

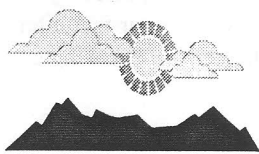
# Hiking Horizons

"Taking you to new heights"

A Publication For Adventure Hikers of the San Diego Peaks Club

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## Views from the Top

**D**id everyone have a good time in the Sierras this summer? Are you ready to hike San Diego County again? Let's do it! Got some great trips planned: Return to the Perfect Hike, Gaskill/Lawson, Outlaw Trail, Sheep Canyon area, Pyramid, Borrego Mountain—East and West Buttes.

Who would have expected it? The local Iron Mountain hike June 30 was awesome. Now, I don't know my flowers, but there were brilliant blues, robust reds, buttercup yellows, pearl whites, pantone pinks, luscious lavenders, and every single flower was at its peak bloom, not withered. In all my years of hiking, this was the second best display of variety of color I have seen. Yes, the weather was hot, but it was over in three hours before it got nasty (which it did later that day).

I need to get the records up to date on who has done 50 peaks, 100 peaks and list finish (ie. mini-macho, macho or mega-macho awards) on the SDPC list. Call me if you have done one of these. I know I'm missing a lot of mini-macho winners and I want to honor everyone next issue. Call and let me know if you between 50 - 117 peaks.

Welcome new members Pia Parrish Lincoln, Robert Robenhymer, Mike Salomon, Joe Maguire, Ray Freiwald, and Pat and Larry Klaasen.

# DUES ARE DUE

**O**r to paraphrase Frank Sinatra, "DUES BE DUE BE DUE." You ask, "How do I know if I've paid? You have a hand-drawn happy face if you have renewed :-). You have a frowning face if you still owe dues :-(. I'm probably making a penny an hour.....(What's that, wife Vicki, you say I'm overpaid!) I hope other people don't feel that way. It's important that there be a voice for the intermediate hiking community. Dues are \$15 per year, \$28 for two years and \$38 for three years. SDPC leads new and unusual adventure hikes, canoeing, whitewater rafting; publishes new hikes, consumer alerts, and local news.

## AMBUSH AT COYOTE CANYON VETOED BY GOVERNOR

As many of our readers already know, 3.1 miles of Coyote Canyon trail in Anza-Borrego Desert Park were closed to vehicles early this year. The closure to protect fragile habitat resulted from years of urging by Federal Fish and Wildlife, State Fish and Game, State Park, non-vehicle users, and a lengthy public process.

However, after being denied vehicle access to the closed area and later being cited for driving illegally in the park, Assemblyman Bill Morrow (R-Oceanside) promised to reopen the Canyon. Though Morrow's bill passed easily through the Assembly with heavy partisan support, the bill died when Morrow failed to appear before the Senate Natural Resources Committee to present his bill.

Instead, language was inserted into the state budget that allocated (a) \$500,000 to study alternate vehicle routes through the Canyon, (b) \$2 million for preliminary plans, working drawings and start-up construction, and (c) required the road be reopened "until a bypass is constructed"

Many environmental groups and concerned individuals responded with articles, letters and faxes urging the Governor to veto the items.

The Governor vetoed \$2 million and the "reopen" requirement and reduced the study allotment to \$250,000. (Thanks to ABF for this report).

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# HIKER OF THE MONTH



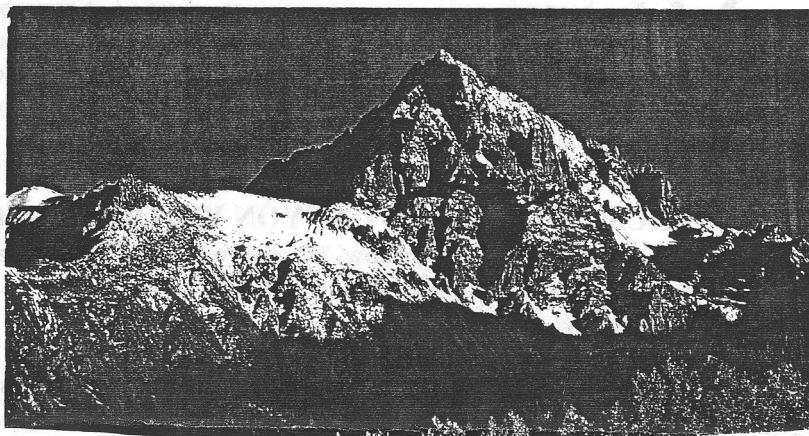
SDPC members are doing such awesome feats that I feel like I'm getting backlogged in awarding them honors.

**SUZANNE PLETCHER** receives the HOTM in August for bagging all 54 Colorado 14,000 foot peaks. She list finished July 4 on Mt Sneffels (14,150'). Helping her celebrate her accomplishment was her husband Tim, and fellow SDPC members Mark Adrian, Terry Flood, Carol Snyder and Mark Bender. (Nominated by Terry Flood).

The Hiker of the Month award for September belongs to **JERRY HIGGINS** for the arduous job of finishing the SDPC list of 117 peaks.

The Hiker of the Month for October is **SUE HOLLOWAY** for her 50 mile

Grand Canyon dayhike, reported by Sue last issue. How are your feet after the feat, Sue? I'll bet your knees hate you.



*Mt Sneffels in Colorado*



## TRAIL TALK

[Let's see what our BBB (Bitchin' Broad Brigade) Board of Directors is up to this summer. Now, Terri Astle has 95 peaks on the SDPC list and finished the HPS twice, and Terri Sutor has completed the HPS list four times and the PCT once. Those are some past accomplishments. What have they done lately?]

Our grand dame of hiking, **TERRI ASTLE**, has barely been home this summer. She and member **TERRI SUTOR** have 1100 miles of the PCT completed (Sutor is going around for her 2nd time). Astle is creating quite a stir on

the PCT as word spreads of this "73 year old lady hiking the PCT with a 42 pound pack".

From: Jonathon Eros  
<eros@UCLINK.BERKELEY.EDU>  
I'm assured that it's an actual thing that happened and not just urban myth...

"In 1994, a woman visiting from the Bay Area embarked on a solo hike to the summit of El Capitan in Yosemite. When she became lost and saw a storm brewing, she called 911 from her cellular phone and asked to be rescued. A helicopter found her barely off the trail and one-fourth to half a mile from the top of El Cap. When the 'copter lifted off and the woman saw how close she was to her summit goal, she asked the crew to set her down on top. When the crew declined, she threatened to sue them for kidnapping."

Well folks, **JERRY SCHAD** has done it again! The author of nine books on outdoor recreation now has *101 Hikes in Southern California* in addition to his popular *Afoot and Afield* series. I got my copy the other day and I tell you, Jerry has done a wonderful job putting together an awesome array of hikes. Now that John Strauch has finished all the hikes in *Afoot and Afield in San Diego County*, editions 1 and 2, I think I'll join him to hike this book.

**RALPH AND BETH DAVIS** have moved up to LA for Beth's dental hygienist schooling. They are keeping their old post office box, and their new phone number is 310-559-5204.

On a June canoe trip into Algonquin Park (Northern Ontario), we arrived at our campsite and started the Svea to boil water

Continued on page 3

for tea. The Svea makes a rhythmic "Whump Whump Whump" sound until the tank heats up.

One of my companions noticed that a similar "Whump Whump Whump" sound was emanating from several points of the compass in the underbrush around us. We were surrounded by six or seven ruffed-grouse in the bushes that were talking to, and advancing on, the Svea.

Apparently it was mating season.  
rmistler@IX.NETCOM.COM (Ralph N Mistler)

I shall be the guest speaker of the San Diego Chapter's monthly meeting (held at the Otto Center near the San Diego Zoo) next month (Fri, Sep. 20 at 7.30 pm).

I'll be presenting a retrospective and a multimedia (a sham because I'll only be using two media) slide show, "Mountaineering, a Love of Wild Places" (I had to choose mountaineering since I'm also chair of mountaineering).

I would be immeasurably flattered if any of you PCS'ers came down but the real reason would not to see/hear me or my slide show. Geoffrey Smith, ex-chapter chair and organiser of the Chapter Bookstore, will have available a few autographed copies of Douglas Adams' latest book, the finale in the much-lauded "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" series.

"So Long and Thanks for all the PowerBars".

Richard Hughes



Mark Adrian reported via email on the recent event of the Boy Scout leaders **STONING A BEAR TO DEATH** in Yosemite. The "thread" of responses was interesting.

Excuse me, but what the HELL do these troop "leaders" think they're doing! So much for the boy scout ethic.  
—Mark

Although I don't wish to condone or excuse their behaviour, the explanation is entirely obvious. **The leaders believed that the bear was gay.**  
—Richard Hughes

The LA Times reports that the NPS is planning to file charges for 'Destruction of Wildlife'. I'm trying to imagine how big the rocks must have been to kill a 100 lb. bear.

I passed through Onion Valley last weekend and was talking to the ranger there. An idiot camper at Kearsarge Lakes stored food in his tent, along with his two little kids, and was upset when a bear ripped his tent apart, and then ripped apart the backpacks (the kids were not hurt). The ranger (Jason Barbeaux) was very frustrated that the guy just didn't understand that he was the one at fault. His attitude was that if bears were causing problems, they should all be shot.

Joe Baker  
Deputy Director, Western Region, Amnesty International USA  
jbaker@igc.apc.org

I sent a note about my unhappiness with what occurred to one council of the BSA. However, I found no address for national. Maybe the individuals involved should be kicked out, but certainly, the entire organization (of which I was a happy member - 9 merit badges worth - for many years) could use a great deal of education about behavior outside the city limits. We should do all we can to prevent such shocking incidents.

—William W. Sampson  
Rosemary M. Sampson  
bsampson@ix.netcom.com

The mailing address for the national office of the Boy Scouts of America is:

Boy Scouts of America  
1325 W. Walnut Hill Ln.  
PO Box 152079  
Irving, TX 75015-2079  
You can also phone them at 214/580-2000.

—Bob Baxley  
baxley@aol.com

In order to get more accurate **BURRO COUNTS**, the National Park Service in Mojave National Preserve and Death Valley National Park are investigating the use of ultra-high resolution infrared scanners on light aircraft. A contractor, formerly retained by national intelligence agencies, has proposed applying this new technology for civilian purposes.

NPS is planning to test the system the nights of 14 September and 21 September 1996 in Mojave National Preserve by placing 30 volunteers (in groups of 2) each night at precisely-known positions in MNP canyons. Volunteers would show up at a MNP meeting place Saturday afternoon to receive a copy of a topo map section with their assigned location pinpointed. They would be driven to the nearest dropoff point and hike in from 1 to 5 miles in time to be in place by 7PM. They would remain at that point until 7AM Sunday when they would hike out to be picked up at the dropoff point.

NPS is looking for volunteers who can be depended on to hike into rugged desert terrain and camp overnight without getting in trouble. At least one member of each team must be able to navigate precisely with a topo map or have (and know how to use) a GPS unit. NPS will try to provide each team with a radio.

The contractor will be instructed to scan the general area including the volunteer locations but will not be told how many "targets" there are or where located.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, contact DVNP Natural Resource Specialist Doug Threloff at (619)786-3252.

Please forward this message to any group or person you think might be interested.

Many thanks (and see you out there),  
George Barnes, Chair, Death Valley Task Force, Desert Committee, C/NRCC, Sierra Club

(Perfect job...make an ass of yourself and get paid for it!)



## WEEKEND OUTINGS



### \*SEPTEMBER 15 GREEN VALLEY -CUYAMACA\*

Everyone can come out for this trail hike. Length depends on temperature. Early morning start. Paul 583-0266.

### \*\*SEPTEMBER 21-22 ORIENTEERING TWO-DAY MEET AT PALOMAR\*\*

Come Sat only or camp and enjoy both days, like my family does. This year we expect the meet to be are best ever! Never orienteered before? This is the perfect meet for you! Paul 583-0266.

### SEPTEMBER 28-29 9TH ANNUAL BORREGO SPRINGS MOONLIGHT MADNESS BICYCLE TOUR, FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, AND WATER BOTTLE FIGHT.

Terry Flood 729-8221. Meet the group around 1pm on Saturday, relax. Eat dinner, cocktails and wait for moonrise. Embark on a moderate 20 mile bike ride. Return to camp and hike up Borrego Palm Canyon by moonlight.

**OCTOBER 5 TRAILS CONFERENCE.** Saturday, 8 am - 4:30 pm. Stallion Ranch, Descanso. See write-up.

**\*OCTOBER 12-13 PINTO CANYON (AKA THE PERFECT HIKE) REVISITED\*** Paul 583-0266. Sign up early, I may have to put a limit on the number.

**\*OCTOBER 19 ORIENTEER AT GREEN VALLEY, CUYAMACA\*** SDPC member Gail Hanna will set the meet. Start times are from 10-noon. Bring the family! Paul 583-0266.

**\*OCTOBER 20 KELLY DITCH, CUYAMACA\*** An easy trail hike before the monster Outlaw trail next week. See Afoot and Afield. (p. 131) for details. I expect to see some of you people who don't normally come on my hikes!

**\*OCTOBER 26 OUTLAW TRAIL\*** Paul 583-0266. I wanted to do it the next weekend, but this date has a full moon! If you want to do back-to-back trips you can join the DPS next weekend.

**NOVEMBER 1-3 TRACKING, NATURE AND WILDERNESS SURVIVAL WEEKEND.** See write-up.

**\*NOVEMBER 2 PYRAMID-PALM LOOP\*** Paul 583-0266. This is one of my favorite hikes. We start at the Thimble Trail and S-22 at 7 am, take the route to the rock tanks (Afoot and Afield, p.219), climb to Pyramid Peak, then descend to the Calcite mine, bagging Palm before dropping to S-22.

**\*NOVEMBER 3 BORREGO MOUNTAIN, EAST AND WEST BUTTE\*** An easy, fun day as we explore the maze of ravines on the West Butte (Afoot and Afield, p. 229).

**NOVEMBER 2 OUTLAW TRAIL.** John and Carol McCully 310-545-9677. DPS. 3rd annual 11 mi 8,000' world class conditioning hike to top of tram. Ride tram and cabs back to cars. Meet at 5:30 AM in front of Desert Museum in Palm Springs. For questions or if weather is threatening call leader.

**\*NOVEMBER 9 ORIENTEER AT AGUA DULCE, LAGUNA\*** Paul 583-0266. My favorite orienteering area!

**NOVEMBER 9-11 MELING RANCH.** Veteran's Day weekend. Carl Johnson 448-8542. Call for details.

**\*NOVEMBER 23-24 SHEEP CANYON AREA, PALMS AND ELDER\*** Paul 583-0266. Plans may change depending on whether we can get a car up "Bypass Hill" near Lower Willows. If we can it will be a car camp, if not, a backpack.

**\*DECEMBER 7-8 SAND AND YAM (UPPER COYOTE CANYON)\*** Paul 583-0266. Two tough, eight hour days.

**\*DECEMBER 21 COOLIDGE (NEAR THE SALTON SEA)\*** Paul 583-0266.

**DECEMBER 28-JANUARY 4 COPPER CANYON.** Enjoy New Years the right way! This fills up quickly. Carl Johnson 448-8542.

## WEDNESDAY

# WALKABOUT

## HIKES with JIM SUGG

**J**im arranges hikes for Walkabout International every Wednesday. His hikes vary in length and time from 8-16 miles and from 5-8 hours hiking time. They cover all areas of the county within 1 1/2 hours driving time. Many of the hikes are unique to this group! Call 224-7895.

**SEPT 4 Cuyamaca Lake and Stonewall.**

**11 IN-TOWN HIKE— Mission Bay Circuit with Bob Thornton.**

**18 Monument Trail and Arroyo Seco loop, Cuyamacas.**

**25 Pine Mountain and Indian Creek loop, Lagunas.**

**OCT 2 Garnet Peak loop, Lagunas.**

**9 North Peak, Cuyamaca.**

**16 6K Ridge, Lagunas.**

**23 Pine Valley Peak (NEW)**

**30 Gaskill and Lawson.**

