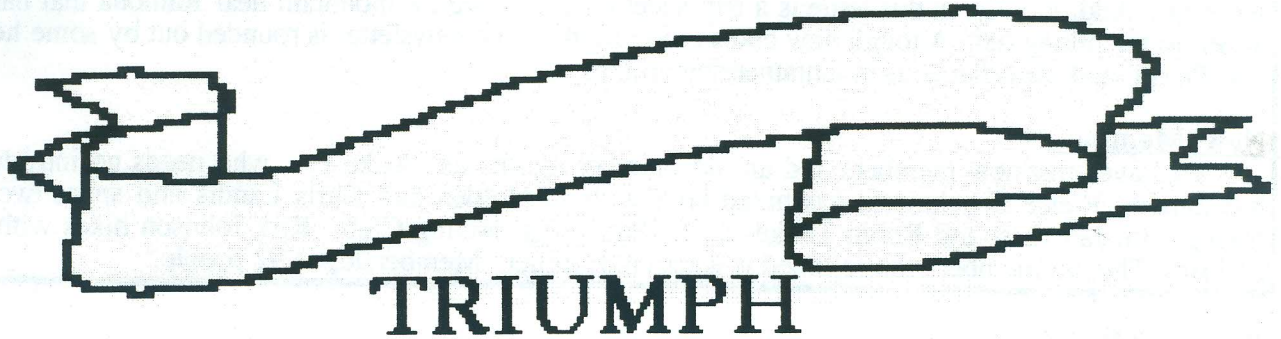


# SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB

The Club for Adventure Hiking

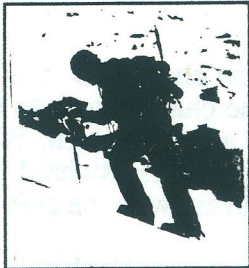
Issue Number 17

Feb-Mar 1994



ON JANUARY 1, 1994 Mark Adrian, Shelley Rogers, Bill Rundall and Bill Hill summited on Aconcagua at 11am. TRIUMPH!!!! Three other members were beaten back by fatigue and pulmonary edema. Conditions were good, but the relative humidity was a scant 5%, which caused severe respiratory conditions in some of the party. Dave Jurasevich, who has been to 21,000+ feet before, was only able

to get to 16,000' before bilateral pulmonary edema struck and he had to descend (His doctor said it was an excellent decision, otherwise he may have died). For more details I will let Mark tell the story, as well as print a story by another group.



## & DESPAIR

DALE W. VAN DALSEM died of a heart attack on Saturday, 8 January, 1994. He was 60 years young. He was mountain biking with his son and was resting after climbing a steep grade when the infarct struck. A memorial was held

the following Thursday and Mark Adrian and I were lucky enough to attend and honor this wonderful Adventurer. One of his sons, Brian, said he was his best friend. Tom Scott orated these words from Jack London, "The proper function of Man is to Live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time." This described Dale. There are three leaders in the DPS, HPS and SPS that are very, very special people. Dale is one of the three. I feel very honored to know him. Thank you, Dale, for being special.



## SPECIAL ISSUE

This issue is dedicated to the Aconcagua climb. I wanted to rush it out as soon as I received Mark's write-up. Additionally, in this issue is a trip sheet on Mt Gower, a mountain near Ramona that has been added to the hiking list. A tough new hike is Sawtooth. The newsletter is rounded out by some hot *Bits and Pieces* and miscellaneous mountaineering articles.

### New Members

We have three new members and an old member rejoins us. Mike Fry, who needs no introduction, has joined. Renee Grochowski has hiked HPS with Al Holden and Chris Landis and spent two years hiking with Jan Crist and Robin Tucker in the San Diego Hiking Club. Kirk Johnson hikes with Chris and Jim. The old member who rejoined is Karen duBurguet. Membership is 92 people.

### BITS AND PIECES

- **WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO JR AND SUE ELLEN?** JR and Sue Ellen were two dogs, a lab/husky mix, all black and all white, respectively, who would follow us around Iron Mountain when we started from the Ellie Lane trailhead. The dogs would follow Jim Sugg's group and the CCC trail workers as they built the trail. We loved the dogs and would always make sure they were safely home after the hike. I had heard reports that JR was dead and had requests from fellow hikers to find out the story of these two wonderful dogs.  
Jack and Sue, guardians of the dogs, acquired them when they bought their house. The previous owner said he would knock \$10,000 off the price tag if they would care for the dogs. The dogs loved to hike with people, but some of the people were jerks. They would finish at Hwy 67 and not come back to Ellie Lane assuming the dogs could find their way back. The pound was called more than once. At least once per week Jack would have to pick the bewildered dogs up 1/2 mile away from the house. He tried to pen the dogs by building an \$800 enclosure, but they jumped over the 6 foot fence. He then roofed the pen; they dug below the fence. JR was attached to a chain once when he tried to jump the fence and almost hanged himself (fortunately Jack was home and heard him yelp). JR lost several teeth trying to bite through a chain link collar. The dogs wanted freedom! Last February the dogs were left at Hwy 67 and JR was run over. He was 13 years old. Sue Ellen, now 14, has another friend, a mean black German Shepherd. ( I don't suggest petting the black dog.)
- Things I should have said: Thanks to **Bob Spellman** and **Jim Sugg** for showing me the Fry trail on the north side of Woodson.
- The other day I was going over past issues of the newsletter when the club was new (founded May 1991). I had an idea and put out a 2 page newsletter to start the club. I want to thank the 15 people who believed in me and joined the first month. My thanks go to: Al Holden, Wes Shelberg, Carl Johnson, Ralph and Beth Davis, Jerry Schad, Mark Adrian, Nancy Harris, Richard Carey, Terry Flood, Laurie Jenkins, Sue Lalicker, Ann Heck and Terri Astle. They all are with the club still.
- **Gary Suttle** has informed me of another change in the **California County Highpoints List**. The Highpoint of San Mateo is Long Ridge, elev. 2600'+. Gary also informed me of a CC Highpoints club started by mutual fund manager and financial wizard, **Denish Desai**, up in Los Altos. Call Gary for more info about the Highpoints Club at 265-8471.
- **Mike Fry** tells me that, "Woodson Estates moved their fencing along Hwy 67, so it is now open from Archie Moore Rd. Horses can use my trail now; mtn bikes will be ok later this year. (Signed) Fig Newton Fry."
- **Volcan Mountain Preserve** is now open to the public for docent-led hikes beginning at 9:30 am the second Saturday of each month. Call 765-2811 for details. The office-help that I talked to said that San Diego bought 200+ acres more from the Rutherford's and will open the peak in a couple of months. This is unofficial. Schad has a Volcan Mtn hike in his new edition. I'll keep you updated as to when the preserve will allow unrestricted access.

## **MEMBERSHIP INFO**

Membership runs from June 1 to June 1. Single membership and family = same price (the cost is in the mailing). The cost is \$12 per year. Since June is right around the bend, \$18 will buy membership until June, 1995! (If anyone who joined within the last month wants to discuss the fees, then call me, otherwise your \$9 fee will expire June, 1994). Paul Cavataio-Freiman, 4868 Austin Dr, San Diego, CA 92115-3518. (619) 583-0266.

## **CALENDAR ACTIVITES**

- 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 Palms down a waterfall strewn wash to 49 Palms. Join us for this one!! Paul 583-0266.
- Feb 5-6 **Jacumba/ Puff/ Goat Cyn trestle backpack.** Strenuous. Send SASE to Terry Flood with experience and phone # to 4008 Garfield St., Carlsbad 92008. 729-8221. SC hike. Gail Hanna assists. Terry is going to start from the trailer park near Jacumba.
- Feb 5 **Jacumba Mountain dayhike** from Dos Cabezas with a trip to Motrero Palms. Rheta Schoeneman 222-9615. Sierra Club. See Schad for more of a description on this area.
- 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, hike up the PCT to the takeoff point for bagging Grapevine Mtn, and then head 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 Cpgrd. On Sunday our trek will be up and over 4275 foot Grass Mtn Rd and down to Elizabeth Lake Canyon Road, 8.6 mi.
- Mar 12-13 **Sawtooth and Red Top.** I'm excited about this hike. Wes hiked Sawtooth 15 years ago and we are probably going to be the first ones to visit since then. We will leave Msn Valley at noon on Saturday, drive to Agua Caliente, and hike Moonlight Wash to Inner Pasteur, then set camp at the base of the mountains. Sunday we will bag the peaks. Paul 583-0266.
- Mar 26-27 **International Orienteer, Lagunas.** Bill Gookin 578-9456. This is our best meet of the year with courses for beginners through advanced. First timer? No problem! We have training. If you can't get hold of Bill, call Paul 583-0266.

## MORE CALENDAR EVENTS

Apr 9-10 **Edgar and Mitchell.** DPS with Dennis Richards. Two wonderful peaks by the splendid Mitchell Caverns (5 hours drive, past Barstow). 462-3643. Sierra Club.

August... early or mid. Dennis Richards will lead a week long Sierra trip into the Big Kaweah area. 462-3643. Sierra Club.

### JIM AND AL'S MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY HIKES

- 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  
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.  
Mar 2 **Pine Mtn and Indian Falls.** Al. Wednesday.  
Mar 9 **Lower Noble Canyon loop.** Jim. Weds.  
Mar 16 **Upper Noble Canyon - Sunset trail.** Al. Weds.  
Mar 23 **Cedar Creek Falls.** Jim. Weds.  
Mar 30 **Miners Rd - Pine Valley Creek loop.** Bob Spellman and Jim. Weds.  
All hikes are sponsored by Walkabout International unless it states Sierra Club.

NOTE: Jim has been having a regularly-paced and a faster-paced group on the Wednesday hikes. He reports that this has worked out so splendidly that he is wondering why he didn't utilize the concept sooner.

## MOUNT GOWER

Mt Gower is a real treat! The open space preserve is by San Diego Country Estates, SE of Ramona, only 40 miles from Mission Valley, and the summit presents a spectacular panoramic view. See below.

**Driving:** Drive east on Main St (Hwy 67) in Ramona to the stoplight at 10th St. Turn right, the road name changes from 10th to San Vicente, and go 4.1 miles to Wildcat Canyon. Continue straight past Wildcat another 1.8 mi to Gunn Stage Rd (Market on left). Turn left and go another 2.2 mi to the end of Gunn Stage Road. Park in the preserve.

**Trailhead:** The peak is 90 degrees, due east, from the parking area. Hike up the trail 2 minutes to a fork in the trail: go right (on the left is a small water tank). There are sign posts every 0.5 miles. At 0.75 mi there is a fork, go left. At 1.0 mi is a rest area, no facilities. Beyond the rest area is a fork, go left, downhill and cross a ravine towards a large water tank on the other side of the ravine. Some water may be flowing just before the 1.5 mi marker. The 3.0 mi marker is the last one placed at this time. Since there was no 3.5 mi sign, I figure at 3.75 miles, going by time estimates, is where you will encounter a gigantic rock slab. The trail goes steeply uphill here. When it tops out and starts away from the mountain, turn east and hike crosscountry up the slab to the peak. It is quite easy crosscountry. 4 miles, 2-2.5 hours one way. From the summit you can see: North Peak 80 degrees, Middle Pk 90 degrees, Eagle is between these two in the near distance. Cuyamaca is 108 degrees, Viejas is 155 degrees, El Cajon Mtn is 194 degrees, Cowles is 220 degrees, Iron is 243 degrees, Woodson is 256 degrees, Boucher Hill is 332 degrees, Palomar is 336 degrees, and San Jac is at 352 degrees. There is a horse racetrack due north, below the peak. What an exceptional panorama!

**Final Comments:** There are no pets allowed in the open space preserve (a bad policy in my opinion). According to the topo, the high point may be the first spot you come to or it may be south of that. The register is at the first highpoint you come to because (1) it looks higher, (2) it has better views, and (3) it is a lovely spot. UTM 222-534

