

Hiking Horizons

"Taking you to new heights"

A Publication For Adventure Hikers of the San Diego Peaks Club

Issue 34

April - June 1997



LETTERS

Dear Paul,
The San Diego Peaks Club has had a great influence on me. The early days with you, scouting and placing registers were exciting. Morena Butte comes to mind as a new discovery that today is an excellent group hike due to our efforts with Jim Sugg and others. Manza is similar, and the register we set at Pine Mountain (containing my 16th signature) is visited regularly as part of very pleasant Laguna loops.

The Monday adventure group has visited 65 peaks on the list, but not just as goals. They were viewpoints along our wild, wondrous and crazy 10 hour loops of rocks and ridges, cultural trails, animal trails and no trails in the perfect world of nature.

Puff, Windy and Moan the double 2x list finish for you and John Strauch was exemplary. We had a perfect approach to Puff, tagging it going downridge to the trestle. We played and explored railroad artifacts (relics?, junk?) all the way to Windy. Then it's up and over Moan to scramble down fantastic rocks for the treasures of Indian Hill. Ten superb hours, and it just doesn't get any better than that, try as we surely will.

Question. Was the Macho award system a mistake? Did it foster a compulsion to check off the listed peaks only and never go back again, the "been there, done that" mindset?

The hike, not the peak is what it's all about. So let's stay curious, welcome surprises, maximize our day and work to expand our comfort zone.

O the places we've been. O the things we've seen! Thanks, Paul... and well done.

Sincerely,
Allen Holden, Sr.

(I agree with Al, the hike, not the peak is the goal. As I completed my second list finish I was able to note that seventy-four peaks (63%) were done by a different route.)

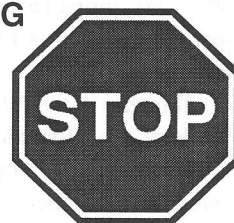
LETTERS continued on page 2

THE END

This is the last issue of HIKING HORIZONS. The club was founded in May, 1990 as a response to Evan Bacas' decision to stop leading Sierra Club hikes. The feeling was that there were not enough people leading intermediate adventure hikes. There was a need to group adventure hikers together into a community, and to disseminate information and ideas about areas to hike. This was my vision. I hope you have enjoyed my efforts. During the six years of existence, Paul and the club have lead 2 whitewater raft trips, 4 canoe trips, and 97 hikes. Almost 900 USGS topo maps were procured at \$1.25, just before the government raised prices to \$4.00 per map, saving members over \$2000.

SDPC opened up new areas of adventure, such as the undiscovered beauty of Moreno Butte, and the Indian relic-rich Pinto Canyon. My deep thanks go out to the folks who joined me the first year and never wavered in their support. In order of subscription: Beth and Ralph Davis, Jerry Schad, Richard Carey, Carl Johnson, Al Holden, Nancy Harris, Terry Flood, Sue Lalicker, Terri Astle, Jim and Carol Sugg, Malcolm Fitzurka, Gail Hanna, Donna and Edwin Gookin, Paul Stuverud, John Strauch, Cindy Outlaw, Ken Olson, Jim and Donna Hawkins, Mary McLain, and Sue Pease. A special thanks go to John Strauch, who has gone on more club hikes than everyone else combined, to Al Holden, who is constantly expanding the hiking horizons of his group; and to Jim Sugg who taught me that it is the hike, not the peak, that is important.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL REMAINING CLUB HIKES (INCLUDING THE JUNE 1 SEND-OFF) HAVE BEEN CANCELED DUE TO COMPLETE LACK OF PARTICIPATION.



Forest Service Complaints

This list is circulating among Forest Service employees. These are actual comments left last year on Forest Service registration sheets and comment cards by backpackers completing wilderness camping trips:

"A small deer came into my camp and stole my bag of pickles. Is there a way I can get reimbursed? Please call."

"Escalators would help on steep uphill sections."

"Instead of a permit system or regulations, the Forest Service needs to reduce worldwide population growth to limit the number of visitors

to wilderness."

"Trails need to be wider so people can walk while holding hands."

"Ban walking sticks in wilderness. Hikers that use walking sticks are more likely to chase animals."

"All the mile markers are missing this year."

"Trails need to be reconstructed. Please avoid building trails that go uphill."

"Too many bugs and leeches and spiders and spider webs. Please spray the wilderness to rid the area of these pests."

"Please pave the trails so they can be plowed of snow in the winter."

"Chairlifts need to be in some places so that we can get to wonderful views without having to hike to them."

"The coyotes made too much noise last night and kept me awake. Please eradicate these annoying animals."

"Reflectors need to be placed on trees every 50 feet so people can hike at night with flashlights."

"Need more signs to keep area pristine."

"A McDonald's would be nice at the trailhead."

"The places where trails do not exist are not well marked."

"Too many rocks in the mountains."

MORE LETTERS

Certainly, far and away the most important benefit of the club was the new people I met and friends I made. When I looked through my hike log these were the friends I first met on an SDPC outing and whom I've now hiked with at least 20 times: Paul Freiman (53 hikes), Mark Adrian 24, Jerry Higgins 23, Lorin Mitts 22, Ted Caragozian 21, Mary McLain 21. This group was together on the memorable Santa Rosa Ridge traverse a few years ago. And I first met Al Holden on an SDPC hike.

I've enjoyed the peak list and more recently the benchmark list, but to me the important thing is the people and hiking.

I'm sorry to see the club come to an end. Thanks, Paul.

John Strauch

Dear Paul,
I am typically not one to write but I want you to know my appreciation. Even though I have been an official member for only a year I was involved in the club several months before I joined.

It all began in the fall of '95 when hiking took over my life. (Only hikers can understand!) I began to hear trail talk about the SDPC and the list of 117 peaks. I soon began keeping track of the peaks I had climbed. On hiking with Al on Mondays I discovered they were adding up quickly. I thought "Wow, this is really FUN!" In fact, Paul, it was on one of Al's hikes that I met you and received one of your newsletters.

I became friends with other SDPC members and found their enthusiasm and interest in the club contagious. I was hooked, and finally became a member.

So, Paul, even though I've only hiked a few of the peaks with you personally, your influence has been felt.

I was saddened to hear that the club was ending. However, I am very grateful to have been a part of it.

Many thanks,

Sincerely, **Virginia Calimlin**

What SDPC has meant to me:
I joined the Sierra Club in March 1995 for the purpose of meeting people who hiked and finding day hikes and backpacks to areas I wasn't familiar with. When I received my first issue of the "Hi Sierran" and checked out the hikes, I saw immediately that I simply had to meet Al Holden as his hikes looked like just the ticket. Finally, in June, I met Al and hiked with his group on the Palm Springs Tram/Humber Park bus trip. During the course of the day, he told me about the San Diego Peaks Club and later that night he called me at home with Paul's phone number. I called Paul and, after a long conversation, I immediately mailed my check to join SDPC. At that time, I had climbed Cowles Mountain and Mt. Woodson...2 on the SDPC list.

Two years later I have just finished that list...on an Al hike, of course. During the course of the two years, I have met many, many hikers...some of whom have become good friends. Hiking has given me lots of time to talk and companions and I have commented on many occasions how quickly a person can bond with others on a hike or a climb. We've theorized why that is so; how you can many times meet a person and hike with him and/or her for a day, and feel like you've known each other for ages. Ultimately, I guess it comes down to the love of hiking and the outdoors and the spirit of adventure. Those things seem to be the common thread in the people who make up the San Diego Peaks Club.

Sue Holloway

I've enjoyed Paul Freiman's informative San Diego Peaks Club newsletter and his excellent leadership skills over the past few years. It's really been a pleasure to have participated

on Paul's relaxing, stress-free trips!

Jerry Schad

Although I have never gone on an SDPC hike, I do enjoy peak bagging. I define this for myself as the pleasure of the challenge of work and route-finding, not a mad dash from point to point so that I can check them off on a list. I enjoy solo hiking a great deal; it gives me the solitude and opportunity for introspection that I relish in my outdoor experience.

On the other hand, I don't like getting lost. All of these things combine to make something like my solo conquest of Whale Peak (after doing some rather poor route finding and never having been there before) one of my more memorable experiences. I overcame my own stupidity as well as the inherent challenges, the weather was perfect, the view was stunning and no matter the height or distance or elevation change, I savored the reward of my efforts a great deal. Given that this is the kind of experience I am seeking, discovering a like-minded group of people who maintain a list of places to visit and a database of members was great. On Friday night when the boss hasn't called and I realize I can actually get out of town the next day, I can get an SDPC list and get some great ideas for places to go and things to see.

It has always bothered me that I've never been able to go on a SDPC hike. I know some of the members already and would love to meet the rest. I say this only to expose that I am not non-participating by choice and the existence of the Club naturally lends itself to encouraging participation. The newsletters serve several purposes, even for me. The entertainment value of knowledgeable people writing about a shared joy is high. Mark Adrian and I regularly spar on the EBBS, but his stories are fun. Publication of trips serves as an incentive to go on them, as well as a reminder that there are experienced people out there willing to share their knowledge with people like me. News items keep me apprised of issues pertinent to the solo activities I do manage to do; closed highways, trails on private property being closed or means to contact owners of such property, governmental changes to access — it's no fun at all to head off somewhere ready for a hike and find out you can't get there.

On a grander, metaphysical sort of level, I believe having a Club like the SDPC helps to keep all of the interests of the recreational environmentalists together. The Sierra Club certainly does not appeal to everyone and does not fully satisfy everyone's desires. The San Diego Hiking Club helps to fill the gap, various youth organizations help satisfy the urge to give something back to society and there is clearly a place for local adventure hiking group. The facets of the SDPC that are not redundant with any other group that I know of in the County are 1) the list of high points (particularly the emblem peaks — identifying the best views around the county was an excellent idea) and 2) a database of people who have identified themselves as enjoying the peak-bagging experience (whatever the goal) and who are willing to participate with others on such trips.

Let me emphasize once more that it is my schedule that has kept me from participating more heavily. (I am one of a few people who can be sent to a ship underway to repair virtually any

facet of the command and control system I work on in the event that there is a serious problem.) I end up going hiking on weekdays fairly often because my weekends are used up and I have the time off when I'm not needed.

Bill Kerr

kerr@marlin.nosc.mil

"Communications without intelligence is noise;
intelligence without communication is irrelevant."

— former USMC Commandant General Al Gray

The SDPC was able to bring together many different people who have similar interests and a love of the outdoors and the beauty of nature. Furthermore, its newsletter was able to communicate with those people about activities, adventures, and opinions on a regular basis.

Carl Johnson

Foot Notes

Saturday Paul Flashenberg and I joined up with Lorin, Jerry & Virginia to do Rego, Seyer and Box BMs. I actually saw a small mountain lion for a few seconds trotting across the ridge about 75' above me, not too far from the Box Cyn Historical Marker. Sunday Jim and I went to Hellhole Open Space Preserve near Valley Center hoping to find a way up Rodriguez Mtn, but the brush was too thick on the northwestern ridge. It might be doable from a western flank that leads toward the peak into a steep boulder area near the top.

John Strauch



From the edition of the Washington Post — A contest was held in which readers were asked to come up with excuses to miss a day of work.

1. If it is all the same to you, I won't be coming in to work. The voices told me to clean all the guns today.
2. When I got up this morning, I took two Ex-Lax in addition to my Prozac. I can't get off the john, but I feel good about it.
3. I set half the clocks in my house ahead an hour and the other half back an hour Saturday, and spent 18 hours in some kind of space-time continuum loop, reliving Sunday (right up until the explosion). I was able to exit the loop only by reversing the polarity of the power source exactly $e \cdot \log(\pi)$ clocks in the house while simultaneously rapping my dog on the snout with a rolled up Times. Accordingly, I will be in late, or early.
4. I can't come in to work today because I'll be stalking my previous boss, who fired me for not showing up for work. OK?
5. I have a rare case of 48-hour projectile leprosy, but I know we have that deadline to meet... *EXCUSES continued on page 5*



WEEKEND OUTINGS



ALL CLUB HIKE CANCELED DUE TO LOW (IE, NO) ATTEN- DANCE.

MAGNIFICENT MONDAYS

by Al Holden

All 23 hikes went off on schedule and completed successfully with no serious mishaps. They all exceeded my expectations and had many happy surprises. Here's my opinion of each and rating for suitability as open group hikes.

THIMBLE, YSIDRO, WHITE, BONNIE AND CLYDE-

Regular series opener and a finished product. A good, solid moderate to hard hike. This rates an A.

MINE-CHUCKWALLA LOOR- A most pleasant moderate group hike. Do it in wildflower time. B+

PALM MESA-Too much for an open, official group. Best done privately. Great hike though with tedious downslope on return. Unrated.

HELLHOLE FLAT-A maze, a puzzle, a labyrinth, endlessly fascinating. A

JACUMBA MOUNTAIN-Dos Cabezas to Mortero Palms- a terrific route. A

SUNSET (YAK) RIDGE-Rockhopper's heaven at South end. B+

RATTLESNAKE SPRING-Better and easier for group than expected. B+

GASP & GRUNT-Forget Grunt, but Gasp is a crown jewel. B+

PYRAMID AND PALM-A truly great hike, but with tricky route finding getting out from Palm. Enjoyable for screened groups. A

GRAPEVINE AND SENTENAC- A most pleasant surprise. Could take an added hour easily. Moderate to Hard. Groups should love it. A

PINTO CANYON-The winner! The hike with everything. A+ ODE AND KAY- Better than expected, but best part is above Kay. B

PINYON MOUNTAIN-Super hike from any ridge or canyon approaches from North or East. Using Pinyon saddle gets you weenie award. A

WILSON PEAK LOOP-Culp Valley Camp is the best trailhead ridge. Just go for it. You'll wonder why you ever did drive over. B+

INDIANHEAD- Southeast ridge is a most excellent route up better than "the chute" ~or coming down also. A

IN-KO-PAH SCRAMBLE- An achingly beautiful, pristine canyon. A

Al's Report continued on page 5

ALLEN HOLDEN'S FALL HIKING

Al has completed his hikes and will break for the summer and do some traveling. Here is a possible list of hikes that he will do when November comes around.

Hikers must call Al (273-2494) for times and trailheads. NO NEWCOMERS ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR INTERVIEW WITH AL.

COMING UP NEXT SEASON

Three bivouac hikes, Dec. Feb, and April. We hike out Sunday to an interesting spot where we overnight with superlight gear and food in our daypacks. Not a heavy backpack. We will be on rough cross-country terrain all the way. More on this later. We kickoff with our traditional series opener at Thimble on Nov 3rd. Newcomers are urged to tryout on the first three hikes and stay with us if they can.

Only a few are true repeats. About half are totally new, and the familiar ones will have different approaches. The three Laguna hikes, North, South, and West, are "doubles", two Wednesday hikes combined for a long adventurous day. Only the Nov and Dec dates are firm. The remainder will be drawn from this list in roughly the order listed.

Nov 3 Thimble, Ysidro, White, Bonnie & Clyde

17 Laguna Southeast, with Cuyapaipe

24 Grapevine and Sentenac

Dec 1 Harper Flat Area Indian Lore

8 Jacumba Mountain, from the West

15 Hellhole Flat

21-22 False Sombrero Bivouac (with a surprise)

29 Wilson Peak and Pinyon Ridge, from Culp Valley Camp

PINYON MOUNTAIN from Mine Canyon

GASP, semi-loop from Lark Canyon Camp

DOMELANDS Fossil Hunt

WHALE, from Harper Flat

INDIAN HEAD, up and down Southeast ridge

LAGUNA WEST, 8 Noble Mining District

PINTO CANYON BIVOUAC, from Valley of the Moon.

JUNE WASH, Sandstone Canyon & Mud Palisades

IN-KO-PAH SCRAMBLE, up and down Waycool canyon.

ARROYO TAPIADO MUD CAVES

LOST VALLEY PEAKLETS GRANITE, up and down East Ridge

TULE CANYON, from Dubbers Railroad Siding

LAGUNA NORTH, Peaks and waterfalls

PUFF, WINDY, MOAN, INDIAN HILL

MILE HIGH-RATTLESNAKE CANYON LOOP

NICHOLIAS CANYON BIVOUAC, Rockhouse tour.

THREE CUYAMACA PEAKS, Stonewall, Cuyamaca and Middle

(Ed. note-- Al, may I suggest you add these hikes to your list for next time: (1) Lower Willows to Indianhead ridgeline backpack; (2) Sand benchmark loop; (3) High, Cool, Hot, Abe, Slip, Low benchmark bag by the Salton Sea).

WHALE PEAK- From pictographs. May be the best approach of all. No crazy duck trails to mess up your head, just prime cross-country. A

VALLECITO MOUNTAIN- Summit area interesting, but flat approach and exit was tedious. Not for club groups. Peakbaggers, great. Unrated

PUFF, WINDY & MOAN- Superb. Another hike with everything. A+

MILE HIGH-ROSA LOOP- A special adventure; too much for club groups. Unrated.

GRANITE MOUNTAIN- Thank you, Wes Shelberg. **Outstanding route.** A

FOUR FROGS Loop- Forget the canyons. The peaklets up on the rim are just too much fun. 3339 is a gem. Thanks again, Wes. A
Cuyamaca from the westside- Something wild and crazy to wrap up the series. Not recommended for club groups, or any normal people. Unrated.



OK, the story behind this... There's this nutball who digs things out of his back yard and sends the stuff he finds to the Smithsonian Institution, labeling them with scientific names, insisting that they are actual archeological finds. The really weird thing about these letters is that this guy really exists and does this in his spare time! Anyway... here's a letter from the Smithsonian Institution from when he sent them a recent discovery...

Paleoanthropology Division
Smithsonian Institution
207 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20078

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your latest submission to the Institution, labeled "211-D, layer seven, next to the clothesline post. Hominid skull." We have given this specimen a careful and detailed examination, and regret to inform you that we disagree with your theory that it represents "conclusive proof of the presence of Early Man in Charleston County two million years ago."

Rather, it appears that what you have found is the head of a Barbie doll, of the variety one of our staff, who has small children, believes to be the "Malibu Barbie". It is evident that you have given a great deal of thought to the analysis of this specimen, and you may be quite certain that those of us who are familiar with your prior work in the field were loathe to come to contradiction with your findings. However, we do feel that there are a number of physical attributes of the specimen which might have tipped you off to its modern origin:

1. The material is molded plastic. Ancient hominid remains are typically fossilized bone.
2. The cranial capacity of the specimen is approximately 9 cubic centimeters, well below the threshold of even the earliest identified proto-hominids.
3. The dentition pattern evident on the "skull" is more consistent with the common domesticated dog than it is with the "ravenous man-eating Pliocene clams" you speculate roamed the wetlands

during that time. This latter finding is certainly one of the most intriguing hypotheses you have submitted in your history with this institution, but the evidence seems to weigh rather heavily against it. Without going into too much detail, let us say that:

A. The specimen looks like the head of a Barbie doll that a dog has chewed on.

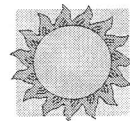
B. Clams don't have teeth.

It is with feelings tinged with melancholy that we must deny your request to have the specimen carbon dated. This is partially due to the heavy load our lab must bear in its normal operation, and partly due to carbon dating's notorious inaccuracy in fossils of recent geologic record. To the best of our knowledge, no Barbie dolls were produced prior to 1956 AD, and carbon dating is likely to produce wildly inaccurate results.

Sadly, we must also deny your request that we approach the National Science Foundation's Phylogeny Department with the concept of assigning your specimen the scientific name "Australopithecus spiff-arino." Speaking personally, I, for one, fought tenaciously for the acceptance of your proposed taxonomy, but was ultimately voted down because the species name you selected was hyphenated, and didn't really sound like it might be Latin.

However, we gladly accept your generous donation of this fascinating specimen to the museum. While it is undoubtedly not a hominid fossil, it is, nonetheless, yet another riveting example of the great body of work you seem to accumulate here so effortlessly. You should know that our Director has reserved a special shelf in his own office for the display of the specimens you have previously submitted to the Institution, and the entire staff speculates daily on what you will happen upon next in your digs at the site you have discovered in your back yard. We eagerly anticipate your trip to our nation's capital that you proposed in your last letter, and several of us are pressing the Director to pay for it. We are particularly interested in hearing you expand on your theories surrounding the "trans-positating fillifitation of ferrous ions in a structural matrix" that makes the excellent juvenile Tyrannosaurus Rex femur you recently discovered take on the deceptive appearance of a rusty 9-mm Sears Craftsman automotive crescent wrench.

Yours in Science,
Harvey Rowe
Curator, Antiquities



EXCUSES continued from page 3

6. I am stuck in the blood pressure machine down at Von's.
7. Constipation has made me a walking time bomb.
8. The psychiatrist said it was an excellent session. He even gave me this jaw restraint so I won't bite things when I am startled.
9. The dog ate my car keys. We're going to hitchhike to the vet.
10. My mother-in-law has come back as one of the Undead and we must track her to her coffin to drive a stake through her heart and give her eternal peace. One day should do it.
11. I am converting my calendar from Julian to Gregorian.
12. I am extremely sensitive to a rise in the interest rates.
13. I can't come to work today because the EPA has determined that my house is completely surrounded by wetlands and I have to arrange for helicopter transportation.
14. I prefer to remain an enigma. ■ ■ ■