



## SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB

The Club for Adventure Hiking

Issue Number 16

Jan - Feb 1994

Hope you all enjoy the new graphic that Vicki drew. Writing the newsletter is a lot easier now that I have the computer, since I can write notes everyday. I am excited about the hikes we are going to have during the next few months (Sawtooths, Vallecito Mountains, Joshua Tree, Grapevine traverse). It just makes me all a-tingle thinking about it! There are more additions and deletions to the SDPC list !! So without further ado, let me introduce the new members.

### New Members

Guy Harris, an experienced leader with the San Diego Hiking Club has joined SDPC. Tom Rotter is also a member of SDHC and is hiking Schad's book (he has about 35 done). Chris Landa has 32 HPS bagged and 150 miles of the PCT done. He just completed his Basic leadership rating with the SC. Congrats, Chris. Chris is also the treasurer for the San Diego Macintosh User's Group and has been very helpful to Vicki and me as we struggle to use and understand our Mac. Lisa McTear and Jay McGuerty want to return to adventure hiking. Lisa Haws also wants to adventure hike after moving from Oregon two years ago. Betty Tate loves to hike. Dave Sleipness has just moved to SD from Seattle and saw our newsletter at REI. Our membership now stands at 88.

### Hikers of the Month

The hiker of the month for January and February is AL HOLDEN and JIM SUGG, respectively. Both of these adventure hikers are getting the award for their fine leadership skills. AL has lead a series of exemplary Monday dayhikes and weekend backpacks for the Sierra Club. He has traversed the ridges of San Geronio and San Jacinto. He has daybagged Rosa and Indianhead. This is quality stuff!!!! This is the second time Al has won the HOTM; he won it last year, also for his leadership.

JIM leads the *Walkabout International* on Wednesday in off-trail activities. Jim and Al put together their knowledge of the local areas to structure 10-12 mile crosscountry hikes that are unique to their leads. They are constantly blazing new hikes ( Jim took me on a Laguna trip a few weeks ago that contained the BEST view I have seen in the Lagunas. Breathtaking! ) So here's to two wonderful leaders and friends! A BIG THANK YOU!!

# HIKING CALENDAR

Steve Cowen writes, "The following are the outings that I have planned for the next three months. All of these outings are 2-3 day overnight trips. Water is never a problem and often the hikes are along waterways. The trips are almost exclusively cross-country. All are either on or in search of Indian trails. Usually the trips pass through village sites, gathering areas, campsites and finding rock cairns, pottery shards, and grinding holes is commonplace. The trips are not strenuous and I don't go that fast. The trips are overplanned and I pride myself on getting in, completing the search and getting back on schedule. Due to weather and other factors what I take on any one weekend varies. The January-February trips are as follows:

1. Three day trip starting at Hidden Spring; go up Rockhouse Cyn to Rockhouse Valley with side trips into Alder and Nicholias Cyn then back to Hidden Spring. The Cahuilla considered this area their "stronghold". The trails are so clear here it seems like the Cahuilla just left.

2. Two day trip in seach of the short-cut trail between Clark Lake and Rockhouse Valley. The trip will start at Hidden Spring and head up to Rockhouse Valley; there we'll try to find the trail heading due south to Clark Lake. There are pictographs on this route, and hopefully we'll be able to find the dune village sites and the trail.

3. Three-four day trip starting at Santa Catarina, then going to Hidden Spring; from H.S. to Middle Willows; to Fig Tree Valley to Salvador Cyn then up the trail through Indian Cyn and down the north fork of Borrego Palm Cyn to a steak dinner at the Smoketree restaurant. I've been on sections of this route and I guarantee an adventure you'll want to tell your grandkids about.

4. Two day trip starting at Los Coyotes Indian Reservation and locating the trail to Indian Cyn and then back to the reservation on an alternate trail. This series of trails connects the Lake Henshaw area with the desert.

5. Two day San Diego River trip. We'll spend the night in what I believe is a camp on the edge of a religious area. The mountain looks a lot like Tecate Peak and it has what looks like rock altars on it. The SD River is one of the prettiest hikes with 100 ft+ waterfalls, pools, oak groves and rugged vistas. It is also not that hard of a hike and two days is plenty of time.

6. Two-three day trip looking for the trail that started at Warner's Spring, went through Lost Valley and ended in Coyote Cyn near Alder Canyon. This trail is the northern end of my research area."

Well, Buckaroos, anyone interested in Steve's Indian adventures can contact him at his work number 593-0696.

## MORE CALENDAR ACTIVITES

- Jan 8 Saturday, **Cowles Mountain**. Carl Johnson 448-8542. Loop around the north side with Carl. This hike is probably the loveliest hike within the city limits. Sierra Club hike.
- Jan 8-9 **PCT hike** with the two Terri's, Barrel Springs (Ranchita) to Scissors Crossing. This hike was canceled previously due to rain. I believe it is suppose to be two dayhikes, not a backpack. Call Terri Astle 571-0471 or Terri Sutor 278-3518. Sierra Club hike.
- Jan 9 Sunday, **Alma wash to Vallecito Mtn highpoint**. I've been wanting to do this trip for about three years. See Schad for more info on this hike. Jerry goes up Alma wash to "Starfish Cove". He sez that trip is 10mi RT and 7 hours. We add another 1600' and 4 mi to this adventure. I think sunrise to sunset is an appropriate estimation of the time. Paul 583-0266.
- Jan 15-17 Campout at Blair Valley with Al Holden. Sierra Club. Climb **Whale Peak** on the 15th from Smuggler's Canyon, the 16th they will climb **Granite Mtn** by Wes Shelberg's route (which is the BEST route, a loop trip), and the 17th will feature a ridge walk up **Sunset Mountain**. 273-2494.
- Jan 16 Sunday, **Orienteering**, Palm Desert. It is one heck of a drive, but I love orienteering in the desert. Bill Gookin 578-9456.
- Jan 30 Sunday, **Queen Mtn traverse** with Wes Shelberg and Paul. Joshua Tree. This is the repeat of an incredible journey that Wes, Paul and Al took a couple of years ago going cross-country to 49 Palms down a waterfall strewn wash. Join us for this one!! Paul 583-0266.

## MORE CALENDAR EVENTS

- Feb 5-6 **PCT hike** by the two Terris. Section D & E Soledad Canyon Rd to Bouquet Canyon Rd. Terri Astle 571-0471 and Terri Sutor 278-3518. Moderately paced 9.2 mi dayhike on Sat from Soledad Cyn Rd to Vasquez Rocks County Park where we will car camp that night. Sunday's hike will be 11 mi to Bouquet Cyn Rd. Sierra Club hike.
- Feb 12 **Grapevine Mtn traverse.** Saturday. Paul 583-0266. We will park at Scissors Crossing and hike up the PCT to the takeoff point for bagging Grapevine Mtn, then heading southeast to Sentenac Mtn. About 5-6 hours.
- Feb 13 **Valentine Orienteer.** Sunday. Tierrasanta, Mission Trails Park. Brian Ritter and John Bennett 287-8331. Join SDO for their annual salute to V-D. See you at 9:30- 10:00am. Registration will be at the east end of Calle de Vida. Take Clairemont Mesa Blvd east from I-15 almost to the east end, turn right on Seda Dr and then left on Calle de Vida.
- Feb 19-20 **Backpack to Cactus Springs. Peakbag Sheep and Martinez** with Al Holden. Sierra Club. Join Al for a hike in the Santa Rosa Wilderness. 273-2494.
- Feb 26 **7th annual San Diego River hike and waterfall trip.** Carl Johnson 448-8542. This trip is 10 1/2 mi and takes 10 1/2 hours. Please read the treatise on poison oak before you take this trip. Of course, I was the only one that got the itch last time, but it was nasty. This trip is a must for adventure hikers! Saturday.
- Mar 5-6 **PCT hike, Section E.** Bouquet Cyn Rd to Elizabeth Lake Rd. Terri Sutor 278-3518 and Terri Astle 571-0471. These dayhikes will begin where last month's trip left off at Bouquet Cyn Rd. We will hike 13.4 miles on Sat to San Francisquito Cprgd. On Sunday our trek will be up and over 4275 foot Grass Mtn Rd and down to Elizabeth Lake Canyon Road, 8.6 mi.
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## JIM AND AL'S MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY HIKES

- Jan 5 **Manza.** Al leads. Wednesday. 273-2494
- Jan 12 **Eagle Peak and Three Sisters Waterfall.** Jim. Wednesday. 224-7895
- Jan 19 **Cuyapaie.** Al. Wednesday.
- Jan 26 **Long Valley Peak.** Jim. Wednesday.
- Jan 26 **Morena Butte.** Al. Sierra Club. Wednesday.
- Jan 31 **Cottonwood Creek.** Al, Sierra Club. Monday.
- Feb 2 **Japacha Peak- West Mesa.** Al. Wednesday.
- Feb 9 **Cookie Crumb trail- Cuyamacas.** Jim. Wednesday. Excellent views, great hike by Jim.
- Feb 16 **Middle Peak loop and Sill Hill- Al's trail!!!!** Al. Wednesday.
- Feb 23 **Kitchen Creek and Falls.** Jim. Wednesday.
- Feb 28 **6299 Foot highpoint.** Join Al as he introduces a new hike that starts around Wooded Hill in the Lagunas! Monday. Sierra Club.

All hikes are sponsored by Walkabout International unless it states Sierra Club.

## MORE BITS AND PIECES

- To clear up some possible confusion... I will let you know if a hike is being lead through the Sierra Club, but you may not see it in the Hi-Sierran. I have published several hikes by Al Holden, Terri Sutor, Terri Astle and Carl Johnson that did not make it into the Hi-Sierran for one reason or another, HOWEVER, all of these hikes have been held!

## BITS AND PIECES

- **THINGS I SHOULD HAVE SAID:** In the last issue I forgot (1) to mention that GAIL HANNA climbed Rainier during the summer (and took the HOTeM pole with her), and (2) to thank JERRY SCHAD for training me to use the Macintosh.
- Lawyer STEVE COWEN has accepted an offer by the ANZA-BORREGO FOUNDATION to be a trustee. Thanks for helping, Steve.
- I got the lowdown on the HAM RADIO controversy that the Sierra Club (SC) was having with Mark Adrian. Dan Richter from the DPS management committee reports that the Angeles Chapter Council meeting on Sept 27, 1993 was asked by Bill Oliver to rule on the use of ham radios. As you recall, an assistant on a SPS trip that Mark went on objected to the "intrusion" that Mark's radio presented. The council, however, decided unanimously that ham radios be permitted. They felt the clause "essential uses such as navigational or communication" was adequate to differentiate Hams from boom boxes.
- **GOOD NEWS** for SC members, MOUNTAINEERING INSURANCE is returning either 11-1-93 or 1-1-94. Coverage will not cover training programs such as BMTC, but will cover training outings. The use of ice axes and ropes was banned in 1988 when insurance premiums skyrocketed following costly accident settlements. The new coverage will cost the SC about \$45,000 per year plus an additional expense of about \$15,000 to provide medical insurance for ice axe/rope trip participants. Club membership is mandatory for mountaineering trips. (Info gleaned from *The Desert Sage*, Nov 93 issue).
- I was talking with MIKE FRY about the return of mountaineering insurance. I have maintained all along that they could get insurance if they didn't allow beginners, since the only suits that I know of that have been won against the SC have been from BMTC and beginning rock climbing courses. Mike said that the passage of time needed to occur. I suppose he's right. But the way I understand that 1988 SC President, Richard Cellarius, handled the loss of the insurance, and not the loss in itself, was the reason I canceled out of the SC.
- Speaking of the SC, congratulations to the new executive committee members (aka ex-com). There are now four outings people on ex-com, breaking the hold that the conservationists had and restoring a little balance to the club. One of this group is PAUL SALTER, an ex-member of SDPC.
- Speaking of MIKE "Fig Newton" FRY, he has been busy working on a trail around the north side of Mt Woodson. If you can help on this project please call Mike at 566-3851. I recently hiked this trail and it is excellent, but Mike needs a lot of assistance. Call!
- The HPS is going to do a little trail work on the Cutca trail in the Agua Tibia Wilderness on April 23-24 and again on May 21-22. Equipment, camping, possible hot showers provided by the USFS. I understand this area is in desperate need of clipping. Come help!! Send Alan Coles a SASE at 5637 Keynote St, Long Beach, CA 90808.
- CAROL MURDOCK and TERRI ASTLE are busy on the SDPC list Carol has 93 peaks and Terri has 82. Terri promises to poop out before finishing, but Carol is determined to be the first woman to complete the hiking list. She was on the Rabbit ridgeline DEC 3-6 getting the toughest of the highpoints (solo!). Terri and Carol were quite delighted at Mt GOWER. She felt it was a wonderful addition. (See the new edition of *Afoot and Afield in San Diego County* for directions.) Another nice addition, Terri said, was Mt Israel, by the Elfin Forest.
- Member PATTY KLINE, DPS chair and HPS activist, who lives in Topanga Canyon, was evacuated during the fires, but her home was spared. Thank goodness.
- DENNIS RICHARDS will schedule a trip up June Wash to BM Diablo around April or May. The peak register was put there in 1954 by a woman who lead a gang of 30 SD Sierra Clubbers.

