

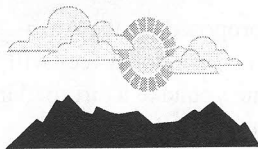
Hiking Horizons

"Taking you to new heights"

A Publication For Adventure Hikers of the San Diego Peaks Club

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Views from the Top

STAYING FOUND

by Paul and Vicki Freiman

What a great time I'm having! We did all the hikes listed in the last edition (Pinto Canyon - aka the Perfect hike- was perfect again. I was out of shape at the start of the 8,000 foot Outlaw trail, but doing it got me in shape in a hurry. The next day I felt mucho macho. Pyramid was done on a perfect day, and the views were awesome. After Pyramid we puzzled our way out of the mazes at Borrego Mountain-West Butte. What fun!

There is a no trespassing sign on the gate by Tecate Peak now, put there by the Indians, who consider the peak sacred. I called up Jerry Schad and asked him about it. The land is still BLM, as far as Jerry knows, but he will investigate. Well, whether it is BLM land or Indian land doesn't matter to me. The Indians would like us to not go up there and I will heed their wishes. Tecate Peak is hereby **delisted**.

I found a couple more Borrego Benchmarks on the maps, so the list is being rerun in this issue. The new ones are YAM and RICH. RICH was interesting to find. If you look at the Earthquake Valley Quad there is an unnamed benchmark between Quake and Seyer. I wanted to know what the name of this BM was, so I drove out to Blair Valley, parking by Quake, and took off over the washes to find it. The main BM post was found, but it was beheaded and didn't contain a benchmark. One of the two reference markers was found, but it too was beheaded. After a lengthy search the second reference marker was found, with BM intact, and thus we know of benchmark RICH.

Three cheers for member **HARLEY HAAG!!!** A few issues ago I had posted a request for an unused cell phone. See, you don't have to have the phone activated to call 911, so the club needed one in case of emergency. Harley donated an old phone. Thank you very much.

Let's welcome the new members: **JOHN CLAU, JOANNE BURKARDT, JUDY HUMMERICH, AND ROGER AND SANDRA KEITHLY.**

Nature is often majestic, beckoning, and tranquil, or simply terrifying and deadly. When it's almost dark, you're exhausted, and suspect you're lost but can't think more clearly than that, the cold fear you feel can quickly turn to useless panic. Too often hikers move through space on automatic pilot, concentrating on the goal but missing the landmark scenery along the way. This all too common pitfall of hikers needs to be changed—to remain staying found.

One main reason people get lost is that they fail to thoroughly orient themselves to their surroundings at the start of a trip. When they reach the goal of the trip they're tired, and a natural tendency is to go on automatic pilot on the return. I made the trip up, so I can find my way back, a hiker thinks. Because it takes some effort to think when you're tired, this thinking can get you into trouble if you weren't paying attention when your mind was fresh. Here's an example:

Ten years ago four of us were returning from a long day on the trail. One was slower and not more than than five minutes back. It was an excellent trail, so I ignored my own rule about traveling in pairs when bringing up the rear. The one and only junction in the trail was about two miles from the trailhead and well marked, so I was confident that the lone sweep would take the correct turn. The rest of us returned to the cars. Fifteen minutes later the straggler hadn't appeared. Then twenty minutes passed. Darkness was imminent. We eventually found her hugging a tree at the trail junction, disoriented to place due to

Staying Found continued on page 3

In this issue

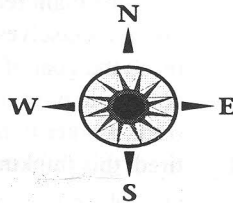
Hiker of the Month.....	2
<i>Jan Crist and the Dynamic Duo</i>	
Trail Talk.....	2
Footnotes.....	3
<i>Mark has yet another near-death experience</i>	
Calendar of Events	4-5
<i>Let's go hiking!</i>	
Borrego Benchmark List.....	6-8
Ban Hiking? A turkey of an idea.....	9-10
SDPC Awards.....	10

HIKER OF THE MONTH

TRAIL TALK continued

November's HOTM award goes to the dynamic duo of **VIRGINIA CALIMLIN** and **SUE HOLLOWAY**. If there is a tough hike they want to do it. And about the 70 or so drive-ups or near drive-ups on the HPS list...NOT the way Sue and Virginia do them. They want to hike, not get through a list! Nothing too easy. In January they are peakbagging Aconcagua (Along with member John McCully and Ron Hudson). On April 29th, on the last hike of Al Holden's season, they will finish the SDPC list.

JAN CRIST is Hiker-of-the-Month for December. A few months ago Jerry Higgins was honored with the HOTM for being the "Human Mule" (or something of that nature) for slaving around mega-weight on a backpack. Jan is the female counterpart to Jerry. I couldn't believe it, Crist's pack weighed more at the end of the hike than mine did at the beginning. Jan is a very active leader in the San Diego Hiking Club, but she wants to stretch herself now, and find new hike trips for her group. Besides, she can beat everyone in SDHC in armwrestling and she needs new frontiers.



"I'm just really tired and I want my friends to drive to the base and pick me up." The dispatcher explained that she would have to hike down the trail she had ascended. The visitor replied, "But you don't understand, I'm really tired." What happened next? "It turned out we got really lucky," the ranger said, "her phone battery died."

NEW FEES are proposed for the Anza-Borrego State Park. Five dollar fees will be levied each time you take a dirt road in the park. According to Beth and Ralph Davis who saw articles in the Borrego Sun, there will be about six drop areas where people can leave \$5 but apparently it will be on the honor system for two years. Enforcing this will be a problem, I'm sure. I'd like to thank the **REPUBLICAN CONGRESS AND GOVERNOR** for this tax increase. Instead of appropriating \$10,000 more for the State Park, they have to raise \$100,000 with new fees because it will cost them \$90,000 in administration costs! (Dollar figures are my estimates).

*** Tag Team

Dave Giese and I had covered fifty miles of Yosemite trails in the course of two ultra-long days. We crawled down the trail to Little Yosemite to find a place to collapse for the night. After cooking our meal, we dutifully locked up the rest of our food in a bear locker and called it a night.

The **BEAR** started in on the camp sites a hundred yards away and worked his way around. We could hear campers trying to shoo the critter out of their sites. The bear made his way around our site without a threatening move, then wandered over to the tent containing three people and all of their food. The three came charging out to intimidate the bear, so the bear ran off with the three in pursuit, leaving their tent wide open. Out of nowhere, a second bear appeared and grabbed the food. It had been a coordinated attack by two intelligent animals, and the humans had fallen for the decoy.

- Bob Gross



A group of SDPC hikers, organized by Jerry Higgins, was out at Split Mountain enjoying the three days of Veteran's Day weekend. They found a **WEATHER BALLOON** on Split Mountain-West. We had previously found a weather balloon in Myers Valley on the Pinto Canyon hike. These new balloons have a Styrofoam encasement and have a return envelope with them. Let me know if any other club members find them.

JERRY SCHAD has a new website. Its url is www.latimes.com/hiking. The site is groovy (if I may be so bold as to use this

word). Check it out!

Ever wonder what the "16" stands for in **A-16**? I did. So I asked Jessica Whilden at A-16. Here's what she said. "Originally Adventure 16 was created by a bunch of guys who wanted to do 16mm adventure films. They made their own equipment (backpacks) for their trips. In order to help finance their trips, they also sold some of the packs out of their garage. Eventually they were selling more and more packs and equipment while the film-making fell to the way-side. Now we're six retail stores strong and still carrying the name Adventure 16!"

In 1993 a woman called **911** from the top of Half Dome using her cellular phone. According to dispatch, she reported: "Well, I'm at the top and I'm really tired." The answering ranger asked if she felt sick. "No," she said,

think the distance was as long as it was between the junction and trailhead. When we had left earlier in the morning on the slightly downhill trail, we were full of excitement and chatting with one another, ignoring land features like this one. When we returned later in the day we were tired, and then the slightly uphill trail seemed wrong. The collective weary mind said, "I know we didn't come this far, and I don't recognize any of this." The straggler had turned around just 1/2 mile from the trailhead, the same spot where my other two companions started to question the trail themselves. (By the way, it was very wise for the straggler to "hug a tree", thus making it easy for us to find her.)

This happens to experts as well as beginners. I was in Death Valley with thirty companions, all experts, and on the return they saw a trail that none of them recognized along the route up, again about 1/2 mile from the trailhead, because they were busy chatting at the beginning of the hike. Because I was 100% sure of the route I was able to convince this stubborn group of desert rats to continue on the correct course.

Pay attention to your surroundings during the first 1/2 hour which is also the last 45 minutes! Some things to look for are (1) type of ground (sandy, rocky, light or heavy vegetation), (2) type of terrain (hilly, flat, ravines), (3) any signs, and (4) trail junctions. I mentally or physically mark where I am at 15 minutes and 1/2 hour. (Be sure to remove physical markers upon your return to eliminate potential confusion for future hikers.)

The mind makes bad judgments when tired, and it's most tired at the end of a hike. Be a safe hiker. Being alert to your surroundings when the mind and body are fresh is important so that you will "stay found."

Peak Climbing on the Internet!



Because anyone can access the Net from any location, we've just set up a multi-chapter list for peak climbers all over California. It's a new way to communicate with lots of people at once, and IT'S FREE! No time delay, and no stamps put on dead trees! There are already 300 subscribers on the Peak Climbing list, from areas like San Diego, Angeles, and Loma Prieta: Email is not geographically limited, and we all climb in the same places. In addition to the benefits above we are able to schedule private or last-minute trips that miss the newsletter deadlines, announce important meetings, get road and trail updates from those just returning from the mountains, or get news of accidents. This is an entirely new way to get and stay in touch with people who share your love of the wilderness.

To receive online activities schedules, news and newsletters about mountain climbing, gear reviews, stimulating backcountry policy discussions, etc., send email to

<listserv@lists.sierraclub.org> with this one-line message:

INFO lomap-peak-climbing

The INFO command will tell you more about the list, and how to subscribe. Read carefully, and DON'T send money! It's free.

Contact <eckert@netcom.com> for details or help contacting the right people.

Foot Notes

MARK ENCOUNTERS YET ANOTHER NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE

On Labor Day, after traversing from Charybdis to the base of the N ridge route on McDuffie (another loose piece of crud on the Black Divide), we had just filled our water bottles at the glaciated lake just NNE of spot elevation 12928. Not more than three hundred feet from lake shore, at 1:30 PM, we were walking single file up a sloping granite slab where we encountered a two or three foot shelf atop which sat three tire-sized boulders, all looking stable, despite the trickle of water flowing underneath them. There was some hesitation by the leader to proceed, but the second in our party merely grabbed one of the boulders and instantly they began to tumble down off the shelf. I was lucky enough to retreat out of the way of the falling boulders, but in my panic slipped and fell on some residual sand and scree. Fortunately, the boulders stopped before they could collide with me or the others below. I first thought I had broken my left arm, but was able to walk away with only a bruised left arm and a small gash on my left palm. Another member of the party sustained a shin ding. But, the "second" in our party wasn't so lucky and sustained a "crushed" left foot which I've now learned will eventually require pin(s) when partial healing completes. Walking out under their own power was NOT an option. As a group, we were fortunate there wasn't more carnage. Now, Ionian Basin is very remote and as a passing thought at the trailhead, I had decided to carry my 2-meter HAM radio. This was to be its third evacuation "call". After the dust settled, the leader took control and evaluated all the injuries. Clearly, a helicopter was needed for one, the rest of us were able to assist the evacuation effort. Two would stay at the lake with the immobilized victim, the other two (of our party of five) would "run" up to nearby Black Giant in an attempt to make HAM radio contact. We had moved the victim back to lake shore near a "flat" landing area/bivy site.

At approximately 2:30 PM I and one other headed for Black Giant's summit where we arrived at 3:05 PM. At that time I transmitted a Health and Welfare emergency call on the Silver Peak repeater which services the Bishop, CA area. Moments later a reply came from local HAM operator W6IWY. He then contacted the local Sheriff and "patched" me through to Deputy Nixon. Based on our location (Kings Canyon NP) Deputy Nixon determined we were out of his jurisdiction. He then connected me with KCNP/SAR at 3:20 PM. By the time the SAR/NP confirmed our location and scheduled a helo, it was 4:20 PM. We were told a copter would be there within 30 minutes. At 5:00 PM, a NP helo arrived via Enchanted Gorge, buzzed over the victim, flew/toured around Ionian Basin and then departed down Enchanted Gorge. Sitting atop Black Giant, we were puzzled as to their departure. Low on battery power, I was able to raise another HAM operator (N6RU) who was monitoring the conversation and he had his wife call 911 to investigate. The reply was the copter couldn't land and would try again at 7 AM the next

Near-Death continued on page 9

