



SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB

The Club for Adventure Hiking

Issue Number 19

June-July 1994

4th Season

What a great time we had when Carol Murdock finished the San Diego Peaks Club hiking list! She celebrated with 18 friends on top of Volcan Mountain, the newest addition to the list. People, this is a beautiful mountain located north of Julian. The rangers have restricted access until they can complete a land management survey. (See the article in *Trail Treats* for more info.)

WELCOME! Our new club members since the last newsletter are **Mary and Lorin Mitts** from Borrego, **Elizabeth Brunton-Oceanside**, the **Walter Millar family-San Diego**, **Mike Volberg-Ramona**, **Sirella McDaniel-Walkabouts**, and **Jerry Higgins-PB**. I found Jerry's name in the register at Dawn's Peak, so I knew I had to call him. Club membership now stands at **103**. Which brings up the reminder: **DUES ARE DUE**. IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID, an envelope will be included to make it easy for you to renew. Dues cover June to June and, by paying now, you can be happy and content until June, 1995. WOW, what a deal! Dues are the same for single or family. My bank won't accept checks made out to SDPC. Please make out a check for \$12 to Paul Cavataio-Freiman, 4868 Austin Dr, San Diego, CA 92115-3518.



HIKER OF THE MONTH

Honors for the month of June go to **VICKI CAVATAIO-FREIMAN**, the new newsletter editor. Yeah, I thought you were wondering why my grammar (sic) and syntax had suddenly improved. Vicki has edited parts of previous issues, but issue 18 was the first she edited entirely. I am very lucky to

have married such an outstanding writer. (Aw, shucks.-Ed.) She has fully recovered from her December back surgery.

July's **HOTM** goes to the first woman to complete the SDPC hiking list, **CAROL MURDOCK**. She previously won the HOTM in December, 1992, for organizing the the Sierra Club's Mountain Medicine clinics since 1978. In addition, she completed the Sierra Club's Hundred Peaks Section hiking list. But Carol is more than just a determined hiker. She is also a home health RN practicing through UCSD which recently (May 5) honored her as one of six **OUTSTANDING Nurses of the Year**. I asked Carol and list finisher colleague John Strauch to write up their five most memorable hikes. Look for these articles later in this issue.

△△△ TRAIL TREATS △△△

- △ **OOPS, I made some boo-boos.** Last issue I chopped off Oakzanita Peak (elev. 5054) from the first page of the peak list. It should be number 5 under Cuyamaca State Park. Garnet Peak should be listed at 5909, and Jacumba Mountain at elev.4512. Gary Suttle (club member and author of California County High Points) remarked that the elevation I gave Mt Whitney (14,492') is actually lower. He said that the new topo maps give the distance in meters and converting it to feet will give you 14,491. (His editor at Wilderness Press changed his calculations to 14,492').
- △ **HOT MAP TIP FROM GARY SUTTLE....**
You can buy one to five maps from the USGS Earth Science Information Center (ESIC), 345 Middlefield Rd, MS 532, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (415) 329-4390, FAX (415) 329-5130. Visa or Mastercard phone or fax orders take just days to receive rather than weeks as through the USGS in Denver. Cost is \$2.50 per map with a \$1.00 handling fee applied to mail orders less than \$10, but no tax or postage fees!!!
- △ **HOT MAP TIP FROM RICHARD CAREY....**
"On June 1, 1994 the USGS 15-minute map is officially abandoned. This means that 15-minute maps will no longer be available from the USGS. However, copies of color separates will still be available for sale and descriptive information will be maintained for reference." (USGS-Western Region)
- △ **CINDY OUTLAW** will leave May 29 to tackle Denali again. The last time she was prepped to go (June '92) she discovered one week from departure that she was pregnant. Her daughter's name, Molly McKinley, attests to Cindy's obsession with the summit of the highest peak in North America. Cindy will be taking the **HOTeM Pole** with her and promises a summit photo for the next issue.
- △ **JIM SUGG** celebrated his 67th birthday and his 350th Wednesday Walkabout hike April 13 on Blue Angels Peak (AKA Smuggler's Peak). His adoring legion of admirers showered him with gifts.
- △ We had fantastic weather on the **DAWN'S PEAK** hike, April 16-17. Carol needed to bag the peak in her quest to list finish. Joining us was **John Strauch, Beth Davis** and **Lorin Mitts**, a Borrego resident. When we picked up Lorin at 3:00pm it was 90°. We drove up Rockhouse to the end near Hidden Springs and were able to pick up the shade from the narrow canyon walls when we started at 4:30. The next day was overcast and stayed a lovely 70°.
- △ **WES SHELBERG** introduced me to the **Rockhouse Canyon** approach to Dawn's Peak. People who know other routes report delight with the relative ease of this way.

(TRAIL TREATS continued)

- △ Beth and I were gazing over at Toro Mtn, some 14 miles in the distance, thinking what a rough go it was when we hiked it with Jerry Schad in 1991. It took 11 hours and cramped legs to reach Dawn. Then we read in the register on Dawn's Peak that **Werner Landry** hiked to it from Toro in 5 1/2 hours. (I understand that Werner has also been up K2.) Beth wants me to lead the **Santa Rosa Ridge hike** as a three day event. I may do it over Labor Day weekend, Sept 4-5-6.
- △ **DAWN'S PEAK** (AKA Peak 6582) is a lovely peak, but how did it get it's name? Well, back in the '70's the AAA Riverside County road map named it. What we didn't realize at the time was that the AAA gave it a fictitious name to insure copyright protection of the map. Every map has one false name on it. I was checking the Rand McNally San Diego County Recreation map the other day. It has Villager listed, but where Rabbit Peak should be is "Kawal Mtn elev.5859". This is an outright falsehood because they even got the elevation wrong. Well, I have the 1989 edition of the AAA Riverside County map and Dawn's Peak is now called "Lorenzens Peak elev. 6582". I will continue to call it "Dawn's Peak", rather than Peak 6582.
- △ **BETH DAVIS'** company is delightful, but the fact that she and Ralph own a home at Ram's Hill and have jacuzzi privileges makes her truly wonderful. After a tough, hot Richard Hughes hike in Borrego a few years back, Beth broadcast that everyone was invited to join her at Ram's Hill. "I don't believe you, Beth," came a response, "I'm totally exhausted and you want to climb another summit!"
- △ SDPC hiking list finisher **JOHN STRAUCH** and partner Evan Bailey were high scorers for the ACBL Regional bridge tourney during Easter week. Congrats on the win!
- △ On the Dawn's Peak hike I learned about an old character named "**CREOSOTE**" who ducked a desert path from Mexico towards Canada at least ten years ago. He apparently continues to write a newsletter, and if we can find some of the trail guides he has written I will be very, very happy to lead a series of adventure "PDT" (Pacific Desert Trail) hikes in the fall months.
- △ SDPC is **ON-LINE!** Our fax number is 583-0864.
- △ **RICHARD CAREY** writes, "I take issue with Pk 3583 being the high point of the Vallecito Mountains. If you look on the AAA San Diego County map and the Whale Peak 7.5 min topo you will find the Vallecitos extend some distance. I say that Whale Peak is the high point of the Vallecito Mountains." --- Absolutely correct, Richard. The Vallecito Mts do extend a long way east and west. Sunset and Whale Peaks are two named peaks on the western side of the range. Peak 3583 is the high point of the eastern side and is labeled as such on the hiking list.
- △ **RICHARD** continues the letter, "On Thursday, June 9th I will show slides of **Aconcagua** at the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) group meeting. The location is the home of **Chris Landa**, 5030 Pacifica Dr. 274-5154. Time is 7:30 PM. **Mark Adrian and Shelley Rogers** will probably be there too with their prints. Hope you can come." Chris, a SDPC club member, extends an open invitation to all SDPC members. Remember, however, that this is a Sierra Club event.
- △ Longtime DPSer **BILL STEVENS** will conclude savoring the peaks with his final list finish June 18 on Waucoba Mountain, just north of Death Valley. Call Mark Adrian for carpooling info 272-1265.
- △ For those of you into long-range planning, **TERRY FLOOD** will finish the DPS (Desert Peak Section of the LA Sierra Club) list on Jan 14-15, 1995 (his birthday), on Orocopia. I hope he choses the route with the hot springs!!!

(TRAIL TREATS continued)

△ **GREAT NEWS FOR SAN DIEGO HIKING....**

The San Diego Hiking Club is reorganizing to lead more and different hikes at a reduced membership cost. I love these people. They don't lead boring hikes. They lead easy to moderate adventure hikes, at an easier pace than I do, but in much the same areas. Yearly fee is \$48. Call Guy Harris @ 271-5089 for more info.

△ I mentioned earlier what a stunning area the new acquisition of Volcan Mountain is. Jerry Schad has listed this hike in his new edition of Afoot and Afield in San Diego County. However, until the rangers complete a land management study, the area will be restricted. But docents are available, so you can overcome the restrictions easily if you make prior arrangements with them. Also, rangers and docents lead groups on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Ranger David Holt of Heise Park in Pine Hills has jurisdiction over Volcan Mtn; you can arrange trips by calling 765-0650. Call the San Dieguito River Park (595-5602) if you would like to help buy the remaining 8,000+ acres of the Rutherford Ranch.

△ I would like to thank the Wednesday Walkabouts for the kind birthday card and wonderful friendship.



WEEKEND OUTINGS CALENDAR

These hikes are all moderate to strenuous. I have attempted to credit the organization responsible whether it be a SDPC, Sierra Club (SC), Walkabout, San Diego Orienteering (SDO), Coachella Valley Hiking Club (CVHC), San Diego Hiking Club (SDHC) or private activity.

- JUNE 4-5** **PARQUE NACIONAL SAN PEDRO MARTIR.** Terry Flood (729-8221 evenings or 800-562-1318 days). Climb Scout Peak and Cerro Botella Azul, the 2nd and 3rd highest peaks in Baja. Call Terry ahora mismo if you wish to know more. Private.
- JUNE 4-5** **PCT, IDYLLWILD.** Terri Astle (571-0471) / Terri Sutor (278-3518) / Chris Landa (274-5154). On Saturday join the 2 Terries as they walk the PCT from Black Mtn south to Snow Cyn. (6500 ft. descent over 18.2 mi.) On Sunday Sutor and Landa will peakbag Castle Rock and Black Mtn from the camping site. (See July 16 for a similar hike that Chris is doing). SC
- JUNE 9** **Aconcagua Slide Show.** 7:30 pm. See *Trail Treats*.
- JUNE 11** **SANTA ROSA MOUNTAIN AND TORO PEAK.** Saturday. Al Holden (273-2494)/ Rheta Schoeneman. Al and Rheta are tackling the mountain from the east side, 13 miles and 4000 feet. Al sez this is one of his best hikes. Wow! SC
- JUNE 18-19** **PCT, IDYLLWILD AND DESERT DIVIDE.** Chris Landa (274-5154) /John Keck. Two days over PCT. Saturday: Morris Ranch Rd to Apple Cyn, a very nice loop over Spitler and Apache Peaks. Car camp. Sunday: Hike Humber Park to Apple Cyn bagging South and Red Tahquitz Peaks if there is time. Each day is about 13 miles and 2000-2500' gain. SC
- JUNE 18** **ORIENTEER, Sunset Cliffs Park on Pt Loma.** Saturday. Madonna Bentz & Steve Nave (622-0764). This is a great course for beginners. SDO

WEEKEND OUTINGS CALENDAR cont.

- JUNE 18** WAUCOBA MTN NORTH OF DEATH VALLEY; DPS LIST FINISH for Bill Stevens. Saturday. See *Trail Treats* for more info. Call Paul (583-0266) for carpool suggestions. SC
- JUNE 18-25** COPPER CANYON with Carl Johnson (448-8542). Max. group size 14 adventurers. \$850. SC
- JUNE 25** ORIENTEER, Tecolote Canyon. Saturday. Bill Gookin (578-9456). SDO
- JUNE 25** SOUTH RIDGE PEAKBAG SPECIAL. Saturday. Four 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 before calling it a day. 14 mi. Strenuous. SC
- JULY 16** PCT, IDYLLWILD. Saturday. Chris Landa (274-5154). Chris will walk from Black Mtn to Humber Park, about 14.5 miles. It's Chris' favorite section of PCT. SC
- JULY 17** ORIENTEER, Big Laguna. S-1 and Noble Canyon trailhead. Sunday. Bill Gookin (578-9456). SDO
- JULY 22-24** GRAYBACK BACKPACK. Dennis Richards (462-3643). Hike into High Creek camp using the moonlight on Friday, then peakbag Old Grayback (aka San Gorgonio Mtn), Jepson and Dobbs and return via crosscountry to camp. Kick back the rest of the day because you don't have to leave until Sunday! SC
- JULY 26-29** GRAYBACK BACKPACK. Tuesday-Friday. Al Holden (273-2494). Four days and three nights. Hike in from Poopout Hill to High Meadow Springs to set up basecamp, then bag the peaks on the following days. Private trip open to SDPC members.
- 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 over steep crosscountry terrain with backpacks. Some class 3 climbing possible. Call Dennis between 7-9pm before July 8 for info. Dennis has room for 1 person. SC
- AUG 13-21** COPPER CANYON. Carl Johnson (448-8542). See June 18 for info.
- AUG 20-28** EVOLUTION BASIN PEAKBAG ODYSSEY. Terry Flood (729-8221 evenings). "This will be a loop trip over 40 miles on our six moving days. The longest day will be eight miles, and there will be significant elevation gains and losses in this kind of terrain." Fee \$405. SC National Outing
- SEPT 17-18** 7TH ANNUAL BORREGO SPRINGS MOONLIGHT MADNESS BICYCLE TOUR, FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, and WATER BOTTLE FIGHT. Terry Flood (729-8221). The title explains this cult trip.
- SEPT 17-18** ORIENTEER, Palomar Mountain 2-day. Bill Gookin (578-9456). One of the best meets all year. All levels, beginners through advanced can come. Starts 10 am. SDO
- OCT 8-9** GRAND CANYON NORTH TO SOUTH RIM RUN (or fast walk). Carl Johnson (448-8542). Call Carl for the packaged costs to this great adventure.

