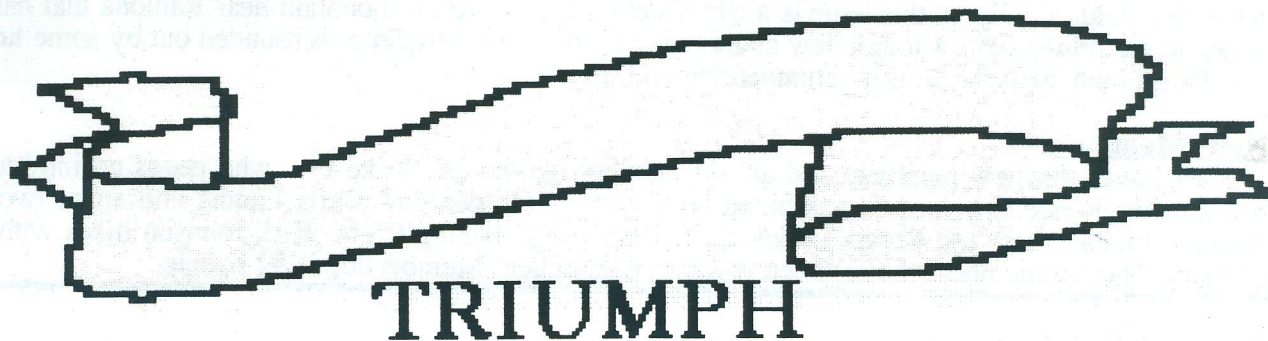


SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB

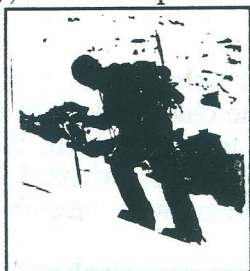
The Club for Adventure Hiking

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 ACTIVITIES

- 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

CERRO ACONCAGUA, Argentina - 22,841'

High Point of the Americas

December 15, 1993 -- January 10, 1994

A Private Expedition

Bill Rundle (Leader) , Bill Hill, Mark Adrian, Dave Jurasevich
Fred Bright, Richard Carey, Shelley Rogers

It was early summer, 1993, when Dave called to invite me along on Cerro Aconcagua. We had done the Mexican Volcanoes two years before, so all of us, except Bill Hill, had previous high altitude experience. After doing some research on the peak, and getting an overview on the logistics, I anxiously committed myself. Shelley, Richard, and I, made early reservations to fly from LAX to Buenos Aires, and then to Mendoza, where we would rendezvous with the remainder of the group. It took me several months to prepare for this expedition. Not only was I out hiking HPS, DPS, and SPS peaks with Terry Flood every weekend for about six months, but, I had to procure numerous pieces of new equipment. Of crucial importance, was a new, -20, TNF sleeping bag.

12/15 : Finally, departure day! The three of us hired a shuttle from SD to LAX to catch the Aerolineas Argentinas red-eye to Buenos Aires. Unfortunately, Shelley discovered she had an expired Passport at the ticket counter. She had to fly back to San Diego, get her current Passport, and then taxi back, again, to LAX. She just barely made the flight with only a minute to spare. It was a long flight, with only one stop in Mexico City. We spent a night in B.A., and had time the next day to do some sight seeing before our connecting flight to Mendoza.

12/17 : Arriving in Mendoza, we taxied to the Hotel Balbi (\$25/night/person @ three to a room), downtown, where we met the rest of the group. That evening, we met with Senor Grajales, the Muleteer, who established our travel arrangements from Mendoza to the trailhead at Puente del Inca. Each of us paid \$180 for his services, which included, mule/duffle portage to and from Plaza de Mulas, transportation to and from Puente del Inca, and two nights at Puente's Hosteria. The next day (12/18) we procured food, fuel and \$80 climbing permits (NO EKG needed).

From Mendoza, it is a four hour drive on International Hwy 7 to Puente del Inca (8950'), a small village near the Chilean border. This is the staging point for the Ruta Normal, where duffles are loaded onto mules. From Puente, it is a three kilometer walk on Hwy 7 to the dirt road turnoff for Parque Provincial Aconcagua's entrance. Another one kilometer walk along this dirt road brings you to the Park's unassuming "entrance", a Ranger tent.

12/19 : Our shuttle/van departed the Hotel Balbi about 9. We drove about 45 minutes to the first of several Policia checkpoints, where, we were directed to turn back because we didn't have the necessary paperwork for the van. Back in rural Mendoza, we swapped vans, and were once again on our way, this time, passing through the checkpoint. The drive westward on Hwy 7 is moderately scenic as it winds through the Andes, passing through several villages and more Policia checkpoints. However, another van problem erupted and we had to stop and repair a broken throttle cable. Eventually, we arrived at Puente, mid-afternoon, where we settled into the modest Hosteria.

12/20 : We spent the day resting and preparing our duffles for the mules. Several of us walked 4Km to the trailhead, but were disappointed by clouded summit views.

12/21 : Finally, we were on the trail! We left Puente, with "lite" packs, about 9, and were at the Ranger's tent (10,000') by 10:30. Here, you submit your permit and are issued serial numbered trash bags, which, must be filled and returned, on your exit. Leaving the Ranger's tent, the dirt road eventually narrows into a trail which bridges across the raging Rio Horcones. It is a four mile hike in to the first camp at La Confluencia, 11,200'. Numerous tents occupy this campsite, and we were neighbors with a team from the Royal Hong Kong Police, a great group of hikers. As it turned out, they were to shadow us up the mountain and back. That afternoon, it clouded over and lightly snowed, then, cleared up with great views all around.

12/22 : This was a tough, 15 mile, 7.5 hour day, up to 14,400' Plaza de Mulas base camp. The hike included some awesome scenery as we passed through the lifeless and eerie Horcones Valley. It seemed a mile at the widest and is reminiscent of many DPS washes, less vegetation. The Valley's walls are capped with 5K meter peaks. Their impressive colors and patterns of twisted metamorphic rock are striking. As the Valley narrows, the wide Rio Horcones becomes deeper and "wet" crossings are inevitable. The Valley then curves to the NE, and views of the "crowned" Cerro Catedral, Glacier Horcones Superior and Cerro Cuerno come into view, reinforcing the immensity of this vast desert landscape. Rather than camp at Mulas, our group decided to utilize the Hotel Refugio, another half mile and three penitente crossings (snow bridges) away. The Refugio is more of a rustic hostel/barracks than a hotel. Although, the hot showers and meals eased the acclimatization process. We enjoyed our stay there and became friends with the concierge, Marcello.

12/23 : After a typical Argentinean breakfast of toast, jam and coffee, we did some equipment and food shuffling for the next day's carry to La Canada (15,700'). That afternoon, Dave, Shelley and myself did a day hike past La Canada to 16,000'. After dinner, Richard and I tried to contact the States using the Refugio's shortwave Yaesu radio, without success.

12/24 : After breakfast, we were on the trail at 9:30 for our first carry to La Canada with 50-60 pound packs. I arrived at Canada at 11:30, with the last of the group there by 12:15. We left at 2:10 and were back at the Refugio by 3:15. During this evening, I experienced Cheyen Stokes breathing while sleeping, not a pleasant experience.

12/25 : Another rest day at the Refugio before moving to La Canada. In the afternoon, I went to explore the Horcones Glacier's tongue, where, I encountered two German ice climbers practicing their skills. After a quiet and uneventful Christmas dinner, Richard and I tried to contact the States again on the shortwave, without success.

12/26 : Moved camp to La Canada, 15,700'. Dave fell out at about 15,000' due to chest pains, which, we would later discover, was Pulmonary Edema. He decided to return to the Refugio for another night's rest. From here on up, I would tent with the two Bills in their TNF VE-24.

12/27 : Dave radioed to communicate he's going home. Remainder of the group proceeds to carry to Nido del Condore, 17,500'. A long series of switchbacks levels off and then crosses a significant low-angled snow field up to Nido's plateau. A more direct scree route bypasses the switchbacks on return to Canada.

12/28 : Moved camp to Nido, where, it was clear, but very windy. Impressive views to the NE of Fitzgerald, Ameghino and the Vacas Glacier. Nido is a large, flat, but rocky plateau, about a half-mile square. To the SE is the Peak and Gran Accareo, and to the NE the plateau drops off into the Vacas Glacier's "valley".

12/29 : Rest day at Nido. Didn't do a lot this day, other than enjoy great views in the summer-like weather. Fred aborted and went back to the Refugio to wait for us. He complained of a chronic headache and not feeling well. Three volunteers from a mountaineering club were busy around Nido cleaning up trash left by previous expeditions. At least a dozen trash bags were neatly stacked nearby, yet, mounds of uncollected trash remained exposed, ready to be bagged. We later saw them up at Berlin doing more cleanup.

12/30 : Carry to Berlin, 19,500'. Saw a very sick climber en route to Berlin, who was suffering from severe altitude sickness. His limp body was being assisted down by four men. We were told he ascended too quickly, without rest days. I radioed Fred from Berlin to have him inform the Mulas doctor of his descent. Four decrepit huts occupy the small area at Berlin. Again, we encountered the cleanup crew here. The fumes from old butane cartridges and other assorted garbage was strong and made me more light-headed than the lack of oxygen. Saw a dead dog's skeleton lying on a rock. Sunny with great views and mild breezes.

12/31 : Moved camp to Berlin and made a cache at Nido. I felt light headed, so I began taking Diamox. Was feeling much better in about half an hour. Two Argentinean climbers were descending and mentioned they didn't need crampons or ice axe. We would do our summit bid the next day.

1/1 : Summit day! Up at 6 AM. I ate two Pop Tarts for breakfast and they almost immediately came back up. Sugar on an empty stomach at 20K' just doesn't seem to work for me. They continued to come up for about an hour more (dry heaves!). After a poor night's sleep with a mild stomach ache, I needed all the food I could get. Unfortunately, my appetite was near nil by now. Nevertheless, in zero-degree temperatures, we were off at 6:50. I was hiking most of the day in seven layers : 4 polypro, 1 fleece, 1 Thinsulate parka and a Goretex shell for the torso and two poly layers on the legs. My feet (In Koflach ice boots and Neoprene socks) and hands were cold for several hours until they warmed up. We passed Independencia's hut (21,320') about 10:30, then up a few more switchbacks to traverse a 100' steep-angled snow patch, which brought us to the traverse into the dreaded Canaleta.

The mile-long traverse is easy, but, looking nearly 8,000' down the Gran Accareo is breathtaking. Once into the bottom of the Canaleta, the good trail starts to fray and the seemingly infinite power-slog begins. The Canaleta is about 1500' of 40-45 degree loose talus and sand, which, I'd classify as moderate class two most of the way, with a lot of two-up-one-back steps. Cramponing would have made this much more tolerable. It was completely bare of snow during our visit. We were advised to stay to the right for "best" traction and to avoid rockfall. Nevertheless, it was the hardest 1500' I've ever climbed. At near 22,000', Richard was experiencing chest pains and exhaustion, so he decided to abort and return to Berlin. Meanwhile, it was a slow trudge to the summit's ridge at 22,500'. The Canaleta took about three hours, or 500'/hour to climb, with numerous breaks. I only ate a mouthful of chocolate and a half liter of water in the Canaleta. My mind was focused on the summit, and eating was a necessary annoyance.

Bill Hill took a 100 pound rock fall in his upper right leg which left him moderately bruised. He was 300' below me, following a "sloppy" European group. Once on the summit's ridge, we encountered view-obscuring clouds/fog, but, could easily see the summit about a quarter mile and 300' (vertical) away. This would take us about another hour. Shelley had moved on to the summit while Bill R. and I kick-stepped our way across the summit ridge's snow pack to eventually move on to an "easy" talus walk to the top. Bill Hill was about a half hour behind Bill R. and myself.

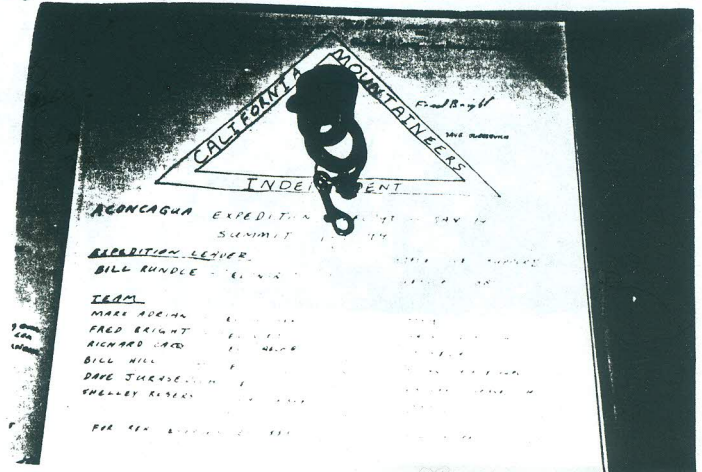
The summit was so close, but, ironically, I've never hiked any slower. One step, rest your head on your ski pole and breathe for ten seconds, then, another step, slowly, surely, the summit's cross came within reach -- SUCCESS! I was there! Within another half hour, Bill Hill reached the summit, completing our team's arrival. Unfortunately, with intermittent clouds, our views were obscured, but, we knew we were on top, and it felt GOOD.

After congratulations, handshakes, hugs, and pictures, we left the summit at 5. The Canaleta is as tiring going down as it is climbing up. I put my ski poles away and donned my \$1.96 DPS leather gardening gloves as it reminded me of descending many a rock-strew DPS wash. Fortunately, I guess, there were no cactus or brush hazards here. After slipping and sliding around the Canaleta for an hour or so, we were finally back on "solid" trail. Rock fall is a constant threat as Bill R. had a near miss. Rocks come from so far up, you can't hear when a climber yells. Even if you do, you can't tell from what direction a rock is coming, and it takes a lot of energy to make an effective evasive maneuver.

From the bottom of the Canaleta, the hike back to Berlin took a couple of hours and we arrived there at 7:45. So, our total day's effort was thirteen hours. I'd estimate the day's stats. at eight miles round trip, 3300' gain. with 41% oxygen (on the summit) of that at sea level. We were also informed, that due to an atmospheric anomaly, the barometric pressure at the summit reads as 24,000'.

Although we were all tired, Richard and I prepared a hot Ramen noodle dinner, which, at this point, tasted exceptionally good. We were all in bed and asleep by 9.

The HOTEM
POLE BAGGED →
The peak in
MARK'S BACKPACK



1/2 : Waiting until 9 for the sun, it took us two hours to eat and then pack for the descent to Nido to pickup our cache and return to Mulas. To say the least, our loads were heavy and bulky. We took the quick way down from Nido to Canada, utilizing the "porter's" route, a sandy path, bypassing the "normal" switchbacks. Shelley and I, ahead of the others, strolled through the carnival-like Mulas "tent city" about 2:30 and arrived at the Refugio at 3:30 where we had lunch, met Fred, and waited for the others. It was then, we learned of a 29-year-old German girl's death. Apparently, she had done a carry to Nido, returned to Mulas with some problem(s), given drugs, and then died during the night. We saw her body being carried out with our duffles the next day.

It was great to be back at low altitude and the hot showers and meals at the Refugio. We spent the remainder of the afternoon readying our duffles for mule portage to Puente del Inca. That evening, we had a much-deserved feast and celebration. We also placed our team's "signature" in the climbing register, and tacked a "flag" on the Refugio's wall, alongside numerous others.

1/3 : It was a long, long walk out to Puente del Inca. We left the Refugio at 10 and hiked straight there, nearly twenty miles away, arriving about 7. The Ranger checked our permits at the trailhead, and then it was a painful walk on pavement down to the Hosteria as we caught our final glimpses of Aconcagua in the setting sun. We all had sore, achy feet, especially Bill R's., who had the biggest power-blisters I've ever seen -- toe-to-heel, they were impressive. After a quick snack at the Hosteria's restaurant, a van picked us up and we were loaded and on the road to Mendoza by 9. It was a long and winding road in the dark, through pouring rain, hail, lightning, thunder and rock slides across the road. Fortunately, NONE of this bad weather had moved in while we were climbing. Finally, back at the Balbi, several of us went for some dinner and I was in bed by 2 -- a long day indeed!

1/4 : Relaxed! Packed up gear and cleaned up body, ate and drank. Fred, Bill R. and Bill H. arranged to leave tomorrow for home. Big dinner tonight. Bill R. spoke with Dave and learned that he had Pulmonary Edema and is recovering. Was good he decided to go down when he did. Richard, Shelley and myself stayed to tour Mendoza. Will leave Mendoza on 1/8/94.

Mark.

P.S. This report is/are the highlights, and is somewhat terse. If you have any questions about details I have missed, don't hesitate to contact me for more information.



4

STARTING DOWN AGAIN
(NO WHERE ELSE TO GO BUT DOWN!)

Events will go on in the event of light rain.
If you have doubts, please call the San
Dieguito River Park offices (595-5602) after
7:00 a.m. on day of event for a recorded
message.



HIKING/SPECIAL EVENT SCHEDULE FOR THE SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK WINTER & SPRING 1994

JANUARY

SATURDAY JANUARY 29TH 9:00 A.M. - 12 Noon
TREE PLANTING WITH SAM KNOTT Meet at the Water
Reclamation Plant located on Highland Valley Road. Needed:
gloves, water. Bring a shovel if possible. Please see directions
for location # 2.

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH 8:00 A.M.
LAGOON BIRDWALK-DELMAR Join experienced
naturalists on an easy walk around the lagoon in Del Mar.
Meet at San Dieguito Road at 8:00 a.m. Please see directions
for location # 3.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH 9:00 A.M. - 12 Noon
TREE PLANTING #2 Bring the entire family to plant
native oaks. Please bring a shovel. Needed: gloves, water.
Planting begins at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Water Reclama-
tion Plant located on Highland Valley Road off I-15 in
Rancho Bernardo. See directions for location # 2.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
TRAIL MAINTENANCE/CLEAN UP Join us for
another day on the trail. Meet at the Bernardo Bay
parking lot. Needed: sturdy shoes, gloves, long pants,
water. Please call office for more details on location.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
BERNARDO BAY BIRD WALK-DICK BARBER
Learn about the birds that live in the Lake Hodges area
during a comfortable 3 hour walk. Meet at Bernardo Bay
Staging Area. Limited space available, please call for
reservations. See directions for location # 2.

MARCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH
TRAIL RIDE FROM PAMO VALLEY TO BODEN
CANYON. Call the JPA office at 595-5602 for
details.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5TH 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
A HIKE JUST FOR KIDS...(AND THE FAMILY!)
WITH VALERIE WADE. Highland Valley Trail. Focus
on ages 8-10, all ages welcome. See directions to Location
#5.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH
TREE PLANTING #3. Trees, trees and more trees! Yes,
another planting, folks! Please see planting #2 for details.

SATURDAY MARCH 12TH 8:30 A.M.
SAN PASQUAL HIKE, NORTH TRAILS TO
1937 FT. PEAK Join experienced hike leader JIM
WEINEL for this strenuous 8 mile (out & back) hike to a
peak on our San Pasqual Trails. Please bring water,
food, & sunscreen. Dress appropriately. Limited space
available. Call office for reservations.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH
TRAIL MAINTENANCE/CLEAN UP N. SHORE
LAKE HODGES. START TIME 8:30 A.M. Please
call office for specific location.

SATURDAY MARCH 26TH 8:30 A.M.
12 MILE TREK THROUGH BODEN CANYON led
by JIM WEINEL. Hike through a beautiful area of the
valley unseen by most. Fit hikers only, as there are
serious elevation gains and losses on this trail. Please
call for your reservation. Spaces are limited.

APRIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH 9:00 A.M. - 12 NOON
TREE PLANTING #4. Join us again out at the San
Pasqual Water Reclamation Plant to complete this grove
of trees. Needed: sturdy shoes, long pants, and gloves.
Bring a shovel if possible. Please see location # 2 for
directions.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH 9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.
CHILDREN'S WALK AROUND BERNARDO BAY
A hike just for kids! Naturalists who specialize in
children's hikes will lead this easy 1 1/2 hour hike around
Lake Hodges. Meet in Rancho Bernardo at Bernardo
Bay. See location #1 for directions.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH
TRAIL MAINTENANCE/ CLEAN UP 8:30 A.M.
Meet at Del Dios Community Park in the Escondido
area. Please call office at 595-5602 for details.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD
3RD ANNUAL EARTHDAY HIKE PAMO TO
BODEN Join the San Dieguito River Park for the
annual Earth Day Hike. This year we will hike from
Pamo Valley to Boden Canyon. Limited number of
participants. Please call office at 595-5602 for details.

Mountaineers Hold a Summit Meeting

■ **Recreation: Climbing**
luminaries gather to mark
40th anniversary of first
ascent of Mt. Everest.

By **BILL STALL**
Times Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO—As he
climbed his way to the 28,028-foot
summit of the world without the
use of bottled oxygen—something
not many thought would never be
done—Reinhold Messner found Mt.
Everest seeming to get bigger.

"It is growing in your inner mind
... and with a growing mountain
in front of you, you become smaller
and smaller and you need a lot of
inner willpower to go up," the
46-year-old Messner told a rapt
crowd here Tuesday night.

Messner, from the German-
speaking north of Italy and argu-
ably the most accomplished moun-
taineer of today, was one of half a
dozen climbing luminaries at an
unusual gathering to celebrate the
40th anniversary of the first ascent
of Mt. Everest, on the border of
Nepal and Tibet.

By virtually any measure, it was
the most impressive collection of
super-mountaineers ever in the
United States. About 600 people
paid \$200 each to attend the dinner,
a fund-raiser to help the American

Himalayan Foundation protect the
fragile environment of areas such
as the Solo Khumbu region around
Mt. Everest, now immensely popu-
lar with trekkers.

Those present included Edmund
Hillary of New Zealand, the first,
with Sherpa guide Tenzing Nor-
gay, to climb Mt. Everest in 1953;
Maurice Herzog of France, the
first, with Louis Lachenal, to climb
any of the 10 highest peaks in the
world, Annapurna, in 1951; and
Junko Tabei of Japan, the first
woman to climb Everest.

Also featured at the dinner were
James W. Whittaker of Washing-
ton state, the first American on the
summit of Everest, in 1963, and
Chris Bonington, who pioneered
small lightweight expeditions to
the Himalayas in the 1970s and
1980s, and who climbed Everest at
the age of 50 in 1985.

"Tonight we have a gathering of
great mountaineers like none other,"
said Richard C. Blum, a San
Francisco investment banker, vet-
eran Himalayan traveler and hus-
band of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein
(D-Calif.).

If there was a star among these
legends of the mountains, it was
the charismatic Messner, who was
the first person to ascend Everest
without artificial oxygen, in 1978;
first to climb Everest both solo and
without oxygen, in 1980, and the
first to climb all 14 peaks in the

world of 8,000 meters (26,247 feet)
or more in height.

In recent years, Messner has led a
campaign to protect the high moun-
tain environment, a land existing
entirely of rock, snow and ice.

"I still think the biggest offer the
mountains can give us is that we
can go for a few hours, a few days,
a maximum of a few weeks, in a
world where human beings should
not be," he said.

"And today I think we have to
put part of our energy into saving
the mountains for the next genera-
tion because it is not important to
conquer them, to be on the sum-
mit," Messner said. "It is important
to have these mountains. It is
important that there is silence, that
there is harmony, that there is
something in this world which is
left untouched."

Groups such as Blum's American
Himalayan Foundation and Hilla-
ry's Himalayan Trust have devel-
oped programs to educate children
of the Sherpas, build schools and
health facilities and work for envi-
ronmental protection.

The most vigorous applause of
the night came when Messner re-
ferred to "the big, unsolved prob-
lem of Tibet—to help Tibetans get
part of their freedoms back" from
the People's Republic of China.

Blum's interest in the region
evolved from treks he has taken
there since the 1960s.

Al Holden is fine after being hospitalized for atrial fibrillation that cut short his MLK weekend climbs of Whale/Granite/Sunset. Al overdid the coffee drinking while tired after bagging Whale Peak. On Granite he decided to turn back after nurse Kathleen Nacey noticed his arrhythmia. Thanks also goes to Chris Landa for his assistance.

I have been attempting to find out how our friends in LA survived the quake. **George Toby and Mary McMannes**, who live in Van Nuys, had everything they own relocate to the floor. Messy, yes, but I did not hear of any physical injuries.



Ralph and Beth Davis June 26, 1993 survived a logging truck accident. No one was hurt. Rental car totaled.