



SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB

The Club for Adventure Hiking

Issue Number 18

Apr-May 1994

Adventure hiking has been great over the last few months, hasn't it? On the Queen Mountain traverse in Joshua Tree we saw 10 beautiful Bighorn. Ten days later we found a bighorn skull near Rosa and Pyramid in Anza-Borrego, and 21 days later while doing a San Ysidro Mountain traverse in Borrego, we saw three Bighorn who posed for a photo op. Mark Adrian moved to within ten feet of them and shot the photos with a standard 35mm lens. (I wish Carol Murdock would have had her 200mm lens along!)

It disappointed me that more club members didn't join Mary McLain, Wes Shelberg and me for the Joshua Tree traverse, and that only one other hiker was interested in the Grapevine Mountain hike, a moderate 6 hour hike through very beautiful territory. So it was a great pleasure when 13 sturdy backpackers bagged Red Top and Sawtooth with me. I've planned another backpack for April 16-17 up Dawn's Peak; I think it will have equal success.

HIKER OF THE MONTH

New member MIKE FRY is the March Hiker of the Month. Mike has managed the Sierra Club's bus trips for about 15 years. In fact, he thought up the idea of doing trips by bus instead of trying to arrange carpools for 45 people. My first activity with the SC, a Grand Canyon bus trip, engaged eight different trip leaders, each starting from a separate trailhead. Talk about organization! Mike is also co-chair of the crosscountry ski section and gets in over 40 days of skiing per year. The Sierra Club awarded him Conservation Activist of the Year in 1983 and Sierra Club Member of the Year in 1989.

BUT that's not why he's getting the HOTM. I'm awarding him the HOTM for his trailbuilding work on the north side of Mt Woodson. (I featured his new Woodson trail in Jan-Feb

94, Issue 16.) It's a pleasure to find someone who will go the extra mile to help others as he does. Mike has put HUNDREDS of hours into the Woodson trail and, as the only person I know who gets the gallon-sized Technu Poison Oak Cleanser, is obviously willing to put up with major discomfort to build a trail for all of us to enjoy. Last November, when several of us hiked the Palm Springs Outlaw Trail (AKA Palms to Pine), he brought along several clippers so that the whole group could service that pathway. Thank you, Mike, for your diligence and leadership.

GARY SUTTLE is the **HOTM** for **April** for his book on the California County Summits. The first guidebook of its kind, it offers to lead the reader to the highest point of each of the 58 counties, from Mt Whitney at 14,492 feet in Inyo and Tulare Counties, to Carpenter Hill in Sacramento County at 828 feet. Quoting from the Wilderness Press bio on him: "Gary and a friend botanized for several years at Torrey Pines State Reserve and found 52 new species to add to the Reserve's extensive plant list. He earned a B.A. from UCSB, and an M.A. from SDSU, both degrees in Geography. He wrote his thesis on "The Freebeach Phenomenon Near La Jolla, California" in part to help block a road planned for a pristine coastal canyon near Torrey Pines. Gary received the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club "Conservation Activist of the Year" award in 1992 for his role in helping stop another roadway from slicing through Mission Trails Park. Apart from conservation and natural history pursuits, Gary works with disabled students in the San Diego Unified School District." Gary's story of North Palisade, the last California summit he bagged, is on page 10. It was quite an adventure.

Richard Hughes is the **HOTM** for **May**. Now that the Sierra Club has reinstated mountaineering insurance, Richard has assumed the duties as chair of the rock climbing section. He spent the last couple of weekends assessing and certifying leaders; he says there are six people who have the skills needed to lead rock trips. Besides organizing the new mountaineering section, Richard also leads great hikes, like the Outlaw Trail on Apr 2-3 and Joshua Tree on Apr 15-17 (Both trips are full with waiting lists). Thank you for leading and organizing!

New Members

Membership now stands at 96!!!! Thank you, everyone, for your support. The newest members are Richard and Patsi Hughes, whom most hikers know through the Sierra Club. Richard leads superb adventure hikes and is hard at work trying to certify SC leaders for rock climbing, now that the SC has its mountaineering insurance back. Richard will lead a hike on the **Outlaw Trail**, which is featured on page 9 of this issue. Member Andy Garner has hiked sections of the Appalachian Trail and has sailed most of his life. Betty Hobert has spent her time hiking with the San Diego Hiking Club.

MEMBERSHIP

DUES ARE DUE

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DUE BE DUE BE DUE.

'Tis approaching June when the club dues are due. For \$12 you will be happy and content until June, 1995! What an incredible deal this is! Where else can you find bliss and tranquility for a mere \$12?

And now it is time for a recital of SDPC philosophy. The SDPC has a list of 112 peaks in all regions of the county. The purpose of the hiking list is not to merely run up and down a mountain, but to explore different areas. The peak not the goal: the adventure is the goal.

TRAIL TREATS (formerly known as "Bits and Pieces")

HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP The HPS, led by Alan Coles, has joined the Forest Service doing trail work on the Cutca Trail in the Agua Tibia Wilderness. The USGS will provide equipment, camping, and possible hot showers on two weekends, **April 23-24** and **May 21-22**. Many of you have hiked these trails in the past couple of years and can

testify to their poor quality. I can't tell you how many times I have heard, "Why don't THEY do something about this?" Now is the time for US to do something. Gail Hanna (272-5141) and Bert Ton (744-2633) will be organizing the San Diego contingent. Please send a SASE to Alan Coles, 5637 Keynote St, Long Beach, CA 90808.

VOLCAN MOUNTAIN is now open. You can hike there anytime. For instructions call me or see the newest edition of *Afoot and Afield in San Diego County*, which has Volcan hikes in it. *****

Speaking of *Afoot and Afield*, I would like to thank Jerry Schad for allowing me to insert his maps into this, and other issues of this newsletter.

Los Coyotes Indian Reservation reopened its campground, according to Carol Murdock. I don't know how much they have increased the fees.

Mark Adrian and Bill Stevens had an interesting event over President's Day weekend. They hiked out of Lodgepole by Mineral King in the Sequoias, and, while setting their tents at 4 pm, it started snowing. The snow stopped at 8 am, 16 hours later, and they spent the next two days retreating to their cars.

I recently contacted Phillip Ferranti, founder and president of the Coachella Valley Hiking Club. We will try to have joint activities in the future. If anyone is interested in contacting him directly his address is P.O. Box 10750, Palm Desert, CA 92255, 619-345-6234. CVHC dues are \$20 individual, \$25 family.

Since we have added several peaks in the past few months I have printed the updated Peaks List on pp. 12-14.

Sandra Johnson is leading a PCT Survey Team, according to Betty Sterrett. I have combined six pages of information into two pages (pp.15-16) for those who may be interested in helping Sandra on her ambitious project.

Richard Carey informed me of a new Pine Creek-Hauser Wilderness Area map for \$3.00. I have enclosed an order form on page 17.

CALPAW volunteers needed! See the "Yes on 180" flyer on page 18.

San Dieguito River Park Trail Run, Sunday, May 1. Hike / run 7 miles of the "Coast to Crest Trail" to help the Park preserve natural open space. See page 19. Thanks to Gail Hanna for info.

I got a new hat!! (Same as the old hat.) Here are the details... The last time I washed my hat the top separated from the brim. So I went back to A-16 to buy a new one, but discovered that it was guaranteed, I wrote the owner a nice note to tell her how much I enjoyed the chapeau. I didn't have to wait long. I received a call from the creator/owner of the piece and she told me that I would receive a 50% credit. That seemed gracious of her and I thanked her; after all, this is a \$38 hat. When A-16 called to tell me the hat had arrived, I was surprised to learn that the owner/creator had reduced the 50% credit to 20%! Gail Lancaster, Customer Service for A-16, without knowledge of the renege, proved that A-16 stands behind their customers by covering the balance of the cost of the hat. I tip my brim to A-16.

Three years ago my friend Hannah North started feeling poorly and having digestive problems. It was recently confirmed that she had giardiasis. She remembers when she got the protozoan Giardia. She was hiking in the Sierras and needed some water. Her stove had stopped working so she scraped off the top of a snow melt. Hannah has become an expert on Giardia and states that the germ doesn't mind the cold, but is killed almost immediately at a boil.

THE HIKING CALENDAR

- APR 2-3 Weekend, **THE OUTLAW TRAIL**, Palm Springs. Richard Hughes 287-3434 / Doug Hansen 698-2632. Sierra Club hike. This month's feature hike. (See page 6). Sorry, this hike is full, with a waiting list. Richard's hikes fill quickly.
- APR 3 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**. Spring your clocks ahead one hour so you don't miss tomorrow's hike.
- APR 3 Sunday, **PALM MESA**, Borrego. Paul 583-0266. See page 9 for map. This was written up by Wes in issue 16 as a suggested list addition. I think that we are sure to see some more Bighorn on this strenuous hike. 3900' gain. This is an all-dayhike.
- APR 8-10 **CANOE TRIP**, Lower Colorado, from Walter's Camp to Martinez Lake. Thirty-five miles on the river with El Coyote Pelon. No rapids, just beautiful barren desert mountains, lush river vegetation, national wildlife refuge, isolation and historic mining landmarks. Cost \$85. Sierra Club trip. Carl Johnson 448-8542.
- APR 9-10 **MITCHELL AND EDGAR**, DPS, 5 hours drive, between Barstow and Needles. Dennis Richards 462-3643 / Rob Langsdorf, Sierra Club trip.
- APR 9-10 **PACIFIC CREST TRAIL**, Mojave. Join the two Terri's (Astle 571-0471 / Sutor 278-3518) as they lead a moderately paced hike with carcamp. Sat. walk 15.5 miles from Silverwood Lake reservoir to I-15. Sunday will be 13.6 miles from I-15 to near the Cajon Pass. Section C in PCT guidebook.
- APR 15-17 **JOSHUA TREE Gourmet BBQ carcamp**. Richard Hughes 287-3434 / Doug Hansen 698-2632. Trip is full with waiting list. Sierra Club.
- APR 16-17 **ORIENTEER**, Cuyamaca State Park at Los Vaqueros camp north of Stonewall. Jeff Jacobs organizes. Call Paul 583-0266. Our new course-setters have been working hard on this one. See the result of their effort.
- APR 16-17 **DAWN'S PEAK BACKPACK**, Rockhouse Canyon approach. See page 7. Paul 583-0266. We will drive down to Rockhouse on Saturday and backpack up Rockhouse 3 hours to set up a dry camp at the base of the ridge leading to Dawn's Peak. Paleface Steve Cowen will show us amazing indian incites on Saturday's hike in to camp. Sunday we will dayhike Dawn's and should be back at the cars about 9 hours later. Since Beth Davis promises to be along we will soak in the jacuzzi at Ram's Hill after the hike.
- APR 23-24 **TRAIL WORK**, Cutca Trail. See the lead story in *Trail Treats*, page 2. HPS. Please help Gail Hanna and Bert Ton and other clear this massively overgrown trail.
- APR 23 **THREE SISTERS WATERFALL**, Carl Johnson 448-8542. Sierra Club. Three miles, surprisingly strenuous, moderately paced dayhike to a set of three waterfalls that are the best and "largest bathtub" falls in SD county. Poison oak precautions.
- APR 23-24 **ANNUAL JOHN MUIR carcamp**, McCain Valley. Carol Murdock 463-1279 / Terri Sutor 278-3518. Music and potluck with small (under \$3) gift exchange.
- MAY 1 **HAPPY FIRST ANNIVERSARY, VICKI!!!!!!**

The Hiking Calendar continued

- MAY 7-8** **PCT, Big Bear area.** Terri Astle 571-0471 / Terri Sutor 278-3518. Hike Van Dusem Cyn to Hwy 18 (Baldwin Lake), 8.9 miles on Saturday. On Sunday continue to Onyx Summit, 13.6 miles. Carcamp.
- MAY 14** Saturday, **LIST FINISH FOR CAROL MURDOCK ON VOLCAN MTN.** Join the celebration as Carol finishes the SDPC list of 112 peaks in San Diego county. Carol 463-1279. Potluck and easy peakbag with champagne on top! This is the time to explore the newest addition to SD wilderness. Come join us.
- MAY 21-22** **TRAIL WORK, Cutca trail.** Let's finish the work that we didn't do on Apr 23-24. See *Trail Treats* for more info.
- MAY 21-22** **PCT with Al Holden. Comb's Peak.** Al 273-2494 and Chris Landa will backpack from Hwy 74 to Lost Valley via Comb's Peak, camping at Tule Spring, the midpoint of a 27-mile hike. Beth Davis talked to me about doing this; Al must have overheard us. Good hike!
- MAY 25-30** **CANYON de CHELLY** with Steve Cowen. 4 days/3 night backpack with a Navajo guide. See Anasazi cliff dwellings and ... well, you know what incredible sights lie in store. The trip will center on ancient trails. Three fit and experienced people wanted. Moderate and enjoyable pace of 10 miles per day. Cost= split expenses (approx. \$175 plus food with three people). Steve's office 593-0696.
- MAY 28-30** **THREE DAYS OF ORIENTEERING.** Saturday will feature the Filaree Flat meet in the Lagunas. Donna and Edwin Gookin 286-7958. Sunday Ron Grayson is putting together a Rogaine. Monday, Memorial Day, Bill Gookin is having a special "4th Dimension" orienteer. Call Paul for more details 583-0266.
- MAY 30** **CUYAMACA Memorial Day hike** with Al Holden. Hike a Middle Peak-Cuyamaca- Stonewall loop that is 12+ miles and 6 hours. Al 273-2494.
- JUNE 11** Saturday, **SANTA ROSA MOUNTAIN.** Al Holden 273-2494 / Rheta Schoeneman. Al and Rheta are tackling the mountain from the east side, 13 miles and 4000 feet. Sierra Club.
- JUNE 18-25** **COPPER CANYON** with Carl 448-8542. Sierra Club. Max group size 14 adventurers. \$850.
- JUNE 25** Saturday, **SOUTH RIDGE PEAKBAG SPECIAL** five HPS peaks along the desert divide by Idyllwild. Al Holden 273-2494 / Charles Hummel are hiking up the South Ridge trail to bag Tahquitz, Red Tahquitz, South, Ansell Rock, Apache and Spittler before calling it a day. 14 miles. Strenuous.
- AUG 5-13** **HIGH SIERRA PEAKBAG EXPLORATORY,** Dennis Richards 462-3643 / Rob Langsdorf. Join them for nine days as they venture deep inside Sequoia to visit the spectacularly scenic high country surrounding Nine Lake and Kaweah Basins. They will climb Mts. Kaweah, Triple Divide, and five others. Much of the route is crosscountry over steep terrain with backpacks. Some class 3 rock climbing. Call Dennis between 7-9pm before July 8 for info. Dennis has room for 7 people. Sierra Club.

