

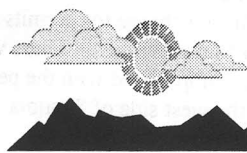
Hiking Horizons

"Taking you to new heights"

A Publication For Adventure Hikers of the San Diego Peaks Club

Vol 5, No 5 (Issue 29)

April-May 1996



Views from the Top

SWAP MEET

We're going to have a **SWAP MEET** and **POTLUCK** at Al Holden's home. It's tough to know when to have the event, not wanting to disturb any weekend plans. We scheduled it for Wednesday, April 24 from 6:00-9:00pm. I know I have some size 10.5 boots and some crosscountry skis to sell. What about you? See ya there. Al lives in Pacific Beach. 273-2494. Leave I-5 at Grand and go west. North at Fanuel. West on Tourmaline to 1134 Tourmaline. If you don't want to sell or buy, just come to eat!

Running the club sure has been fun since I started it in May, 1991. It's a kick to look back at the first few **HIKING HORIZONS** and to see how far the design and content has come. Remembering the canoe and raft trips, the new trails, the urgent issues (like the County Supervisors attack on the San Dieguito River Park), and most of all the unique adventure hikes that have been reported the past six years keeps giving me inspiration. Dues are coming due June 1 and have I got a deal for you. If you renew for two year you only pay \$28, and if you renew for three years you only pay \$38, rather than \$45. Just think, you will be getting **HIKING HORIZONS** and staying tuned into the local scene until the next century (June 1999)! Of course, if were one of the members that took advantage of the SDPC map buy that bought 882 USGS maps and saved members \$2500 over current prices; well, I don't have to explain to you how valuable the club is. I am biased, but I know how much time this takes and you guys and gals are getting a **great** deal.

A **CANOE TRIP** is scheduled for April 13-14. See Weekend Calendar for more details.

Welcome new members Joe Cochran, Suzanne Ray, David Willoughby and Peter Hohnemann. SDPC has 133 members.

I have reduced the font size to 9 in this issue. The previous issue was 10. Please let me know if you have a hard time reading this size print.

WHITNEY PERMIT RULES CHANGE

Wilderness reservations will be taken by the Wilderness Reservation Service for the Inyo National Forest starting April 1, 1996. All quota trails on the Inyo National Forest will be 100% reservable. Reservations will be accepted until two days before entry on the trail. Permits will be mailed to the party leader. If requested, or if the reservation is made within a week of entry, the permit will be sent to the Ranger Station chosen by the reserver. Any unreserved permits will be available starting the day before entry at the ranger station. Permits for non-quota trails will also be reservable.

Mt. Whitney hikers will be required to have a special stamp on their permit to enter the Mt. Whitney Zone no matter what their entry trail is. The zone boundaries are: to the east, just above Lone Pine Lake; to the west, at the outlet of Timberline Lake; and to the north, along the Sequoia N.P. Inyo N.F. boundary to Mt. Russell (on the west side of the boundary line). See zone map for more details. Day hikers will also need a permit to enter the zone. Hikers wishing to hike Mt. Whitney during the full moon without camping will be able to use a day hike permit with a special full moon stamp. Next year an overnight permit will be required. All Whitney permits are reservable. Reservations will be taken by phone, fax or mail (postmarked no earlier than April 1) at the following:

Wilderness Reservations

P.O. Box 430

Big Pine, CA 93513

(610) 938-1136

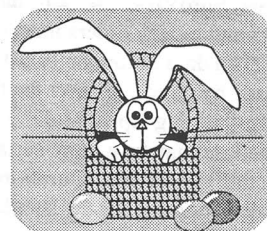
Fax & TTY: (619) 938-1137

Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 7 days a week.

There will be a toll free 800 number available April 1 for callers in the USA (That number is: 1-888-374-3773).

The reservation service will be located in Big Pine in the office of the Big Pine Chamber of Commerce and Visitor

Center located at 126 S. Main St. (Hwy 395). They will be open during business hours for walk-in business. The reservation fee schedule is:



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HIKER OF THE MONTH

Who carries a tent, lantern, extra food, and 4-5 gallons of water on every backpack AND carries the whiner's pack (see Santa Rosa Traverse story on page 5) uphill 2000 feet? The human mule, **JERRY HIGGINS**, that's who. Jerry joined the club after I saw his name in the register on Dawn's Peak and gave him a call. He had done it a week before in the rain and solo. Now that's adventure hiking! This earns him the April Hiker-of-the-Month award.

MARK ADRIAN gets the May award. He has entertained you with his near-death articles. Mark finished the DPS list a few years ago amid a mountain rescue (one of his party severely broke her arm). Hopefully he won't have any bad luck as he finishes both the HPS and SDPC lists on Comb's Peak, the local highpoint of the Bucksnot Mountain range. Mark won't commit to a list finish date at press time, either April or May. Good luck, Mark.

WHITNEY continued from page 1

Overnight permit (quota trails): \$3.00 per person

Mt. Whitney Zone stamp (on overnight permits): \$1.00 per person

Mt. Whitney Day hiker: \$2.00 per person

Non-quota trails: \$3.00 per person

Payment will be accepted by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover Card and EuroVisa), check or money order.

Checks and money orders must be received at least seven days before entry date if reservations are made by phone. Expect the telephones to be very busy during April. Mailing or faxing applications may be a more certain way of contacting the service. Questions about trail conditions or other details should be directed to the Ranger Station.

"Attached is information about the Mt Whitney areas, signed by the superintendent. The intent is to identify a strategy to collect data, recognize resource impacts, and design a use system to mitigate the impact of very heavy visitation in the Mt Whitney area. This is a joint project between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park and the Inyo National Forest. To help you and the visitors understand where we are going, I have listed some "talking points" that will answer some of the questions visitors may have regarding the "Mt Whitney special use zone."

' Where is the Mt. Whitney Zone?

This is the roughly a 3 square mile area from just west of Whitney Portal to the summit of Mt Whitney and west to Timberline Lake near Crabtree. This area is managed as wilderness to the east by the Inyo National Forest and to the west by Sequoia National Park

' What will this plan do?

This plan will cap use at current levels.

' When will this plan be implemented?

Summer, 1996

' Who will be required to have a special permit to hike to the summit of Mount Whitney?

Everyone. Backpackers must still obtain a wilderness permit. Entry into this zone will require a visa type stamp added to that permit. The big change is that day hikers in route to the summit of Mt Whitney will be required to have a permit. Day use around Whitney Portal and up to Lone Pine Lake, 2.5 mile beyond the Whitney Portal trailhead, will not require a permit.

' Where can we obtain a permit?

Wilderness permits for backpackers entering trails on the west side of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National parks will be issued at all of the existing stations. Permit for day users and backpackers entering from the east will be issued from a USFS contractor beginning April 1 1996.

' What about the backpacker on the PCT who is unsure of what specific date they will arrive to climb Mt Whitney?

Pacific Crest, John Muir, and High Sierra trail hikers will be able to secure a stamp from the issuing station when they obtain their backcountry permit that allow entry into the Whitney Zone. This stamp permits flexibility for these hikers in their

entry date.

' Is this meant to decrease use?

No. It is meant to determine current use levels and hold use there. Use figures over the past years indicate a substantial increase in the number of day users. Today, an estimated 40,000 users enter this area annually.

' How will quotas be established?

Existing use will be counted and quotas will be based on past use.

' Will there be extra fees?

There will be a charge for permits issued from the Inyo National Forest. There will be no charge for the stamp issued with the permit from trailheads on the west side of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

" Will day permits be reservable?

Yes, through the Inyo National Forest contractor.

" What happens if someone enters the special use zone without a permit?

They would be cited for a violation of regulations the same as a backpacker without a permit.

" What about foreign traveler and those unfamiliar with the system?

Not everyone who wants to spontaneously include Mt Whitney as a side trip will be able to.

" Will use be reduced in the future?

We really don't know. We will continue to monitor impacts to resources and social conditions, our ability to manage and administer use, impacts to local communities and effects on other wilderness areas before making any decisions on decreasing or increasing use.

" I don't like this. How can I influence this decision, or appeal it?

This is an administrative decision made by the Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and the Forest Supervisor for Inyo National Forest. Since the landscape is not being altered nor are we making changes that will increase or decrease use this action is not subject to NEPA regulations or appeal. However the Park Superintendent and the forest Supervisor do want to know how the public feels about our management of the wilderness. It is our charge to be good stewards of these resources and serve the public.

- Tom Tschohl, District Ranger
Tom_Tschohl@NPS.GOV

- Ralph Moore, Wilderness Coordinator
Ralph_Moore@NPS.GOV
209-565-3708

WHITNEY continued on page 6

TRAIL TALK

•**A-16 and REI**, the two most popular backpacking stores in San Diego, have copies of the current **HIKING HORIZONS**. So, if you meet someone on the trail or want to tell a friend about the Peaks Club, you can refer them to these stores to check out the latest newsletter. I will also try to alert you to interesting slide presentations and other events at these stores.

•**USGS MAPS**. Your investigative reporter (move over, Geraldo) has unearthed the secrets of the new pricing structure. Gone are the discounts for ordering 200+ maps, now you have to order five of the same map and you get a 40% discount (ie. \$2.40 each), otherwise maps are \$4.00 each. The initial order under the new rules has to be over \$500. That's part one. Part two is you have to sign a "business partner" agreement that requires a retail or nonprofit license. Stay tuned. We may be able to have some future map buys!

•Dave Jurasevich sent me this note, "As you already know, I reported on the great **MAP STORE** in Tuscon that Mark and I discovered during our last trip there. I called them today to mail order a number of maps of interest in Arizona. They charge \$4.85/map and can ship UPS, FED EX, PRIORITY MAIL or whatever you wish. If you order 50 or more maps, they throw in a 15% discount, making each map only \$4.12. This is only 12 cents more than the USGS Denver charges, but you get them shipped the next day after ordering (no 6-8 week wait) and you do not pay sales tax! I've just placed an order for over 50 maps but will probably order more in a few months. If you'd like we could go in together on the next order to get the 15% discount. The price of 7.5 min, 1:100,000 and 1:250,000 maps are all the same."

(Sounds better than the USGS, but I have plans to go to the local merchants (A-16, REI and Sports Chalet) to see if they will give discounts to club members. I'll try and do this soon, and I'll let you know by the next newsletter.—Paul)

•Want to complete the **SDPC LIST** of peaks and benchmarks? Go with Al on Mondays! During the past six months Al sez he has bagged 40 of the list (See Footnotes).

•Learn **TRACKING, NATURE AND WILDERNESS SURVIVAL SKILLS** from the teachings of Tom Brown, Jr with Barry Martin and the Friends of Los Penasquitos. Class size is limited. Dates: March 29-31. Over 24 hours of instruction. Cost: \$50 (What a deal!) Call 484-4007 to reserve your space. (Thanks to Betty Rose.)

•**TRAIL WORK** on the Cutca Valley Trail in the Agua Tibia Wilderness will take place April 20-21 and May 18-19. Please see the Weekend Calendar section for more details. Gail Hanna 524-1699(w) or 272-5141(h).

•That movin' guy, **KEN OLSON**, has another new address. He is residing in Talmadge at 4857 Lorraine Dr, San Diego, CA 92115-1918. Phone is 583-0001. (He always gets the neat phone numbers from working for the phone company, but he is retiring in a few months. Hey, Mark, a hiking buddy!)

•Member Dan Davis reports on the Jamul Trails Association, "Some time back they were involved in the County's aquisition of Sequan Pk as some sort of preserve. They have recently been working to join sections of the CRHT which are missing (legally) between Hwy 94 and Japatul Rd. The most exciting of their endeavors is an attempt to

construct a new and legal trail up **LYON'S PEAK**. This is in my opinion the finest chaparral peak in San Diego County. "...they have the permission of a property owner to construct a trail on land near the existing road. No one has shown me on a map, but it sound like it would be west of the road toward the west side of the mountain. A horse gate is the owner's only request. The woman who was leading the trail effort took a break due to back surgery, but she is now recovered and getting back to it. I'm very excited and will keep you informed when I have something substantial."

•The San Diego Peaks Club is on the **INTERNET!** Check sites: http://io.datasys.swri.edu/PATC/email_tc.html or <http://io.datasys.swri.edu/Hclubs.html>



Foot Notes

STOP THE PRESSES! by Al Holden

Stop the presses! Al Holden gets GOAT on his fourth try (with a little help from his friends)! Can I get away with saying the topo map is wrong? The Hellhole Flat hike was a classic, ten exhilarating, strenuous hours.

We began from the jeep road south of Thimble at 7:45 am and got Hob at 9:15. By noon we had tagged San Ysidro Mountain (Peak 5386) and were lunching on its false summit overlooking Borrego Springs. Now downridge and over and up to the Sirens (4401') by 2pm. What a fun scramble! Now THAT'S a worthy addition to our list! Spent some time searching for "Tuck". Found two reference markers, but the benchmark is out in the flat somewhere, probably inside a catclaw bush. Our Indian Guide, Ranchita Ted, then led us to a Native American village site and then down into the North Fork of Hellhole Canyon to a secluded campsite in the sycamores by a perennial stream. Then up and over to a ridgepoint overlooking a vast expanse of rockpiles, one of them being "Goat". I was only half jesting when I suggested that the eight of us each pick a rockpile and go for it, when Richard Whitcomb took out his binoculars and spotted the register cairn. Eureka! Bagged the Goat at 4:30 and back to the vehicles at 5:40. The other hikers in this great group were Sue Holloway, Virginia Columin, Richard Pakijian, Ron Lucas and Carl Peterson.

The Monday hikes are going great, each one a gem. By May 1 we will have visited 40 SDPC peaks since November 1.

MARK'S NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

by Mark Adrian

This past Saturday (2/24/96) a private trip to climb Cerro Pescadores in Baja, about 20 miles south of Mexicali, took an unexpected turn of events. Departing Calexico about 6 AM Saturday morning, our group of four trucks quickly passed through the border and caravanned south on MEX 5, following the DPS's updated 9.1 DRIVE guide (see Sage #240, pp 52). Our original plan was to climb Cerro P. and Mexican BM Puerta to its NW as an exploratory since it's not clear which is the exact range highpoint.

Near the base of "7 antennae hill" the second-in-line of our four
NEAR DEATH continued on page 11



WEEKEND OUTINGS



MAR 29-31 TRACKING CLASS. See Trail Talk for more details.

MAR 30 Sat. COYOTE CANYON AREA. Tule Canyon-Nance Canyon-PCT loop. Paul 583-0266.

MAR 30-APR 6 COPPER CANYON with Carl and Nancy Johnson 448-8542. Join them for a special Easter trip as they visit the Tarahumaras in Mexico. 8 days, 7 nights, \$835 including air.

APR 13-14 CANOE TRIP. Walter's Camp to Lake Martinez. Two 18 mile days. Cost is about \$85. Paul 583-0266.



APR 20 Sat. ORIENTEERING. West Mesa of Cuyamaca. Call Jim Lingar 437-0329 or Paul 583-0266.

APR 20-21 AGUA TIBIA BACKPACKS AND TRAIL WORK. Volunteers are needed for a moderate backpack in scenic Cutca Valley to a relaxing camp by a flowing stream. We hope to complete work on the Cutca Trail below the Palomar Divide (Forest Service provides tools). We'll clear brush, cut small limbs and make a route to Eagle Crag Peak open to hikers. Another trip is scheduled for May 18-19. For either trip call Gail Hanna 524-1699(w) or 272-5141(h). SC

APR 20-21 JOHN MUIR CELEBRATION AND SOMBRERO PEAK CLIMB. Carol Murdock's annual event honoring the founder of the Sierra Club. McCain Valley. Last year it was snowed out! Call 463-1279. SC

APR 24 Wed. SWAP MEET and POTLUCK. Pacific Beach. Al Holden 273-2494. Leave I-5 at Grand and go West to Fanuel. North on Fanuel to West on Tourmaline to 1134 Tourmaline Street. If you don't want to sell or buy, just come to eat!

APR 24-29 PCT, JAWBONE CANYON SOUTH TO TEHACHAPI. The BBBs are at it again. Odella 571-0471.

APR 27 Sat. CALIFORNIA STATE TRAILS DAY. This is a "work day" to improve trails and natural habitat at Mission Trails Regional Park. Trail work from 9am to 1pm. RSVP Maryanne at 563-5025.

MAY 1 HAPPY 3RD ANNIVERSARY, MY LOVELY EDITOR! (Vicki isn't editing this issue due to time constraints—PF)

MAY 4 MORENA BUTTE. Paul 583-0266. Join me as I lead a troop of Boy Scouts on my favorite "city" peak. Driving is one hour one-way. Hike is about 5 hours.

MAY 5 Sun. SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK TRAIL RUN. 8am. 6 mile run, 4 mile hike. The run begins at Kit Carson Park behind North County Fair. The course will wind through a portion of the SDRP "Coast to Crest Trail" along the north shore of Lake Hodges past streams, under trees, over bridges, and finish on the shore of beautiful Lake Hodges. This is a great event for the whole family. I went to it last year and had a great time. There is a pancake breakfast, Pizza Port micro brewed beer garden, live music and dancing, and the best thing is that the proceeds benefit San Dieguito River Park, a park that is preserving natural open space and creating trails for hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. Contact Kathy Loper Events 298-7400.

MAY 11 SAN JAC DAYHIKE. Lily Rock loop. Al 273-2494. OK people, now's your chance to hike with Al on a Saturday!

MAY 11-19 ESCALANTE CANYON. BBB members Carol Murdock (463-1279) and Terri Astle (571-0471) are leading their 3rd annual Utah adventure. This is an SC event so numbers are limited.

MAY 18-19 AGUA TIBIA BACKPACKS AND TRAIL WORK. Volunteers are needed for a moderate backpack in scenic Cutca Valley to a relaxing camp by a flowing stream. We hope to complete work on the Cutca Trail below the Palomar Divide (Forest Service provides tools). We'll clear brush, cut small limbs and make a route to Eagle Crag Peak open to hikers. Gail Hanna 524-1699(w) or 272-5141(h). SC

MAY 25 3RD ANNUAL POODLE HIKE. Al 273-2494. The group tackles Toro Peak and Santa Rosa Mountain. Strenuous.

MAY 25-27 ORIENTEER. Pacific Crest O-Fest. Wooded Hill, Laguna. This is the big three day meet of the year. I can't wait! Bill Gookin 578-9456 or Paul 583-0266.

MAY 25-27 BIG PICACHO BACKPACK. Carl Johnson 448-8542. Climb via Canon Providencia, the desert side. Extremely strenuous. This hike is best suited for those that have climbed the peak by other routes. Needed- car campers at the trailhead.

JUNE 1 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY. A full day of activities- hikes, mountain bike rides, displays, exhibits, refreshments, etc at Mission Trails Park, organized by the San Diego County Trails Council. Look for flyers and publicity. Contact the Park or call SDPC/SDCTC member Gail Hanna at 524-1699(w).

JUNE 8 SAN JAC DAYHIKE. Al 273-2494. 3rd annual trip to Tahquitz, Red Tahquitz, South Peak and Ansell Rock via the old Sam Fink trail. Excellent trip. Strenuous. All day.

JULY 20-25 ROCK CREEK CAR CAMP. Tom's Place, Sierras. BBB members Terri Sutor and Terri Astle (571-0471) are leading five days of dayhikes. This event was very well received last year.

JUNE 22 SAN JAC DAYHIKE. Al 273-2494. This hike will attempt to go crosscountry from Suicide Rock to Marion Mountain.

JULY 4-6 SAN JAC BLOWOUT BACKPACK. AL 273-2494. Get all seven peaks in the San Jacinto area on this superb trip. I went on it last year and it is a great, great hike.

