



The Desert Sage

OUR 76th SEASON

JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2017

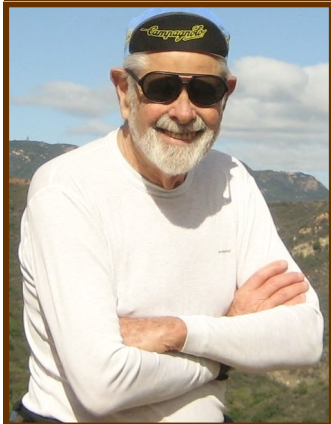
ISSUE NO. 367



<http://desertpeaks.org/>

Chair's Corner

by Paul Cooley



Happy New Year, everyone. I hope everyone reading this will find a way to visit the California desert this year, as I hope to. So many peaks, so little time. I admire those who have the energy and focus to climb all of the peaks on the DPS list - or to do it multiple times, as several

DPS folks have done.

Memories of earlier days in the California deserts: I remember climbing Clark Mountain about fifty years ago. There were beautiful amethyst crystals just lying around the canyon floor on the approach from the north. It is doubtful that any still are there, on the surface anyway, but there must have been a rich source somewhere higher up. As always, the view from the top was grand, and finding the amethyst crystals made the climb even more memorable. And as I recall we had gotten there in my first car, a 1947 Mercury four-door sedan which also took me to El Picacho del Diablo and many other places. It was surprisingly capable on dirt roads, mostly due to reasonably good clearance and a slightly modified V-8 engine.

We have a strong need for volunteers for the DPS Management Committee. I cannot (and shouldn't) continue as chair, though I have enjoyed writing these columns and seeing people at DPS potlucks. Please make known your willingness to join in Section governance to me or to one of the other members of the current management committee, listed on page three. Participating is not a big commitment of time but without volunteers we will just have to come and shanghai someone (just joking!).

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DPS Peaks Register Report



Mark Butski is the Desert Peaks Section's Mountain Records chair. Please email Mark with the condition of summit register books and containers after climbing a DPS listed peak. Mark can also send you replacement DPS register books to carry up to DPS peaks. His email address is:

hbmark58@yahoo.com

THE NEXT SAGE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 12, 2017.

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Desert Peaks Section Leadership for the 2016 - 2017 Season

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Cover Photo Credit...

goes to Tohru Ohnuki. The photo is a group shot on the summit of Nelson Range High Point for Matt Hengst's "Glow in the Dark" DPS List Finish on Saturday, December 3, 2016.

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The Desert Peaks Section

explores the desert mountain ranges of California and the Southwest, stimulates the interest of Sierra Club membership in climbing these ranges and aids in the conservation and preservation of desert wilderness areas.



Trips & Events January 2017 — December 2017

A DPS group on the summit of Clark Mountain (photo taken by Mat Kelliher on April 11, 2015).

JAN 7-8	SAT-SUN	DPS, HPS, WTC	Stepladder Mountains HP & Old Woman Mountain
JAN 7-8	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle
JAN 8	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting & Potluck
JAN 14	SAT	HPS	HPS Awards Banquet
JAN 21-22	SAT-SUN	DPS, WTC	Mopah Point, Umpah Peak & Turtle Mountains HP
FEB 4-5	SAT-SUN	DPS, HPS, WTC	Granite Mountains # 2 and Palen Mountains HP
FEB 11	SAT	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Mount Pinos Navigation Practice on Snowshoes
FEB 12	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
MAR 4-5	SAT-SUN	DPS, HPS, WTC	Nopah Range High Point and Brown Peak
MAR 12	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
MAR 18-19	SAT-SUN	DPS	Pahrump Point and Stewart Point
APR 9	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
APR 19	WED	LTC, WTC, DPS, SPS	Advanced Mountaineering: Basic Safety Systems
APR 22	SAT	LTC, WTC, DPS, SPS	Advanced Mountaineering: Belaying
APR 22-23	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Mission Creek Navigation Noodle
APR 29	SAT	LTC, WTC, DPS, SPS	Advanced Mountaineering: Rappelling
MAY 6-7	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, DPS, SPS	Advanced Mountaineering: Anchors
MAY 21	SUN	DPS	The Desert Peaks Section Annual Banquet
JUNE 3-4	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Mount Pinos Navigation Noodle
SEPT 16-17	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Mount Pinos Navigation Noodle
DEC 10	SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle

♦ JANUARY 7-8 SAT-SUN DPS, HPS, WTC

I: Stepladder Mountains High Point (2,927'), and Old Woman Mountain (5,325'): Join us for a fun weekend way out in eastern California near Needles, as we climb a couple of classic desert peaks along the botanical transition zone between the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. Both climbs require strenuous effort, which we'll exert at a moderate pace, and will require comfort on rocky, thorny, steep, and loose class 2 desert terrain. Saturday we'll head out into the Stepladder Mountains Wilderness Area and work our way up the zig-zagging ledge system of the Stepladder Mountain's eastern face to the top of the pinnacle just south of High Point of the range. After marveling at the views from up top, we'll return the way we came in for a day's total of about 12 RT miles and 1,500' of gain. Back at our cars that evening, we'll set up a primitive, dry camp and enjoy a festive Happy Hour and Potluck under waxing gibbous winter night skies. Sunday we'll head over to our trailhead for the Old Woman Mountains High Point, located west of Saturday's peak, and set out to the south along road, canyon, and ridge to the High Point of the range. From that summit we'll thoroughly enjoy the views before heading back down the way we came up for a day's total of about 6.5 RT miles with 2,800' of gain. High clearance, 4WD vehicles required. Comfort on loose and exposed class 2 terrain required. This DPS Outing is co-sponsored by WTC and HPS. Email Mat Kelliher at mkelliher746@gmail.com with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher and Bill Simpson.

♦ JANUARY 7-8 SAT-SUN LTC, DPS, WTC, HPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle in Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, and

campfire. Sunday, checkout. To participate, send email, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: Robert Myers (310-829-3177, rmmyers@ix.netcom.com). Assistant: Ann Pedreschi. Note: Early (at least two weeks prior to the event) sign-up for all navigation checkoffs and practices is recommended. These outings require substantial pre-outing preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the Leaders Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

♦ **JANUARY 8** **SUN** **DPS**

O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Tom and Tina Bowman in Long Beach for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. and potluck at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Tina at tina@bowmanchange.com.

♦ **JANUARY 14** **SAT** **HPS**

O: 2017 HPS Awards Banquet: Join the HPS for its annual awards banquet at the Monrovia Restaurant in Monrovia, California, as we celebrate our accomplishments and visit with friends new and old. Mark your calendar; please check the HPS website for additional details. Leader: Mat Kelliher (mkelliher746@gmail.com).

♦ **JANUARY 21-22** **SAT-SUN** **DPS, WTC**

MR/I: Mopah Point (3,530'), Umpah Peak (3,553'), and Turtle Mountains High Point (4,298'+): Join us on this incredibly scenic, wildly fun, rock scrambling adventure into the Turtle Mountains Wilderness Area east of Twentynine Palms, California where we'll be treated to amazing and airy views out into what has been described as one of the most visually spectacular desert ranges in the Mojave Desert. Saturday we'll head up into the Mopah Range to climb two gorgeous peaks via 3rd Class routes; first the DPS listed Mopah Point followed by Umpah Peak - day's total of about 10.5 miles with 4,000' of gain. Sunday we'll get up early and drive to the trailhead for the Turtle Mountains High Point - day's total of about 13 miles with 2,700' of gain. Saturday's hike is a Restricted Mountaineering outing; participants must be current Sierra Club members, and must submit a Sierra Club "Medical Form" to join us. Absolute comfort on exposed terrain required. Helmet, harness, belay device, and experience with their use is required. Limited group size. Sunday's hike is I-rated; experience traveling over rocky & thorny Class 2 desert terrain required. High Clearance Vehicles recommended. This WTC Outing is co-sponsored by DPS. Email Sierra Club number, contact and carpool info, climbing resume, recent experience and conditioning to mkelliher746@gmail.com for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher and Neal Robbins.

♦ **FEBRUARY 4-5** **SAT-SUN** **DPS, HPS, WTC**

I: Granite Mountain #2 (4,331'+) and Palen Mountains High Point (3,848'): Join us for this fun weekend of desert peak bagging way out in the Palen/McCoy Wilderness Area located in the southern Mojave - northern Colorado Deserts west of Blythe, California. Both climbs require strenuous effort, which we'll exert at a moderate pace, and will require comfort on rocky, thorny, steep, and loose class 2 desert terrain. Saturday we'll head up the southwest flank of the Granite Mountains to their High Point via dry stream beds to the summit ridge and return the way we came in for a day's total of about 8.0 RT miles with 2,900' of gain. Back at our cars that evening, we'll set up a primitive, dry camp and enjoy a festive Happy Hour around a raging campfire under waxing crescent, winter night skies. Sunday we'll drive over to the nearby trailhead for the Palen Mountains, and then head up the eastern flank of that range to its High Point via dry creek bed and ridge. After enjoying the views up top we'll head back down the way we came up for a day's total of about 5.0 RT miles with 2,700' of gain. High clearance, 4WD vehicles required. This DPS Outing is co-sponsored by WTC and HPS. Email Mat Kelliher at mkelliher746@gmail.com with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher and Jeremy Netka.

♦ **FEBRUARY 11** **SAT** **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

I: Navigation: Mount Pinos Navigation Practice on Snowshoes: Ever wonder what it is like to navigate in snow? Find out on this navigation practice as we take a cross-country route to Mount Pinos (8,831'). Four miles round trip, 700 feet gain. Snowshoes required. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/

training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: Robert Myers (310-829-3177, rmmyers@ix.netcom.com). Co-Leaders: Ann Pedreschi Shields, Adrienne Benedict, and Jane Simpson.

♦ FEBRUARY 12 SUN DPS

O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Kathy Rich in South Pasadena for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. and potluck at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Kathy at kathrynrich@gmail.com.

♦ MARCH 4-5 SAT-SUN DPS, HPS, WTC

I: Nopah Range High Point (6,394') and Brown Peak (4,947'): Come join us for a strenuous but fun weekend of desert peak bagging out near Death Valley National Park high above the Chicago Valley north-northeast of Shoshone, California. Both climbs require strenuous effort, which we'll exert at a moderate pace, and will require comfort on rocky, thorny, steep, and loose class 2 desert terrain. Saturday morning we'll head out just before first light from our camp at the trailhead into the Nopah Range Wilderness Area to ascend the western flank of the Nopah Range to its high point. After thoroughly enjoying the reportedly exquisite views up there, we'll return the way we came in for a day's total of about 10 RT miles with 4,200' gain. We'll make camp where we're parked and will celebrate the weekend around a roaring campfire under waxing crescent night skies with a traditional DPS Potluck Happy Hour. Sunday we'll drive into Death Valley via Shoshone over high clearance vehicles and 4WD required dirt roads to the trailhead for the west side approach to Brown Peak in the Greenwater Range. A mere 3 miles with 2,100' of gain will get us up to the summit, where we'll eat a little lunch and enjoy the views before heading back down to our cars via the same route we came up. High Clearance, 4WD vehicles required. This DPS Outing is co-sponsored by WTC and HPS. Email Mat Kelliher at mkelliher746@gmail.com with contact, vehicle type and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher and Bill Simpson.

♦ MARCH 12 SUN DPS

O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Tom Sumner in Sylmar for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. and potluck at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Tom at locornnr@aol.com.

♦ MARCH 18-19 SAT-SUN DPS

I: Pahrump Point (5,740') and Stewart Point (5,265'): Saturday climb Pahrump Point, 8 miles round trip with 3,400' gain. Sunday climb Stewart Point, 6.5 miles round trip with 2,600' gain. Car camp and optional potluck Saturday night. Moderate pace. Send email or sase with resume, conditioning, carpool info to Leader: Gary Schenk (gary@hbfun.org). Co-Leader: Tina Bowman.

♦ APRIL 9 SUN DPS

O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Larry and Barbee Tidball in Long Beach for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. and potluck at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Larry and Barbee at lbtidball@verizon.net.

♦ APRIL 19 WED LTC, DPS, WTC, SPS

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP15): Basic Safety System: First of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing, both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This will be an indoor workshop held in the evening reviewing ropes, harnesses, helmets, basic climbing gear, and knots in preparation for later workshops. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register, please see: <http://www.advancedmountainprogram.org>. Leaders: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com); Patrick McKusky (pamckusky@att.net); and, Matthew Hengst (matthew.hengst@gmail.com).

♦ APRIL 22 SAT LTC, DPS, WTC, SPS

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP15): Belaying: Second of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing, both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This workshop will be held at Stoney Point in Chatsworth and will focus on belaying and related

principles starting with standard sports climbing all the way up to advanced techniques to move large groups across dangerous terrain. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register, please see: <http://www.advancedmountainingprogram.org>. Leaders: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com); Patrick McKusky (pamckusky@att.net); and, Matthew Hengst (matthew.hengst@gmail.com).

♦ **APRIL 22-23** **SAT-SUN** **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

I: Navigation: Mission Creek Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Mission Creek Preserve to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: Robert Myers (310-829-3177, rmmyers@ix.netcom.com). Assistant: Ann Shields. Note: Early (at least two weeks prior to the event) sign-up for all navigation checkoffs and practices is recommended. These outings require substantial pre-outing preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the Leadership Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

♦ **APRIL 29** **SAT** **LTC, DPS, WTC, SPS**

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP15): Rappelling: Third of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing, both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This workshop will be held at Stoney Point in Chatsworth and will focus on rappelling using a variety of techniques with heavy emphasis on redundancy, safety, and efficiency. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register, please see: <http://www.advancedmountainingprogram.org>. Leaders: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com); Patrick McKusky (pamckusky@att.net); and, Matthew Hengst (matthew.hengst@gmail.com).

♦ **MAY 6-7** **SAT-SUN** **LTC, DPS, WTC, SPS**

M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP15): Anchors and Real World Application: Fourth of four climbing workshops aimed at developing skills for 3rd, 4th, and 5th class climbing, both as a participant or a future Sierra Club M and E leader. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on building anchors and applying previously learned skills in real world climbing situations and multiple participants. All participants must have prior roped climbing experience and commit to all four classes. To register, please see: <http://www.advancedmountainingprogram.org>. Leaders: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com); Patrick McKusky (pamckusky@att.net); and, Matthew Hengst (matthew.hengst@gmail.com).

♦ **MAY 21** **SUN** **DPS**

O: Desert Peaks Section Annual Banquet: Save the date! Join your fellow DPS members and friends for a wonderful evening at the Luminarias Restaurant in Monterey Park. The Social Hour and No Host Bar starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. and awards. More information will be forthcoming on the DPS website and in a future issue of the Sage.

♦ **JUNE 3-4** **SAT-SUN** **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

I: Navigation: Mount Pinos Navigation Noodle: Navigation Noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Saturday is for practice; Sunday is for checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: Robert Myers (310-829-3177, rmmyers@ix.netcom.com). Assistant: Ann Shields. Note: Early (at least two weeks prior to the event) sign-up for all navigation checkoffs and practices is recommended. These outings require substantial pre-outing preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the Leadership Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

♦ **SEPTEMBER 16-17 SAT-SUN**

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Mount Pinos Navigation Noodle: Navigation Noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Saturday is for practice; Sunday is for checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: Robert Myers (310-829-3177, rmmymers@ix.netcom.com). Assistant: Ann Shields. Note: Early (at least two weeks prior to the event) sign-up for all navigation checkoffs and practices is recommended. These outings require substantial pre-outing preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the Leadership Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

♦ **DECEMBER 10 SUN**

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle: Navigation Noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkoff or practice to satisfy the basic (I/M) level or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To participate, send email with contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: Robert Myers (310-829-3177, rmmymers@ix.netcom.com). Assistant: Ann Shields. Note: Early (at least two weeks prior to the event) sign-up for all navigation checkoffs and practices is recommended. These outings require substantial pre-outing preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the Leaders Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

THE DESERT PEAKS SECTION NEEDS MEMBERS TO RUN FOR THE DPS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

Please contact any Management
Committee member if you're
interested in serving on the
DPS Management Committee.

In order to participate in one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5528.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Outings Chair

by Leo Logacho



Greetings Everyone,

The following quote provides a bit of inspiration for us to climb Desert Peaks:

"Climbing is the lazy man's way to enlightenment. It forces you to pay attention, because if you don't, you won't succeed, which is minor — or you may get hurt, which is major. Instead of years of meditation, you have this activity that forces

you to relax and monitor your breathing and tread that line between living and dying. When you climb, you always are confronted with the edge. Hey, if it was just like climbing a ladder, we all would have quit a long time ago." —*Duncan Ferguson*.

Incidentally, we've had a great response from our leaders, and multiple DPS events and outings are now scheduled for 2017. Please check the DPS Trip and Event Schedule on pages 4 -8 of this issue of the Sage or the DPS website at <http://www.desertpeaks.org/> for more information. Also, please take part in one or more of these events/outings, and invite a friend or two.

If you enjoy Desert Peaks Section outings, or enjoy going on any Sierra Club Angeles Chapter sponsored outing, please consider becoming a leader. For more information, click on the following link:

http://angeles.sierraclub.org/get_outdoors/becoming_leader

Leaders, please report any accidents or incidents promptly to the link below. There is a new website for Leaders (live since December) that also incorporates the LTC, OMC and Safety websites, which can be found at:

http://angeles.sierraclub.org/leadership_and_outings

Regards, Leo Logacho, DPS Outings Chair

DPS Membership Report

by Ron Bartell

Membership Summary

<u>Type</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Sustaining</u>
Member	121	24
Household	29	
Subscriber	27	2
Totals:	177	26

Activity Report

Achievements

List Finish

#172 Matthew Hengst 12/3/16 Nelson Range HP

New Member

Bill Simpson Last Chance Mtn

Sustaining Renewals

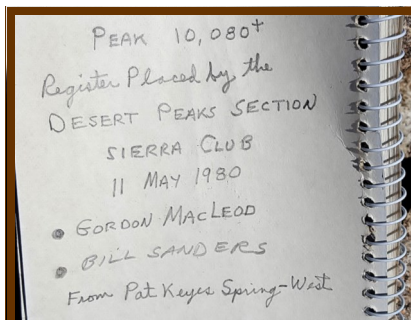
Richard L. Carey	1 year
Gregory Frux	1 year
Bruno Geiger	1 year
Greg Gerlach & Kelley Laxamana	2 years

Renewals

Guy Dahms	1 year
Larry Edmonds	1 year
Bob Greenawalt	1 year
Dave Halligan	1 year
Matthew Hengst	1 year
Rich Henke & Rena Tishman	1 year
Jim Hinkley	4 years
John McCully	2 years
Diana Neff & George Estrada	2 years
Chuck Pospishil	1 year
Kathryn Rich	2 years
Daniel B A Richter	1 year
Jennifer & Gerry Roach	1 year
Le Roy Russ	1 year
Jim Scott	1 year
Nile Sorenson	1 year
Edward Stork	1 year
Robert Young	2 years

Donations

\$5 from Gregory Frux



Trip Reports

A vintage DPS register placed on an obscure peak in the Inyo Mountains (photo by Greg Gerlach).

Mount Jefferson via Pine Creek

By Rick Craycraft

June 15, 2016

Sufficiently dissuaded from taking the standard Meadow Canyon approach (due to driving nothing stouter than a rented Nissan Versa), I followed up on a reference from the Mount Jefferson SummitPost page to try this route. After leaving beautiful Tonopah, I followed the directions for Meadow Canyon out U.S Highway 6 to Nevada State Road 376. Veering off this road to the right thirteen miles later led me to Belmont, a historic “ghost town”, and the end of the pavement. Then I dropped into Monitor Valley on a wide, sandy road that used to be Nevada State Road 82 (still is on Google maps). I drove twenty miles on this road, past a ranch, to a sign pointing me to my destination, the Pine Creek U.S. Forest Service campground, and supposedly a trailhead for Mount Jefferson.

The campground itself was quite run down, with fresh toilet paper in the outhouses the only indication that it was maintained at all. Of the twelve spots available, several of them were in advanced disrepair. There were two parties already in the campground that were quite entrenched. I picked the best spot I could, campsite #9, right across from the trailhead I sought.

The rudimentary directions I had were to just follow the creek up the drainage. I did this and got off-route very early on. I mistakenly followed a user trail up into the boulders above the stream, then lost it. Backtracking, I realized that the wide place in the creek I had passed was actually a crossing. That was the first of fifteen creek crossings I would have to do. This initial crossing

was the first of three where there was no choice I could find but to take my boots and socks off, roll up my hiking pants and wade. After negotiating this first (and largest) crossing I found a pretty well defined trail from there on. Many of the rest of the crossings were logs and debris across the creek in official and unofficial ways. The transition of the trail from one side to the other side of the creek was not always readily clear. Some of the crossings were downright gymnastic, requiring me to balance on said logs and hold on to foliage overhead. The final crossings, up toward the head of the creek near the summit bowl, were mere stepovers.

At trail’s end in the summit bowl my map printed off CalTopo.com (that’s an endorsement) indicated that the true summit was slightly to the left and up moderate slopes of talus and alpine foliage. The radio (?) towers on the summit came into view pretty quickly as I ascended.

The day I was there I only saw two other hikers, with a horse, on the trail. They claimed they had seen a herd of thirty bighorn sheep higher up. Excited at such a prospect, I was disappointed that I had run into none by the time I reached the summit. Even over the expansive view I had, I saw no wildlife. However, just minutes below the summit on the descent I saw eight sets of horns peeking up over a rise. Soon I was in conversational distance with eight robust-looking bighorn sheep. I stood in wonder at these magnificent creatures but they did not tarry. I continued my descent, found the trail and retraced my steps, negotiating again all fifteen creek crossings. The total mileage for the hike is approximately 11 miles roundtrip and the elevation gain is about 4,400’. Also, I started hiking at 5:00 a.m. and returned to my campsite around 3:00 p.m.

Conservation Chair

by Dave Perkins



California's Big Tree Die-Off

Based on aerial surveys, the U.S. Forest Service has concluded that more than 102 million trees have died across the state's forests since 2010 according to an article by Matt Stevens in the Sunday, November 27th Los Angeles Times. More than half — 62 million — died this year alone. There are 4.1 billion live trees in California forests, according to U.S. Forest Service data. So the dead trees represent about 2.5% of that population.

The die-off raises many ecological questions that officials are trying to untangle. The dead trees represent a major fire threat. But removing them poses logistical, financial and public safety risks. There are not nearly enough resources available to effectively manage 102 million dead trees. So officials have formed a task force to try to fell the dead trees in what they call "high-hazard areas" — before the trees snap on their own. That means targeting for removal dead trees that are close to critical power lines, roads and areas where people live, play and work.

More than \$200 million in state and federal funds have been spent to cope with the problem, said Janet Upton, a deputy director for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Agencies have collectively removed more than 423,000 dead trees within the last year. There are a few ways to get rid of the trees. Crews can cut them down, take them to the side of the road and organize them into log "decks." Then mills can purchase and pick up the logs and use them for lumber. The trees can also be taken to a facility where the dead timber gets turned into biomass. This option burns the wood waste in a high-pressure boiler to create steam, which turns turbines and produces renewable energy. These options are preferable, but mills are not taking dead wood from California. Further complicating matters, most wood-

processing facilities are far from where the tree mortality has been the heaviest, and the cost to transport trees across that distance is high.

"There's not the infrastructure in place to take this on this quantity of trees," according to Stephanie Gomes a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman. If there is no place to take the dead trees, crews can burn them, but that creates air-quality problems for the forest.

What is the fire risk?

When a lot of dead fuel remains on the ground, fires burn hotter and damage the soil, Cal Fire officials say. Once fires burn through the fuel on the ground, they can climb up a "ladder" of dry branches and timber until they get into the crown of the tree. And once a fire gets to the top of a tree, fire authorities say it can spread quickly — hopping from tree to tree rather than winding slowly across the ground.

What is the long-term effect of this die-off?

Because California hasn't experienced this level of mortality, no one knows for certain. Researchers are still grappling with how fire affects the forests differently than drought, the mixed findings on fire danger and how tree mortality affects the supply of water and snow.

How much is the rain helping?

Experts say rain helps a lot, and certain parts of Northern California have enjoyed a wet start to the rainy season. Central and Southern California have been less fortunate. Officials say the majority of the dead trees are located in the southern and central Sierra Nevada, where precipitation levels have been average or below average. But officials have also warned that the death march is moving north into counties such as Siskiyou, Modoc, Plumas and Lassen. Parts of the forest at lower elevations — about 5,000 to 6,000 feet — continue to get hit the hardest. In the higher elevations, it can sometimes appear as if there is no drought and the trees are much healthier. Officials maintain that even if a deluge somehow managed to end the drought this year, trees would continue to die for at least another year or two. There are still many trees "that are dead that don't know they're dead," said Randy Moore of the U.S. Forest Service.

The Rocks We Climb, Encore!

by Bob Michael

KOFA PEAK
(and, by extension, Castle Dome, Kino, and Ajo)
by Bob Michael

I'm pleased to write up Kofa on request; that was my third DPS peak on a perfect New Year's weekend. A relative newbie to the wonders of the Desert, I thought the palm canyon was a vision of Paradise. I'd come home to a place I'd never been before. (Apologies to John Denver.)

The thick reddish volcanic sequence that makes up the imposing cliffs of the Kofas is part of an extensive volcanic province of Tertiary (post-Rocky Mountain) age that covers much of the southwestern quadrant of Arizona. So as not to repeat myself too much, I've covered in detail earlier articles the overriding and subduction of the Farallon (East Pacific) plate and its associated mid-oceanic ridge underneath the North American plate, and the ensuing long-drawn-out chaos that gave us the West in all its glory. And, as I've discussed before, the western margin of the North American plate begins slewing very strongly to the southeast beginning at Point Conception and, really, continues all the way to the border between Panama and Colombia (glance at a globe). Thus, the high-energy and high-heat subduction-margin geology of southernmost Arizona occurs much further east than in the northern part of the state; due north of Kofa we find the serenely flat and undisturbed Grand Wash Cliffs at the western end of the Grand Canyon.

The rocks underlying, and older than, the Kofa volcanics have suffered greatly from being at "ground zero" of the continental-margin subduction zone. They are mostly a schist -- metamorphosed shale or siltstone -- of indeterminate age, possibly Mesozoic (Age of Reptiles, pre-Rocky Mountain) on regional relationships. They weather readily compared to the tough volcanics, and form small hills at the base of the range. These oldest rocks are intruded in places in the Kofa-Castle Dome complex by Cretaceous granites -- yes, the same stuff, basically, that makes up Big Picacho, the Sheepholes, and the Sierras -- the signature rock resulting from the subduction of the Farallon plate. (Again, refer to my articles in which I discuss this process in detail.)

But the "rock stars" of the show at Kofa are the kilometer or so (ca. 3000 feet) of volcanic rocks that comprise the magnificent cliffed mass of the range. These rocks are mostly rhyolitic (relatively light and silica-rich, the other end of the spectrum from heavy iron-rich basalt) flows, welded tuffs (lithified rhyolitic ash) and breccias (lithified explosion debris) from an explosively erupting caldera (see my Mount Jefferson write-up) which in late Oligocene -



Treasurer's Report

by Laura Newman

*DPS Account Summary from
January 1, 2016 to
November 30, 2016*

INCOME

Advertising	\$36.00
Banquet Silent Auction	\$72.00
Banquet Ticket Sales	\$2,590.00
Donations	\$55.00
Merchandise	\$289.00
Subscriptions	<u>\$1,670.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$4,712.00**

EXPENSES

Banquet Expenses	\$3,305.81
Postage	\$50.93
Sage Printing/Mailing	\$1,492.08
Sales Tax	\$29.75
Supplies	\$407.25
Web Page Expenses	<u>\$151.75</u>

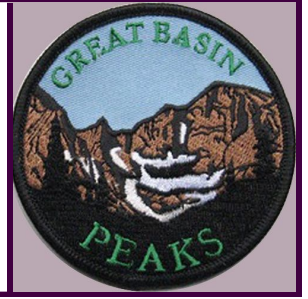
TOTAL EXPENSES **\$5,437.57**

PAY PAL BALANCE **\$9.41**
CHECKING ACCOUNT
BALANCE **\$2,942.87**

early Miocene time (20-25 million years ago, peaking at 21 million years by radiometric dating) was active where the Kofas/Castle Domes are now. There were three big caldera complexes in the Southwest, with the explosive activity migrating from west to east over time; Kofa, Chiricahua/Galiuro, and far southwest New Mexico. You might recall from my earlier articles that the Miocene was an exciting and violent time in the Southwest. The active subduction of the Farallon Plate that began long ago in the Jurassic and maybe even late Triassic had pretty well ceased, and with it the compressional tectonics that had prevailed for tens of millions of years. We think that, as what was left of Farallon began to delaminate from the bottom of North America and sink into the mantle, North America relaxed to a tensional stress field, thus accounting for initiation of Basin

(Continued on page 17)

Great Basin Peaks Section News



Great Basin Peaks Section News By Sharon Marie Wilcox

Congratulations to John Hooper for finishing the Great Basin Peaks list in October on Mount Moriah! He is the fifth member to finish the list.

Regarding the list, Navaho Mountain has been removed because of recent access issues. The Navaho website states that they consider Navajo Mountain a sacred area, and ascending it is forbidden; consequently, Navaho Mountain needed to be removed from our Sierra Club list.

Sadly, in October we lost Marge Sill, a Great Basin Peaks Section member known as The Mother of Nevada Wilderness for her 50-plus years of public lands advocacy. She was an enthusiastic supporter during the formation of the GBPS and though her hiking days had ended, she said that she felt honored to be a member. Marge lead my first Sierra Club hike plus inspired me to join Sierra Club and Friends of Nevada Wilderness. As many others, I will truly miss her.

In the spirit of Marge, we need to continue exploring wild areas, hiking peaks, and working to preserve these special areas. Consequently, I'm including part of an email from GBPS member, David Porter, providing action you can take to keep access open in some great hiking areas.

From David Porter to Fellow Outdoor Recreation Fans:

Subject: Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization EIS Public Input.

Congressman Mark Amodei's Nevada lands bill, if passed, would allow for substantial portions of National Forest and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land transfers to the State to manage, lease, or sell. This creates the potential loss of public access, and sets a precedent for removal of our Federal public

lands in other states.

The US Department of the Navy is proposing to withdraw BLM lands for Naval Aviation purposes that will impact outdoor recreation. The purpose for the withdrawal is more of a National need that supersedes our regional concerns. So it's important to make sure the trade-offs of this proposal are known during the alternative evaluation and decision-making process.

The Fallon Range Expansion proposal will prohibit public access to parts of 5 of Nevada's Mountain Ranges that are important to us. My goal is for the EIS process to recognize and document that the proposal will have social and recreation impacts on destination hiking, 4-wheeling, rock hounding, wildlife viewing, bird watching, driving to cultural heritage sites, etc. There are alternative ways to mitigate the impact such as allowing cherry stem road access to Fairview Peak, or allowing an annual public access.

(Note: The other thing you may want to do is to check some of these peaks off your list before the area is closed off to the public, possibly forever.) Comment web link: <https://frtmodernization.com/Proposed-Action>

Please take time to follow David's lead voicing your concerns on a bill that could restrict our recreation access in five Nevada mountain ranges plus set a precedent for withdrawing lands in other states.

SAGE PHOTOS AND REPORTS NEEDED !

The SAGE needs articles and photographs, including cover photos, that pertain to outdoor activities of interest to Desert Peak Sections members and subscribers. Please note that trip reports should include trip dates and identify trip participants and photos should indicate when and where the photo was taken, what it is of, who is in it, and who took it. Please email SAGE submissions to gregrg1955@verizon.net no later than the second Sunday of even numbered months.



DESERT VIDEOS

By Burton Falk

A SELECTION OF DESERT-THEMED VIDEOS

BOMBAY BEACH (2011)

PLAGUES AND PLEASURES ON THE SALTON SEA (2004)

VALLEY OF LOVE (2016)

MOJAVE (2015)

SKY (2015)

The arid areas in which the DPS climb have offered dramatic and evocative backdrops for film and documentary makers for almost a century now. The first major movie to be photographed on the desert was *Greed* (1924), in which the German filmmaker, Erich von Stroheim, faithfully — perhaps too faithfully — adapted Frank Norris' classic 1899 novel, *McTeague*, into a marathon movie, 42 reels and ten hours in length. Insisting on realism, von Stroheim kept the cast on the floor of Death Valley for several days in August with temperatures hovering around 120, shooting and reshooting the last scenes. The white-hot salt flats provided the backdrop for the film's finale in which the strong, dim-witted *McTeague*, after murdering his lone pursuer, realizes that his mule is dead, his water keg has leaked dry, and that he is fatally handcuffed to his pursuer's body.

Two years later, in 1926, the director, Henry King — *The Sun Also Rises* (1957) and *Tender is the Night* (1962) -- undertook an even more daunting desert film project, *The Winning of Barbara Worth*, in which the sudden flooding of a newly created desert agricultural area, similar to the inundation of the Imperial Valley in 1905, was realistically portrayed. While shooting the film in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada in June 1926, King, noticing that a sand storm was approaching, ordered his camera crew to film the action as the winds hit. The set's false-fronted hotel, laundry, general store, and barber shop blew

over in the high wind, while barrels, tenting, clothing and everything else that was not nailed down sailed out across the desert. King, however, was delighted with the footage and planned to incorporate it into the final cut.

Realism, however, gradually lost its allure in the making of desert-themed films.

In his 1980 film, *Zabriskie Point*, Michelangelo Antonioni's portrayal of the era's anti-war counterculture included a surrealistic scene on the barren slopes below Death Valley's Zabriskie Point, in which the site came alive in a dusty orgy performed by members of an avant-garde dance troupe.

Hollywood stretched realism in desert-themed films even further in 1990 with *Tremors*, the first of a series of five movies, shot in the Owens Valley area, starring Kevin Bacon, Fred Ward, and Reba MacIntire, and introducing a new species of desert wildlife-- the Graboid, an enormous burrowing, man-eating creature.

So how do the more recent desert-themed videos compare? Below, listed in the order of which I considered best to crummy, are reviews of five films I recently viewed. All are available from Netflix either as DVDs or via streaming.

BOMBAY BEACH (2011)

This award-winning documentary, produced and directed by the Israeli film maker, Alma Har'el, is set in Bombay Beach, CA, a small town (population 298) located on the southeastern shore of the Salton Sea, almost directly atop the southern end of the San Andreas Fault. Bombay Beach's main claim to fame is that it is the lowest town in the United States at 223' below sea level. Unfortunately, most of its inhabitants -- economically, at least -- are also underwater.

Desert Videos – continued...

Judged to be the Best Documentary Feature of the 2011 Tribeca Film Festival, *Bombay Beach* focuses on the trailer-dwelling Parrish family whose young son, Benny, has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Residents also considered are CeeJay Thompson, a black teen-ager who has been sent to the desert to live with his father in the hope of escaping the gang violence in Los Angeles; and Red, described in one review as "an ancient survivor, once an oil field worker, living on the fumes of whiskey, cigarettes and an irrepressible love of life."

Bombay Beach was filmed over a period of several months, and its characters become endearing. Benny's mother, for instance, once arrested for child-endangerment, is now lovingly attempting to care for her over-active son. CeeJay, making the most of his move to the down-and-out town, works out using his own exercise regimen, studies hard, and, proving that good things can come from hard work, earns a spot on the local Calipatria High School football team. Red, living alone in his trailer in nearby Slab City, is out to simply enjoy his last years to the fullest. He smokes to excess, enjoys perhaps a drink or two too many, and flirts with any or all of the neighbor ladies. Eventually, he falls, breaks a leg, and has to temporarily leave the area for recuperation.

In an interview with the filmmaker magazine, *Hammer to Nail*, Har'el explained what she hoped to achieve in making *Bombay Beach*: "This is the human experience of life and that's what I wanted to illustrate more than anything, how things co-exist, all the wrongs and the rights together, the love and the violence, the broken dream and the persistence of dreams. Even though the dream is broken, you can still see the people."

PLAGUES AND PLEASURES ON THE SALTON SEA (2004)

Plagues & Pleasures on the Salton Sea is a thirteen-year-old documentary made by Chris Metzler and Jeff Springer, with narration by John Waters and music by Friends of Dean Martinez.

The offbeat and sometimes humorous film tells the story of how the inland sea was accidentally created

in the spring of 1905, when a series of floods washed away a section of a protective levee, causing the entire flow of the Colorado River to be diverted into the Salton Basin. Rising several inches each day, the river flowed unchecked -- creating the 376-square mile Salton Sea, a body of water bigger than Lake Tahoe--until the breach was finally closed in 1907.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the inland sea was touted as the "California Riviera." But now, because of its increasing salinity, continuing shrinkage, and its propensity to create foul odors, the Salton Sea is considered one of America's worst ecological disasters.

Indeed, as the sea's evaporative losses are replaced by fertilizer-rich agricultural run-off from the Imperial Valley, algae flourishes. And because algae can consume most of the water's available oxygen, during huge algae blooms large numbers of the inland sea's stock of tilapia die off. When this occurs, fish carcasses heap up on the shores as far as the eye can see. More daunting still, when the algae itself dies, the sea develops an unpleasant stench that can be smelled miles away.

In one of *Plagues and Pleasures'* several interviews, Steve Horwitz, superintendent of the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, recalls that a lawyer from Palm Springs once called him and threatened to sue him if he didn't somehow "stop" the smell. "Get in line," Horvitz replied.

A few hangers-on remain--or, at least, were doing so in 2004 -- to keep a vision of the original Salton Sea paradise alive. Among the local residents we meet are a former Hungarian revolutionary named Hunky Daddy, who can't understand why his adopted country won't "fix" the sea; a nudist who lets it all hang out; two realtors who expect a rebirth of the land boom of the 50s and 60s to begin at any moment; and Leonard Knight (1931-2014), the creator of nearby Salvation Mountain, a massive folk-art project made from adobe, straw, and thousands of gallons of lead-free paint.

Plagues & Pleasures shares these peoples' stories and their difficulties in keeping their unique

Desert Videos – continued...

community alive, even as mega-sized water authorities purchase and divert Imperial Valley's water, thereby reducing the number of acres in production, and, more importantly, diminishing the agricultural run-off, which is all that keeps the Salton Sea from disappearing entirely.

Sadly, since the film was made, little progress has been made in finding a solution to the Salton Sea problem.

VALLEY OF LOVE (2016)

This sub-titled French film, directed by Guillaume Nicloux, stars two of France's most famous film actors, Isabelle Huppert and Gérard Depardieu, playing two of France's most famous film actors named--not so originally -- Isabelle and Gérard. The once-married couple, who haven't seen each other in years, travel independently to Death Valley to honor the unusual last request of their son, Michael, who committed suicide a few months earlier. Michael, a gay photographer living in San Francisco, wrote letters to both of them promising that he would reappear to them one last time if they would come to Death Valley and follow a seven-day itinerary of valley sites that he had pre-planned.

Gérard agreed to come, but, because he has health issues on his mind--suspected bladder cancer, and being grossly over-weight -- to stay only for a few days. Isabelle believes that the unlikely manifestation will occur, and begs Gérard to stay on and have faith.

For the most part, *Valley of Love* consists of Isabelle and Gérard becoming reacquainted. We learn that Isabelle, who hadn't seen her son in years, is now remarried and has a new family. Gérard, who had visited Michael in San Francisco on occasion, now drinks, eats, and smokes to excess and is suffering the slings and arrows of a declining career.

During their stay, Gérard and Isabelle each experience an out-of-body encounter in regard to Michael, and the movie ends ambivalently, leaving the viewer to decide what the future might hold for each.

The Death Valley areas visited -- Badwater, Zabriskie Point, Artist's Palette, the Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes,

among others -- are spectacular; the melancholic, dissonant music of the American composer, Charles Ives, seems fitting.

This low-budget drama came alive for me during the opening scene as Isabelle makes a long walk from the Furnace Creek Ranch check-in office to one of the newer, two-storied buildings at the rear of the complex. Entering the building, she continues down the dark hall to find her room, which turned out to be next to the very room I occupied on my visit to Death Valley earlier this year. Could his coincidence explain why *Valley of Love* was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival?

MOJAVE (2015)

Were it not for the screenplay, the acting, the photography, and, possibly, the catering, *Mojave* might have been a pretty decent film. The good news is that the namesake area in which much of the movie's action takes place is, as evidenced by the presence of Joshua Trees in the outdoor shots, actually the Mojave Desert.

The plot is that Thomas (Garrett Hedlund), a gifted screenwriter, is tired of having been "world famous since the age of 19." Arising early one morning, he leaves his Los Angeles home, his French girlfriend (Louise Bourgoin), and several sleazy business associates (including a studio mogul played by Mark Wahlberg), and drives his Jeep deep into the heart of the Mojave Desert, where he begins acting suicidal. Later, at his campfire, who should wander in but Jack, (Oscar Isaac), a shotgun bearing, stringy-haired, gold-toothed drifter who down sits and begins rambling about "motiveless malignancy," and bragging of having a John Stuart Mill-level IQ.

Oh yeah, it should be mentioned that Jack, as evidenced by seven notches carved on his rifle's wooden stock, is probably a homicidal maniac.

An extended fight occurs during which Thomas, before getting the best of Jack, accidentally shoots and kills an innocent man. Later, after Thomas calls for a limo to whisk him back to Los Angeles, we find Jack, also heading for Tinsel Town, muttering to himself, "The game is on."

Desert Videos – continued...

Following an unlikely cat and mouse game in the city, the two antiheroes return to Jack's camp in the Mojave for the final dénouement.

Not to imply that the plot of *Mojave* was at times hard to follow, I'll only report that, because Jack kept calling Thomas brother, as in, "So we meet again, brother," my wife thought that the two might have been related until the end of the movie.

SKY (2015)

So, what is it about the desert west that intrigues so many foreign movie makers? My guess is that they have been brain-washed by so many American and spaghetti westerns, that they arrive here all set to make movies with little clue as to what's really going on.

The French director, Fabienne Berthaud's, 2015 film, *Sky*, is a good example. The movie opens as a thirty-something Parisian couple, Romy (Diane Kruger) and Richard (Gilles Lellouche), on vacation, drive their rental convertible through the desert areas of Riverside and Imperial Counties. Scenes of dead fish washed up on the shores of the Salton Sea, and the all too apparent poverty of the Bombay Beach, Slab City area are interspersed with otherwise beautiful desert panoramas.

After checking into a motel in a typical desert town (Twentynine Palms?), the couple wander into a hackneyed roadside honky-tonk, where Richard, ignoring Romy, starts schmoozing with two clichéd blondes. Romy leaves, walks back to her motel, and later, when Richard returns drunk with unwanted affection on his mind, she, upset and angry, bashes him on his head with a lamp.

Thinking she has killed Richard, Romy goes on the lam, first buying a used clunker and later hitch-hiking with a trucker, heading for Las Vegas. During her flight, feeling remorse, she turns herself in at a police station, where she learns that Richard is not dead and that no charges have been pressed against her. Relieved, she says, "I just want to be free."

And the next thing you know, she's involved with a long-haired park ranger, Diego (Norman Reedus), who, although good in bed, is uncommunicative and determined to avoid commitment. Unfortunately, Diego is also dying of lung disease contracted by contact with radioactive material. A New York Times reviewer

comments that Romy "comes across as a barely conscious woman with terrible taste in men."

After a split with Diego, Romy finds employment waitressing in a small cafe--making French style apple pie as a sideline -- run by Missy (Q'orianka Kilcher), an understanding American Indian woman. Through Missy, Romy meets a wizened but wise Indian woman who renames her Sky. Presumably, our heroine lives happily ever-after.

Oh, boy.

(The Rocks We Climb — continued from page 12)

and Range-type extensional block faulting. Moreover, the base of North America, which had for so long been insulated from the heat of the mantle by Farallon, was exposed to this massive heat source, and it began to melt, generating silica-rich magmas from this continental rock which took advantage of this tensional cracking to rise to the surface and violently erupt in many Western localities. (Yes, the last few sentences are a pretty heavy dose of megathought arm-waving, but they do fit with what we actually see in the field.) North to northwest-trending Basin and Range normal block faulting continued in the Kofas until comparatively recent times, sculpting the bold range front one sees from the west. The upthrown sides of the faults here face west, with the gently sloping side of the block on the east; thus, Kofa Peak is only a short distance as the vulture flies from the roadhead on the west, while mountainous terrain extends some distance east from the peak.

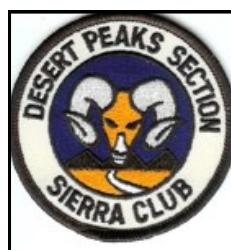
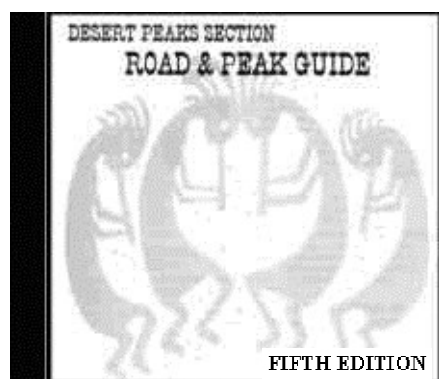
The sources I studied to write this piece were focused on mining geology (indeed, Kofa is a contraction of "K of A", which itself is an abbreviation of "King of Arizona", a gold and silver mine which operated around the turn of the past century to the south of our peak). Mining geologists tend to be no-nonsense types and don't concern themselves with the scenery. However, one of the papers mentioned volcanic necks in the Kofas, which I would guess are the several fearsomely vertical crags one sees in the middle distance from the top of the peak. I could find no reference to Castle Dome Peak *per se*, so I'm not sure if it's just an erosional remnant "butte" or some sort of neck or intrusive plug; just visually, it's such a remarkable prominence that I tend to favor the latter interpretation - and I climbed it so long ago memory doesn't help. Maybe have to do it again and check it out!

Desert Peaks Section Merchandise

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It costs ten dollars a year to subscribe to the SAGE. Anyone can subscribe to the SAGE, even if not a member of the DPS or the Sierra Club. To become a member of the DPS, you must (1) belong to the Sierra Club, (2) have climbed 6 of the 96 peaks on the DPS peaks list, and (3) subscribe to the SAGE. Non-members who subscribe to the SAGE are not allowed to vote in our elections. The subscription/membership year is for 6 issues, regardless of when payment is received. Only 1 subscription is required per household. When renewing your membership, please list all other DPS members who reside at your address to update their status. Subscriptions and donations are not tax deductible.

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Make Check Payable to **Desert Peaks Section**
Send to:

Ron Bartell, DPS Membership Chair
1556 21st Street
Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266
(310) 546-1977 (h)
ronbartell@yahoo.com

THE DESERT SAGE

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LOS ANGELES, CA 90010-1904

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DESERT PEAKS SECTION

DPS NEWSLETTER - The Desert Sage is published six times a year by the Desert Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP: It costs ten dollars a year to subscribe to the Sage. Anyone can subscribe to the Sage, even if not a member of the DPS or the Sierra Club, by sending \$10 to the Membership Records Chair (see below). Please note that a Sustaining membership/subscription is also available for \$20. To become a member of the DPS, you must (1) belong to the Sierra Club, (2) have climbed 6 of the 96 peaks on the DPS peaks list, and (3) send \$10 to the Membership Records Chair (see below) for a Sage subscription (\$20 for Sustaining). Non-members who subscribe to the Sage are not allowed to vote in the DPS elections. Renewals, subscriptions, and address changes also should be sent to Membership Records Chair **Ron Bartell, 1556 21st Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, or ronbartell@yahoo.com**; the membership/subscription form can be found in this issue of the Sage. The subscription/membership year is for six issues, regardless of when payment is received.

EMBLEM AND LIST COMPLETION STATUS: Emblem status is awarded to DPS members who have been a member for one year, who have climbed 15 peaks on the DPS Peak list, including five of the seven emblem peaks, and who send a list of peaks and dates climbed to Membership Records Chair **Ron Bartell, 1556 21st Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, or ronbartell@yahoo.com**. Recognition is also given for completion of the DPS list by notifying Ron of peaks and dates climbed. Please see the DPS website for additional Emblem recognition categories.

DPS MERCHANDISE AND PEAK LIST: DPS T-shirts, the DPS Peak Guide, Emblem, Explorer and List Finish pins, and other merchandise is available for purchase from the DPS Merchandiser. Please see the Merchandise page in this issue of the Sage for more information. Please note that the **DPS Peak List** is available as a download on the DPS Website, or it may be purchased from the DPS Merchandiser.

SAGE SUBMISSIONS: The Sage editor welcomes all articles, trip reports and photographs pertaining to outdoor activities of interest to DPS members. Trip participants are encouraged to submit a trip report if the participant knows that the trip leaders are not going to submit a trip write-up. The editor may modify submittals in an attempt to increase clarity, decrease length, or correct typos, but hopefully will not modify meaning. Please note that digital documents and photographs are required for submissions to the Sage. Trip reports should include trip dates and identify trip participants and photos should indicate when and where the photo was taken, what it is of, who is in it, and who took it. Please email Sage submissions to the editor no later than the second Sunday of even numbered months; the next submission deadline for the Sage is **February 12, 2017**.

ADVERTISEMENTS: You can advertise private trips that are of interest to DPS members in the Sage for free. Also, you can advertise in the Sage; the cost is \$3.00 per line.

EDITOR: Greg Gerlach, 23933 Via Astuto, Murrieta, CA 92562, email: greggr1955@verizon.net