

SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB

The adventure hiking club for serious hikers
Issue 14

Sept-Oct 1993

Summer is winding down and people are returning from the Sierras so let's do some San Diego hiking. I have three wonderful hikes planned this schedule, plus the October canoe trip. Sept 25 is the Indian Creek hike in the Lagunas that was SNOWED out last March! Oct 2-3 is the Colorado River canoe trip down Black Canyon. Oct 9 is the Lost Ruin (aka Recluse Spring) adventure out by In-ko-pah that was rained out in March. Oct 24 is Pine Creek, a 9-10 hr shuttle hike that follows Pine Valley creek. The schedule will be filled out with Carl Johnson's Baja trips, leads by club members of Sierra Club activities, Jim Sugg's Wednesday hikes, and a fabulous weekend of orienteering at Palomar.

This is a good time to remind people of the goal of the San Diego Peaks Club. The first purpose of the SDPC is to inform the club members of the "intermediate level" activities in San Diego. This is why events are listed from Carl Johnson's "Baja list", the LA and San Diego Sierra Clubs, and San Diego Orienteering in addition to events which I run. The second purpose of the SDPC is to inform club members of the activities of the other members in an attempt to create a community among the active adventure hikers in San Diego and LA.

IT'S TIME FOR PETER TO PAY PAUL

Your name doesn't have to be Peter, but dues are now PAST DUE so it's time to pay Paul. We have started the third year of the club. In this time Paul has lead an average of two hikes per month, two canoe trips, two raft trips and SO MUCH MORE!!!! So pay your \$9 and you will continue to be smiling when you go to the mailbox and find more issues of the newsletter. The dues are designed to cover expenses. The membership is from June to June, so you will be good until June 1994. Paul Cavataio-Freiman, 4868 Austin Dr, SD 92115-3518, (619)583-0266.

NEW MEMBERS

We have three new members: Sally Jo Leitner, Jan Crist and Andy Zielinsky. Sally Jo is a strong hiker I met on a SC PCT section hike led by Terry Astle. Jan Crist is a fine leader from the San Diego Hiking Club who had a gas on the raft trip. No knowledge about Andy Zielinsky yet. This swells the membership rolls to 85!

HIKER OF THE MONTH

September: The HOTM has to go to Mark Adrian. As he was finishing the DPS list on August 21 by Joshua Tree, he had to endure earthquakes and mountain rescues. His story is on pages 5-6. Mark calculated that completing the Desert Peak Section list represents 700 miles of hiking, 300,000 feet of elevation gain and about 50,000 miles of car driving. Way to go, Mark. Can I call you, Mr 87 (ie the 87th person to list finish)?

October: The HOTM goes to Jim Hawkins for climbing Denali. Last issue I reported that Richard Carey had summited on McKinley, but I learned later that Jim and Donna Hawkins also summited about a week later. Donna received the HOTM last year for her adventures in climbing and this month Jim has the honor. Well done and bravo!

LIST ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

At the suggestion of John Strauch, I will add MT GOWER (3103') to the SDPC climbing list. John writes, "Last Sunday I followed the south and east trail in the Mt Gower Open Space Preserve as described by Schad on p. 83 of his new book. The trail kept going for another mile or so after the 3-mile marker and ended at a filled in mine shaft. After that last marker the trail approached the mountain from the north and then swung around the right (west) side of the mountain. When the trail ended it was only about 500' gain and 1/2 mile to the peak, so I went for it. There was a bit of brush. I went to the northernmost summit, which I think was the tallest, but I don't have the Ramona quad to check on that. I then kept going north and rejoined the trail

when it makes it's north approach. The mountain has lots of huge rock slabs, just like at the Audubon sanctuary at Silverwood. The views were nice, but it was cloudy for the most part. Schad describes another route, but I think the one in the preserve is just fine. On the Cleveland NF map it's in the SE corner of J-8, section 27."

SAWTOOTH Mtn (4382') is another peak that will be added to the bag list. This is the high point of the range, located just north of Red Top (Agua Caliente Springs 7½ min). We were rained out of this one earlier in the year. We will try it again around January or February.

Mt Israel, by the Efron Forest/Harmony Grove area, and E and W Split Mtn I want to investigate a little further before adding them. Mt Israel was suggested by Betty Sterrett and Split was recommended by Ranchita Ted.

BATTLE MTN, the hilltop by Lake Hodges with the cross, is being deleted from the list at the request of several members.

A new, updated peaks list will be in the next issue. The list now stands at 108 peaks. *****

Bits and Pieces

GAIL HANNA is going to try to bag Mt Rainier around the end of September. May the weather god be with you, Gail. *****

JOHN STRAUCH, finished the SDPC list on 4-4-93, thereby becoming the 2nd "mega-macho"!!!! John was scheduled to finish a month earlier, but the clutch on his Subaru Justy burned up at an inappropriate time. He recently celebrated the new clutch by driving 8000 miles this summer. Part of those miles were driving to DC to compete in the Grand Nationals in bridge. He took 9-12th, barely being beaten by the team that took 1st. He also hiked in Colorado.

ED SUTOR had a wonderful HPS list finish. Helping Ed celebrate were Pam Walker, Terri Astle, Al Holden, Gail Hanna, Terri Sutor, Estrella ?, Russell Glavis, Suzanne Booker, Wes Shelberg, Betty Sterrett, Mark Adrian, Terry Flood and Carol Snyder and yours truly. We had lots of champagne on the peak and more at the cars. What could Ed do to top an HPS list finish? He could retire! That event may happen around Sept 30. Terri and Ed bought land in Nevada last year and Ed is eager to enjoy it. Their house is up for sale. The POTLUCK was a great success. About 25 hikers put down their walking sticks and drove over to the Freiman's for an afternoon of socializing. People asked that we have another, so I will be looking out for another house to have it in around Christmas. *****

People ask me my opinion on GPS DEVICES from time to time and I am now happy to say that I have one! Mountain Rescue bought the Trimble Scout. One of the SDMR team helped write the specs for the government and he had this to say about other brands: Sony- low priced, but untried. Magellin- poor with lack of support from company. He said the Trimble was the only company to fulfil specs. *****

Speaking of SAN DIEGO MOUNTAIN RESCUE, they are going to have a recruitment drive information meeting on Wed, Sept 15 at 7:30 pm at Toler Elementary School, 3350 Baker St. Phone 270-7047 for more details. Learn climbing, tracking, first aid, survival skills, helicopter safely, ELT, and evac skills. *****

FOR SALE or WANTED, you can place a free ad in this newsletter!!!!!!

GARY SUTTLE of San Diego has bagged the high points of all 48 counties in California. SDPC incorporates 2 of the high points (Blue Angels Peak is on our list, even though it is in Imperial Valley), HPS incorporates 8 of the high points, SPS 5 (or more) and DPS 1. He bagged his last one, North Palisade, last month with Weldon Astle, Terri Astle's son. He was kind enough to provide me with a list of peaks. It is printed on page 9 of this newsletter. Gary has written a book for Wilderness Press. *****

TERRY FLOOD's national SC outing went well, he reports. They bagged Black Giant, Charybdis and Mt Goddard during the trip Aug 7-15. Look for his 3 upcoming trips in the schedule. *****

I want to thank BETH and RALPH DAVIS for making the address labels. It's a lifesaver!

CARL and NANCY JOHNSON have returned from Carl's 4th escapade to Copper Canyon, Mexico's Grand Canyon. Members Steve Cowen, Malcolm and Susan Fitzurka were part of the group of nine adventurers that went on the trip. The trip was "first cabin" and costs ran around \$600. I'm anxious to see the photos tomorrow. I'm dying to do this trip!

MARK just had a communication from the SPS Chairman, who was the assistant on a LA trip he recently went on. He says in his letter to Mark, "... On that trip you used your radio to try to contact friends, and to establish repeater links. Please note that all radios are prohibited on Sierra Club trips. This provision is included on the sign-in sheet that you signed for the Corcoran trip. The only exception allowing radios is for essential navigation or communication equipment as might be used on a vessel. Most Sierra Club members enjoy the remoteness that the mountains bring from the technological society of everyday life. The use of radios and other electronic devices is an intrusion on this solitude and is thus prohibited by the Sierra Club. While I can see the possibilities of the radio being helpful in an emergency their casual use is prohibited. Please do not use your radio on any future SPS trips. If you feel that you need to carry it for use on a possible emergency, keep it in your pack (unused) until authorized by the trip leader to use it in said emergency situations.

WEEKEND OUTINGS

- Sept 2-6 Sierras trip with the Sierra Club. Richard Carey and Gail Hanna 224-9300/272-5141. Bag Mt Tom and 4 Gables. Trip full currently.
- Sept 11 Cowles Mtn with Carl Johnson 448-8542. This is an annual trip that Carl does with the SC (see Hi-Sierran for more info). I use to think that this trip won't be exciting until I hiked it with Mountain Rescue. It is a GREAT trip!
- Sept 15 Wednesday evening, 7:30pm. SD Mountain Rescue Recruitment info meeting. Toler Elementary School, 3350 Baker St (near I-5 and Balboa). 270-7047 or Paul at 583-0266. Learn team skills necessary to survive the the outdoors and see what it takes to become a member of Mountain Rescue.
- Sept 18-19 Orienteering at Mt Palomar with Bill Gookin 578-9456. This is a classic. Two full days of orienteering with the master course setter! Vicki and I will be going up Friday night. Great fun!
- Sept 19 Julian Banjo, Fiddle, Mandolin and Guitar contest. 9-5pm, \$6.00. Bring blanket or low back chair for seating. Info 765-0707 ext 2, 633-1970.
- Sept 25 Indian Creek Lagunas to Cuyamaca hike. I hope we don't get snowed out again like we did in March! This is a 14 mile, 6 hour hike. It takes in my favorite vista, Champagne Pass, from which you get an incredible view of Cuyamaca East Mesa. It is listed on p. 167 of Schad's new edition. Paul 583-0266. Lv Msn Valley at 7:20am
- Sept 25-26 Terry Flood's 6th Annual Moonlight Madness Bicycle Tour, Festival of Lights and Water Bottle Fight in Anza-Borrego. Terry 729-8221. I've heard that this is becoming a cult classic.
- Sept 30 Thursday, full moon Tamarask Beach walk in Carlsbad with Terry Flood 729-8221. Call him to get the time or see the Hi-Sierran for more details.

- Sept 27-Oct 1 Escalante Canyon and More with Carol Murdock 463-1279. Monday Carol will lead a day hike up Phipps wash. Tues day hike up the dry fork of Coyote Wash. W-F is a 3 day backpack down Escalante. More details in the Hi-Sierran. You should have enough time to get to Las Vegas on Friday and make the canoe trip!
- Oct 2-3 CANOE TRIP, Colorado River below Hoover Dam (Black Cyn). Paul 583-0266. Lots of hot springs and relaxation.
- Oct 9 Lost Ruin (aka Recluse Sprs) hike. In-ko-pah area. See Schad's Myer's Valley hike. Paul 583-0266. This hike will be over rocky, bouldery terrain and will be about 6-8 hours. We will visit Frank Nichol's old ruins (he had a paradise up there).
- Oct 9-10 Backpack up the steep Marian Mtn trail to Little Round Valley. camp. Al Holden 273-2494. Bag HPS peaks Foley, San Jac, Jean and Marion. Sierra Club.
- Oct 17 Orienteer, Horse Heaven, Mt Laguna. Eric Lehtonen 284-4435 or Bill Gookin 578-9456. Orienteers start at 10am and take about 1-2 hours. During this time you feel very good about your ability to use a topo map to "stay found". This is a very useful skill to learn.
- Oct 24 Pine Creek (Secret Canyon, p.171 of Schad's new edition). Paul 583-0266. This hike is 9-10 hours in duration. Jay Friedman and I took 8½ hr and we didn't waste time. Follow the old flume trail. You need to be in good shape for this one.
- Oct 30-31 Lost Horse trail backpack. Dripping Springs campground area. Terry Flood 729-8221 and Gail Hanna 272-5141. Last year they opened Lost Horse trail which connects with Dripping Springs trail so that horsemen or long distance hikers can make a long loop trip. The problem with this is that they let Dripping Springs trail get very overgrown. Terry and Gail are backpacking to Crosley Saddle, then daybagging Agua Tibia Mtn and Eagle Crag, spending the night, then returning back Lost Horse trail. See the Hi-Sierran for more details. Limited to 15 strong hikers.
- Oct 30-31 Sierra Juarez and San Luis. Carl Johnson 448-8542 is venturing off to Baja again. I believe this trailhead is about 2-3 hours from San Diego and it's a very lovely area. I had my DPS list finish in this area and would like to go back again. Carl is planning on relaxing this trip (but he can be talked into things)! See Hi-Sierran.
- Nov 6-8 Desert Divide with Al Holden 273-2494. Hike up Morris Ranch trail to bag HPS peaks (Palm View, Pyramid, Lion, Ken). Camp at Live Oak Springs. Call Al for more info.
- Dec 4-6 Rabbit and Villager!!!! Hike up to Villager (5000 feet, 7 miles), camp, dayhike to Rabbit (3000 feet, 6 miles), camp same spot, hike down to cars. If there's time bag Zosel, Crab and Alice, and, if you dare, Ruth BM!!!!!!

AL's MONDAY HIKES with Al Holden 273-2494

Al is restarting his Monday hike schedule, leading for the Sierra Club. He will also be leading three weekend trips. The last four hikes are a lot tougher than the previous ones.

- Oct 18 Indian Creek, Laguna to Cuyamaca via Pine Mtn. This will be very similar to what I am doing on Sept 25.

Oct 25 Taquitz Mtn, Red Taquitz and Lily Rock. Bag these 3 HPS peaks near Idyllwild.
 Nov 1 Palomar Mtn, Fry Creek, North loop.
 Nov 15 Thimble and Ysidro. This is a GREAT hike! By Ranchita.
 Nov 22 Rosa Benchmark. In Anza-Borrego. A sunrise to sunset hike, about 5000 feet of gain.
 Nov 29 Indianhead. Sunrise to almost sunset. Anza-Borrego. Another tough one!
 Dec 13 Jacumba Mtn via Dos Cabasos and Motrero Palms. This is a beautiful area. This hike is a definite THUMBS UP MUST DO!!

WEDNESDAY WILDERNESS WALKABOUT with Jim Sugg 224-7895

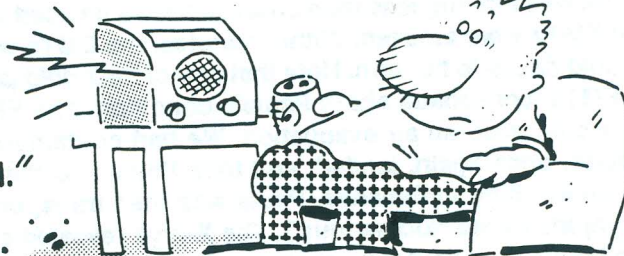
Jim leads hikes for Walkabout International every Wednesday. His hikes are about 12 miles in length and cover all the close in wilderness areas (ie. under an hour auto drive). 5-6 hours long.

Sept 8 Middle Peak loop. May visit Sill Hill Falls. This is Al's favorite hike.
 Sept 15 Big Laguna trail- Indian Creek trail- Noble Canyon- Pine Mtn loop. Al leads.
 Sept 22 North Peak loop. Cuyamaca Lake area.
 Sept 29 Monument and Arroyo Seco loop.
 Oct 6 Garnet Peak loop. Al leads.
 Oct 13 Bell Bluff loop. This is one of my favorites.
 Oct 20 6K (6000 foot) Ridge. Laguna. This is another of my favorites. Al leads.
 Oct 27 Gaskill and Lawson.

We'll help you climb any mountain.

FRANK & ERNEST by **BOB THAVES**

THE FOLLOWING
THREE HOURS
OF SILENCE
REPRESENTS
"THE BEST OF
RUSH LIMBAUGH."



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SPECTRE POINT - August 21, 1993

Finally, after nearly three years, I was anxiously anticipating finishing the DPS list in the middle of summer - anyone could do it in a cooler part of the year. It would be a classic (crazy ?) way to finish the list in style. So, that was the plan as Dennis Richards and I headed towards Joshua Tree, Friday afternoon. We arrived near dinner time in Yucca Valley and stopped at Ed Chada's Mexican restaurant. Half way through our first basket of chips, a "mild" 5.0 earthquake rolled through town which immediately got our attention as we watched Ed's plywood walls wobble with threatening motions. Being near the epicenter, it was the sharpest jolt I've ever felt in a quake. Was this a prelude of things to come, or just the desert teasing me as I neared list completion? After dinner, we proceeded to the dirt road turnoff where we met Ken Olson and Tom Moumbow who had arrived there minutes before. We continued four miles on the sometimes-sandy good-dirt road to J.T.'s boundary where we camped and awaited the rest of the group's arrival. By midnight, we were all there and decided to start hiking by six A.M., assuring our return by noon.

Daylight was upon us by 5:30 A.M. in the surprisingly cool morning air. Our group of nine (Mark, Dennis, Ken, Tom, Gail Hanna, Terry Flood, Carol Snyder, Paula Peterson (Bruce waited at the car) and John Strauch) was ready to go by six. We proceeded southward toward Route B in comfortable shade, then started climbing up a steep canyon over very rocky terrain, eventually reaching a small saddle and level "bowl" where we rested and evaluated our position. Continuing on, we again dipped down into a small bowl and then back up to another saddle where we were greeted by a blazing sun. Dennis and Tom decided to scout the route ahead while the group rested. Several minutes later, they indicated for us to proceed. I moved out with Paula several hundred feet behind me and Terry behind her. The terrain here seemed relatively innocent - TV sized boulders of varying shapes. I was picking my way across this contour, when, about 8:15, I heard Paula scream - my first thought was that she encountered a rattler. Again, a piercing scream : "help me! help me! God help me, I've broken my arm!!". My stomach felt like it was center punched. Dennis, Tom and myself immediately retreated back to Paula. By the time we got there, the group had gathered around her to surmise the situation. She had apparently underestimated the depth of a shadowed hole underneath a rock, stepped into it, then fallen forward onto her right arm. At the time, we couldn't tell the extent of her injury, but, Paula was in excruciating pain. Terry carefully pulled her up and sat her on a nearby rock, where he and Dennis used Ken's insulite seat pad and an ace bandage to fabricate a splint which they carefully administered - Paula still screaming in agony as they wrapped the ace around her. It was evident (to me) that she couldn't walk out and carrying her would be impossible over Spectre's rough, rocky terrain. Under her own power, Paula was able to walk several feet to a nearby pocket of shade where she laid down and was in relative comfort, while the rest of us formed a rescue plan. Paula had evaluated herself and determined she wanted an air-evac. Fortunately, Ken and I had our two-meter HAM radios. Due to the surrounding topography of rocks, I wasn't able to transmit a signal to any nearby CA repeaters. However, Ken was able to "trip" the Hualapai repeater near Kingman, AZ. So, I was able to establish communications with a HAM radio operator there (KB7USA). Due to the nature of our situation (Health and Welfare traffic), we were given exclusive use of the repeater. I informed him (KB7USA) about our predicament and waited for him to contact J.T. Subsequently, KB7USA relayed the message to another HAM radio operator (KM6SQ) in Twenty Nine Palms, using the Condor Net (a linked repeater system using 220 MHz). He (KM6SQ), then, placed a call to J.T. where the Search and Rescue effort was initiated, at, when, I would approximate, to be no later than 9:30 A.M. After I received confirmation that the call had been placed, I forwarded directions on how to get to Spectre's TH and details about the injury and our exact (UTM) location on the Cadiz Valley SW 7.5 topo. At 10:30, we decided to send Ken and Tom back to the vehicles with a copy of the map with our location "X"ed. For some reason(s) the Forest Service wanted our position in Range/Township/Sector specifications. However, the Cadiz Valley SW 7.5 quad didn't have this information for our location. So, Dennis counted grid lines and gave them a "best guess" - still, though, I think it was sending Ken and Tom down with a copy of the map (and other details) that zeroed them in. Ken and I kept in radio contact, so I knew they were making good and timely progress. Several hours passed before the SAR team arrived at the TH near 12:30, just as Ken and Tom returned with the map. Paula, resting comfortably under John's space blanket, was being consoled by Carol and Gail, while Terry and Dennis kept track of her pulse and other symptomatic vitals. Coincidentally, one of the SAR team's members was a HAM operator that "found" me on the radio since I had documented our standard simplex radio frequency in my trip write-up which Bruce (still at the trail head) gave them. We confirmed our situation and were told to stand by as a helicopter (flown in from Keenwild Forest Station) was being prepared for departure from the TH with two EMTs. At 12:45, the helicopter lifted off and was shortly buzzing over our heads searching for a landing position. I have to say that the pilot was nothing less than courageous as he aced an awesome "three-point" landing in a very tight spot. Even the experienced EMTs were amazed. Within minutes, the EMTs were attending to Paula, and had reworked our splint and applied chemical cold packs to her arm. Note that one of their cold packs failed to work. Meanwhile, the copter returned to the TH to await the EMTs' consensus about Paula's condition. The EMTs could not conclude the extent of her injury, but, it was clear that she would need an air evacuation. We had contemplated everything from a complete break to a simple dislocation. So, the copter, once again, landed, and took Paula and the two EMTs back to the paved road where they rendezvoused at 1:30 with an awaiting ambulance. Paula was then transported down to Palm Springs (Yucca Valley refused to take her because her injuries were "too serious"). The X-rays revealed a complete fracture, two inches above the elbow. Due to the location of the break, it could not be casted, rather, it was "secured" to her torso. Since the break was not "clean", there were jagged edges, which, had we moved Paula, could have severed nerves and/or an artery. Note that a ruptured artery can be fatal. Relieved that Paula was in capable hands, our group of six decided to continue on to Spectre's summit via Aqua BM. Arriving there about 4, in dry 92 degree heat, we enjoyed a successful, yet somber, list finish, complete with gifts, champagne, a sentimental poem written by Paula, and great views of the surrounding DPS peaks, including Rabbit, my first. After an hour, we departed and returned via route A, arriving at the trucks near 8 P.M., as the last orange glows of the sunset bounced off a cluster of streamer clouds. Mark Adrian

Mark

SUCCESS ON DENALI - ON THE SECOND ATTEMPT
Donna and Jim Hawkins

0500 21 June 93 - "Everyone up and get ready to go ! This is not a drill. We are going to go for it!" After enduring a four day storm at 17,200 feet elevation on the West Buttress of Denali, our guides Kathy Cosley and Mike Powers got us up and struggling into many layers of insulation before crawling out of the tents into -15° F weather. This was the day we had been waiting for.

Last year we had made our first attempt to climb Denali but severe storms had limited our effort to carrying one load to 16,200 feet. We had then retreated to the Genet Basin at 14,500 feet where we sat for a week eating all of our food. Winds on the summit were 80 to 100 mph, and even in our sheltered basin we had -20° F and 50 to 60 mph winds. It had been an exciting trip but not a successful one.

This year the weather had been much better. Although we had snow nearly every day, the temperatures had been higher and the windstorms less strong. We had flown into "Kahiltna Base" on the East Kahiltna glacier, landing at 7000' elevation just outside the boundary of Denali National Park. From there we began the process of moving our supplies and equipment, about 130 lbs for each of us, up the glacier. Each of us pulled a small fiberglass sled with about 40 lbs of gear and carried about the same weight on our backs. We traveled on snowshoes to give better flotation on the heavily crevassed glacier which has some of the largest crevasses that either of us had ever encountered. We were roped together at all times except in camp sites that had been carefully probed to find hidden crevasses. Typically, Denali is climbed using a modified Alpine style of ascent. Fixed camps are not used, as in Himalayan climbs, but the great amount of equipment and supplies needed for the usual 21 day climb makes an alpine style climb impractical for ordinary mortals. The technique used is to carry a load up about 3000 feet at a time, cache it, and then go back down to a lower camp for the night. On the next day, camp is moved on up to the cache. This makes for better acclimatization as you sleep for at least two nights at each elevation gained.

We had been lucky with the weather. Although the summit had been covered by the ominous lenticular cloud cap that indicates high winds, the lower parts of the mountain were reasonably calm except for the nearly daily snow storms. The trail through the crevasse fields was well marked and we had managed to carry between camps even in poor visibility. By the end of the first week we were at 11,000 feet where we cached our snowshoes, put on crampons, "and the climb really begins." Steep slopes, patches of blue ice, lower temperatures, and the lessening of the oxygen pressure, all made it noticeably more strenuous to climb. Windy Corner, at 13,500 feet lived up to its name. We had 30-40 mph winds with blowing snow from a ground blizzard as we rounded the corner. Patches of sloping blue ice called for ice axes in place of the ski poles we had been using. The long downslope view was quite spectacular; below us there was a very large crevasse field and the top of an icefall that dropped on down to the lower

Kahiltna. We stopped for a day of rest in the Genet basin where we had a non-wilderness experience surrounded by a dozen camps and climbing groups. Bad weather on the summit, and limited campsites above, had caused a ponding of rope teams in the basin. Continued good weather on our part of the mountain permitted us to keep on moving up the West Buttress. We cached our sleds and some emergency food and moved 50 lb loads up the "headwall" to the 16,000 foot level. Part of this involved ascending a 45 to 50° hard snow and ice slope on a fixed rope. Ascenders (jumars) were used for safety. At the top of the buttress there is a very small flat area that could accommodate a few tents but we cached our loads and then went back down to 14,500. Next day we carried the rest of our gear up the fixed ropes, picked up most of the cache, and went on up the ridge to 17,200 feet. The ridge is one of the more spectacular parts of the climb as it involves some mixed snow and rock climbing. Although not technically difficult, the elevation, loads, and exposure require concentrated effort. In places the ridge is only a few feet wide and, on both the north and south sides, the slopes drop 3000 to 4000 feet. There are spectacular views of Mts. Hunter and Foraker and other lesser peaks. Shortly after arriving at our high camp, cirrus clouds began to form, the summit disappeared under a lenticular cloud, and the wind began to blow. Our camp was very exposed, but the tents were surrounded with snow block walls and tied down with ice axes and snow pickets. For four days we sat out the storm while temperatures inside the tent dropped well below zero, and the tent vibrated continually from steady wind blasts up to 60 mph or more. Inside the tents we had a continual snow storm as the rime that formed on the walls was shaken off from the vibrating tent. Radio reception from Anchorage was quite good here so as the storm raged we lay in our sleeping bags reading and listening to classical music from station KLEF. We were well fed and warm, but life is difficult under these conditions.

The winds dropped on the 21st and we headed for the summit wearing just about everything we had. We carried only down jackets, extra mittens and goggles, water, candy bars, and cameras. The steep snow climb to Denali Pass, at 18,000', was enlivened by a traverse on a steep snow bulge several hundred feet above a crevasse field. It required intense concentration, fancy footwork with the crampons, and great trust in the snow pickets used to secure the rope. From Denali Pass we began a long march south ascending a series of steps that finally brought us to the summit ridge. The ridge is spectacular. Denali's summit is a great pile of snow cornices that culminate in a snow pinnacle a few 10s of square feet in size. On the south the ridge drops off at a 45° angle for 9000 feet. A similar, but less awesome, slope on the north drops a mere 1000 feet. From our high camp, it was a 3100 foot climb and a distance of about 3 miles each way. Perhaps a 4 to 5 hour round trip in the Cuyamacas. It took us 9 hours to reach the summit and another 5 hours to descend. After 16 days on the trail we stood at the top of North America for about a half an hour. All nine of our group reached the summit without any problems from frostbite or altitude sickness. It was difficult but well worth the effort.

CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUMMITS/PERSONAL HIKING RECORD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>SUMMIT</u>	<u>ELEVATION</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
	Alameda	DISCOVERY PEAK	3840+	
	Alpine	SONORA PEAK	11,459	
	Amador	THUNDER MOUNTAIN	9410	
	Butte	HUMBOLDT PEAK	7087	
	Calaveras	CORRAL RIDGE	8170+	
	Colusa/Lake	SNOW MOUNTAIN EAST	7056	
	Contra Costa	MOUNT DIABLO	3849	
	Del Norte	BEAR MOUNTAIN	6436	
	El Dorado	FREEL PEAK	10,881	
	Fresno	NORTH PALISADE	14,242	
	Glenn	BLACK BUTTE	7448	
	Humboldt	SALMON MOUNTAIN	6956	
	Imperial	BLUE ANGELS PEAK	4548	
	Inyo/Tulare	MOUNT WHITNEY	14,494	
	Kern	SAWMILL MOUNTAIN	8818	
	Kings	TABLE MOUNTAIN	3473	
	Lassen	HAT MOUNTAIN	8737	
	Los Angeles	MT. SAN ANTONIO	10,064	
	Madera	MOUNT RITTER	13,157	
	Marin	MOUNT TAMALPAIS	2571	
	Mariposa	PARSONS PEAK RIDGE	12,040+	
	Mendocino	ANTHONY PEAK	6954	
	Merced	LAVEAGA PEAK	3801	
	Modoc	EAGLE PEAK	9892	
	Mono	WHITE MTN. PEAK	14,246	
	Monterey	JUNIPERO SERRA PK.	5862	
	Napa	MT. ST. HELENA EAST	4200+	
	Nevada	MOUNT LOLA	9143	
	Orange	SANTIAGO PEAK	5687	
	Placer	GRANITE CHIEF	9006	
	Plumas	MOUNT INGALLS	8372	
	Riverside	MOUNT SAN JACINTO	10,804	
	Sacramento	CARPENTER HILL	828	
	San Benito	SAN BENITO MTN.	5241	
	San Bernardino	SAN GORGONIO MTN.	11,502	
	San Diego	HOT SPRINGS MTN.	6533	
	San Francisco	MOUNT DAVIDSON	927	
	San Joaquin	MT. BOARDMAN NORTH	3626	
	San Luis Obispo	CALIENTE MOUNTAIN	5106	
	San Mateo	BOREL HILL	2527	
	Santa Barbara	BIG PINE MOUNTAIN	6828	
	Santa Clara	COPERNICUS PEAK	4372	
	Santa Cruz	MOUNT MCPHERSON	3231	
	Shasta	LASSEN PEAK	10,457	
	Sierra	MOUNT LOLA NORTH	8842	
	Siskiyou	MOUNT SHASTA	14,162	
	Solano	MOUNT VACA	2819	
	Sonoma	MOUNT ST. HELENA	4343	
	Stanislaus	MOUNT STAKES	3804	
	Sutter	SOUTH BUTTE	2117	
	Tehama	BROKEOFF MOUNTAIN	9232	
	Trinity	MOUNT EDDY	9025	
	Tuolumne	MOUNT LYELL	13,114	
	Ventura	MOUNT PINOS	8831	
	Yolo	LITTLE BLUE PEAK	3120+	
	Yuba	SUGAR PINE PEAK	4825+	