

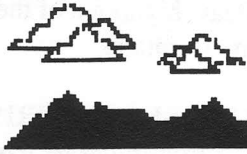
Hiking Horizons

"Taking you to new heights"

A Publication For Adventure Hikers of the San Diego Peaks Club

Vol 4, No. 6 (Issue 24)

May - June 1995



Views from the Top

LET'S GO RAFTING. The creeks are swollen so we're sure to have a swell time. I've procured the rafts at the rock-bottom price of \$75 for the weekend. The site is the upper and lower Kern River. The date is June 3-4. This trip is open to others outside the SDPC, so you can bring a friend.

The **USGS TOPO MAP ORDER** was a success beyond my wildest dreams. **661 MAPS** were ordered, **SAVING SDPC MEMBERS** between **\$1000 and \$2000**. I will try one more time if I can get an order for 200 maps. **GIVE ME A CALL WITH AN ESTIMATE OF HOW MANY MAPS YOU WANT TO ORDER.** I will arrange another mass order if I get enough requests. You have a week after this issue comes out to give me a call if you are interested.

Dues are coming due. I'm trying to keep it at \$12, despite the postal increase and an increase in the cost of the newsletter. **Renew TODAY!**

SDPC would like to welcome new members Andy Schouten, Ren Higgins, Bill Simmons, Voytek Najgrodski, Skip Forsht, and Will Phillips. Membership now totals 119.

ALERT! and HELP!

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK THREATENED

Supervisors Dianne Jacobs and Bill Horn are recommending:

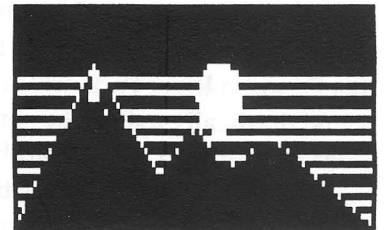
1. That the River Park (JPA) stop at I-15;
2. That the county's portion off River Park budget be reallocated to Supervisor Greg Cox's district for the Otay River Valley Regional Park;
3. That lands purchased by JPA with state bond prop 70 funds be retained by the county.

Background:

The San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) was formed in 1989 as a cooperative action by six agencies: the Cities of Del Mar, Escondido, Poway, Solana Beach, San Diego, and the County of San Diego. At that time, its jurisdiction, the focused planning area, was established as extending from the ocean at Del Mar to the source of the San Dieguito River, located on Volcan Mountain, just north of Julian.

When it was created, the JPA was given the responsibility for land acquisition, park planning, improvements, operations and maintenance that would transcend the boundary lines of its six member agencies. The JPA does not have zoning and permitting authority and does not impact private property rights.

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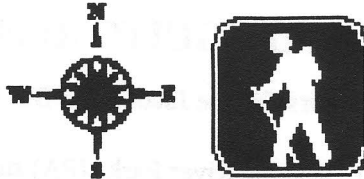
HIKER OF THE MONTH



The Hiker of the Month for May is **JOHN STRAUCH** for something dear to my heart—bridge playing. John and his partner, Evan Bailey, were crowned **NATIONAL CHAMPIONS** at a meet in Tucson in early April. National Open Pairs Champion is the top award in the world of bridge. This makes John the first three-time **HOTM**. He won it for finishing every hike in Schad's "Afoot and Afield in San Diego

County" and for completing the San Diego Peaks list of 112 peaks. John Strauch, "Club" champion!

The **HOTM** award for June goes to **MARK ADRIAN**. Mark currently



has 103 peaks to achieve the "macho" award for bagging 100 peaks on the list. He should earn the

"mega-macho" award for list completion in the fall. He has already finished the Desert Peaks list and hopes to finish the HPS and SDPC lists simultaneously on Comb's Peak, highpoint of the Bucksnort Mountains.

The **HOTM** for July is **CHRIS LANDA**. Chris and Mark have been helping me by putting nice register cans on the peaks, replacing, in some instances, plastic film containers. Chris recently passed the "50 peaks" mark to earn "mini-macho" status.

JPA CONTINUED

This action proposed by Supervisors Jacob and Horn would eliminate all park and trail planning east of Interstate 15. It would eliminate the county's financial contribution to the San Dieguito River Park, which would drastically reduce the parks ability to carry out its responsibilities, including ongoing park activities such as hikes, docent training, educational programs, tree-plantings, and trail maintenance. It would reduce the park's ability to seek additional grants for land acquisition and public park projects and to carry out those projects. It would eliminate Volcan Mountain and the river's source from the San Dieguito River Park and significantly reduce the current effort to purchase this magnificent property from a willing seller as public land. It would seriously jeopardize the existence of the JPA and its worthwhile programs, goals and objectives. It would imperil the lagoon

restoration planning effort, and the goals to create hiking, bicycling and equestrian trails from the ocean to the river's source.

HEARING: Tuesday June 6, at County Board of Supervisors, 9:30 AM, 1600 Pacific Coast Highway, 3rd floor.

WHAT TO DO: Call, fax, and attend the meeting. Don't let Jacobs, Horn and a small group of land owners destroy the JPA. They lost their court battle in November. Don't let them win by your apathy.

<u>Supervisors</u>	<u>phone</u>	<u>fax</u>
Greg Cox	531-5511	557-4025
Diane Jacobs	531-5522	696-7253
Pam Slater	531-5533	234-1559
Ron Roberts	531-5544	557-4025
Bill Horn	531-5555	557-4025

(Thanks to Britta Wichers of the JPA for this edited report).

ACT NOW



TRAIL TREATS

(trailside chat)



Foot Notes

Any members with an INTERNET address out there? E-mail me at pfreiman@ucsd.edu

My PLANTAR FASCITIS (inflammation of the heel of the foot) is *slowly* getting better. Last February I had to cancel the Hellhole Flat hike again (the first time canceled because of a rib inflammation after the Santa Rosa Ridge traverse). After the Pinyon Ridge traverse my foot was killing me. I took a month off of hiking and received acupuncture and a cortisone injection. It's getting stronger, but I'll lead easier hikes for the next few months to give my foot a rest. It's time to come up out of the desert anyway.

BETH DAVIS gave me the complete series of Marshal South's articles from 1940 to 1948, plus other articles from the Desert Magazine. The articles will appear frequently in Hiking Horizons.

As CAROL MURDOCK was traveling back from the desert the weekend of Feb 4-5, she spotted a cougar sauntering in an open field near Santa Ysabel.

RICHARD CAREY has a new phone number: 224-9900.

CARL JOHNSON has lately had a bit of trouble in Mexico. Thieves stole his group's radios and batteries. They did miss one of the batteries and it was used to start all the cars for the drive across the border.

BILL GOOKIN, originator of Gookinaid ERG, an isotonic drink similar to Gatoraid, was contacted by doctors going to Rwanda last year. They realized Bill's drink was the perfect vehicle to replenish dehydrated bodies. Five hundred pounds of powder were donated, all that there was room for in the transport plane.

Thank you's to Gail Hanna, Mark Adrian, Chris Landa and Wes Shelberg for contributing to the newsletter.

Feb 4-5 **Borrego Palm Canyon Traverse**. Eight adventurers (Lorin Mitts, Jerry Higgins and brother Ren (AKA Warren), Mary McLain, Ranchita Ted, John Strauch, Paul Stuverud, and myself) met at Lorin and Mary's home in Borrego, where we would end the traverse. Instead of starting the hike at Sheep Canyon and hiking up Indian Canyon as described in "Afoot and Afield...", I chose to start in the Indian Reservation at the headwaters of the north fork of Borrego Palm Canyon. We all loaded into Lorin's van and headed up to Los Coyote Indian Reservation for the start. HOTM Mary Mitts lent her valuable assistance and drove the car back to the house.

The Indians have the trail marked on the maps they give you when you pay your entrance fee (\$10 per vehicle for day use), but I think I'm the only one who has taken this trail in the past six years. We had a very easy time staying on the correct route since I had overducked it in the past. Marching along the streambed we came to a four-foot snake in the path. We weren't sure what it was, but knew it wasn't a rattler. I knew Ted would have to pick it up because, well, that's something Ted does. Impressively nonchalant as Ted lifted we then realized that it was either dead or too cold to move. We took our photos and continued on to Pike.

As we rested at BM Pike at 5640 feet, two F-18's skimmed the ridgetops off to the north about 500 feet below us. Adventurers that we were, we continued on and found the "mortero rock" that Schad describes. So deep, some of the morteros are worn clear through the rock! (I guess those Indians found chores a grind too--editor). Indian researcher Steve Cowen found intact pottery here. I know the thrill, because on Sunday I found 1/4th of a vase, complete with a curved lip. We left both pieces for others to find. Sunday, we hiked down or around numerous waterfalls and, 1/2 hour before finishing, went for a swim. The best part came when Mary welcomed us back home with homemade

soup, salad, ice cream and brownies—a caloric challenge that we embraced!

Feb 26 Pinyon Ridge Traverse. Great weather, good friends, good hike, good time. Six club members met in Ranchita for the passage down the Pinyon Ridge to Yaqui Pass. Beth Davis, Jerry Higgins, John Strauch, Paul Stuverud, and Lorin Mitts joined me for this scenic hike illustrated by map last issue. We had lunch on BM Wilson, leaving at noon to proceed with the crosscountry portion of the adventure. It was a pleasant 70 degrees as we passed a watering tank for the animals' use during the summer. Upon reaching the last knoll before the 200 foot descent to Yaqui Pass, Jerry spotted seven bighorn sheep. A delightful climax for the 8-hour hike, but the real climax of the day was soaking in the jacuzzi at Ram's Hill. Ah.....nature!

Mar 25-26 Cactus Springs Trail Traverse.

The weather wasn't just great for this hike: it was perfect. This trip started near Pinyon Flat Campground on the northeast side of Toro Peak with Tim and Suzanne Pletcher, Beth Davis, Jerry Higgins, Lorin Mitts, Charles Hummel, Carol Snyder, Mark Bender, and yours truly. Eight of us put our backpacks down near Cactus Spring and bagged Sheep Mountain which is on the HPS list while Mark watched the packs. I hadn't hiked for a month because of my foot, so I was a bit slower than the others. We returned to the packs after more than 3 hours, having hiked 1100 feet of gain and 4 miles RT. After lunch we set off to bag Martinez Peak (on the HPS and DPS lists which Carol is trying to complete).

As Beth and I were slowing down, I

encouraged the group to race on ahead, and go for the peak if they could get to the start point by 3:00 PM. After they started for the peak at 3:20, Beth and I went down the trail to fetch some water and find a good spot to camp. I was then to head back and lead the others. We got to water after 30 minutes and pumped five liters. I figured that was enough to last the night and breakfast, so Beth and I trudged back up the hill to await the others. Looking at my watch I said to Beth, "It's 5:30. I hope they've made the peak by now." About thirty seconds later I saw them coming down the hill. Everyone was back by 6:00. It was dark at 6:30. Martinez gained 1400 feet with a 4-mile RT. Without slowpokes they did it in 2 1/2 hours. Total time for day one—9.5 hours.

During the night the temp dropped to 24°F and everyone was warm—except Lorin. Let me tell you something about Lorin's pack: it's about the weight of a feather when fully loaded. I don't know how the man packs so light!

It warmed quickly to a very pleasant temp by the time we left at 8:00 AM. This section of the trip was spectacular. Pinyon pines, desert apricot, mountain mahogany, brittlebush, and more. I always enjoy exploring new area, but this was something special.

It took 80 minutes to reach Agua Alta Spring, where we had intended to spend Saturday night. The trail disappears after you leave Agua Alta, but a decent series of rock ducks lead the way. At 2:00 PM we were down to the 2000-foot level next to a cool, flowing stream with still about 10 miles to go and hopped back and forth across the year-round flow. Out at 5:00 PM we covered

17 miles that second day.

Special thanks go again to Lorin and Jerry for setting up the shuttle.

April 8-9 Santa Rosa Mountains, Barton Canyon Circumnavigation, by Mark Adrian



In my relentless pursuit of exploring remote and lonely places, I asked Paul Freiman to lead a trip to bag four of the benchmarks on his San Diego Peaks List that are in the Santa Rosa Mountains. These mountains must be the most rugged in our county, parts of which are incorporated into the newly-established 64,340 acre Santa Rosa Mountains Wilderness. Every time I hike these mountains, it is a very demanding experience.

We agreed to do this hike, including, Dawn BM (2795'), Alice BM (3594'), Crab BM (4485'), Zosel BM (4853') and Ruth BM (5070'). These BMs sit along the E spur ridges between Villager and Rabbit peaks, above the depths of Barton Canyon. Joining us were Lorin Mitts (of Borrego Springs) and John Strauch. We determined the best way to approach this project was the Coachella Valley side of the Santa Rosas. So, we began our trek by parking at the end of Fillmore Road, just NW of the town of Oasis at -80'.

Saturday afternoon, we departed about 5 PM to establish a base camp up Barton Canyon at about 1000' and get an early start Sunday morning to avoid the scorching desert sun. It took us about 2.5 hours to hike through several orange groves, some abandoned dirt roads, then up a rocky wash to our camp.

