of Etiquette" we've included with this article. It only takes one villainous mountain biker to do a lot of damage for all cyclists.

The next thing you need to know is that San Diego is an area which normally receives less than 10 inches of rain a year. This means you must carry water, and lots of it. For a typical 20 mile dirt ride during April through October, a P.B. carries THREE full water bottles of the large capacity type. And since there are no 7-Elevens along the way, most riders also pack a large lunch. You'll be amazed how quickly the "hunger bonk" sets in with all that fresh air.

You'll also need to anticipate mountain weather being somewhat cooler than the coastline, so carry warm clothing. The usual P.B. practice is to take gloves, jacket, tights, etc. to the start of the ride and then decide what to carry on the trip. In short, imagine yourself going for a dayhike in the mountains and bring gear accordingly.

To carry your equipment you'll probably want water bottle cages on your bike frame, a good fanny pack, handlebar bag (backpacks are uncomfortable on a bicycle), or lashing straps to secure items to a rear carrier. A mountain bike bounces a lot and unsecured items like an apple in a rear carrier bag will soon become apple sauce.

Also needed are a pump, spare tube, patch kit, tire boot material, and tools to fit ALL the components on your bike including various allen wrenches, adjustable wrenches and screwdrivers. A good example of the necessity of having someone in the group carry a small chain tool is when a hungry bush or a lousy shift munches a rear derailleur. This happens occasionally, and the rider can be rescued from a long hike out by removing the broken derailleur and shortening the chain to a single, low gear drive.

Mountain bikers seem to prefer either touring cycling shorts or lycra shorts. A real P.B. tries to look somewhat like an illegal alien, blending in with the background by wearing a faded gray/brown t-shirt. Also, jogging shoes with good, lugged soles are in order (some walking, pushing and climbing always happens), and P.B.'s always wear cycling gloves (to help cushion the hands) and a hardshell helmet.

The list of "baggage" peaks I secured from the dozing P.B. includes map location indexes. These indexes, I found out later, refer to the excellent *Cleveland National Forest Map* available from the U.S. Forest Service, 880 Front St., Room 5N14, San Diego, CA 92188. Telephone: (619) 293-5050. You can use this map to find the peaks, but you'll probably want more detailed topographical maps to determine which route to follow.

Topo maps, and how to read them, can be found at the "Map Centre" located at 2611 University Ave. and at various backpacking stores in San Diego County like the "Pack Factory" in Solana Beach. It is definitely part of the Peak Bag challenge to learn to read maps and plan your approach.

"Take only visions, and leave only waffle prints" is the P.B.'s motto while Peak Bagging. It's best to use common sense when out on the trail. When you encounter a locked gate (a frequent occurrence), you might want to avoid it if it's a top secret military installation or a private residence. The P.B.'s list I secured details only those mountains where it is at least semi-permissible to visit. This way, you won't have to attempt midnight peak assaults to avoid State Rangers, as some P.B.'s have been known to do! If you should find yourself falling into the grips of Peak Bagging Fever and

decide to do other peaks on your own, please keep your head and respect property rights.

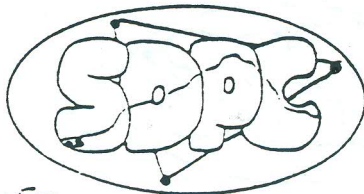
You may notice when you're Peak Bagging that you can drive a passenger vehicle most of the way to the top of some of the mountains. It's up to you to determine how hardcore of a P.B. you're going to be. Keep in mind that an average experienced cyclist will travel about 5 m.p.h. on trails and average 10 m.p.h. on graded dirt roads. Start with shorter, less steep climbs until you know your limits. Very hot or very cold days may also reduce how far you'll want to ride.

Are you ready to bag some peaks?!

The "Peak Baggers By Bike" highly recommend San Diego's eleven wonderful views from the "Lookout Peaks". These special mountains once housed the lonely fire lookouts which protected us from the ravages of brush fire each summer. Nowadays, only Los Pinos Mountain still has a human watcher perched atop. Others, such as Tecate Peak, have only the cement base remaining. And if you're looking to join that sparsely populated, aerial world of soaring hawks and grand views, try visiting Hot Spring Mountain. Refer to the accompanying list for other "baggage" peaks.

Peak Baggers endure heat, rain and thorny bushes to scale awesome mountains with vistas of sea, sun, and desert. And the ballet-like dance back down the mountain is a thrill all its own—sort of like sliding down the face of a 15 foot wave or skiing off a cornice. And for the less speedy, there's the sensation of watching deer and bobcats and other creatures as you quietly pass by. Finally, Peak Baggers gain satisfaction by being part of San Diego County's trail community and helping to preserve our backcountry by picking up trash and performing trail maintenance work.

Peak Bagging can be fun, healthy and adventurous. See you at the top of the world!





# PEAK: COUNTERPEAK

## Pit Bagging By Bicycle

by Earnest Eidolon

Real mountain bikers don't bag peaks. That's too much like work. Peaks are steep! Peaks are rocky! Peaks make you hot and sweaty, or frigid and wet. If bicyclists were intended to climb peaks, God would not have created gravity to push them in the other direction.

Real mountain bikers only ride downhill. That's right... just ask any conservationist. He will tell you that real mountain bikers only rush down steep trails at breakneck speed, cut switchbacks, and run over the youngest members of hiking families. We usually make "Ring-ding-ding-ding, Rrump-Rrump!" motorcycle noises with our mouths. Some of us put playing cards in our spokes so we can shout obscenities instead.

What you may not realize is that the downhill bombing is just part of the fun of real mountain biking. Pit Bagging is the sport that really turns us on. Pits are much more fun than peaks. It's always downhill to a pit. There is usually delightful mud or swamp at the bottom. And it is a well known fact that there are more liquor stores below 1,000 feet than there are above 5,000 feet. Steep descents, sticky mud, and cold beer... we like them fast, filthy, and foamy.

A couple of my favorite Pit Bagging runs are described below for you. Perhaps this will save you from the temptation of joining those thick-thighed, pantywaisted Peak Baggers. I wish I could make the listing more complete. Unfortunately, I have to leave time tonight to put new hobnails in my knobbies for tomorrow's ride. We plan to bag a Girl Scout campout on Fiesta Island.

### Pit Bag #1: Clairemont to Mission Bay.

Begin at the top of Tecolote Canyon. Ride hiking trails (looking eagerly for slow hikers, bunnies, etc.) to junction with Tecolote Creek ditch. Follow concrete ditch down canyon, taking special advantage of

the thick, sticky, green slime in the bottom, to its mucky exit into Mission Bay. From mouth of Tecolote Creek, head North

short distance to first hotel. Your route culminates with a quick sprint through the bar, a hop onto the diving board, and a "table-top" into the swimming pool.

Notes: Exit swimming pool quickly and oil chain on walkway.

### Pit Bag #2: Otay Mesa to Rio Tijuana.

Begin near Brown Field. Follow any of numerous footpaths to border fence, then

West to intercept the Tijuana River Valley. You will find many hikers of all ages on these paths or in the nearby brush. Have fun, but...

be cautious of any wearing masks and/or foreign police uniforms. Follow valley until you see large holding ponds. Bag these at high speed to obtain maximum pleasure from the unique consistency and bouquet of the muck they contain. Should the slime clog your gears, you can conveniently rinse them off under the broken pipes protruding from the South bank of the valley.

Notes: If your mother washes your clothes, be sure to bring her a nice present. ☐

## THE LOOKOUT PEAKS OF SAN DIEGO

Name	Height	Lcm.	Comments
Hot Springs Mtn.	6533'	K5	Highest peak in San Diego!!
Los Pinos Mtn.	4805	K10	From Lake Morena or Espinosa Trl.
Tecate Peak	3885	J11	Start near Tecate border
Black Mtn.	4051	I6	From old Black Cyn. campground
High Point	6140	I5	From Oak Grove to Palomar
Boucher Hill	5438	I5	Only via Harrison Grade
Margarita	3065	D4	Use Tenaja Trl., then Rd. 8S01
Red Mtn.	1617	F4	Short—from Mission Rd. Fallbrk
Woodson Mtn.	2894	H7	Paved rd., but oh-so-steep!
Cuyamaca Peak	6512	K8	NO BICYCLES ALLOWED
Lyons Peak	3738	I10	NOBODY ALLOWED

## PEAKS YOU CAN BAG BY BIKE

Name	Height	Lcm.	Comments
Wooded Hill	3572'	I11	Start at Dulzura side
Sequan Peak	2801	I10	
Cowles Mtn.	1586	G9	
Fortuna Mtn.	1292	G9	
Iron Mtn.	2696	H8	
Goat Peak	1728	H8	
Black Mtn.	1563	F8	The one near Mira Mesa
Fuzz Hill	4101	K9	
Sage Hill		K9	
Wire Hill	4412	K9	
Phnyon Ridge Peak	4573	L6	
Gern Hill	4058	I6	
Twin Peaks	1292	G8	Avoid nearby private land
Bottle Peak	2136	G6	
Mineral Hill	3495	J8	
Pine Mtn.		L8	Easy: 1 mi. off Laguna Hwy.
Jordan	4138	M9	
Long Peak	5708	L9	Off Fred Canyon Rd. See a topo map

## PEAKS YOU CAN BIKE TO AND DO A SHORT HIKE UP

(Note: short, but sometimes hard hike—check topo map.)

Name	Height	Lcm.	Comment
Margarita Peak	3189'	D4	A long bushwhack
Monument Peak	6271	L8	Approach from Pac. Crest Tr.
Garnet Peak		L8	Carry bike up, coast down!
Morris	5630	L9	Has Sierra Club registrar can
Cuyapaipe	6378	L9	In Indian reservation. Ask for permission
Cliff	5069	L9	Hard climb
Wind	4361	L9	Easy climb of 100'
Tick	4226	L9	No ticks found here
Buckman Mtn.	4641	K9	Hike up Northeast corner
Oakzanita Peak	5054	K8	Nice ride to peak base
Middle Peak	5883	K8	West side has great view
Donohoe Mtn.	2046	I11	En route up Otay Mtn.
Lawson Peak	3660	J10	A scramble to very top
Gaskill Peak	3836	J10	Approach from Japatal Rd.
Rocky Peak	2365	E4	Brushy—private land area
Combs Peak	6193	K4	Tough, desolate, worth it
Boundary Peak		M11	
Oriflamme Mtn.			
Roost Peak	4351	L8	
Ghost Mtn.		L7	A desert mountain
Troutman Mtn.		L8	Another desert mountain
Long Valley Peak	4906	K9	Hike up south side
Guatay Mtn.	4885	K9	Steep firebreak on east side
Corte Madera Mtn.	4657	K9	Hard 2 mi. hike
Eagle Peak	3226	J8	
Bell Bluff	3409	J9	Hike up east side
Carmel Mtn.	424	F8	Closest Peak Bag to ocean
Burnt Mtn.	2135	G6	
Sheephead Mtn.	5783	L9	Has trail blazes for hikers
Korth Peak	5360	L9	Off Fred Canyon Rd.

## RESTRICTED PEAKS

Name	Height	Lcm.	Comments
Cuyamaca Peak	6512'	K8	No bicycles allowed
Stonewall Peak	5730	K8	Arbitrarily banned bikes
North Peak	5993	K8	Military installation on top
Lyons Peak	3738	I10	Private land
Middle Mtn.		J9	Private land
San Miguel Mtn.	2565	H10	Private land
Mother Miguel Mtn.	1527	H10	Private land
Agua Tibia Mtn.	4779	H4	No bicycles allowed
Eagle Crag	5077	H4	Private land
Morgan Hill		H4	Private land
Santa Ysabel Peak	4767	J6	Private land
Cigarette Hills	2765	K7	Private land

## Rules of Etiquette

1. **ALWAYS YIELD**—even if at times it seems inconvenient. Being sensitive to how others perceive you will assure a positive image for your sport and minimize the restrictions that follow confrontations and negative encounters. Remember, bicycles in the back country are a new experience for horses and hikers. New trends are often resisted, so it's best to defer.

2. **PASS WITH CARE**—let others know of your presence well in advance. A greeting or simple handlebar chime will suffice. Being startled out of contemplative bliss by a quiet, whining blur, will arouse the wrath of the most tolerant hiker. Be especially careful when passing a horse, as each will react differently. By asking the rider if his horse is easily spooked, you demonstrate that you have an awareness of the equestrian's needs, which generally causes the equestrian to regard you more like a peer and less like a rattlesnake. In some instances it may be necessary to dismount and lift your bike off the trail to let others pass.

3. **STAY ON TRAILS**—riding cross country damages meadows and other fragile ecosystems. Never cut switchbacks as this accelerates erosion. Be aware of the soil type you plan to ride on. If it is clay soil wait three or four days after a rain before using that route—choose an alternate route, preferably one with a shale or decomposed granite surface.

4. **CONTROL YOUR SPEED**—safe speeds are relative to terrain and your experiences as a rider. Approach switchbacks and turns in anticipation of someone around the bend.

5. **DON'T "RUN" LIVESTOCK**—give them time to move away from your path.

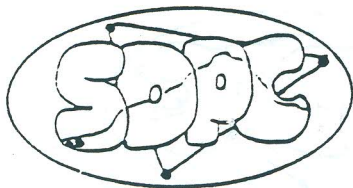
You've got time; enjoy yourself! Panicking animals deserves buckshot.

6. **DON'T LITTER**—pack out what you pack in! If you have room in your bags, pack out more than your share.

7. **USE PERMITS**—check with local authorities regarding fire permits and entry permits. More off-road needs will be addressed if mountain bike resource use is documented. Check with landowners regarding private land access. "No trespassing" often means please ask first.

8. **PLAN AHEAD**—the off-road bicycle will open new horizons to you. Some of these horizons should be approached with respect. If distances are involved, don't travel solo. Expect weather changes. Leave word where you plan to go and when you plan to return.

9. **MINIMIZE IMPACTS**—the practice of minimum impact camping is the philosophy of the responsible off-road cyclist. Take only pictures, leave only waffle prints.





Before Christmas, I stood at 42 on the San Diego Peaks list. I thought that if I had a peak-baggin' kind of Christmas that I just might make it to the select ranks of the mini-machos and mini-machetes. I decided, however, to start the vacation with an HPS peak. Snow, up near Kitching Peak. Stan Lippmann and I were to go with a few others; however, we were 4 minutes late to the car pooling site, and they left without us! Stan and I decided that we'd venture out in the quest for machismo instead. With my copy of the latest issue of the newsletter in hand, we drove out to Guatay Mtn. We had a little trouble finding the start of the trail, as it is about 250 yards east of the suggested parking spot, not 100 as the guide had indicated. Other than that, the hike was uneventful and pleasant. We then debated as to whether we might try the nearby Long Valley Peak or perhaps Viejas Mtn. in Alpine, on the way home. Apparently, it was a good thing that we decided against the former, as Dennis Richards told me later that there was a much better route than the published one on Long Valley Peak. In the event, we followed Schad's instructions to do Viejas. Stan found it very brushy. I thought it a fine trail. It took me an hour and eighteen minutes to get up the mountain, and a few minutes to find the register buried in the rocks. Viejas was my 44th peak on the list.

The next day, Dennis Richards and I headed out to the desert, to scout out the second day of Dennis's car camp for the San Diego WBC. We went to the trailhead for Indian Hill, near the Dos Cabezas siding on the SD&AE railroad. A stroll across the desert brought us to Indian Hill, with its pictographs. Next, we set our sites on the benchmark Moan. Using our topo, we planned our route, which took us up a steep rocky ridgeline and eventually to our goal, just in time for lunch. Not many of us have visited this benchmark yet, or at least not many have signed the little slip of paper in the plastic film canister. We followed our compass directly to the benchmark Windy. I think both of us were a little surprised when we indeed found the benchmark and the register atop the rather undistinguished little bump that the compass had pointed to. On the way back to the car, we took a look at the remains of the circa 1912 railroad camp which is nearby.

The next day, I did something other than hike, which brings us to Christmas Day. As Terri Astle told Paul F., I can hike on Christmas because I'm Italian! Actually, she meant to say Jewish. This Astle-ism reminded all of us of the time that she and I were driving up I-5 near Camp Pendleton, and she remarked on the somewhat horrific sign portraying "Presbyterians" running across the highway. Anyway, Angie Burnell and I decided to spend Christmas afternoon at McGinty Mountain, near Jamul. We somehow missed the spot where the trail starts winding up the mountain, but

we quickly realized our error when we found ourselves walking on a paved street. Back on the correct trail, we found a little disconcerting to gain the ridgetop and find several houses up there. One house under construction was being visited by its prospective occupants just as we passed by. One does not get the feeling of getting away from it all on McGinty Mtn. Rather, it seems that civilization is pressing in on all sides. One looks down at rather posh homes, with horse corrals and barking dogs, from the summit. The register has been partially digested by some vermin. Somebody ought to spring for a new notebook, if no one has by this writing. McGinty was my 47th SDPC peak, and about 19 for Angie.

The next day, Stan and I decided to do Bell Bluff, in Alpine. Paul had told me how to do it, by reading to me over the phone from the about to be issued Jan.-Feb. issue of this journal. Unfortunately, as we found, the published description is not really adequate if you are fool enough to try to do without the topo, as we were. For one thing, we didn't even know if the obvious butte there on the left side of the street where you park was even the objective, especially since the first thing you do is turn your back on it and walk directly away from it! The other thing that Paul's description doesn't make clear, and even is not obvious from the topo, is the bewildering profusion of roads/trails. It's not too bad in the daylight, but . . . Another thing was that I was looking for a green ribbon marking where the use trail cuts up the side of the bluff, but the trail itself (the California Riding & Hiking Trail) is marked by ribbons of a color that is quite close to green, especially when you're wearing really dark sunglasses! So, we walked right by the turnoff, and kept walking. I kept looking for sidetrails up the increasingly steep wall of the bluff to my right, and found none. Eventually I began to convince myself that perhaps this wasn't the peak after all. Perhaps it's that peaklet ahead? Suddenly, the trail ends where it runs into a formidable barbed-wire fence. So that peak to the left can't be it. We turned around and started walking back. At about 3:40, we came to the obvious turnoff, and I took off my sunglasses for a second and saw that indeed that the ribbon is in fact a sickly, pale green. I started up the trail, and Stan asked, "What are you doing? It's gonna get dark in a few minutes." I told him that we would keep going until 4:00, then turn around if we weren't close. It's quite a steep little trail, and at 3:56, I turned to Stan and announced, "You're right." And I started back down the trail. He was astonished. But I told him that I thought I would summit by 4:15, but not by 4:00. He asked me whether I would have continued had I been alone, and I said, "Hell, yes! I'd do it in pitch-black dark!" He was too tired to go on, but he said I could go on and he'd await me back down on the main trail. I actually reached the top at 4:10, signed the register (No. 48), and ran back down the trail, catching up with Stan before he'd even gotten down to the main path.

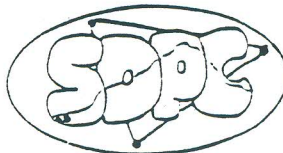
3

As we were walking down the path, I suddenly realized my stupid error — it was rapidly getting dark, and I'd left my regular glasses in the car, confident that we'd be back hours before dark. I don't see very well without glasses. The glasses I was wearing were the first pair of prescription sunglasses I'd ever had, and I wasn't accustomed to them yet. Sure enough, it got completely dark, and I found that I was equally blind with them on as without them. So Stan had to be my eyes for the rest of the trip out. Next mistake: trying to be cute and taking a "shortcut". Within a few minutes, we were in a real mess. Every trail that we were trying to take back towards the car sort of faded into oblivion. It's most frustrating, being within sight of thousands of brightly lit houses, but not being able to penetrate the brush, and not finding a trail that didn't just . . . disappear! It also was getting kinda cool, and I had to break out sweatshirts, gloves, etc. from my daypack to share with Stan, who had brought about a quart of water, and was wearing shorts and a T-shirt. Finally, I decided that we should just head back towards the obvious landmark, the Bluff itself, which even I could still see, dimly, and hope that we'd intersect with the CR&H trail, which we would be able to recognize unambiguously because of the frequent ribbons marking it. Sure enough, this worked. 40 minutes after we hit the trail again, we were back at the car. This trip was supposed to take about 2 hours roundtrip. Our elapsed time: 6 hours. But at least I'll never leave my regular glasses behind again. I probably will repeat the mistake of trying to do without the topo again, just not soon!

3 CONT.

The next day, I decided to go for the macho! At least, the mini variety. I headed up to Rancho Bernardo to get the two peaks there that I hadn't done. First, Battle Mtn. The legalities of climbing this one are a little doubtful. The cross and the access path are technically private property, belonging to Light Up The Cross, Inc., in order to avoid the legal problems currently besetting the similar installations atop the (non-listed) peaks Mt. Soledad and Mt. Helix. So I think it's pretty clear that you're trespassing to do Battle Mtn. So, I was a little nervous, and I did it with a roundtrip time of 13 minutes. The only reason it was that long was that I crawled around the top, in full view of the north-bound traffic on I-15, looking around for a register, for about five minutes, before I decided that there must not be one.

Then I drove back across the highway, on the Via Rancho Parkway overpass, in search of a way to do Bernardo Mtn. Paul had simply told me to drive around the streets below the east face and look for a place to start climbing. Well, I did this for a while, and I found no legal way to do this. At the end of one little cul-de-sac, there is a driveway serving two pretty ritzy houses that has a gate across the bottom with a walk-through spot to the left of the gate, which clearly says "Enter on City of Escondido Business





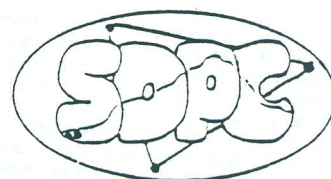
Only." This is the only way I could see to do this, so I dashed through, picked up a few pieces of ribbon in the brush, crossed a little stream, and came out on a trail that ran N-S below the east face of the peak. Apparently, if you drive around to the Lake Hodges boat launch, which is as far as you can drive your car, then walk east along the trail that the road turns into, for a few miles, you'd reach this point. Now, little did I realize that had I turned right (N) when I hit this trail, it would have led me up all the way to the summit. So, silly me, I looked for a way to climb the east face directly. I found a trace of game trail, and started up through the brush, occasionally crawling, grunting, and sweating. Soon, I came to another piece of trail -- it's the trail I crossed before, switchbacking its way up the face. But I just kept going through the brush, until I came to a series of false summits. Finally, the true summit appeared. Imagine my surprise when, just as I neared the top, I perceived a family consisting of an older gentleman, his wife, daughter, son-in-law, and baby in arms, standing at the top. I asked them, "What are you doing here?" They told me that they'd come up the trail. What trail? So, I resolved to follow them down, after signing the register. Apparently, there used to be a mailbox serving as the register, but it had recently disappeared. In its place, there was a large can, with what had been a yellow pad of paper inside. Some kids had ripped up the pad, and stuffed the pages into the can like garbage. This being my mini-macho peak, I was gonna sign something, so I took the trouble to straighten out the paper, and after signing in, I put a rubber band around the whole thing. I caught up with the family on their way down, and came out where I had come in. It's a very easy, nicely done trail. Too bad there doesn't appear to be a legal access without walking all the way around the mountain, unless I've missed it.

I didn't do any hiking for a couple of days, until New Year's Eve. I decided to go out to do Los Pinos Mtn. in east county. I had done Corte Madera a few years ago, and one drives past that trailhead, and up to the intersection called Four Corners (see Schad, p. 155). From there, the lookout atop the peak is quite obvious, and you can just walk the fire road to the top. I took an obvious shortcut up the fire break on the righthand skyline, following some old, downed telephone wires, and got to the summit in about 45 minutes. I was disappointed when I found that the lookout tower is completely surrounded by a barbed wire fence. I could find no register outside the fence, though I looked carefully all around. I found a benchmark, almost completely covered by a big rock, on the north side, where you can look over at Corte Madera. I improvised a register out of "local materials" (Coke can), and wrote on a piece of brown paper from a lunch bag. I very carefully constructed a small cairn, and placed this a few feet from this obscure benchmark. I hope somebody upgrades the register part of this thing in the near future. I went back down to Four Corners the way I'd come up.

It wasn't even noon yet, so I looked at my forest map for another nearby peak to do. I realized that by far the closest peak that I hadn't done yet was Morena Butte. So, I drove down to Lake Morena and tried to figure out how to do this peak. I had the proper topo in this case, so at least I was sure what was the peak, this time. Unfortunately, the PCT is not shown on the edition of the map that I have, so I sat at the PCT parking area just outside the county park entrance, trying to figure out from the posted map how the trail runs on the map. I realized that it would probably be shorter to do the peak from inside the park, and also that, since there was a fee of a couple of dollars to park inside the park (day use), that many people in this club would never do that, and would walk an extra mile or two to save the money. Anyway, I was pressed for time, so I drove in, paid the fee, and drove to the closest point to the peak at which I could park. I walked along the path to a point immediately below the impressive cliffs forming the face of the Butte, south of the dam. I was certain that nobody was ever fool enough to try and climb it this way, but I figured that there would be a ducked trail that I could pick up at the summit and follow down, so I could dare to climb some stuff that I could never safely downclimb. So I plunged into the brush and started to find a way through it to the rocky cliffs above. It wasn't bad at first--it was the more yielding, less prickly kind of brush at the bottom. But it got worse and worse, and I was trying to pick my way through to islands of boulders, over which I could climb to stay out of the nastiest brush. Eventually, I got to a point where I was almost stuck. The only way out was a flared chimney. It was too narrow to climb with my pack on. I had a gut feeling that this would be the crux--if I could climb this chimney, I'd be out of the brush and onto clean, though rather steep and exposed, rock. This turned out to be the case; after a somewhat awkward squirm up the chimney, holding my pack over my head with one hand, I came out onto the steep cliffs I'd seen from below. I traversed back and forth, climbing on nicely weathered, but solid, granite. Always there was a handhold when I needed one. Soon, I emerged at the summit, where I found the register and signed in. Indeed, I picked up a ducked trail heading south. It was a little hard to follow in spots, because the pieces of ribbon in the bushes are weathering away very fast, and in one or two spots I thought I had completely lost the trail. Eventually, I came to a junction with what I suspected was the PCT. Indeed, that it was. I turned left, and followed it back NE, passing a point where the PCT proper forked off to the right, down into the canyon, where I stayed on the left fork, which, as I had guessed, took me back to the point where I'd left the trail to climb the face. I continued back to my car, satisfied with a good day's hike.

My winter vacation ended the next day, New Year 1992, with a trip I helped lead, along with Jim Sugg and Terri Astle, to Sombrero Peak, from Cottonwood Campground. I made

a bit of a mistake trying to lead the troops up Point 4553: this little thing is a lot easier to do from its southeastern corner, rather from the west as we tried to do it. We did a little cross-country navigation coming back from Sombrero Peak, which made the trip interesting even to those who had done it several times before. We even got back to the cars before it got dark. It was a nice trip, and a nice way to end my active, climbing winter vacation. Happy Hiking in '92!





Alan Coles  
5637 Keynote St.  
Long Beach, CA 90808

Mar. 5, 1992

Dear Paul,

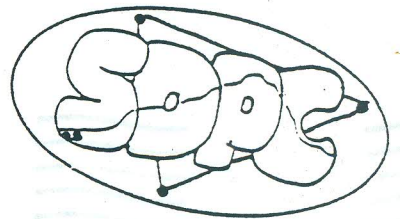
I put my feelings into that "peak baggers" code which I sent you. Everyone will have their own views and perhaps they should write their own also. It is, after all, an honor system so the same applies to the code. But it may be helpful in publishing a rough draft to get input. There needs to be some way to qualify how one achieves an emblem. When someone drives to the top of a peak and taps their foot to the ground 5 times and claims 5 peak accomplishments and then proceeds to open the other door and tap the ground to claim a "route bagger" fools no one. An emblem obtained in this manner is analogous to a person who drives a marathon and walks out of the car across the finish line to claim his prize.

The motive is the factor. If the motive is only to get the emblem, then that says it all.

Sincerely,



Alan R. Coles



*P.S. My advice: stay away from poetry and stick to hiking!*

#### A Peakbaggers Code of Conduct

Recognizing that climbing mountains entails a degree of effort that is rewarded with the satisfaction of accomplishing a goal and that there is a unique and personal interaction with the wild places in which they lie, I agree to the following codes of conduct:

- 1) Ascent of a peak shall only be counted when that peak was climbed by a legitimate effort that violated no laws, that vehicle access to the starting point was on land along a designated road, that the use of foot travel was the primary means from the starting point.
- 2) No peak shall be counted more than once on a single day, nor shall it count without returning to one's primary residence.
- 3) No peak shall be counted if one gained access by means not usually available to everyone such as obtaining a ride in forest service vehicle on a road that is closed to the public.
- 4) A peak shall only be counted when one has carried the significant portion of equipment and food necessary to make the ascent. The use of porters, air drops of supplies shall not count.
- 5) No alteration of the landscape shall take place during the trip unless it is a part of a trail maintenance project or other valid effort such as non-native plant removal that is approved by the governing agency. The use of hardware on rock shall be limited to that which does not mar or significantly alter the rock. Care will be taken to ensure that there is as little impact to the land as possible.
- 6) Group sizes shall be reasonable to lessen the impact on soil and vegetation and to reduce the impact on other wilderness users. Visual and audible impacts should be minimized whenever possible (when not in conflict with safety).
- 7) No peak shall be climbed when the risk of serious injury or death is unusually higher than under normal conditions. It is understood that there is an inconvenience and a potential for serious injury to rescue workers when there is a lost or injured climber.

I understand that to be truly worthy of having claimed an ascent and to be acknowledge by my peers for doing so, I agree to abide by this code of conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date