

SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB

The adventure hiking club for serious hikers

Issue No. 12

Feb-March-Apr 1993

Rain, rain, rain!!!!!! California is quaking to doom, it's being tormented by torrential downpours that soak to the core. Borrego has had about 8 inches of rain and former roads are disappearing. In January I took a Friday off work to drive down to Dos Cabezas (by Ocotillo) to set up an orienteer. After setting up a tent in the rain, I started putting out my "controls" for the orienteer. When I was done I got back to the car, took a perspective, and said, "I'm getting out of here while I still can". I packed up and called the practice off. We rerouted the Lost Ruin hike because we didn't want to hike in a creekbed that had this much runoff. We abandoned the Sawtooth Mtn 11 hour trip because we saw we would have been in rain for 10 hours (instead we had a lovely time over at Split Mtn, see Outings write-up). We also had to cancel Carey's Castle because of flooding on the roads.

The talk of rain drives Vicki crazy. Specifically, I say, "It's raining outside", and Vicki replies, "Of course it's raining outside, it doesn't rain inside! Nevertheless, it is hard to break the habit of exclaiming that it is "raining outside". Vicki use to be a journalism major. She will be my editor and will help to improve the newsletter. We have set May 1, 1993 as a wedding date. We bid on a house yesterday; a 3 bedroom, 2 bath on the east side of Golden Hill (92104). Hope we get it.

I am taking a wilderness first responder class at Southwestern College on Tuesdays and Thursdays to enable me to better respond to emergencies (and to fulfill a mountain rescue requirement. This is an excellent course. I mention it to alert anyone who is interested that another course begins next semester (begin 3/30, end 6/3/93).

This is a fun schedule of hikes. The March 6-7 hike will be a joint SDPC and DPS hike with Ron Jones and Igor Mamedalin doing the DPS leading. On March 28 Al Holden agreed to be the SD Sierra Club link in a joint hike with them. Carl "El Coyote Pelon" Johnson has given me another "Baja list" of adventures. Ranchita Ted has also agreed to lead two weeks of adventures! I may be tied up a bit with moving and marriage and wilderness first aid and mountain rescue; so please excuse me if I don't lead a lot of adventures in the next few months. As always, I will endeavor to keep club members informed of exciting adventures.

HIKER OF THE MONTH

The HOTM for March is John Strauch. John previously won this honor in November, 1991; so he is the first two-timer! John not only wins for his feat of being the second macho award winner (100 peaks), but the way he achieved this award is inspiring. In a letter dated Dec 28, 1992 John writes, "Dear Paul, Just wanted to let you know that I polished off Ruth, Zosel, Crab and Alice yesterday, although perhaps I shouldn't say polished. I drove around to the Rabbit Peak trailhead in Oasis Saturday afternoon, hiked about three miles to where Barton Canyon comes out of the mountains and camped there. The next morning at 6:00 I hiked up Barton Canyon to the 2800' contour and up the ridge to Ruth. Then across the Villager-Rabbit ridge, where it started drizzling, to the Zosel ridge and down from there. You probably won't be surprised to hear that only you had signed any of the registers. Unfortunately, by the time I got down it was dark and I couldn't find my way back to my tent. Somehow I overshot Barton Canyon without realizing it. Luckily I stumbled onto the white ducked trail to Rabbit and from there was able to make it back to my car at 10pm. I was in the dark for 5 hours and it rained steady the last 2-3 of those hours. I went through one set of batteries and was worried that the second set wasn't going to last." Now this report may scare some of you, but John is a very skilled hiker and was prepared. For example, he had read about the white ducked trail, so when he hit the ducks he knew that he was safe. If you want to follow along, this is on the Rabbit Peak 7½ minute topo. By the way, he retrieved his gear two weeks later. John is also a nationally ranked top bridge player and recently won the district Grand Nationals (There are 26 districts and there will be a playoff). John will be list completing on March 6-7 Collins hike. Come out and help us drink the champagne!

NEW MEMBERS

I was delighted to see Peggy and David's friend, Cheri Barbour, on another hike (Valley of the Moon). Cheri and hubby, CJ joined. Helen Smeby was told of our group by recent member, Charles Hummel, and is as anxious as I am for the storms to stop.

BITS AND PIECES

Ol' Helicopter man, the person who is on the Sierra Club HPS Board of Directors, who selfrighteously censors letters, who rents heli's to help him bag peaks (illegally), has done it again! While John was having fun bagging benchmarks in the rain, five or six HPS hikers were getting into trouble bagging Eagle Crag from Doane's Pond at Palomar Mountain. When they didn't come back to their cars the SD Mountain Rescue Team was called out. Since they were experienced hikers the rescue was postponed until 8am the next morning. It poured rivers that night, but the hikers had found relief in a cabin and hiked out the next morning.

Heli man was not one of the hikers. He drove down from LA when they were missing. My annoyance is that "someone"(hint, hint) told the hikers about this illegal route over Indian land and other private property. It's amusing, the Sierra Club is concerned with an injured hiker suing them over injuries, but they don't seem concerned with a landowner suing them because a BOD member directed hikers over an illegal route. Are they silly enough to think that that since it wasn't an official trip it would clear the SC? Ha!

Richard Carey, February's HOTM, carried the HOTeM pole up Mt Orizba, the third highest mountain in North America (18850 feet). See his write-up! Congrats, Richard!!!!!!*****

Jerry Schad's revised edition of Afoot and Afield in San Diego County is in the stores. I have two copies (I keep one copy in my car). *****

Carl Johnson (aka El Coyote Pelon) took a "Baja list" trip with Terry Flood, Charles Hummel and Gerhardt Japp to Canon Providencia, a trip he sez should be called "Waterfall Canyon" and had the discovery of an Indian bow hidden in a cave! Wow! The world sure is great, or so they thought until they returned to Carl's car and found it robbed of everything! "Mr. Baja" now recommends that a carsitter be employed whenever visiting Baja. *****

I have printed info on the Anza-Borrego Foundation elsewhere in this issue. If you love the desert like I do, then I am sure you will join. *****

Dennis Richards has canceled his Grand Canyon trip because of a busy work schedule. *****

Randy and Alice Danta are organizing an Everest trip that will visit basecamp. Randy climbed Everest last year and wants to return. Cost \$1975 plus airfare (about \$1200 RT). Deposit \$500, cancel 30 days ahead. APRIL 12-MAY 2. 4448 Sunnycrest Dr, LA 90065 213-256-2651.

MEMBERSHIP

\$15 will buy membership for individual or family (same address=one price) until June 1994. Send to Paul Freiman, 4421 Maryland St, SD 92116-3902. 619-692-1367.

CALENDAR

- Feb 27 Upper San Diego River Canyon and waterfalls. Carl Johnson 448-8542.
 Sat This is a fabulous hike. This is Carl's 6th, somewhat annual hike from the headwaters of the SD river near Julian. 10½ miles, 10½ hours. (See Schad, p.96 old, p.119 new edition). Strenuous. SC trip, see Hi-Sierran.
- Mar 6-7 Collins, Knob, Palms and Elder. By Sheep Cyn in Anza-Borrego. This weekend is a joint SDPC/DPS hike with Ron Jones/ Igor Mamedalin leading from the DPS. Please check issue 10 to a write-up on the route. A possible problem will be that Coyote Cyn is currently closed with only two weeks to go. This car camp may, therefore, turn into a one hour backpack. Strenuous. Paul 692-1367.
- Mar 13 Tecate (Kuchamaa) Peak RUN. Run up and down Tecate Pk. Carl 448-8542.
 Sat Last year this sacred mountain peak on public lands became the first property ever listed on the National Register of Historic Places solely for its importance to American Indians. Known as Kuchamaa (Coo-chã-ma) to the Kumeyaay Indians, means "exalted high place" in their language and has been sacred since recorded history. The peak is still visited frequently by the tribe, usually during lunar events, for training of their Shamans. (Info submitted by Ron Jones).
- Mar 13 Mountain bike tour of Anza-Borrego. Ranchita Ted, send SASE. Ride thru Sat the mudhills, up Tule Wash, see 17 Palms oasis, and return down the N fork of Arroyo Salado. Optional stop at the Pumpkin patch. Must be a strong rider with very fat tires (2.125") because of the sand. Send SASE no later than Mar 8 for reservations and a detailed map. 9am start. Approx 30 kms, mostly level, moderate. Flower time should be PRIME! Ted Caragozian, Box E-12, Ranchita, CA 92066
- Mar 14 Palm Peak, CLIMBER'S ROUTE. Ted and Jerry Martin will lead club members Sun on a SPECTACULAR route thru some of SD county's most extreme terrain. Slot canyons and waterfalls galore!!! This is a loop hike connecting two forks of Palm Wash to the top and descending the north branch of the north fork Arroyo Salado. 12 kms, 700 meters gain/loss. Moderate. Starting point mile 38 of S-22. 8am start. MUST be comfortable with third class scrambling and steep, slippery slopes! Write to Ted or call Jerry 767-4713.
- Mar 15 Sheephead Mtn loop. Al Holden 273-2494. Sierra Club trip from Milepost Monday 19 kiosk on the Sunrise Hwy in Lagunas. Approx 12 miles, 6 hrs.
- Mar 20 Ranchita Ted. Celebrate the equinox with a strenuous bike and hike Sat from Split Mtn to BM Diablo. Must be a strong rider with fat tires. Ride 16 kms thru Split Mtn to Sandstone Cyn. Hike up and bag Diablo and experience the badlands at the height of the flower season. Start at entrance to Split Mtn at 8 am. Send SASE no later than Mar 15 to Box E-12, Ranchita, CA 92066.
- Mar 21 East and West high points of Split Mtn. Part of this hike is the one Sun Ted took us on when the Sawtooth hike was canceled. I had a really fun time. It was a beautiful trip. There is a small amount of third class scrambling and slippery slopes involved. Moderately strenuous. Start 8am at entrance to Split Mtn. Help me decide if these peaks should be included on the peaks list. Ranchita Ted. Send SASE.
- Mar 22 Cottonwood Falls. Al Holden 273-2494. Xlt hike. Start at milepost 15.3 Monday of the Sunrise Hwy. Sierra Club trip.
- Mar 28 Indian Creek trail. Lagunas/Cuyamacas. Paul 692-1367 and Al Holden Sun 273-2494. I asked Al to lead a Sierra Club group hiking down from the Lagunas while I lead a group starting in the Cuyamacas. We will meet at lunch and trade car keys. (See Schad, new ed., p.167). 12 miles. My thanks to the SD Hiking Club for suggesting this trip.

- Apr 3-4 Sunset and Granite Mtns, Anza-Borrego. Al Holden 273-2494. Climb Sunset on Sat, car camp at Blair Valley, go up the south ridge of Granite Mtn on Sunday. (see Schad for more info if you have never done these pks). Limited to 15 hikers, Sierra Club trip. Send SASE to Al, 1137 Tourmaline, SD 92109.
- Apr 4 Daylight savings time begins at 2 AM !!!!!
- Apr 3-10 Sierra San Francisco, Baja. Carl 448-8542. Rancho San Francisco and Sat-Sat the great cave paintings of Baja. Near San Ignacio, 532 miles south of TJ. Local guides and burros. This is an exploratory trip that Carl and Nancy have been wanting to do for many years. Cost is expenses.
- Apr 10 Oriflamme Mtn and the Roost. Paul 692-1367. Join me for a moderate Sat hike that starts at the Lucky 5 ranch turnoff in the Lagunas. About 6 hours.
- Apr 11 EASTER !!!!!
- Apr 12 Verde Ravine-Joy Meadow loop in Lagunas. Al 273-2494. Start at mile Mon 19 kiosk in Lagunas. Sierra Club.
- Apr 17-18 Colorado river canoe trip. Carl 448-8542. Lower Colorado river, from weekend Walter's Camp near Blythe to Martinez lake near Yuma, 35 miles. Size limit...SO HURRY!!! Cost \$60 including everything except food. Sierra Club.
- Apr 19 Morena Butte. Al 273-2494. Moderate, 5-6 hours. This is one of the Mon finest hikes I know of, especially the way Al guides it. Sierra Club.
- Apr 26 6K Ridge loop. Al 273-2494. Take the day off from work to go on this Mon one. Al discovered this hike and it is a real beauty. Start at old schoolhouse in Laguna. Sierra Club.
- May ??? Three Sisters Waterfall dayhike. Carl 448-8542. Carl wasn't sure which day he would run this, so keep an eye out for the date in the Hi-Sierran.
- May 1 Saturday. PAUL AND VICTORIA'S WEDDING *****
- May 22-23 Elden Kidd River Rapids RAFT trip. I enjoyed my Mexican river trip weekend so much that I asked Elden if he would put on a raft trip for my friends. This trip is going to be on a stretch of the Kern's river below Lake Isabella (Southern Sierras), about 5-6 hours drive. I will be opening the trip up to the SDPC and SD Hiking Club. We are limited in size to 25, so hurry and sign up. Cost \$125, includes five meals, but not travel to starting point. We will stay at a campground. \$25 holds your reservation. Honeymoon Paul 692-1367.
- May 29-31 San Pedro Martir Mission. Carl 448-8542. Tentative, only if there is enough interest. Carl did part of this hike two years ago but didn't get all the way to the old mission. This is beautiful country, with plenty of flowing streams.
- Aug 20-29 (approx. dates). Sierra Tarahumara. Fourth time, backpack and non-backpack. Two groups this time. Los Mochis by train to Bahuichivo-Cerocahui, backpack group 4 days to Creel via Urique, Batopilas. Nonbackpacking group to Creel by train, and both groups returning to Los Mochis by train. Carl 48-8542.

Don't forget, if you want to go hiking on a Wednesday, you can go with Jim Sugg and his Walkabout International gang. Call for latest trip info. He goes someplace different every week. Jim 224-7895.

TRIP REPORTS

Castle Dome and Signal Peak lead by Dennis Richards. Mark Adrian, Bob Pinsker, and Mary McLain climbed a class 3 route to Castle Dome on this SDPC trip. Paul found a class 2 route. Sunday we had to be on good behavior because it was a SC trip. We did Signal by the class 1-2 route, but had to bypass Ten Ewe when it appeared it went beyond Dennis's leadership rating. (Pity, because it looked to be much easier than the day before, but rules are rules and we obeyed them). *****

Garnet Peak, et alwashed out *****

The next week....washed out *****

The next week....rerouted to Valley of the Moon. Carol Murdock, Steve Cowen, Peggy and Dave, and Cheri Barbour joined me as I rerouted the Lost Ruin hike to the neighboring, Valley of the Moon. We spent all day exploring the area. All had a grand time. *****

The next week was nice weather, but the Coyote Clunker Classic had to be canceled because the canyon was washed out!!! It still is washed out, but they are suppose to be fixing the roads soon. *****

Feb 7 Mark Adrian, Dave Mills, and I met Ted and Mary McLain at Agua Caliente. Ted and Mary had come down from Ranchita that morning and reported it was raining in two areas. We looked at Sawtooth Mtn and could see that out of the 11 hour hike we could get 10 hours of rain! We voided... the hike... and drove over to Split Mtn where Ted showed us the route he will take on March 21. It was a terrific day. The hike was really beautiful and the weather was cooperative. (We could see that our assumptions regarding Sawtooth were correct. *****

Tierrasanta Orienteer. Vicki and Allegra and Sunny the dog and I had a nice family outing. Orienteers are a lot of fun. I am surprised that more club members don't come out to them. *****

That brings us to this week... Carey's Castle....washed out. Better luck next schedule. Chant after me.....NO RAIN, NO RAIN, NO RAIN.....****

Flash!!

For Immediate Release

Climbers Richard Carey and Shelley Rogers of San Diego and Dan Sherman of Days Creek, Oregon were successful in climbing all five of Mexico's highest volcanoes in January. Undaunted by exorbitant hotel prices and fierce Mexico City traffic, the trio made their way in a small rented Ford Topaz to the Talmacas Lodges at 12,950 ft. on January 17th. In spite of a troubled night, punctuated by the howl of coyotes and dogs, they set off for 17,887 foot Popocatepetl (smoking man in Aztec) the next day, reaching the summit after eight grueling hours.

After a days rest and resupply the group tried the next nearby peak called Iztacchuatl. This 17,342 foot mountain is known as the white lady due to its snow-covered mantle that resembles a woman lying down. Following a long trail Richard and Shelley negotiated rock and snow without crampons or ice axes to reach the top in just over six hours. Dan was not feeling well and sat this one out.

Navigating the heavy traffic and fierce 70 degree weather of Puebla, the adventurers made their way to the small town of Ciudad Serdan to hire a guide who would make the perilous journey on a 20 mile dirt road to the high camp on Pico

de Orizba. At 18,850 feet, this is Mexico's highest mountain and the third highest in North America. Getting an early start at 6:00AM the three climbers reached the top in only five hours on January 24th. Views were tremendous, but gathering clouds foretold of trouble to come.

Making a hasty retreat the climbers arrived back at camp as snow started to fall. The guide, Senior Juarez, needed all of his driving skills to get the old Jeep Wagoneer with its bald tires down the mountain as the storm raged. On banked turns ice axes were brought out to scrape away the several inches of snow on the road to prevent the rear wheels from sliding into the ditch. With the skills of Sr. Juarez and prayers to Our Lady of Guadalupe they made it safely into town as the sun faded into the smog-laden skies.

Empowered by their success the team in the next few days completed climbs of La Malinche (14,636 ft.) on January 26th and Nevado de Toluca (15,433 ft.) on the 27th. Two final days were spent taking in the sights of Mexico City and risking the dreaded Moctezuma's Revenge before returning to San Diego. Richard has indicated that he has a set of notes available that may be of help to other climbers wishing to tackle these peaks.

Dear Paul:


I am enclosing a check for \$9.00 to renew my membership in the SDPC - sorry I'm a bit late with it.

I didn't get a chance to do any hikes with the club last year, but I did get in hikes/climbs of Mt. Ranier, Grand Canyon, and Mt. Whitney. Also, I followed-up on your recommendation on Airtek Paragliding and had a great time!

I am looking forward to doing some desert hiking with the club this winter and hope to get a chance to meet you and some of the other club members.

By the way, have you considered putting together a club roster listing phone numbers, special interests, etc? If you do, my home phone number is 291-1283.

Yours truly,


Paul Stuverud

