

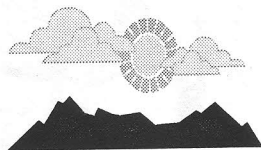
Hiking Horizons

"Taking you to new heights"

A Publication For Adventure Hikers of the San Diego Peaks Club

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Views from the Top

ATTENTION ALL CELLULAR PHONE USERS

I have recently heard that all cellular phones can call 911 while inactivated. SO...here's what you can do. Phone companies are giving phones away at no cost to the user as long as you use their service. Most contracts enact penalties if you stop phone service within one year. After one year, then, it's a better deal to get a new phone plus 1000 minutes of free talking (an advertisement I've seen). So what do you do with your old deactivated cellular phone? Three guesses....That's right. You give it to SDPC so that we can use it in an emergency to call 911. Please help us. There must be some members who have had their phones for over one year.

A few people have called about another map order with the USGS. Sorry, folks, but there isn't a price break for ordering in large quantity anymore. Until recently maps cost \$2.50, and if you ordered 200 maps they charged only \$1.25. Currently they sell for \$4.00 per map with a \$3.50 handling charge per order—no bulk discounts any longer. I have the ordering information for anyone who is interested, but I'll not order in bulk again unless the pricing changes.

Please welcome new club members Tim Downey, Steve Garvin, Sharlene Bauer, Jack Van Sambeek, Christina Wire, and James Trent.

What a trip!

Eighty athletic hikers attempted the Outlaw trail, an 8,000 foot ascent from downtown Palm Springs to the tram, with 25 deciding to bag the peak, Mt San Jacinto, for a 10,400 foot dayhike. SDPC member Tim Downey sprinted past everyone and reached the top in 7 hours (i.e., 1500 feet per hour!).

I picked a heck of a day to do this trip. I purposely chose a joint venture with the DPS from LA, but didn't know the Coachella Valley Hiking Club (CVHC) was doing their 3rd annual hike with 38 people on that day, too. Combine this with 16 hikers from the DPS and 17 from SDPC, 3 all the way from San Jose, and 6 independents and you have an eventful day. For those of you who hate hiking in crowds, it wasn't bad. The CVHC started, as SDPC did, from the Ramon Road trailhead. Their "peak group" started at 5:00 AM and their "tram group" started at 5:45 AM. SDPC started at 6:10 AM. Meanwhile, the DPS was starting the shorter Desert Museum route at 5:30 AM. Tim passed many people, but we tortoisians didn't meet too many. More information inside in John McCully's write-up.



In this issue

Hiker of the Month.....	2
<i>Jerry Schad, what hasn't he done!</i>	
Foot Notes.....	3
<i>Outlaw Trail</i>	
Calendar of Events	4-5
<i>Hellhole Flat, Recluse Springs and Rockhouse</i>	
Outlaw trail topo map.....	6-7
More Foot Notes.....	8-11
<i>Sierra Summer by Betty Hobert</i>	

HIKER OF THE MONTH

The Hiker of the Month (HOTM) for November is **JERRY SCHAD**. Why, you say? Well, what hasn't he done? You pick an accomplishment. Do you want to choose one of his hiking books? one of his cycling books? his CD-ROM or his new physical science book? none of these please you? OK, there's still his Reader column.

On Indianhead recently, we noticed that new member **TIM DOWNEY** was one of the last people to have signed the register; he had labeled himself

either a tortoise or snail compared to the friend he was hiking with. Yet he climbed from downtown Palm Springs (elev. 500 feet) to San Jacinto Peak (10,800 feet) in 7 hours. Therefore, the HOTM for December goes to Tim for his very un-snail-like ascent of the Outlaw Trail. Tim, we nickname you "Superslug"!

DONNA and EDWIN GOOKIN are the HOTM in January for their US Orienteering Championship wins.



TRAIL TALK

My E-MAIL ADDRESS is hikerpaul@aol.com.

I have a report of a **BEAR TAKING FOOD** from an SDPC member at Mammoth this year. The only solace the unfortunate hiker had is that there were 5 pounds of prunes among the vittles. Could this be how the name Pooh Bear originated?

The **SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK**, responding to the fears of private property owners, voted to take additional steps to protect private property within their focus area at the September meeting. Although the Park has never participated in hostile condemnation and even lacks primary land use authority, the private property owners in the Ramona-Santa Ysabel area still felt that mere inclusion in the Park's focused planning area was big government violating their God-given-rights. If you recall,

Supervisor Ron Roberts was the only person to side with the Park at the June meeting. The Park Board thus clarified the plan and made further guarantees that the Park will not recommend or participate in hostile takeover.

A word of thanks goes to SDPC members Jerry Schad and Richard Ulery for being members of the Park. If you wish a complete event schedule call 235-5440 x5. They have a San Pasqual hike Sunday, Nov 26, at 8:30 and a Lake Hodges hike on Sat, Dec 16th, at 9 AM.

The **ANZA-BORREGO FOUNDATION** acquired 517 acres in 1994 for \$67,000. The goal for 1995 has been the valued Sentenac Canyon, a beautiful riparian area at the eastern terminus of Anza-Borrego near Scissors Crossing. If you wish to donate services or money, write to ABF, PO Box 2001, Borrego Springs 92004.

An impending decision on the closure of **COYOTE CANYON** draws closer. As of 11-12-95, State Park authorities have com-

pleted gathering public opinion on the matter. The probable closure for cars involves only a 3.1 mile section between Middle and Upper Willows. It will not affect hikers and mountain bikers. Of course, the Coyote Canyon Clunker Classic mountain bike ride in which 300-400 cyclists ride through the canyon will end, but individual riders will not be affected.

GAIL HANNA has been elected to the Board of Directors for the San Diego County Trails Council. The Council aims to resurrect the California Riding and Hiking Trail. Thank you, Gail, for volunteering.

RICHARD HUGHES' rock climbing group, Los Alpinistas, and the SD Sierra Club calendar are on-line at URLs <http://www-alpinistas.ucsd.edu> or <http://132.239.105.50/> respectively.

In the Sept-Oct issue an article stated, "The State Fish and Game is due to release forty-eight wild turkeys in the Cleveland National Forest in February and March of '95. Sixteen of the turkeys will be released in Laguna Meadow...." Did you see the headlines in the Union-Tribune on Thanksgiving

TRAIL TALK

continued from page 2

Day? **“WILD TURKEYS EVICTED FROM PARK.”** Seems the turkeys, introduced in 1993 to Cuyamaca, may be eating sensitive plants and endangered animals. A couple of environmental groups have sued Fish and Game to do a lengthy environmental impact report saying, “This action is for the entertainment of a special interest group and it just has no relation to biology or protecting (the) environment whatsoever.” (Union-Tribune, p. A-26, Thurs., 11-23-95).

DONNA AND EDWIN GOOKIN won the US Long-O Championships in their age and gender groups. Long-O is a type of orienteering in which the course stretches 1.5 times as long as usual. The San Jose meet ran 4.5 miles with over 1200 feet of climbing. The Long-O puts an emphasis on fitness and navigation.



Foot Notes

The Outlaw Trail -- Palm Springs To The Top Of The Tram

by John McCully

In his San Bernadino Mountain Trails John Robinson states that the 8,000 foot gain Outlaw trail from Palm Springs to Long Valley was originally an Indian trail. His more recent The San Jacintos notes that the trail was improved in 1933 by a labor gang using Riverside County and State funds. Sid Davis led some folks up this trail over the years but by 1977 it had been almost completely overgrown and forgotten. On Memorial Day that year HPSers Bobcat Thompson, Ray Riley and Ron Webster followed it up to the tram and went on to bag San Jacinto, thus creating a day hike of close to 10,400 feet. They documented this feat in the HPS newsletter that summer, and led the hike as an official HPS trip on Memorial Day the following year, attracting about 15 participants, about half of whom topped out on San Jac. In 1979 these three tigers led it a 2nd time as a scheduled HPS hike, and almost everyone managed the peak. Our three pathfinders decided not to continue this Memorial Day extravaganza,

however, perhaps because of the horrible manzanita at about 6,000 feet. It's difficult to describe how nasty this manzanita was, and how difficult it was to find a way through it. In the fall of 1980, however, a huge fire burned off most of the brush on the hillside and enough trail maintenance has occurred in the years since to keep the route in good shape. I've received only a few scratches in the many times I've done this hike in shorts.

An average DPSer can probably get to the tram in between 6 and 8 hours unless it's hot or the snow is bad. Tigers claim to do it in four hours, Erik Siering and Ron Hudson both recently got to the tram in 5 (and did the peak and got back to the tram in another 4). On November 12 Jim Brown pulled out the stops and got to the tram in 4 1/2 hours, the fastest time yet by anyone I personally know. I would say that this hike is harder than San Gorgonio via Vivien Creek but is easier than either Big Iron or Big Rabbit. Being able to take the tram down makes all the difference.

Trail Description, Palm Springs To Upper Tram Station

Disclaimer: This trail involves a great deal of altitude gain (8,000+ feet) and a considerable horizontal distance (9 or 10 miles) and should not be undertaken except by people with the conditioning and experience to handle such an undertaking. The map and this description may contain errors that could cause one to get into difficulty. Evelyn Reher, who does volunteer rangering in Long Valley, notes that the rangers try to discourage folks from doing this trail, and about once a year they have to rescue people who have gotten into trouble on it. The most common cause of difficulty is running out of water, but sometimes people just run out of strength or get off trail.

If you find yourself at any point off the trail you should go back to where you lost it and find it again. It can be dangerous to continue off trail for more than a minute or two as you may not be able to find the trail again. Trying to go cross county is extremely difficult and dangerous because of almost impassable brush and severe rock formations. There is always a trail. Make sure you keep on the trail. There are two starting points for the trail. I prefer the Museum Trail but most folks use the Carl Lykken Trail.

CARL LYKKEN TRAIL: This starting point is at the West end of Ramon Road (520 feet). Ramon Rd crosses Palm Canyon Drive (State 111) just before it makes a slight turn to the East after passing through downtown Palm Springs. In the fall of 1995, Calidad Road, which intersects Ramon one block from its West end, had no houses or signs restricting parking. A wide horse trail heads North from the

Continued on page 8



WEEKEND OUTINGS



DEC 9-10 HELLHOLE FLAT. Borrego. Lots of possible peakbagging (Thimble, Hob, Peak 5386, etc.) or just relaxing while walking on the flats. Participants decide the trip. Paul 583-0266. Enter at Ranchita and exit at information center in Borrego (car shuttle).

DEC 17 Sun. ORIENTEERING. North Park. Christmas Lights Night-0. Mary and John Barry 297-5895.

DEC 26-JAN 1 COPPER CANYON. Mexico. Carl Johnson 448-8542.

JAN 6 COWLES MOUNTAIN the Carl Johnson way. 448-8542. Sierra Club. 4 hours of hiking.

JAN 6-7 RECLUSE SPRINGS RELICS AND PINTO CANYON PETROGLYPHS. Jacumba Outstanding Natural Area Wilderness. Paul 583-0266. I'm toying with the idea of driving in Davies Valley (see Mark Adrian's article in Footnotes), hiking down to Pinto Canyon to the petroglyph site, then up Pinto to Recluse Springs and out the standard Schad route by the freeway.

JAN 11 Thurs. ORIENTEERING PROGRAM. SDPC member Gail Hanna will give a demonstration of maps and orienteering equipment and will explain how the "thinking sport" can add a new perspective to your hiking activities. A short video will also be shown. Attendees receive a free pass to a future novice course at an SDO meet. Call Rob Langsdorf at 459-1726 for the meeting location. All welcome. This is a SC PCT Section meeting.

JAN 14 Sun. ORIENTEERING. Palm Desert. Dead Indian Wash. Madonna Bentz and Bill Gookin 578-9456.

JAN 27-28 RETURN TO RED TOP AND SAWTOOTH MOUNTAINS. This is going to be a great trip and not too hard. Start at McCain Valley and descend the Pepperwood Trail (see Schad, p. 275) to Canebrake Wash. Walk across the wash and climb the saddle betwixt Red Top and Sawtooth. Set up camp. Bag Red Top and Sawtooth peaks if you wish. Sunday hike goes along the creek to Inner Pasteur, over to Moonlight Wash, and out to Agua Caliente Hot Springs where we

can soak our cares away. Paul 583-0266.

FEB 3 EL CAJON MOUNTAIN. Carl Johnson's annual pilgrimage. 448-8542. SC.

FEB 10-11 ORIENTEERING. Mission Trails Park. Sat. Course Setters workshop. Sun. Variety-O meet. Bill Gookin 578-9456.

FEB 17-19 KOFA CAR CAMP with Carl Johnson. 448-8542. Climb Signal Peak and Castle Dome. If you haven't hiked in this area (by Yuma) you have missed some beautiful mountains only three hours drive from San Diego. Sierra Club. Sign up quickly!

MAR 2 SAN DIEGO RIVER with Carl Johnson 448-8542. Another annual pilgrimage. See Schad, p. 119. 11 hour dayhike. Strenuous.

MAR 2-3 HIKE OF THE YEAR. Rockhouse Canyon to Valerie Jean. Joint SDPC-DPS hike. We will enter Rockhouse, climb the Santa Rosa Ridge, and drop into Martinez Canyon to exit at Valerie Jean (Indio). Very strenuous. Paul 583-0266

MAR 17 Sun. ORIENTEERING. Point Loma Training Event. Ruth Simons. Call Paul 583-0266.

MAR 30-APR 6 COPPER CANYON with Carl Johnson. 448-8542.



SATURDAY WALKABOUT



HIKES with Wanda and Bill

Wanda Zack and Bill Babcock lead Saturday hikes for Walkabout. These have the same 0745 start time, from the same place, but are slightly shorter than the Wednesday hikes. Wanda's number is 292-9136. Bill's is 495-9141.

- DEC 2** Pine Valley loop. 9 miles.
- 9** East Mesa Boundary Road—new trail.
- 16** Oakzanita Peak.
- 27** Weds hike. Pine Valley loop repeat.

- JAN 3** Weds hike. Dead Horse trail.
- 6** Mt Woodson north side, Fry trail. Bill Babcock.
- 13** San Pasqual Valley. 9 miles.
- 20** El Capitan with Bill Babcock. 9 miles.
- 27** Mission Trails—Padre Dam—hike to Fortuna..

