

Hiking Horizons

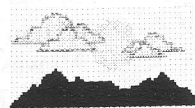
"Taking you to new heights"

A Publication For Adventure Hikers of the San Diego Peaks Club

Vol 4, No. 4

Jan - Feb 1995

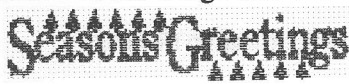
Views from the Top



Boy, what a fall season. Wow! We hiked the Santa Rosa Ridge from Toro Peak to S-22. Carl Johnson was arrested by Park Rangers when leading a Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim hike. We hiked the Carrizo Gorge with a fantastic view of the Goat Canyon trestle. We climbed the 8,000 foot elevation gain of the Outlaw Trail from downtown Palm Springs to the Tram Station. We experienced an absolutely delightful trek down the Pauma Creek in the Palomar Mountain area. **WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!** Come on out on some of the great hikes coming up.

Some new members have come on board. Welcome to Dan and Barb TerHorst, Venetha Perkins, Anita Colgan, John Wegner, Henry Blue, DPS friend Judy Ware, Everett Stevens, John Keck, Gregg Miron, and Jim and Lana George. Membership is now at 105. Steve and Gail Cowen will host a **POTLUCK** so we can meet all of you on Sunday, December 4 from 3 PM to 7 PM. I hope everyone can join in the fun. Call me for details (583-0266). See Trail Treats for details.

Two stalwarts, Terry Flood and Dennis Richards, are finishing the Desert Peak Section list of 97 peaks on nearby peaks. Look for their hikes in January and February. We also are going on two hikes from Schad's book -- Four Frogs and Indian Creek.



CARL JOHNSON HANDCUFFED!

As Carl Johnson and group began Carl's annual Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim Run and Walk, Park Rangers stepped in their way. Accusing Carl of leading an organized, for-profit outing without proper permits, they carted him off to the Ranger Station in handcuffs. They received their information from moles planted in Carl's group of 25. Carl produced a letter from the previous head ranger approving his activities which have not changed in scope or purpose. That was then and this is now and Carl was looking at a \$2500 fine. In these days of expensive lawyers it is not worth fighting it, so he plea-bargained down to \$500 and went on his run through the Canyon.

You may have heard about the big stink between the Sierra Club (SC) and Zion National Park. Zion is saying that SC is an outfitter (especially their National trips) and they have banned the SC from the Park. Unfortunately, the Park doesn't distinguish between profit and non-profit trips (like a DPS trip). Carl was doing his usual "expenses only" organizing, but they bit him anyway. Carl has declined SDPC's offer of a fund-raiser and would like to put this matter behind him. See page eleven for more details.



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HIKER OF THE MONTH



The HOTMs for November are **LORIN and MARY MITTS**. Lorin is a delight in trip organizing. The last three hikes have all involved car shuttles and he is very willing to cram 6-10 backpackers into his Chevy van. Mary has assisted by driving some tough roads to get the shuttle in place. Thank you both for your kindness and your friendship.

The HOTM for December is **CARL JOHNSON**. Carl has done a tremendous amount for San Diego hiking with his wonderful SD River, Cowles Mountain, Copper Canyon, Picacho del Diablo hikes and much, much more. He was recently "ambushed" by Rangers who told him contradictory things at the Grand Canyon. It leaves a leader feeling violated when something like this occurs, and I want to say "Thank you for your efforts."

The HOTM for January is **TERRY FLOOD**. Terry is known for his yearly national Sierra Club outings in the Sierras, and by his cult classic "Borrego Springs Moonlight Madness Bicycle Tour, Festival of Lights, and Water Bottle Fight." Terry is finishing the Desert Peak Section list on his birthday over January 14-15 on Orocopia Mountain, by the Salton Sea.

The HOTM for February is **DENNIS RICHARDS**. Dennis is also finishing the DPS on his 50th birthday, February 11, on Old Dad Mountain in San Bernardino County. Dennis has become an avid rock climber and leads many rock climbs for the Sierra Club.

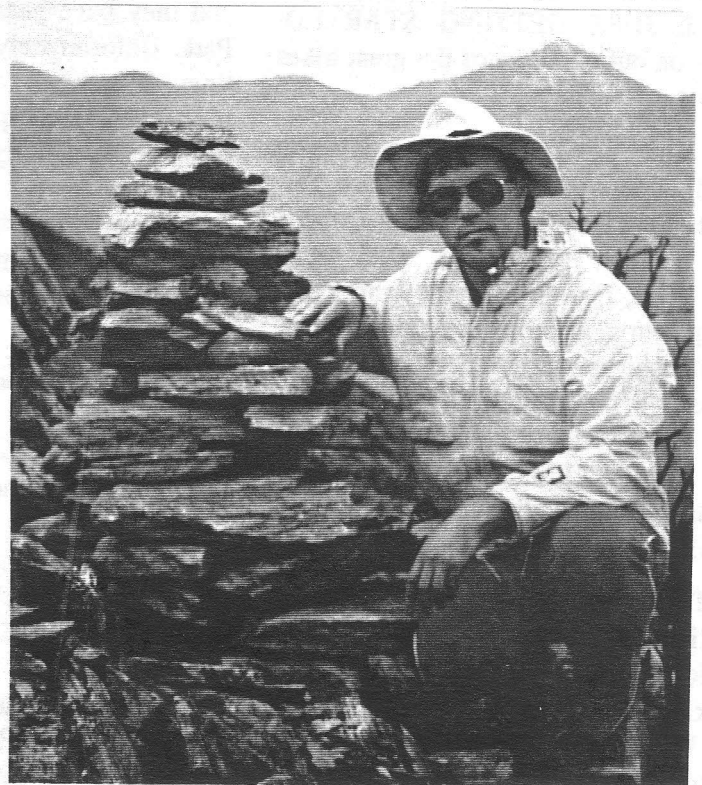
I again want to say "Congratulations" to all five Hiker of the Month winners. It takes extra effort to do the things they do so every one of us can benefit. When you see them be sure and say "Thanks".

"Afoot and light-hearted
I take to the open road...
the long brown path
before me leading
wherever I choose."

Walt Whitman 1819-1892

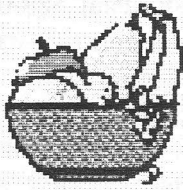
VI GRASSO DIES

Longtime LA hiker Vi Grasso died October 15 after signing in on Ken benchmark. The day was rainy and windy, which makes for very, very cold conditions on Ken. She was found a few hundred feet away from the summit on Oct 19 by Mountain Rescue teams. Ken BM is on the southern end of the Desert Divide, the mountain range south of San Jacinto. Initially it was thought she died of hypothermia, but the autopsy showed she had had a heart attack. Vi was a DPS and SPS list finisher with only 19 peaks left on the HPS. Abandoned at birth about 62 years ago and raised in an orphanage in Mexico, Vi worked as a paralegal. She was chair of the SPS and DPS in years past, but was still very active in the sections and was known as a strong hiker. I'll miss Vi. There is now a memorial cairn on Ken in her honor.



Silk flowers in Vi's memorial on Ken BM.

TRAIL TREATS (trailside chat)



SDPC is online at pfreiman@ucsd.edu. Please use this address to send e-mail. Our fax number is 583-0864.

Steve and Gail Cowen will open their Lakeside home (designed by Irving Gill and landscaped by Kate Sessions in a "Mission Revival Style") for the second annual **POTLUCK AND HIKERS' SOCIAL**, Sunday December 4. Last year's event was attended by thirty people, so don't be a wallflower, come out and say hello! Their address is 12332 Topa Hill Circle, Lakeside. Directions: From I-8, North on 67, right on Wintergardens, left on Woodside, go two blocks, then right on Prospect. Go two blocks, then left on Topa Hill From 3 - 7 PM.

CARL JOHNSON wanted to celebrate being 50 years old, so he ran the New York marathon. Time 4:29:54!!!

November 20th was **JIM SUGG Day** by official decree of the Mayor Golding. Jim has lead over 540 Walkabout hikes and has walked over 22,000 miles in the past 10 years. He has also donated 16.5 gallons of blood to the blood bank. We aren't sure how much blood he has "donated" to the brushy trails and the rattlesnake population.

Most of us would like to thank Dianne Feinstein for championing the **DESERT PROTECTION ACT** through Congress into law.

CAROL MURDOCK, TERRI ASTLE, and MIKE FRY met the unexpected in **ESCALANTE CANYON**. One night Mike and his wife, Karen, camped and comfortable after a day's journey, suddenly heard the thunderous sound of a flash flood. Soon they saw the water rapidly rising and thankful they were on high ground, watched it recede by morning. A week later Carol and her Sierra Club group arrived for a few day's outing. Carol's camper broke down (for the second year in a row) had her car break down (the second year in a row), so she appointed a temporary leader to guide the group and was towed to Las Vegas for repairs. The next day she met her group, then broke her glasses fighting through some trees. Next it was Terri's turn as she stepped in some "sucking mud" and was separated from her sole as

she pulled out her boot. Meanwhile, the rising, rapid river made crossing rather dangerous. An extra day was needed to search for a safe crossing area. Terri, however, says she loved the trip and is looking forward to next year. Suggestion for next year: Don't take Carol's car.

JERRY SCHAD is working to put his book on CD-ROM.

AL HOLDEN, that old finder of trails, has found another, the **OAKZANITA TRAIL**. Al will lead this new route January 2 as he starts up his new series of Monday hikes for the Sierra Club.

1465 HOURS were volunteered by the Laguna Mountain Volunteer Association, PCT Association, CCC, and the CDF honor camp crews to brush out seven miles of PCT, from Pioneer Mail to Scissors Crossing. Thank you to these wonderful people.

Buy a piece of the **RUTHERFORD RANCH**. 1,900 acres have been bought; 9,100 remain to be purchased. Among the rare plants and animals on the ranch are the golden eagle, southwestern pond turtle, San Diego mountain king snake, southern spotted owl, least Bell's vireo, mountain lion, Cooper's hawk, southern grasshopper mouse, Engelmann oak, San Felipe monardella, Banner dudleya and Cuyamaca gumplant. It cost \$2000 per acre. All donations are accepted. For more information on **VOLCAN MOUNTAIN** please call 595-5398, the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority.

Yet another photo of Dawn Peak.
(l-r) John Strauch, Mark Adrian, and Jerry Higgins





WEEKEND OUTINGS CALENDAR



DEC 4

POTLUCK and HIKER'S SOCIAL. Sunday. Steve and Gail Cowen. 12332 Topa Hill Circle, Lakeside. See their beautiful "Irving Gill" design with landscaping by Kate Sessions (who landscaped Balboa Park). North on 67, R-Woodside, go 2 blks, R-Prospect, go 2 blks, L-Topa Hill. 561-8990.

DEC 9-11

MILE HIGH, ROSA AND CALCITE MINE AREA. Richard Hughes and Doug Hansen. Fri-Sun. Sierra Club grade V15G. Leave San Diego Fri. night. Climb Mile High and Rosa peaks Sat. Explore the Calcite Mine area Sun. 287-3434. Not printed in Hi Sierran.

DEC 17

FISH CREEK HIKE. Paul 583-0266. By Split Mountain. This hike is a beauty and I'm the only one who leads it! Lots of bouldering. It will take all day. Topos - Plaster City NW, Carrizo Mtn NE, Borrego Mtn SE.

Merry



Christmas

DEC 27-JAN 2

COPPER CANYON. Carl 448-8542. Full with a waiting list. Next trip is in July.

JAN 2

OAKZANITA TRAIL. Al Holden 273-2494. Monday. New trail as Al starts up his new series of Monday hikes. See separate listing.

JAN 14-15

OROCOPIA MOUNTAIN. Terry Flood 729-8221. Join Terry in his long-awaited DPS list finish on a "local" mountain (north of the Salton Sea, East of Palm Springs). Coincidentally, it will also be his birthday. Send a large SASE to 4008 Garfield St, Carlsbad 92008. Sierra Club.

JAN 15

ORIENTEER. Dead Indian Wash. Palm Desert. Bill Gookin 578-9456. Sunday. As long as you're down in Palm Springs for Terry's list finish you might as well stop at the

JAN 28

FOUR FROGS/JACUMBA JIM. Paul 583-0266. See Schad, p. 276 for details of this four star hike. 8-9 hours.

FEB 4-5

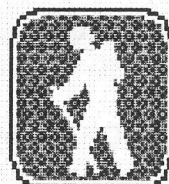
INDIAN CANYON/BORREGO PALM CANYON BACKPACK TRAVERSE. Paul 583-0266. See Schad, p. 195 for details of this strenuous five star hike.

FEB 11

OLD DAD MOUNTAIN. Dennis Richards 462-3643. This time it's Dennis' turn to finish the DPS list of 97 desert peaks, also on his birthday. He will be the grand age of 50! Sierra Club.

Coming up in March, April and May will be hikes to Hellhole Flat, Myers Valley, Rockhouse Canyon, Alcoholic's Pass, and Cactus Springtrail-Martinez Mountain-Valerie Jean's traverse. In January, I may resume taking "call" at work which may necessitate some adjustments in hike schedules.

SATURDAY WALKABOUT



HIKES with Wanda, Al and Jim

WANDA ZACK, whom many know as a longtime Sierra Club leader, has joined Jim and Al to start Saturday hikes for Walkabout. These have the same 0745 start time, from the same place, but are slightly shorter than the Wednesday hikes.

DEC 3 Heise Park. Pine Hills. Wanda.

JAN 7 Dead Horse Riding and Hiking - American Ranch Road loop. Wanda.

14 Cibbets Flat loop. Lagunas. Wanda.

21 West Mesa trail loop. Cuyamacas. Al.

28 Poway and Ramona Lakes loop with Jim.

FEB 4 Harvey Moore trail. Cuyamacas. Al.

