

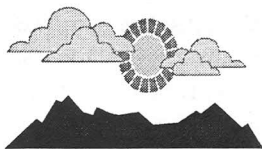
Hiking Horizons

"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.

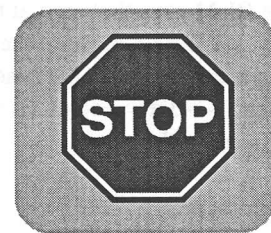
Of course, on the tough benchmarks he uses his weenie GPS machine like it's a race to bag benchmarks rather than a way to have fun finding them. Hint: The pleasure is in finding a tough BM using finely-honed skills. As Carol Murdock puts it as she practices map and compass, "I like to use my brains." 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!!!



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 homepage 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)

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 Aconocagua 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.



Foot Notes

Indianhead

Al 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

Four 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.

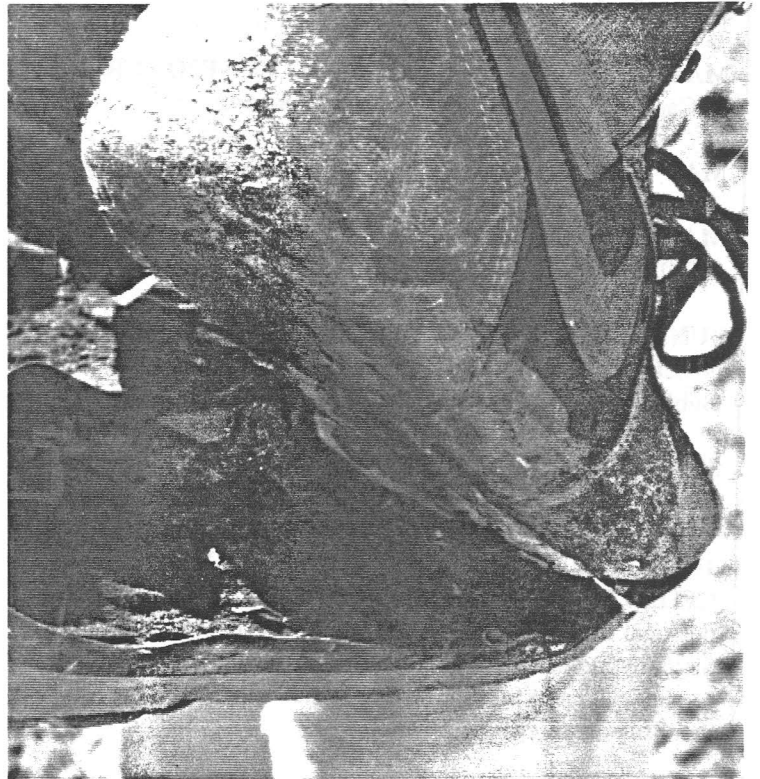
From John Strauch:
Hi Paul-

Sunday 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 didlo, 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.

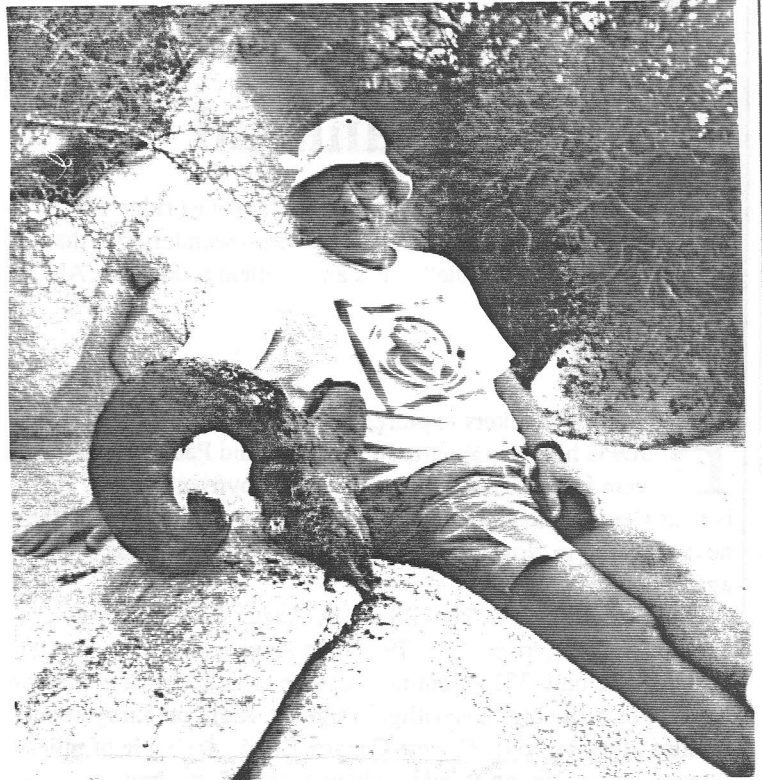
JUNE 1 BIRTHDAY HIKE AND END-OF-CLUB FINALE. Paul 583-0266. Help me celebrate my 45th and the club's 7th and last birthday. Mt Gower. Ramona area.

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.

