

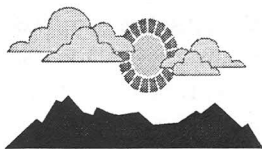
# Hiking Horizons

"Taking you to new heights"

A Publication For Adventure Hikers of the San Diego Peaks Club

Issue 33

January-March 1997



## View from the Top

## WILL SDPC FALL?

Work started on this newsletter at the end of December. It only needed a few hours of work. At that time I thought I'd have it out before the middle of January. Then came a five day illness. Then came the last week of my VA job, which was also the first week of my Thornton Hospital (UCSD) job. Then came 60 hour work weeks plus a flu/cough that has lasted 21 days. My, how time flies.... Now I'm rested, though still with the hacking cough, and work has slowed down. Sorry to all my subscribers.

It's hard to figure some people out. There is an ex-club member who is actively bagging the Borrego benchmarks, but then he writes in the registers how lowly he thinks some of the list is. Several people are irritated when they run across one of this guy's nay-says. "I'm having a good time, and I'm proud of myself for finding a benchmark when I see what this dodo's written and it takes some of the fun away. Why does he do that", one of them states.

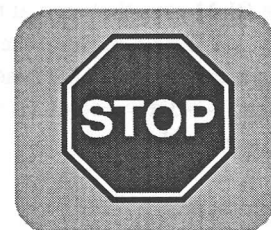
Of course, on the tough benchmarks he uses his weenie GPS machine like it's a race to bag benchmarks rather than a way to have fun finding them. Hint: The pleasure is in finding a tough BM using finely-honed skills. As Carol Murdock puts it as she practices map and compass, "I like to use my brains." Forest Gump could race around with a GPS! Can you imagine a rockclimber who uses a ladder on his ascents? Can you imagine a peakbagger who bags tough peaks by helicopter? Can you imagine a benchmark bagger who uses a GPS instead of map and compass skills? What nonsense. The GPS is a very useful machine to have around, especially when you're trying to find a trailhead for a desert peak, but bagging the benchmarks is like going hunting with a bazooka and machine gun instead of a bow and arrow.

Speaking of the benchmarks, our two oldies but goodies, Carol Murdock and Lorin Mitts, both appear to be gunning for the first list finisher as each has around 125. Paul Freiman, Terri Astle and Jerry Higgins have between 101 and 111. John Strauch has 99. I'll be leading some hikes to bag them. They aren't tough, just fun.

Should the San Diego Peaks Club end on June 1, its 7th birthday? I've been wrestling with this question for the past few months. It's true that I will no longer be in the restrictive job that I've held since October. It didn't allow me any life outside of work. After January 15th, I'll move to a position with more flexible hours. So, now that I have more time available, do I still want to give up the club?

The answer is yes and no. There needs to be people willing to serve on an elected Board of Directors. Lately I've been getting 2-4 requests per week for information about the club despite the fact that I no longer post newsletters at REI or A-16. There is definitely a need for the club, but it's time to make the club more than a newsletter. More SDPC members need to lead hikes and volunteer for the Board. What do you say Al, Sue, Richard, Cindy, Jerry, Mary, Ken, Bill, Gail, Terry, Terri, Jim, Virginia or any other interested member?! Call me at 583-0266. On the Ides of March that's March 15, more SDPC history shall be made as I decide if there's enough support to keep the club (thumbs up), or instead that Rome...er...SDPC must fall (thumbs down).

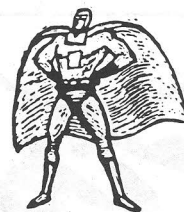
(Well, March 15 has come and gone. As I've said, I wrote this around New Year's Day with the expectation of having the newsletter done around January 15th. I'm tired. I got home from work around 9:30 pm every day last week. Friday I put in a 15 hour day. I just don't have any energy left for the Club.)



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# HIKER OF THE MONTH



**CAROL MURDOCK** is the **HIKER OF THE MONTH (HOTM)** for January 1997! She was the first person to bag 100 benchmarks on the BBC (Borrego Benchmark Club) list. Carol caught me sleeping at 99 and zipped past me. She also zipped right past her 60th birthday in December. Carol's two past HOTM awards have been for being the Mountain Medicine Director for the Sierra Club for over 15 years, and for being the 3rd person to finish the SDPC list. She has also finished the HPS list as well as being UCSD Home Health Nurse of the Year.

What can I say about **JIM SUGG** that hasn't been said? We'll ignore what the Sierra Club said about the favorite leader and say, "Congratulations on your 500th hike for Walkabout, February 26!" Yes, almost 10 years of leading and organizing backcountry hikes for the otherwise city-bound Walkabouts. Don't think he hasn't had conflicts. Go ahead, ask him. Do you have a few days to listen to the response? What I'm saying is that Jim put up with a lot of negative garbage so his followers would have fun hikes. God bless him. Last year the Mayor proclaimed "Jim Sugg

Day." I'll proclaim February to be his month!

The March HOTM belongs to **ODELLA (TERRI) ASTLE**. Carol was the first to 100 benchmarks, but Terri was close behind. Terri now has 101, the last one being Plano. Now, for those of you who haven't got the benchmark fever, Plano is not a highpoint. Plano is in an unremarkable wash eight-tens of a mile from the nearest distinct feature. How on earth do you find it! Through precision map and compass. Yes, I picked up a few pointers from her. By the way, on May 11th, Terri turns 74!!!



The BLM says that sign at the foot of **TECATE PEAK** is not their's and as far as they are concerned, the road is open to hikers. — Jerry Schad (It will remain delisted—ed.)

Club members **SUE HOLLOWAY** and **JOHN MCCULLY** are attempting Aconcagua at press time.

(UPDATE: Weather, very heavy winds, kept Sue off the top, while John struggled with a respiratory infection. — See story)

**CELEBRATE EARTH DAY**, April 19-20, on the next project to restore the Cutca Trail in the Agua Tibia Wilderness on the north side of Palomar Mountain. The group will backpack about seven miles to a secluded streamside camp. Forest Service provides handtools; no experience needed. Optional trip extension to April 23 to work on upper portion of the trail and to climb Eagle Crag. Call Alan Coles 310-420-9270 or Gail Hanna at 272-5141, between April 10-15.

She did it! **GAIL HANNA** finally bought a new car after five years of pondering. Her 1997 Toyota Tacoma 4wd truck is quite a change from her 1973 VW Squareback (which, by the way, is seeking a new home at \$1350/obo. Gail 272-5141.

From: bsumner@avistar.com (Bob Sumner)

## HWY 395 UPDATE

The Floods of 97 have taken their toll. An 8 mile stretch of 395 was not damaged, it was utterly removed from the face of the earth. The stretch in question was the scenic jaunt between the Sonora Pass turnoff and the small town of Walker. When the monsoon came, the West Walker River not only overflowed its banks, but consumed the entire canyon from wall to wall.

Helicopter pictures reveal the immense devastation. The West Walker River has changed its course throughout the canyon in a meandering fashion, gorging out sides of both canyon walls. There seems like no place to put a road, let alone repair one that basically no longer exists.

Mono County officials are meeting to discuss their options: whether to attempt a rebuild or relocate the 395 to a new location. Either way, it will be a while before a new 395 exists. The

small towns of Walker and Topaz Lake will be especially hard hit, since the interstate traffic they depend on no longer goes through.

The current alternate route (north-bound) is from the east end of Bridgeport, go north on Hwy 182 which becomes Hwy 338 in Nevada. Continue north to Wellington, then go west on Hwy 208 to rejoin the 395 north of Topaz Lake. This route is only 7 miles longer than the old 395 route, but is slower since there are no passing lanes.

## THE HIMALAYAN EXPLORERS CLUB

home page is at: <http://www.abwam.com/himexp/>  
We have a newsletter, trip reports, website, and our clubhouse in Kathmandu keeps tabs on the many trekking and guide services. While in Kathmandu, you can stop by the clubhouse to use the telephone or email, pick up your snail or emails, store baggage, or just relax and have a cup of tea. We also assist the local people of the region through a home-stay program, sales of local handicrafts, and a volunteer service placement program. If you email me your snail mail (postal) address, I will send you a copy of the "Himalayan Explorer," our club newsletter as well as information about how to join. Best wishes! - Regis L. Chapman (rchapman@leo.vsla.edu)





# Foot Notes

## Indianhead

**A**l lead his Monday group up the Southeast ridge of Indianhead. Several of us had been wondering if that side was "do-able". "It's an excellent route", sez Al.

## Sand

**F**our curious hikers explored a new route up Sand BM. SDPC hiking stalwarts John Stauch and Paul Freiman were joined by Stace Beaulieu and boyfriend Alan. This is a very enjoyable eight hour hike. Look for Al to lead it on the next schedule in November, when he starts up his Monday hikes again. Here's the hike.

The trailhead is in Terwilliger, by Anza. Take 15 north to Temecula, then turn right on 79. Go to Aguanga, where a left turn is made onto 371. Continue past the town of Anza to Kirby Road, where the big "Terwilliger" sign is. Right on Kirby about 5 miles, then left onto Coyote Canyon Road. A couple of miles down Coyote Canyon Road you have to turn right again as it forms a T intersection. This is a dirt road now, but high-clearance cars should be able to drive to within 1/4 mile of where the PCT crosses the road. At the point where the PCT crosses the road turn left (east) and start walking. After 1.5 - 2 hours another road will appear. Go east on this road, staying right at each of two bifurcations. The second right will head you south into the Anza-Borrego State Park and down an old road into Horse Canyon. You can see on the Bucksnot 7.5 minute topo that you drop down this hill, head southwest, then up the ridge to Sand. The going is every easy as you ascend 1500 feet to the peak. We then descended the ridgeline that took us over to the Turkey Track and hiked the 1000 feet up to the cars.

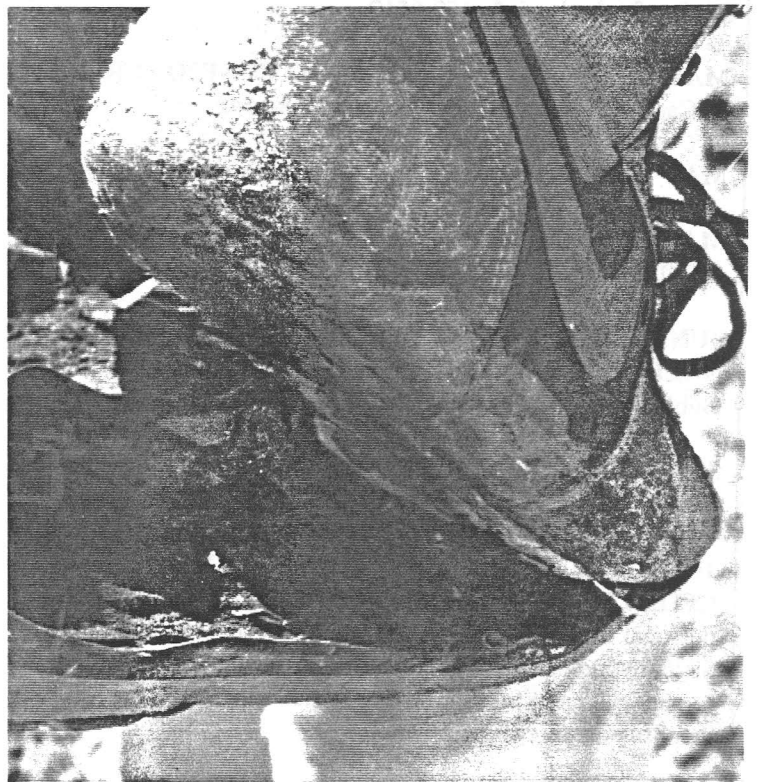
From John Strauch:  
Hi Paul-

**S**unday Jim de la Pena, Mark Adrian and I were at the benchmark on what may have been one of my more memorable hikes.

We parked in the Bisnaga Wash turnout, hiked to Guard, Agua and Store BMs, then headed southwest, north of Squaw Cyn, toward 3082, with our eventual goal being 3089, which Mark determined to be the Tierra Blanca highpoint. About 600' up the ridge, in what certainly seemed like the middle of nowhere, we found a flat area littered with wadded up paper towels, tissue paper, large empty trash bags, the top of a soap dispenser, and some rags. It was about lunch time and Mark wanted to play

with his radio, so we stopped. One of the rags looked like it might be a pair of panties, so I investigated further and found that they were indeed a pair of cotton panties with the front part removed. We thought this was amusing, and settled down to eat our lunches. There was also a large rock formation with a "cave" containing another empty trash bag in the back. I decided to police up the area, and when I went in the cave I found a large dildo, stashed behind a rock, on top of another trash bag. The thing was about 18" long, had a head on each end and was quite realistic. The main part of the dispenser, containing some sort of green natural aloe gel, was there, too. There were traces of the gel on both ends of the dildo, so it certainly appears that some individuals had had a good time there. Everything seemed quite fresh, although the paper towels had dried out. We joked about how Mark would have trouble describing all this as a near-death experience in his forthcoming write-up.

It almost seemed anti-climactic (pun intended) when we discovered the full-circle top part of an olla another 100' higher. We found Wes Shelberg registers on both 3082 and 3089. He'd been there with Mary (McLain) about a year ago. The hike was tougher than I expected. The terrain was quite rough. It took us over eight hours on what I thought would be a five hour hike. We got back to the car in the dark. On the way out S-2 toward Scissors Crossing, traveling at about 75 mph, we passed a large black cow which was occupying the oncoming traffic lane; we couldn't see it until we were right next to it. So anyway, Mark got his near-death experience after all. And, of course, I took a number of photos of the various discoveries.



Just do it! This Nike fell apart on the way up to the peak. Mark had some duck tape and repaired it. Then the other shoe fell apart on the way down.

WEEKEND OUTINGS

**APRIL 5-6 LOWER COLORADO RIVER CANOE TRIP.**  
Carl Johnson 448-8542. Cost \$85. Must be able to paddle 35 miles (in 2 days) or learn quickly. Fills up quickly. SC.

**APRIL 13 Sunday Bag a benchmark!** Tuff, Nat, Point and Rocks. Salton Sea. Paul 583-0266. Fairly flat ground, but over boulders and very hard benchmarks to find.

**APRIL 19 Saturday UPPER SAN DIEGO RIVER HIKE.**  
Carl Johnson 448-8542. 10th Annual hike of isolated river canyons, complete with four major waterfalls. VERY strenuous. Poison Oak!!! Sierra Club. 11 hours.

**APRIL 27 Sunday Bag a benchmark!** Paul 583-0266 Very easy terrain. Just a frolic around Seventeen Palms.

**MAY 4 Sunday 6 MILE TRAIL RUN and 4 MILE HIKE.**  
Join the San Dieguito River Park in its annual fun run or fun hike. There will be an all-you-can-stand pancake breakfast, live music, beer, food, fresh fruit and lots of environmental/ecological booths. Proceeds benefit the River Park. Contact Elite Racing for further info 450-6510.

**MAY 10 Saturday OLD FLUME TO CONEJOS CREEK.**  
El Capitan Reservoir. Carl Johnson 448-8542.

**MAY 11 Sunday BELL BLUFF.** Alpine area. Paul 583-0266.

**MAY 18 Sunday MORENA BUTTE.** Campo area. Paul 583-0266.

**JUNE 1 BIRTHDAY HIKE AND END-OF-CLUB FINALE.** Paul 583-0266. Help me celebrate my 45th and the club's 7th and last birthday. Mt Gower. Ramona area.

**JUNE 7 Saturday COWLES MOUNTAIN.** Primitive North Side Loop. Carl Johnson 448-8542. Sierra Club.

**JUNE 14-22 GUADALAJARA AND A COLONIAL CITIES LOOP.** Carl Johnson 448-8542. This is a private, personal trip, not a commercial one. Cost for 9 days, 8 nights, \$825, including air, hotels, buses, and taxis; not including food or personal purchases, or \$0-\$40 in side trips. Call now for details and a flyer.

**AUGUST 2-10 COPPER CANYON.** Mexico. Carl Johnson 448-8542. \$850 includes air, airport tax, train, taxis, tips, excellent hotels. Call for flyer and more details.

**AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1 MELING RANCH,** Baja California. Labor Day Weekend. Carl Johnson 448-8542. A relaxing, three day getaway at the famous Meling Ranch in the foothills of the Sierra San Pedro Martir, about 60 miles south of Ensenada. Drive yourself, or carpool, rustic family style accommodations, use of the ranch, horseback riding, three hearty meals per day. \$135.



John and I bag another Bighorn photo opp  
(By Salvatore Canyon)

## The Happy Wanderers

### Jog or Speedwalk

Call for info-- Donna and Edwin Gookin 286-7958  
Gail and John Hanna 272-5141

The Happy Wanderers jog and speedwalk each  
**Tuesday or Wednesday** from 6-7 pm. Meet at 5:45pm for fun and fitness.

- April 1, Tues. **Up and Over Cowles Mt -no fooling!** Meet at the corner of Navajo and Golfcrest
- April 9, Wed. **Point Loma Meander** Meet at the Dana Center at the corner of Chatsworth and Narragansett Ave.
- April 15, Tues. **Trot and a Trolley - non taxing!** Amaya Trolley Station located on Amaya Dr. east from Fletcher Pkwy. Bring quarters.
- April 23, Wed. **Harbor Island Runaround** Meet at Spanish Landing Park, west end, by the restroom nearest the bridge.
- April 29, Tues. **A Visit to Del Mar's Torrey Pines** Meet at the parking lot at the bottom of Torrey Pines grade near the kiosk.



## ALLEN HOLDEN'S WINTER HIKING

**T**here will be hikes every Monday through April. Hikers must call Al (273-2494) for times and trailheads. NO NEWCOMERS ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR INTERVIEW WITH AL.

**MAR 24 EAST VALLECITOS** from Alma Wash. Park at Elephant Trees Nature Trail. Split Mountain. List finish for Sue and Virginia.

**MAR 31 PUFF, MOAN AND WINDY.** Goat Cyn trestle, Indian Hill, more. Double 2x SDPC list finish by John Strauch and Paul Freiman.

**APR 7 MILE HIGH AND ROSA LOOP.** Return via Marble Mtn and Wonderstone.

**APR 14 GRANITE MOUNTAIN.** The Shelberg route. Loop, no shuttle.

**APR 21 FOUR FROGS-JACUMBA JIM LOOP.** Schad's route. Tough up and down.

**APR 28 CUYAMACA PEAK** from the West side. NOTE HIKE CHANGE.

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## 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.

**March 26 Pine Valley and Lower Indian Creek Waterfall.**

**April 2 Gasp.** Al will take the Wednesday group from McCain Valley to this viewpoint overlooking Carrizo Canyon.

**April 9 Mt Gower.** Favorite near Ramona.

**April 16 Harper Creek** for the Redbud blooming season. If you've never seen the Redbuds, then you need to go on this hike!

**April 23 Smugglers Cave—Valley of the Moon—Blue Angels Peak.** In-ko-pah area.

**April 30 Fortuna Mountain**

**May 7 Palomar Mountain loop** (Dogwood hike).

**May 14 Corte Madera**

**May 21 Japacha Peak loop.** Cuyamacas.

**May 28 Pine Valley Creek loop.**



## Letters

**T**hink those of us who are pursuing the benchmarks need to compare notes. Some of the benchmarks listed on the maps no longer exist. So far I have found wire and boards on Andy and Pelvis and only cement with metal post for Foot & Walker. The cement anchor is still on Tipy, Ensign is only a section marker on the pavement; Tahe, Egg and Corp are missing. Only a metal post with rocks around it has been found for Chimney Rock. Sometimes only an indicator marker is left. The primary marker for Rich was buried in the dirt near the indicators.

As you can see in the photos, most benchmarks are Beaches and Parks and almost all in Anza-Borrego are U.S. Army instead of USGS. I think these should stay on your list is still a challenge and fun to locate any benchmark.

I spoke with the proprietor of the Butterfield Ranch RV Park who said the land containing Wash, Dome & Mound is owned by Daly Corporation. Caretakers Pete & Mary Ann live there and carry shotguns, property is fenced and posted. I think these need to be deleted from the list. The most reasonable approach to Buck North would be across this property, but we may to climb it from Oriflamme Canyon, won't know until someone does it.

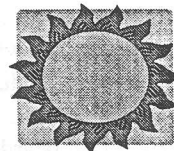
May I suggest adding the following: Yote, which is on the Carrizo Mtn quad in section 13 near the Fossil Canyon road; Truck, which is on the Truckhaven quad near Clay Point in Anza Wash; 3054 above Box Cyn (Mark put a register there); and White, which has a Beach & Parks benchmark.

Anza-Borrego Park ranger Eloise Gee has a list of 150 benchmarks in the park and has calculated the GPS coordinates. Might be interesting to compare both lists. I think any rock cairns marking the way to benchmarks should be destroyed, it defeats the learning experience of using map & compass by indicating the route. Also, small groups of people trying to locate a benchmark for the first time is fine but one should not be taking some one by the hand and taking them to benchmarks.

In closing, may I suggest a motto for those finding the bench marks: D. I. G. Translation: "Damn I'm Good !" Happy benchmark hunting.

(signed) Carol Murdock Bitchin Broads Brigade: Founder. 60+ hiker & proud of it!

(Carol has since done Buck North and says it is done from Oriflamme, walking up a burned ridge. She also found a safe way to do Woods, where you can bypass Borrego airstrip. White BM is a Parks and Beaches BM and is not on the topo, so it won't be added to the list, but we can add Point 3054 (Benchmark Box) by Box Canyon on Earthquake Valley topo and Truck on the Truckhaven topo.



# ACONCAGUA

{SDPC members Sue Holloway and John McCully took a trip to the highest mountain in South America shortly after New Years. The following is Sue's report.

Please note that the areas that Sue is talking about (Canada, Nido and Berlin) are camps on the way up the mountain.}

Well, as you heard from my parents, I didn't summit Aconcagua. The weather was pretty bad, specifically the winds which were absolutely fierce. Of the 9 days I was "on" the mountain, there were 3 days that were summit days (weather-wise). We hiked to Base Camp as a day hike and spent 3 nights there. It snowed all 3 nights...3-6 inches each night. The first day I was itching to go even though it was snowing and visibility was maybe 20 yards. When I saw other people head up, I had the confidence to go for it so I took a light load (20 pounds) and did a carry to Canada. John rested and started coughing pretty bad by late in the afternoon. It was cold and windy with little visibility all day. The next day we both did a carry and though it wasn't snowing the winds were awful. I got to my cache at Canada and after waiting for John for an hour, I got cold and headed down. I saw him almost right away and pointed out where my stuff was. We met back at Base Camp. He went over to the Hosteria that night for dinner. I was too tired and was happy to stay in the tent and "treated" myself to a dehydrated spaghetti dinner (I make my own homemade food and dehydrate it myself). The next day was windy but pretty nice (a definite summit day). We laid our stuff out to dry (putting rocks on top of everything) and then packed up and moved to Canada. I spent a comfortable night (John was still coughing) and we did a carry to Nido the next day. Again, the weather was good and for what turned out to be the only time while we were there, here was a back-to-back summit day, weather-wise. On our way up we were frightened out of our wits by a huge boulder going what seemed to be 100 mph (from the Canaleta?) that went virtually whizzing by us. In the second before I saw it (but heard it), it flashed through my mind that a jet went right by me. A dozen

or so much smaller rocks followed within a minute or so. From that point on, it was "head's up" (as you can imagine). I spent another comfortable night at Canada, but John's coughing seemed to get worse. As a matter of fact, a guy who identified himself as "search and rescue" and who was camped at Canada (there were a total of 3 tents at Canada) came over and gave us a lecture on HAPE. I got a bit pissed because I thought he was treating us like idiots. (I mean both John and I were observing his symptoms S\*O carefully!) In retrospect though, I guess he probably does see people who don't know. (As an aside, one of the S&R guy's companions came over our first night there and asked to borrow some matches. Believe me, it took great restraint not to lecture HIM on the 10 essentials!!!)

The next day (our move to Nido day) I felt like the best strategy for me was to make two trips. I had about 50 pounds of stuff and since the distance wasn't that great I just didn't want to kill my back by carrying 50 pounds. So, I left at 9 with a light load and added to our cache at Nido and went back to Canada. John had taken the tent down and after a snack and rest we proceeded with our move to Nido. (Weather-initially that day was clear, but by 10 a.m. it was stormy and windy AGAIN!) Nido was a hub-bub of activity. We were moving pretty slowly...it took us an hour to put the tent up. By now it was very cold and windy. By 8 that night the conditions were pretty bad and there were about 15 tents spread out at Nido. The importance of the number of tents is that by morning there were 5 tents standing!! The winds that night were gale force...I thought our tent was going to be ripped to shreds, but it survived. About 1/4 of the way up all 3 sides plus the door there was blown/drifted snow...we crawled out the door and Nido looked like a disaster area. Except for the 5 standing tents (4 North Face and John's Integral Design), it looked like a ghost town. We had planned to take that day as a rest day (my first...and turned out to be my last one); good thing because there was nothing else we could do. I bundled up (John was still coughing but by now we had determined it was bronchitis) about 10 and went outside again. It was snowing and, with the winds, it was pretty much a white-out. Two of the 5 tents (with gear inside) had

been 'abandoned'. (We found out later that the climbers hired some Argentines to go up and retrieve their stuff.) Two Japanese climbers told me (they spoke very limited English) they were going down just as soon as they could break camp. The remaining party (Alaskans) said they were going to stay. I went back to John with the news and "my" weather report (A\*W\*F\*U\*L). We just passed the time..John slept and I listened to the wind, wrote in my journal and read. The winds continued to swirl and on numerous occasions I thought for sure our tent was going to go. About 5 p.m. John said he thought we should go down. I told him I didn't want to... I was afraid to go down. I told him I thought it was too windy (I could barely walk and stay upright when I left the tent to stretch my legs over the course of the day), it was snowing and blowing so hard that visibility was nil and I was afraid I'd fall on the steep slope going down. I felt safe in the tent but he felt it was a false sense of security as he wasn't sure the tent could continue to withstand the seemingly relentless winds. He said we'd take really light packs with our sleeping bags and bivy sacks, wear all our clothes, and walk with one hiking stick and one ice ax each and go really slowly. He thought if we'd just get a little lower the winds wouldn't be so fierce. (We found out later that a number of tents, including 7-8 of the big tents the mule-teers have, blew down/away at Mulas!) I deferred to his experience and we started to pack up. Just the limited movement of doing that, caused him to have a bad coughing spell and he literally collapsed on his sleeping bag. I asked him if he thought he could make it down to Mulas and he said no. That was it..we stayed. About 6 I went outside again and saw the Alaska climbers all bundled up, slowly heading down...abandoning their tent and, based on what they were carrying, most of their gear. We were alone at Nido. John slept while I fussed with the tent. The door zipper had iced up during the day and in forcing it open, it split so we had about 3 inches of zipper that wouldn't close. (John's tent is single-wall so no fly to protect us from the snow). Snow was blowing in even though I had the "hole" stuffed with clothes. I also read, wrote, and rested a bit. Later that evening, we

*Continued on next page*



talked and John said it was obvious that he wasn't going to be able to go any higher and, in fact, he thought he should go down to Mulas when the weather broke. Since I was feeling good he thought I should go on. I told him that there was no way I was going to go on alone. Much as I did want to go for it, I had made too many promises to too many people (including myself) that I wouldn't do anything really dangerous and I felt (and still do) that, for me, a solo attempt would be pushing the envelope too far. I decided that I would try to join another group. Late that night I started to hear "gaps" in the wind...it wasn't constant anymore. Out of every 60 seconds, there were maybe 10 when the wind wouldn't blow. By morning it was sunny and windy, but not really bad. This would turn out to be the third possible summit-day weather wise. Again, we weren't in position to summit. John surveyed the damages to the tent (not many) and re-enforced it while I took our gear outside, laid it out to dry with rocks on it so it wouldn't blow away. At 10 I saw 3 people coming down from Berlin. 2 Japanese climbers and 1 American who weren't a "group", but they teamed up during the extreme weather situation. They had not summited. The night before last (our first night at Nido when the winds started), they were at White Rocks and were going to try to summit the next day. Then the winds....so the next day they tried to get down to Nido, but were only able to go as far as Berlin when they determined it was too dangerous to continue. So they had spent the night at Berlin. They now were aborting and going down to Mulas. I wished them luck. Within a few minutes I saw 2 climbers coming up from Alaska. I went over to talk to them and they were a young American couple (Amy and Eric) from Colorado Springs. Sure enough they had spent the 2 nights at Alaska and were now moving up to White Rocks. Their plan was to rest the next day and attempt the summit the following day. I told them about John and that I was looking for someone to go with. I was welcomed to go with them. With excitement I went back to the tent, told John and packed up for my carry to Berlin. I then saw another climber so I went over to talk to him (he was from Brazil, but spoke pretty good English) and he was also going up to Berlin and was going to attempt the summit the next day. I told him I was going to do a carry and that I'd see him up there. John said he was going to stay one more night at Nido so I said I'd see him later. The hike up to Berlin went smoothly and I met and passed Amy and Eric (their packs were heavy I'm sure as they hadn't done a carry...they were just doing a move). The Brazilian was in the small hut and after I checked it out I thought that would be a fine place to stay as that way I wouldn't have to carry a tent. I rested a bit, left my gear there and wished him luck. When I met Amy and Eric again, I said I'd see them tomorrow afternoon.

When I got back to Nido, I was so excited. I thought the hike to Berlin was easy; I wasn't going to have to carry the tent; I could get info from the Brazilian on the summit climb, etc. We decided that night that John would leave the tent up at Nido so I would have a back-up. That way if I didn't feel like going all the way down to Mulas from Berlin, I would have the tent at Nido. Later that night John said that he thought he'd at least hike up to Berlin with me...he was feeling better (but still coughing) and wanted to be able to say he made it to Berlin. The next morning there was some wind and John got out of the tent first. He took one look at the summit and the sky and said he wasn't going to

Berlin, he was going to Mulas. I went out and it looked bad. Hoping against hope, I packed up and headed to Berlin. The weather quickly got worse...the damned winds again. It took me 2.5 times longer to get up to Berlin as it did the day before. I could barely stand up during the gusts. I finally made it and, of course, the Brazilian was still in the hut plus there was another guy from Poland. I joined them and we were a cozy trio. They determined it was too chancy to stay at Berlin and they didn't think the weather was going to improve anyway (based on the last week+) so they decided to go down to Mulas. I was VERY disappointed because I liked the idea of 2 more people at Berlin! With a lump in my throat, I said good-bye to them at about 1 p.m. Luckily, Amy and Eric had NOT gone to White Rocks...their North Face tent was set-up behind the huts so I bundled up and went outside and over to chat with them. The plan was to check the weather out about 4 the next morning and if it was still bad (it was now snowing and the winds were stronger than ever!), they would take another rest day and attempt the summit the following day. I told them great and that I was in the small hut, alone, but I had everything I needed and would be fine. The hut was okay, but cold and I felt very lonely passing the day by myself. The winds were just so intense it was scary. I did manage to block the door with some wood and a big garbage bag I had and then I propped my hiking poles, backpack and daypack up against it. Snow blew in but mostly just stayed in drifts by the door 'hole'. I spent a fitful night. The winds were just as intense the next day so I knew a summit attempt was out. I had decided the night before that if Amy and Eric went down, I was going down also. I didn't feel experienced enough to proceed (or even stay!) alone. About 8:30, Eric knocked on the hut and asked how I was doing. Fine...how are you guys? Well, Amy had a headache and it was getting worse so they were going to abort and head down. I said I would be going too. They were within 30 minutes of leaving so I said I'd be out to say good-bye to them as I'd be longer than 30 minutes. I started packing, put my face mask on and went outside after about 40 minutes. (It was VERY windy and from just above Berlin it was all dark clouds.) They were just going to start heading down. I wished them luck and said I'd probably see them at Mulas. Just as they were going down, two guys were coming up from Nido. I invited them into "my" hut. They were from France and had spent the night at Nido. They just wanted to check things out at Berlin as, weather-permitting, they were going to try the peak the next day, FROM NIDO. (I asked them if they had heard anything about the weather and they said they had talked to the "ranger" the day before and he said he had no idea what the weather was going to do...it was so unstable with the storms coming in from the Pacific.) I told them I was heading down, but hadn't decided what to do from Nido. They welcomed me to stay and join them the next day, weather-permitting. They left and I went behind the destroyed hut to pee when I saw climbers coming DOWN, virtually out of the clouds. There were 5 Americans (4 male/1 female) who had come up the Polish Glacier, were NOT able to summit due to the weather, had spent 2 nights over 21,000' and 2 nights over 20,000'. They were exhausted and couldn't WAIT to get to Mulas. They had abandoned much of their gear to lighten their loads. I told them I was heading down to Nido. They left and I went back to the hut and finished packing. It was VERY slow going down as the winds were so bad and there was about 6 inches of new snow with hard (icy) snow underneath.

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I got to the tent, went inside and 'collapsed'. I was tired...mentally and physically. I ate a snack and decided I was going down. After resting a bit, I proceeded to try to take the tent down. Due to the storms, snow and winds I ended up having to cut the lines and break off the plastic stakes. I probably could have fiddled with it more, but I didn't have the energy. While I was in the process of taking the tent down, one of the Frenchmen came over and asked if I was leaving. I told him yes and he said he was sorry because he was hoping I'd join them when they tried for the summit. I merely told him that I was beat and discouraged from the weather. Anyway, I loaded my pack and then it was too heavy for me to put on. John had left some things in the tent that he couldn't carry and there was just too much weight for me. I tried a couple of different ways to get the pack on, but it just weighed too much (my guess is 70

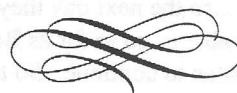
pounds). By this time, I was really frustrated, but I just took out about 20 pounds and cached it in the rocks. Getting down was slow as the trail wasn't distinct due to the snow and all the snow and ice made it a bit more 'challenging'. As tired as I was I decided that I wouldn't go over to the Hosteria at Mulas. My plan was to crash in the muleteers tent with all the bags. I figured I could put my sleeping bag on top of all our bags and sleep there. (It wasn't like John was expecting me at a certain time or anything.) Then the next morning, I would hike back up to Nido and bring down the rest of our stuff. Once I was closer to Mulas, I could see that there were a number of tents that were "missing" (from the winds mentioned above). Upon my arrival, I saw that our muleteer only had 1 tent left and all the bags were merely covered with tarps. So.....I had to hike over to the Hosteria. I was one tired dog when I

finally got there.

I found John and filled him on the details. He was disappointed for me that I didn't get the peak, but he was very relieved that I had come down as he was worried because the weather was so bad. We ate dinner in the dining room and I went to sleep right after. The next morning I hiked back up to Nido, had lunch and hiked back to the Hosteria. In the meantime, John arranged to have our bags taken out on the mules. We spent another night at the Hosteria, but I made my dinner in our room as I was really watching my budget. We dayhiked out the next day...leaving at 10 a.m. It seemed like a very long hike out.

I KNOW I can summit Aconcagua. I will go back.

Sue





## SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB LIST

Original June, 1987 by Hannah North and Russ Weber

Revised 3-91, 3-92, 8-93, 12-93, 4-94, and 1-96 by Paul Freiman

### History of the SDPC List

In June 1987, hikers Hannah North and Russ Weber (aka Amentia Allegro and Rass Webo respectively) combined their extensive knowledge of San Diego county's terrain with additional information obtained from maps of Cleveland National Forest. The result was a formidable list of peaks and a commitment to bag them all. Life, however, intervened and they moved away, but not before each had climbed about half the peaks. Taking up the cause I climbed every peak and benchmark (BM) on the original register. Then I eliminated insignificant climbs and areas of trespassing. In total I deleted 35 peaks and added 25 new ones. Preparing this list was such an enjoyable exercise that I still get all a-tingle thinking about climbing them again.

Overall the list is challenging, not because the hikes are especially hard (no rock-climbing or class 3 skills required), but because you will need good map reading skills. The 17 peaks preceded by an asterisk (\*) are the distinguished Emblem Peaks, winning this designation for the incredible vistas each destination provides to those who seek these adventures.

Speaking of reaching your destination, you may either hike or mountain bike to do so. However, not only are drive-ups and helicopter rides illegal and disqualifying, they will earn you the antithesis of the coveted Hiker of the Month Award which is the Weenie of the Year Award.

Whenever visiting a peak, include as some of your "10 essentials" a pencil, paper, and empty can. The following explains:

Never let them say it  
Say it to your shame  
That a benchmark went untrodden  
And without your date and name!

Wes Shelberg

I want to thank Wes Shelberg, Al Holden, and Jim Sugg for being terrific hiking buddies during the preparation of this list. Also a heartfelt and you-found-me-where-I-live thanks to Terri Sutor for introducing me to adventure hiking. Thanks to my wife Vicki for typing and editing this document.

### Maps

Map coordinates are based on Cleveland National Forest (CNF) 1985 map. USGS topos are 7 1/2'. Completion of this list is dependent upon your map reading and orienteering skills (or buying a cheezy GPS device).

### Other Notes

"Pyramid", "Mile High", and "Square Top" are three peaks mentioned in Jerry Schad's Afoot and Afield in San Diego County (1986 edition) and nowhere else. The reference *Schad* is to this book. The following abbreviations found in the list refer to sections of the Angeles (LA) Chapter of the Sierra Club: DPS=Desert Peaks Section; HPS=HundredPeaks Section; LPS=Lower Peaks Section.

### GOOD LUCK AND GOOD HIKING!!

The 116 Peaks on the SDPC List					
DATE	PEAK	ELEV(')	CNF	USGS	COMMENTS
	1. Pendleton / Temecula				
_____	1. Margarita Peak	3185	D5	Margarita Peak	
_____	2. Margarita Lookout	3065	D5	Margarita Peak	
	2. Rancho Bernardo / Mira Mesa				
_____	1. Bernardo Mtn	1150	G8		Climb from east.
_____	2. Black Mtn	1563	G9		dirt road to top, Schad
_____	3. Mt. Israel	1346	F8		Harmony Grove area
	3. Palomar / Ramona / Julian				
_____	1. Agua Tibia Mtn	4779	H5	Vail Lake	LPS, Schad
_____	2. Eagle Crag	5077	H5	Vail Lake	HPS
_____	3. Palomar High Point	6140	J6	Palomar Observatory	HPS, Schad
_____	4. Boucher Hill Lookout	5438	H6	Boucher Hill	Enjoy Palomar! HPS, Schad
_____	5. Black Mtn (Ramona)	4051	J7		road to top
_____	* 6. Mt. Gower	3103	J8	Ramona	
_____	7. Volcan Mountain	5353		Julian	In Preserve, Schad
	4. Central County				
_____	1. Fortuna Mtn	1292	G10	La Mesa	Schad
_____	2. Kwaay paay	1194	G10	La Mesa	By Old Padre Dam

	3. Cowles Mtn	1592	G10	La Mesa	Schad
	4. Pyles Peak	1379	G10	La Mesa	
	5. Woodson Mtn Lookout	2894			Schad
	6. Iron Mtn	2696	H9	Ramona	Ellie Lane trailhead
	* 7. El Cajon Mtn	3675	J9	El Cajon Mtn	
	8. Eagle Peak	3226	K9	Tule Springs	
	9. Viejas Mtn	4187	K10	Viejas Mtn	Schad
5. Southwest County					
	1. Bell Bluff	3409	K10	Viejas Mtn	
	2. McGinty Mtn	2183	J11	Dulzura	Nature Conservancy
	* 3. Lawson Peak	3660	K11	Barrett Lake	Schad
	4. Gaskill Peak	3836	K11	Barrett Lake	
	5. Otay Mtn	3566	J12		Mtn bike road, Schad
Deleted	6. Tecate Peak Lookout	3885		Tecate	Schad
6. Southeast County					
	1. Long Valley Peak	4909	L10	Descanso	
	2. Buckman	4641	L10	Descanso	
	* 3. Corte Madera	4657	L10	Descanso	Schad
	4. Los Piños Mtn Lookout	4805		Morena Reservoir	active lookout in summer
	* 5. Morena Butte	3919	L11	Morena Reservoir	
	6. Blue Angels Peak	4548		In-ko-pah Gorge	Schad
7. Cuyamaca State Park					
	1. Middle Peak	5883	L9	Cuyamaca Peak	HPS, Schad
	2. Cuyamaca Peak	6512	L9	Cuyamaca Peak	HPS, Schad
	3. Japacha Peak	5825	L9	Cuyamaca Peak	former HPS
	4. Stonewall Peak	5730	L9	Cuyamaca Peak	HPS, Schad
	* 5. Oakzanita Peak	5054	L9	Cuyamaca Peak	HPS, Schad
8. Lagunas					
	1. Chariot Mtn	4680	M8	Cuyamaca Peak	HPS, Schad
	2. Roost	4351	M9	Monument Peak	
	3. Oriflamme Mtn	4611	L9	Monument Peak	Schad
	4. Pine Mtn	5640+	M9	Monument Peak	
	5. Garnet Mtn	5669	M9	Monument Peak	HPS
	6. Garnet Peak	5909	M9	Monument Peak	HPS, Schad
	7. Monument Peak	6271	M9	Monument Peak	HPS
	8. Wooded Hill	6160	M10	Mt. Laguna	nature trail
	9. Sheephead Mtn	5783	M10	Mt. LagunaHPS	
	* 10. Manza	5556	M10	Mt. Laguna	
	11. Cuyapaipe	6378	M10	Mt. LagunaHPS	
	12. Guatay Mtn	4885	L10	Descanso	
9. Warner Springs					
	1. Comb's Peak	6193	L5	Bucksnort	HPS
	2. Hot Springs Mtn	6533	L6	Hot Springs Mtn	HPS; lookout isn't pk
	3. Pike	5571	M6	Borrego Palm Cyn	
	4. Cody	5586	M6	Borrego Palm Cyn	
10. Sheep Canyon Natural Preserve (Coyote Canyon)					
	* 1. Collins	4559	L5	Bucksnort, Collins Valley	
	2. Knob	3431	L5	Bucksnort Mtn	
	3. Elder	3433	M5	Collins Valley, Hot Spr Mtn	
	4. Palms	3121	M5	Collins Valley	lovely view
	5. "Square Top"	4649	M5	Hot Spr Mtn, Collins Valley	Schad
	6. Coyote Mtn	3192		Clark Lake	Schad
11. Around Montezuma Grade (Ranchita to Borrego)					
	1. San Ysidro Peak	6147	M6	Borrego Palm Canyon	HPS
	* 2. The Thimble	5779	M7	Tubb Cyn	
	3. Hob	4853	M6	Borrego Palm Canyon	
	4. White	5326	M6	Tubb Cyn	not shown on topo



	5. Goat	4232	M6	Tubb Cyn	
	6. Bonny	4574	M7	Tubb Cyn	
	7. Peak 5386(San Ysidro Mtn)	5386	M6	Borrego Palm Canyon	
	8. The Sirens	4401	M6	Borrego Palm Canyon	
	9. Kay	3587	M6	Borrego Palm Canyon	
	10. Ode	1510	M6	Borrego Palm Canyon	
	11. Webo	4173	M6	Tubb Cyn	
	12. Ted	2369	M7	Tubb Cyn	
	13. Wee	4068	M6	Tubb Cyn	
	14. Rass	1877	M6	Tubb Cyn	
	* 15. Wilson (Pinyon Ridge)	4573	M6	Tubb Cyn	Schad
	16. Pinyon Ridge High Point	4611	M6	Tubb Cyn	
	17. Indianhead	3960	M6	Borrego Palm Canyon	DPS, Schad
	18. Palm Mesa	4660	M6	Borrego Palm Canyon	
12. Along S-2 (Scissors Crossing to Ocotillo)					
	* 1. Grapevine Mtn	3955	M8	Earthquake Valley	
	2. Sentenac Mtn	3068	M8	Earthquake Valley	
	3. Granite Mtn	5633	M8	Julian, Earthquake Valley	HPS, Schad
	4. Sunset Peak (Yak BM	3657	M8	Whale Peak	Schad
	5. Perpendicular Bluff	1741	M8	Borrego Sink	
	6. Pinyon Mtn	4440	N8	Whale Peak	Schad
	7. Whale Peak	5349	N8	Whale Peak	HPS, Schad
	8. Ghost Mtn	3360+	N8	Earthquake Valley	Schad
	9. Stage	2816	N9	Agua Caliente Springs	
	10. Coyote Mtns (Mine BM)	1850		Sweeney Pass	Schad
13. Carrizo Gorge and McCain Valley					
	1. Jacumba Mtn	4512	O11	Jacumba	DPS, Schad
	* 2. Red Top	4467	N9	Agua Caliente Springs	
	3. Sombrero Peak	4229	N10	Sombrero Peak	DPS, Schad
	4. Tule Mtn	4647	N11	Jacumba	
	5. Gasp	3223		Jacumba, Live Oak	
	6. Groan	2737		Jacumba	
	* 7. Puff	2716		Jacumba	by Goat Canyon
	8. Grunt	2144		Sweeney Pass	
	9. Moan	2939		Sweeney Pass, Jacumba	
	10. Windy	2442		Sweeney Pass, Jacumba	
	11. Sawtooth	4382	N9	Agua Caliente	
14. Santa Rosa Ridge					
	1. Dawns Peak	6582		Clark Lake	Schad
	2. Rabbit Peak	6640+		Rabbit Peak, UTM 708994	DPS, HPS, Schad
	(Note: Dawn and Rabbit are honorary peaks because they lie outside San Diego county.)				
	3. Ruth	5070		Rabbit Peak	
	4. Villager Peak	5756		Rabbit Peak	HPS, Schad
	5. Zosel	4853		Rabbit Peak	
	6. Crab	4485		Rabbit Peak	
	7. Alice	3594		Rabbit Peak	
	8. "Mile High"	5360		Font's Point, Rabbit Peak	DPS, HPS
	9. Rosa	5038		Font's Point	DPS, HPS
	*10. "Pyramid"	3480+		Font's Point	Schad
	*11. Palm	2697		Font's Point, 17 Palms	Schad
	12. Font's Point	1294		Font's Point	Schad
15. Split Mountain					
	* 1. Diablo	2440+		Agua Caliente, Arroyo Tapiado	
	2. Split Mountain West Side	1690		Harper Canyon UTM 815-536	
	3. Split Mountain East Side	1690		Borrego Mtn SE UTM 839-516	
	4. Vallecito Mtns (East Side)	3583		Harper Canyon UTM 739-584	
16. Ocotillo Wells					
	* 1. Borrego Mtn West Butte	1207		Borrego Mtn	Schad
	2. Borrego Mtn East Butte	1196		Borrego Mtn	