

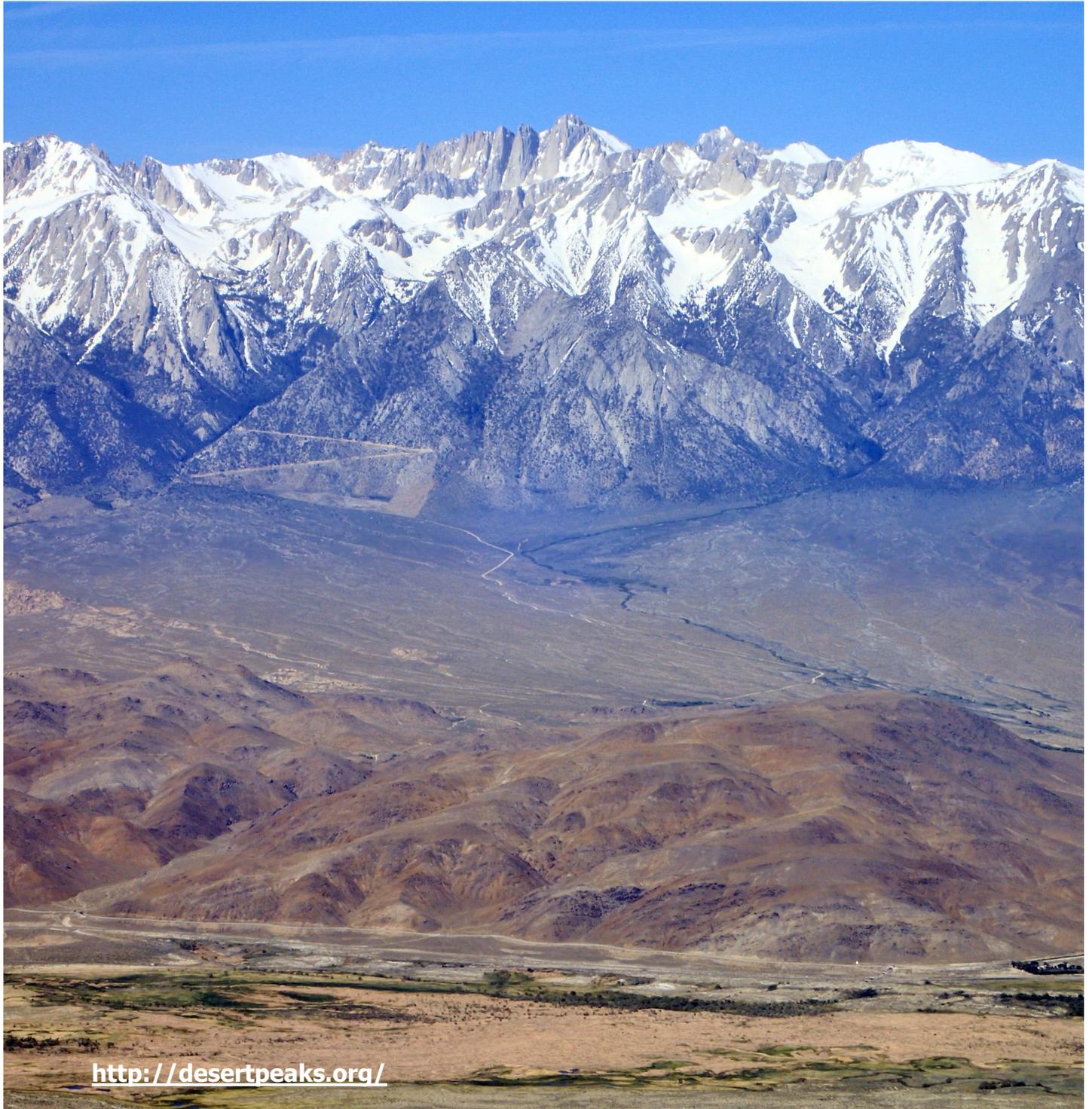


The Desert Sage

OUR 76th SEASON

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2017

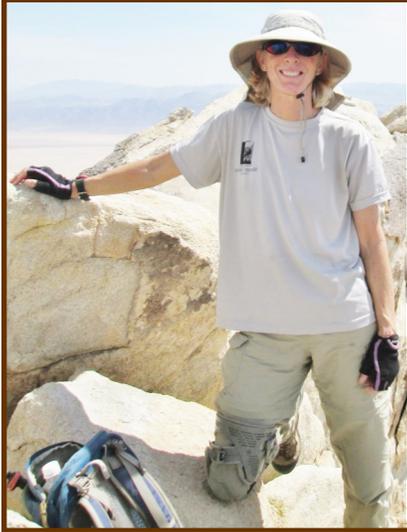
ISSUE NO. 371



<http://desertpeaks.org/>

Chair's Corner

by Tina Bowman



As we look forward to fall and the ramping up of the desert season, it's still a good time to climb our higher peaks before the snow flies. Leaders, please consider leading the higher peaks now.

We have a full slate of management committee meetings and

member potlucks scheduled now for October through April on the second Sunday of each month. The meetings begin at 4:30 should you be interested in sitting in on those, and the potlucks get going at 6:00. For a list of the dates and locations, see the DPS website at <http://desertpeaks.org> or pages 4-7 of this issue of the Sage. If you haven't come to a potluck, please give them a try and invite non-members to join in the conviviality.

If you haven't already you will soon be receiving an email from Ron Bartell, our membership chair, to give you the user name and password so that as a member you'll have access to the fabulous updated peak guides. Jim Morehouse has done a really terrific job, including providing new maps of the peaks and routes. If you haven't gotten that information from Ron, please contact him.

While the management committee — both elected and appointed members — keeps the DPS running smoothly, the other huge side of the volunteer equation for us is leaders because, obviously, without leaders to lead outings, the focus of the section would slip away. If you aren't a leader, please consider becoming one. The next leadership-training seminar is coming up on October 7th with a deadline to sign up of September 23rd. If that won't fit your schedule, try for the spring seminar, probably in April. Find out more here: <http://>

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angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc_leadership_seminar.

If you already are a rated leader, plan now for DPS trips to lead. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a varied schedule of outings with every weekend of our prime climbing season, fall through spring, offering a trip? You can help make that a reality.

Finally, for robust vitality, we need always to be on the lookout for new members. If you meet hikers who are unfamiliar with the DPS, the beauty of the desert, and fine desert peaks to climb, please tell them about these wonders and encourage them to try one of our outings. If you have ideas about how we might recruit new members, please let me know.

Happy trails and safe climbing!

THE NEXT SAGE SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 8, 2017.

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Desert Peaks Section Leadership for the 2017 - 2018 Season

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Cover Photo Credit...

goes to DPS Road and Peak Guidebook Editor and Webmaster Jim Morehouse. The photo is of Mount Whitney and the Sierra Nevada mountains, and was taken from the DPS standard route to Mount Inyo and Keynot Peak on May 14, 2017. Please see pages 14-16 in this issue of the Sage for story.

Appointed Positions

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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 October 2017 — April 2018

Black Butte from DPS Route B (photo taken by Lisa Hazan on March 11, 2017).

OCT 7	SAT	LTC, WTC, HPS	Navigation: Beginning Clinic
OCT 7	SAT	LTC	Leadership Training Seminar
OCT 8	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
OCT 11	WED	LTC	Advanced Mountaineering: Knots & Basic Safety
OCT 14	SAT	LTC	Advanced Mountaineering: Belaying
OCT 21	SAT	LTC	Advanced Mountaineering: Rappelling
OCT 28-29	SAT-SUN	LTC	Advanced Mountaineering: Anchors
NOV 3-5	FRI-SUN	LTC	Wilderness First Aid Course at Harwood Lodge
NOV 11-12	SAT-SUN	LTC	Rock: Joshua Tree Rock Checkoff and Practice
NOV 12	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
NOV 18	SAT	LTC, WTC	Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain
NOV 18-19	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle
DEC 10	SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle
DEC 10	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
JAN 6-7	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle
JAN 14	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
FEB 11	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
MARCH 11	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
APRIL 8	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck

◆ **OCTOBER 7** **SAT** **LTC, WTC, HPS**

I: Navigation: Beginning Clinic: Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor learning and practicing map and compass skills in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers are welcome and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 miles and 500' of elevation gain. Send sase, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit (refunded at trailhead, check made payable to the Sierra Club) to Leader: Diane Dunbar (818-248-0455, dianedunbar@charter.net) Co-Leader: Richard Boardman.

◆ **OCTOBER 7** **SAT** **LTC**

Leadership Training Seminar: DARE TO LEAD!! Attend the Fall 2017 Leadership Training Seminar. What better way to step up and lead your favorite outing than by taking advantage of the training opportunities that the Angeles Chapter's Leadership Training Committee (LTC) provides each year. The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's many groups, sections and committees sponsor thousands of trips ranging from easy hikes to backpacks to world wide travel and mountaineering expeditions. From experienced volunteer leaders you will learn how to plan a trip, handle problems on the trail and make sure that everyone has a great time. You'll gain knowledge about good conservation and safety practices, along with tips for getting your "O" rating quickly and then, if you choose, pursuing more advanced ratings. The all-day class costs \$25. The application is available online at angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc_leadership_seminar. You can also pore over more of LTC's upcoming offerings and leadership information on this site, including the brand new PayPal option! Mail the application and \$25.00 check, payable to Sierra Club, to Steve Botan, LTC Registrar, 18816 Thornwood Circle, Huntington Beach 92646. You also can reach Steve by email at: ltpseminarregistrar@gmail.com. Applications and checks are due September 23, 2017. Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Anne Marie Richardson at: AMLeadership@gmail.com http://angeles.sierraclub.org/get_outdoors/becoming_leader .

◆ **OCTOBER 8** **SUN** **DPS**
O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Ron and Jane Campbell in Huntington 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 Ron at campbellr@verizon.net.

◆ **OCTOBER 11** **WED** **LTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP16): Knots and Basic Safety Systems: 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.advancedmountaineeringprogram.org>. Leaders: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com); Patrick McKusky (pamckusky@att.net); and, Matthew Hengst (matthew.hengst@gmail.com).

◆ **OCTOBER 14** **SAT** **LTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP16): 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 focus on belaying and related principles starting with standard sport 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).

◆ **OCTOBER 21** **SAT** **LTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP16): Rapelling: 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 focus on rappelling using a variety of techniques with a 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).

◆ **OCTOBER 28-29** **SAT-SUN** **LTC**
M/E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP16): 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).

◆ **NOVEMBER 3-5** **FRI-SUN** **LTC**
C: Wilderness First Aid at Harwood Lodge: Wilderness First Aid Course. The course runs from 7:30 am Friday to 5:00 pm Sunday. Fee includes instruction, lodging and meals. Proof of CPR within previous 4 years required to enroll. Fee \$255 (full refund until 9/29/17). For sign-up, see instructions and application at www.wildernessfirstaidcourse.org: Application and enrollment menu item.

◆ **NOVEMBER 11-12** **SAT-SUN** **LTC**
M/E-R: Rock: Sheep Pass/Indian Cove Joshua Tree Rock Checkoff and Practice: M & E level rock checkoff and practice for LTC leadership candidates wishing to pursue a rating or practice skills. Also open to Advanced Mountaineering Program students wanting to solidify what they learned in the course. Practice Saturday and optionally checkoff Sunday. Restricted to active Sierra Club members with previous rock

climbing experience. Climbing helmets and harnesses required. Email climbing resume to leader to apply: Leader: Patrick McKusky (pamckusky@att.net). Co-leader: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com).

◆ **NOVEMBER 12** **SUN** **DPS**

O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Christine and Ron Bartell in Manhattan 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 Christine at christinebartell@yahoo.com.

◆ **NOVEMBER 18** **SAT** **LTC, WTC**

I: Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain: This navigation workshop is limited to individuals participating in the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd class terrain. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmets and medical forms required, and group size is limited. Send email/sase, Sierra Club #, class 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Leader: Robert Myers (310-829-3177, rmmyers@ix.netcom.com). Co-Leader: Jack Kieffer.

◆ **NOVEMBER 18-19** **SAT-SUN** **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

I: Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle: Navigation Noodle in Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday is for practice, skills, refresher, altimeter, homework and campfire. Sunday is for checkoff. Send email/sase with 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 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, 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.

◆ **DECEMBER 10** **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 6-7** **SAT-SUN** **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

I: Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle: Navigation Noodle in Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday is for practice, skills, refresher, altimeter, homework and campfire. Sunday is for checkoff. Send email/sase with 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 Leadership Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

♦ **JANUARY 14** **SUN** **DPS**
O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Diana and George Estrada in Newbury Park 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 Diana at dneffestrada@verizon.net.

♦ **FEBRUARY 11** **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.

♦ **MARCH 11** **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 Locornr@aol.com.

♦ **APRIL 8** **SUN** **DPS**
O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Barbee and Larry 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 Barbee at lbtidball@verizon.net.

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. In addition, 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.

Provisional Lead Committee Update

The Leadership Training Committee has adopted new procedures to expedite requests for the Provisional Lead Committee (PLC) to grant M/E provisional status or to approve M/E provisional outings. The target is to turn around all requests within 10 days and to keep the candidate fully informed during the review process.

The following email address has been established to facilitate communication with the PLC:

ltprovisionalleadcommittee@gmail.com.

The following requests should be sent to this new email address:

- Requests to be granted M or E level provisional status. The request shall be accompanied by a comprehensive climbing resume. The request shall specifically indicate whether the request is for M-Rock, M-Snow, Full-M, E-Rock, E-Snow, or Full-E.
- Requests for approval of a proposed M or E level provisional trip. The request shall be accompanied by a draft Application for Mountaineering Outing Approval. A copy of the application form can be found at:

http://angeles.sierraclub.org/leadership_and_outings_resources_forms.

Outings Chair

by Sandy Lara



Greetings, Desert Hikers!

We don't typically think of summer as the time to climb our peaks, but my husband, Peter, and I led a couple of 11K' peaks in Nevada in mid-July and had great weather. Summer (and other times of warm or hot weather) just means we need to climb high! Now for a confession:

We weren't going to post these trips to the Schedule as it was rather short notice and a long drive, but we did post them and had some happy members join us. The more the merrier! We climbed Arc Dome and Mount Jefferson. With both we had expansive views and a fun time with our participants.

I am your liaison for having trips listed for the Desert Peaks Section. Leaders, please think of that one DPS peak that you want to climb, and submit it for our Schedule. If you are planning a private trip to a DPS peak, consider making it an official Sierra Club outing. We have members who are eager to participate.

If you are not a leader, please consider becoming one! The first step is to attend the Leadership Training Seminar — the next one will be held on Saturday, October 7, at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Altadena (note: the location is subject to change, but will be within the greater LA area). Please contact me at ssperling1@verizon.net for more information or see the LTC website at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc_leadership_seminar.

Finally, for those of you who are skilled in desert navigation and climbing, consider posting the trips you plan to do in the Sage as private trips, which can be posted for free. You can send these to Greg Gerlach at gregrg1955@verizon.net.

Let's fill up the Schedule this fall!

Happy Climbing!

Sandy Lara

DPS Membership Report

by Ron Bartell

Membership Summary

<u>Type</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Sustaining</u>
Member	117	24
Household	29	
Subscriber	22	3
Totals:	168	27

Activity Report

Achievements

Emblem

#593 Miriam Khamis 6/3/17 Mount Inyo

New Member

M Quin Hodges Sentinel Peak

Renewals

John Cheslick	2 years
Rudy Fleck	1 year
Kevin & Lisa Heapy	1 year
Karen Leonard	1 year
Steve Smith	1 year
Mike Sos	3 years
Edward Stork	1 year

Fort Irwin Access By Barbara Lilley

The Fort Irwin military base not only permits but encourages civilian visitations. These include guided ATV trips to historic sites and petroglyphs and, more importantly, for peakbaggers, military-led climbs to the high point of the Tiefert Mountains (5,053') during the cooler months of the year. The only requirements are background checks and a legal form of identification. For further information, contact: Outdoor Recreation Director, Building 4100, Goldstone Road, Fort Irwin, California, 760-380-3771.

Conservation Chair

by Dave Perkins



Bobcats

The most common wildcat in North America, the bobcat, is named for its short, bobbed tail. They are medium-sized cats and are slightly smaller but similar in appearance to their cousin, the lynx. Their coats vary in color from shades of beige to brown fur

with spotted or lined markings in dark brown or black. They range in height from 17-23 inches, are from 25-41 inches in length, and weigh from 16-28 lbs. (males) 10-18 lbs. (females). Their lifespan is 12-13 years.

Bobcats mainly hunt rabbits and hares, but are also known to eat rodents, birds, bats and even adult deer, which they usually consume during the winter months, as well as lambs, poultry and young pigs if a ranch is near. Bobcat habitat varies widely from forests and mountainous areas to semi-deserts and brush land. A habitat dense with vegetation and lots of prey is ideal. They are excellent hunters, stalking prey with stealth and patience, then capturing their meals with one great leap.

Usually solitary and territorial animals, females never share territory with each other. Male territories, however, tend to overlap. Territories are established with scent markings and territory sizes are extremely varied – generally 25-30 square miles for males and about five square miles for females. Each bobcat may have several dens, one main den and several auxiliary dens, in its territory. Their mating season is usually late winter. Gestation is 50 - 70 days, and kittens are usually born around early spring. Litter size varies from 1 – 6 kittens. The kittens begin eating solid food at around two months and begin learning to hunt at 5 months. When they are between 8 and 11 months, the kittens are evicted from their mother's territory.

Approximately 725,000 to 1,020,000 bobcats remain in the wild. Bobcats were once found throughout most of North America from northern Mexico to

southern Canada. In the early to mid 1900s, bobcat populations in many midwestern and eastern states of the United States were decimated due to the increased value of its fur. However, international laws began to protect the world's spotted cats in the 1970s, and populations have rebounded since then. Today, populations are stable in many northern states and are reviving in many others.



Bobcats are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which means it is not considered threatened with extinction, but hunting and trading must be closely monitored. The animal is regulated in all three of its range countries, and is found in a number of protected areas of the United States. The U.S. has petitioned CITES to remove the cat from Appendix II.

Abstracted from the Defenders of Wildlife and Wikipedia websites.

Burrowing Owls

Burrowing owls are so named because they live underground in burrows that have been dug out by small mammals such as ground squirrels and prairie dogs. They are covered in brown spotted feathers, have long legs, and sport distinctive white “eyebrows” above bright yellow eyes. They are one of the smallest owls in North America at about 10 inches in height and about 6 ounces in weight. In most owl species the female is larger than the male, but the burrowing owls are the same size. They mate in the early spring and have a 28 day gestation period, with a clutch size between 3-12 eggs. The young owls begin appearing at the burrow’s entrance two weeks after hatching and

(Continued on page 10)

Conservation Chair - continued

By Dave Perkins

(Continued from page 9)

leave the nest to hunt for insects on their own after about 45 days. The chicks can fly well at 6 weeks old.

Burrowing owls eat small mammals such as moles and mice during late spring and early summer, and later switch to insects, especially grasshoppers and beetles.



They are also known to eat small birds, amphibians and reptiles. Unlike other owls, burrowing owls are active during the day, especially in the spring when they gather food for their large broods. This species of owl prefers open areas with low ground cover. They can often be found perching near their burrow on fence posts and trees. They make a tremulous chuckling or chattering call, and also bob their heads to express excitement or distress. When alarmed, young birds will make a hissing call that sounds like a rattlesnake. Burrowing owls often nest in loose colonies about 100 yards apart.

During the nesting season, they will collect a wide variety of materials to line their nests, some of which are left around the entrance to the burrow. The most common material is mammal dung, usually from cattle. At one time it was incorrectly thought that the dung helped to mask the scent of the juvenile owls, but researchers now believe the dung helps to control the microclimate inside the burrow and to attract insects, which the owls may eat.

Current burrowing owl population estimates are not



Treasurer's Report

By Laura Newman

DPS Account Summary from
January 1, 2017 to
July 31, 2017

INCOME

Advertising	\$25.00
Banquet Silent Auction	\$296.00
Banquet Ticket Sales	\$2,730.00
Donations	\$189.00
Membership/Subscriptions	\$1,553.00
Merchandise	<u>\$294.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$5,087.00**

EXPENSES

Administrative and Office Expenses	\$26.00
Banquet Expenses	\$3,879.29
Merchandise Expenses	\$19.63
Sage Mailing	\$484.73
Sage Printing	\$446.37
Sales Tax	<u>\$15.22</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$4,871.24**

PAY PAL BALANCE **\$9.41**

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE **\$3,526.49**

well known but trend data suggests significant declines across their range. Most recent official estimates place them at less than 10,000 breeding pairs. Burrowing owls are distributed from the Mississippi to the Pacific and from the Canadian prairie provinces into South America. They are also found in Florida and the Caribbean islands, but they have disappeared from much of their historic range.

Abstracted from the Defenders of Wildlife and the Wikipedia websites.



Trip Reports

Indianhead, which is the pointy peak on the left side of the photo (photo taken by Sandy Lara on April 8, 2017).

Hike to Arc Dome (11,773'), By Herman Hagen July 15, 2017

On Friday, July 14, 2017, Diana Neff-Estrada, Jorge Estrada, and I drove to Columbine Campground in Nevada to join Sandy Lara and Peter Lara for a 15 mile hike to Arc Dome.

The next morning we woke up at 5:00AM, had breakfast and got ready for the big hike. Shortly after 6:00AM the five of us gathered at the trail head for

trees, some going back as far as the 1920's. Once out of the Aspens, the trail reaches a small ridge, with great views all around.



**Jorge Estrada looking at a massive, old aspen tree that is bigger around than he is.
Photo by Herman Hagen.**



**Left to right: Diana Neff Estrada, Jorge Estrada, Herman Hagen and Peter Lara at the Arc Dome trailhead.
Photo by Sandy Lara.**

the traditional Sierra Club introduction speech. Sandy and Peter would be leading the hike. We hit the trail, quickly passed the Wilderness sign, and hiked through an open meadow and wonderful stands of Aspen. At a junction, the Stewart Creek Trail turns to the left, but we stayed to the right enjoying more of the spectacular Aspens, some of which were well over 100 years old. On a number of trees people had their initials and dates carved into the bark of the

After taking a short break here, we passed by an old fence, and noticed about a dozen wild horses in the distance. We kept to the left of the fence, hiking closer to the wary horses who kept a close eye on us. Shortly after, we crossed a small stream, and followed the trail to the right up to a ridge. From there, we followed an old jeep road through large fields of sage, and incredible views in every direction. We took a snack break at about 10,200 feet, having hiked for about 2 hours. Right after this, the trail became a lot steeper and rockier for a short section until we reached the upper plateau. Here we got ever greater views of our target: Arc Dome. This plateau was a lot more barren, more like a tundra, with very little vegetation. The trail actually went opposite Arc Dome in order to avoid the deep drop-off to the bottom of the mountain. Soon we reached the junction with the main crest trail at about 11,000 feet. Here we took another break and stashed some of the

Trip Reports - continued

extra water bottles. On we went to the high point of the plateau at 11,200 feet, passing by the North Summit.

From this point you get a spectacular view of Arc Dome and the trail going down for about 600 feet to the saddle just below the peak. The mile long hike down was pleasant, all the while enjoying the amazing views. A little before the saddle, Peter decided to have another break, giving us a short downhill head start before attacking the 1,000 foot climb to the summit. From here the hike up looks pretty intimidating, but with Peter's great sense of pacing and several short stops we conquered the roughly 20 switchbacks of the excellent trail without any problems. We all reached the summit, which is a small flattish ridge with a circular wall on the far end.

We spent some time on the summit, enjoying the amazing views all around us, signing the register, and



On the summit of Arc Dome, left to right, Herman Hagen, Jorge Estrada, Diana Neff Estrada, and Peter Lara.

Photo by Sandy Lara.

taking some group pictures. Hiking down the 1,000 feet to the saddle was easy enough, only stopping at a snow slope, where Diana built a snowman. At the

bottom we had a good view of the trail going back up 600 feet to the plateau. Sandy took the lead here, and by using a steady pace and one short break, we made it to the turnoff point for Peak 11,406' (North Arc Dome). Peter did not want to climb to this peak, and followed the trail to the main crest trail junction, where he would wait for us. The 100 foot climb to the summit was quickly covered, from where you get a wonderful view along the main ridgeline. After taking some photos, we dropped down the plateau to meet up with Peter, and collect our water bottles.

We now took a right going slightly uphill, and then downhill to a large snow bank which blocked the trail. Sandy and Jorge found a way around the snow bank, and shortly after we were all safely below it. Here, Peter again told us he would follow the main trail down, while we would climb up the slope about 300 feet to Cirque Mountain (11,290 feet). From the summit, we again got some wonderful views of the ridgeline and surrounding mountains. We did not linger here for long, and dropped down the steep slope back to the main trail where we caught up with Peter. From there, the trail went downhill steeply through a rocky section until we had to climb back up a few hundred feet to a saddle, which provided a great view of Cirque Mountain now behind us.

After the saddle, the trail goes downhill all the way to the trail head. Along the way, we passed through large sections with wonderful wildflowers and great views of the stands of Aspen far below. We took one final rest break in a shady spot just before the Aspen forest. The trail through the forest was narrow, and we had to watch out for the many, many cow patties left there by the bovines. At one point a cow was staring at us on the trail, but when we started yelling at her, she warned the rest of the cows and they all fled into the forest. Right after this, Diana entertained us with her agility in avoiding the cow patties. We carried on to the trail junction where we had turned to the right going uphill many hours ago. The last part to the trail head was easy, and when we reached it we took one last picture of the group, all happy with having completed the hike to Arc Dome under the great leadership of both Sandy and Peter. Thank you

Trip Reports - continued

guys for a wonderful outing!!

Sunday morning we drove to the Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, which contains an old abandoned mining town and is also home to the most abundant concentration, and largest known remains, of Ichthyosaurs, an ancient marine reptile that swam in a warm ocean that covered central Nevada 225 million years ago. The fossils are protected and displayed at the park's Fossil House. We took the 1 hour tour, led by a Park Ranger, who explained a lot about the history and discovery of the fossils.

All-in-all it was a fantastic trip!

Mount Jefferson (11,941') **By Lisa Buckley** **July 17, 2017**

After they climbed Arc Dome on Saturday, Sandy and Peter Lara headed to the Mount Jefferson trailhead where Annie Rolles and I travelled from Crowley Lake and met them on Sunday. We couldn't get confirmation that the way Google Maps was routing us was passable, but tried that way anyway as Sandy felt confident Google Maps knew the best way. Well, it turned out it wasn't the best way. After Sandy and Peter trimmed the "road" with loppers they carry for this purpose, we made it to a nice campsite at an old mining town which we believe was JEFFERSON MINE: Biggest producer in the district. Production began in 1869, biggest period of production in the mid-seventies. Last major effort in 1940....but it was still another 3.1 miles and 1,300' to the trailhead. So yes, we added 6.2 miles, 1,300' to our hike to the summit of Mount Jefferson (which has 3 summits so we climbed the highest south summit), for a total of 17.1 miles and 5,200' gain. On the drive out we took a different branch of the same forest service road out and found it to be much less exciting and a lot quicker.

The weather was better than we anticipated. When we arrived on Sunday we expected a very hot hike. Then rain during the night made us wonder if we would have the possibility of lightning which could thwart our summit attempt. We started with sprinkling rain

which cleared, then had nice breezes up the ridge until the end of the day when descending west into the sun. It was in the 90s when we got back to camp.

This was a part of a two peak weekend led by Peter and Sandy with Arc Dome on Saturday and Mount Jefferson on Monday. Due to the peskiness of work scheduling I had to choose only one peak. I selected Jefferson as it is on the Nevada County high points list (the only list I have a prayer of ever finishing).



**Peter and Sandy Lara on the summit of
Mount Jefferson.
Photo by Lisa Buckley.**

Several people asked why Jefferson as -- Arc Dome is much prettier. I was therefore pleasantly surprised by Jefferson. We camped by a cool stream in the shade. The hike was much greener than expected and there were many wildflowers to enjoy. We enjoyed a relaxed lunch and photo ops on the peak then headed back down...5,200 feet down and as is often the case found that those trickster trail engineers had again made the trail down longer than the trail up.

Nye County, Nevada high point – check! Another successful climb with good friends!

Trip Report and DPS Road and Peak Guide Update (selected peaks)

By Jim Morehouse

Trip Report and Road and Peak Guide Update By Jim Morehouse

For this issue, I'm going to discuss my experiences on Mount Dubois, Mount Inyo, and Keynot. These peaks were climbed as dayhikes in the month of May 2017. I'll discuss the drive, camping possibilities, and a couple of lessons to consider.

First, Inyo and Keynot. Originally over the time period I climbed Inyo and Keynot I was scheduled to head to Mexico to climb Big Picacho with three other Sierra Club members. However, I took my truck in for an oil change and had them check the "rough" feel from the engine that had started recently. I had recently had the spark plugs changed, and it felt like they were "missing". It turned out the Universal Joint(s) were failing, and was told that if I went to Mexico, I might not make it back! So three days later I got my truck back, but on the day we were planning on driving down there, so the trip had to be rescheduled. OK, so now what do I do? I immediately took a look at the Peakbagger app on my phone and looked up Inyo and Keynot. One of the nice features of this app is that it delivers up not only trip reports, GPS tracks, topo maps, etc., but most importantly, up to three independent weather forecasts for the area(s) of the peak(s). I saw that the temperatures were going to be on the cool side (yay!), unlike the first time I did these peaks three years ago when the highs along the Inyo crest were in the 80s. So off I went. I got as far up the road as I did the first time, to about 5,100' of elevation. I stopped here the first time as it was getting late and there are a couple of convenient places to park and camp at this location. I found the next morning that I could have driven up another 0.3 miles and saved about 400' of elevation gain had I driven further. Not so this time. At the 5,100' mark the road used to cross the wash and continue on the other side. Now this is impassable to all but foot traffic. The wash is a jumble of rocks and boulders from a severe wash out since my 2013 trip. While I'm talking about the drive in, the fork in the road where the 2WD vehicles could continue on is now as far as any 2WD vehicle can go. The spur described in the Guide is now a 4WD track and is not

worth traveling on. If one has a 4WD vehicle, one should just continue on the main road to the end described above. Note that there is a deep gully to cross. My Tacoma with a 6' bed scraped bottom lightly going through it. Note: there was a relatively low clearance car parked near the 4,100' level just before the fork for the old 2WD trailhead. I never saw the occupants, but I do know they weren't there for the peaks.

The trip itself up the mountains started at 6:40 a.m. I really should have started earlier, and I'll explain why momentarily. The first half mile or so is a hike through the usual desert wash, full of rocks and boulders which have to be danced around to find the best way through.



Union Wash.

The exit from the wash is well marked and here's where the fun begins. The next few miles are up a very steep scree field, gaining well over 3,000' from the wash in a couple of miles.

Fortunately, there is a switch backing use trail to follow, which will seem to disappear from time to time. Once up to the ridge above, the trail becomes more pronounced, but not any less steep until the 9,100' mark where a shoulder is crossed and the grade eases

Trip Report and Peak Guide Update ... continued. (selected peaks)

By Jim Morehouse

some.

From here to the saddle above is the easiest part of the hike. Unfortunately, once at the saddle, assuming you're going to climb Inyo first (highly recommended), a couple of hundred feet of additional gain and loss must be made before actually starting up Inyo. There is no use trail and no cairns to speak of, just directional route finding through the boulders and brush to the summit. The cast aluminum Sierra Club register box has been removed, and someone put a plastic register box in place since I was there last. At this point, you'll have to retrace your steps back to the saddle and prepare for the trip up to Keynot.

Unlike Inyo, most of the way to Keynot is over open country with good footing. Although steep in spots, it's nothing like the trip up to the ridge. Upon approaching Keynot I found significant amounts of snow on the northeast slopes that were hidden from view before (see the picture below).



Keynot Peak from Mount Inyo, showing snow.

Normally the route through this area is trivial when dry. This time the angle of the slope and the poor condition of the snow was cause for caution. I managed to

lose my GPS unit in the brush up there while trying to find ways around the snow.



Snow on Keynot Peak.

Grr. Otherwise, I made it down to just above the wash before dark, then picked my way through the boulders back to my camp. Great day!

Mount Dubois: Starting at the Dyer, Nevada post office, heading north, I drove 12 miles to the signed Chitovitch Road and turned left. One heads generally westerly towards the mountains, following the signed forks for Middle Creek and Trail Canyon, passing a large green building on the right. Shortly after this is the last signed form. Follow the Middle Canyon road to the trailhead. There will be a sharp left, then a sharp right. From this point the road becomes a HC/4WD road. It is 3.3 miles from the last turn to the end of the road. The last mile or so was considerably over grown with brush growing in the road as well as over. Expect to obtain some new desert pin striping through here.

There is good camping along the way, with the best spot right at the end of the road. There is a fork there, with a short spur continuing on a few yards (open to the sun, but flat and roomy), and to the left, a slight

Trip Report and Peak Guide Update ... continued. (selected peaks)

By Jim Morehouse

downhill to a good camp spot right at the stream at approximately 8,300+'. Approximately three quarters of a mile back is another pullout near the stream, good for several vehicles at about 8,100'. Do not attempt to drive a standard clearance vehicle on this road, and I recommend good AT tires for your HC vehicle due to the many rocky sections which must be crossed.



The Jumpoff and Montgomery Peak.

I started the next morning at approximately 6:30 a.m. In retrospect, I should have gotten going an hour earlier. There was snow in the gully leading to the east/west trending ridge on the DPS A route, and snow on the crest of the ridge to the west of the gully. Pick your poison. So I did. I went up the gully to just below the snow line, then headed up to the crest of the ridge, hoping I could find a way to avoid the snow up there. I couldn't. I had an adventure in self arrest on the steep snow field, even though I had put crampons on. The snow was rotten, and just gave way. It was surprising how quickly I picked up speed. So prior practice came in handy. Once I recovered from this, I made the main ridge, which was mostly free of snow, except where it wasn't.

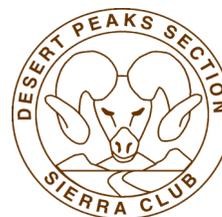
But the snow was more of an annoyance than a real impediment. I passed over Point 13,080' along the way, finding an old register in a 35mm film canister left by Barbara Lilley and Gordon MacLeod. It was pretty soggy, so I left it alone and put it back in the

cairn and continued on to the summit plateau, crossing one more troublesome snow field. The rest of the trip out to the summit and back was uneventful, other than the sun was threatening to go down before I got back to the car.

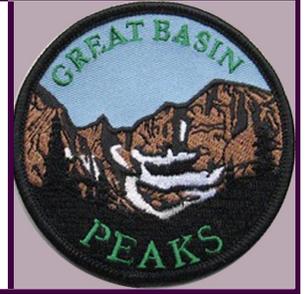
My goal became "get as far as you can before it gets dark!" So I signed in and headed back. For some perverse reason I decided to descend the DPS B route.

I had close to 3,000' of descent over snow, as this route is mostly north facing. I was making good time, too, until I dropped below 10,400' or so. Here the route becomes snow free, but increasingly brushy, which slowed me down considerably. I did make it off the mountain and into the sage flats before dark, where I discovered that finding one's way through a trackless sage field on a moonless night was less than a fun undertaking. There is one incredibly dense thicket of brush which I mostly avoided on my first trip through here, having found a way around it in daylight. No luck this time in the dark, and I just had to force my way through. The good news was that once I found the stream, the crossing was trivial and a few feet later on the other side I was out of the brush and nearly home free. The last mile or so was over easy ground and went without incident.

The lesson(s) learned here are that 1) I'm older and slower than I was even three years ago, and 2) given that, get up earlier and get going earlier. Both of these trips could have been started as early as 5:30 a.m. and I still would have had enough light to see, given the time of year. I was just being over confident and hubristic. We all have to make adjustments to our methods when conditions change. The problem is recognizing them, and harder, accepting them!



Great Basin Peaks Section News



A Great Basin Exploration -- Confusion Hills/ Andesite Ridge By Sharon Marie Wilcox June 23, 2017

Our Sierra Club outing departed Reno for another hiking adventure. The destination, Confusion Hills in Nye County, Nevada, is a proposed “lands with wilderness characteristics” site. This trip provided an opportunity to explore more Great Basin public lands. A lunch stop was planned at the Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah to meet other group members driving from different locations.

As we drove along Walker Lake we spotted a herd of 25 Bighorn Sheep. This close encounter with our designated state mammal prompted us to wildly snap photos. The bighorn didn't seem bothered and leisurely munched the vegetation until we got too close for their comfort.

At the Mizpah a trip bonus involved lunch with Robin and Fred Holabird who were at the hotel promoting Robin's new book, *Elvis, Marilyn, and the Space Aliens*. This seemed an appropriate title since we were heading past the Extraterrestrial Highway (Highway 375) and camping near an area of claimed UFO sightings.

After lunch, we continued to Confusion Hills and near Warm Springs spotted another large herd of Bighorn Sheep. Warm Springs sits at the junction for

Nevada Highway 375 and bighorns are often spotted here.

The route to our campsite near Andesite Ridge wound through interesting geology, wildflowers, Pronghorn, and wild horses. Our group set up camp and had ample time to savor the desert solitude. We slept under an amazing display of stars with serenading coyotes.

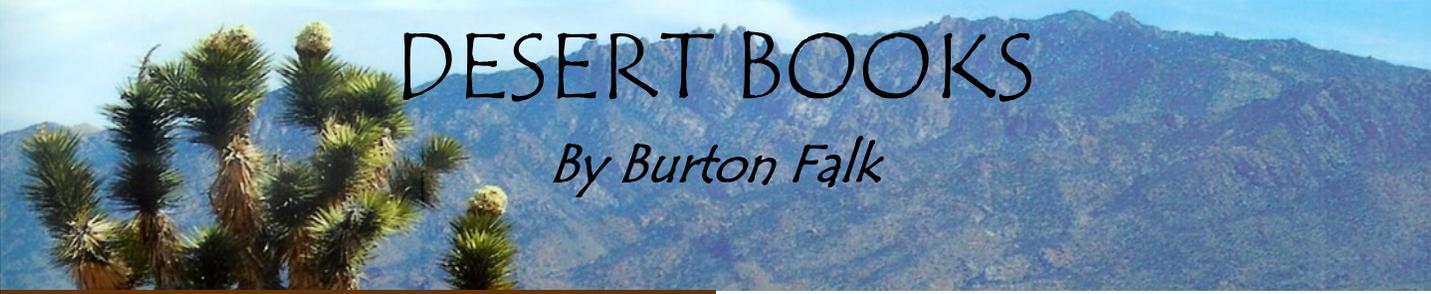
Our morning hike to the Andesite Ridge Highpoint began on a jeep road, then veered up towards the ridge near a spring. Unfortunately the spring was totally trampled by horses. This pleasant hike wove through low sage and pinyon-juniper forest. The day's temperature required a few stops in juniper shade as we followed the ridgeline over a few

bumps to the 8,044' high point. Our leisurely lunch included views, photos, naps and relishing the cooler elevation before we descended to hotter temperatures at camp.

The day concluded with a yummy potluck dinner, followed by an evening sing-a-long to Sue's guitar playing. Thanks to Larry Dwyer for another memorable exploration in the Great Basin.



**Front row: Kirk Petersen. Back row, left to right:
Vic Henney, Deborah Stevenson, Larry Grant, Larry
Dwyer, Sue Wyman, and Ron Moe.
Photo by Sharon Marie Wilcox.**



DESERT BOOKS

By Burton Falk

DESERT BOOKS

WATER AND POWER (1982), William L. Kahrl

My guess is that most Desert Peak Section members realize that the Greater Los Angeles area, prior to the construction of two giant aqueduct systems, was a semi-desert, certainly not a region capable of supporting, as it does today, a population of eighteen million.

At the turn of the Twentieth Century, however, a few forward-looking Angelinos realized that the run off from the eastern Sierra Nevada, specifically that which formed the Owens River, much of which ended up evaporating uselessly in saline Owens Lake, could be transported south to the Los Angeles area by means of a gravity-fed aqueduct. If that could be accomplished, the Southland, with its pleasant Mediterranean climate, had an opportunity to become a large and prosperous metropolitan area.

There were two problems with this plan, however: 1) The Federal Reclamation Bureau had already decided that the Owens River drainage was to be surveyed and protected for local development, and 2) Water rights in the western states were controlled by the concept of riparian rights, wherein the original developer of a water source had everlasting rights to the water, taking preference over all others.

Somehow those obstacles had to be overcome.

The epic story of the building of the Los Angeles Aqueduct has been described in two earlier volumes, W. A. Chalfant's, *The Story of Inyo* (1922 and 1933), and Remi Nadeau's *The Water Seekers* (1950), both of which were previously reviewed in *Desert Books*. In 1982, William L. Kahrl published his carefully researched 583-page tome, *Water and Power*, which, even now, thirty-five years later, represents the best source of information available in regard to the long conflict set off by Los Angeles' acquisition of the Owens Valley's water supply.

From a reviewer's standpoint, however, *Water and Power* presents a daunting task. Its pages are filled with the dense miscellanea produced during the huge, drawn-out, legally-challenging project. Since I was not interested in the details, my read of the work consisted of a skimming, pausing every so often to highlight passages for later reference. Even so, it took me several hours to push through the book.

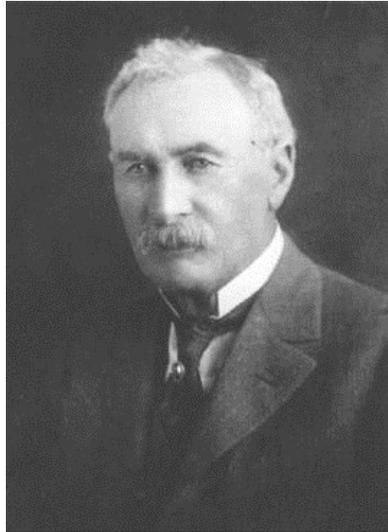
Beginning with a look at the early visionaries, Kahrl then describes President Theodore Roosevelt's 1902 Federal Reclamation Act which became the first hurdle for those attempting to start the flow of water south to Los Angeles. Indeed, federal reclamation projects were established to withdraw lands in the public domain that might be useful for the construction of works or the extension of local irrigation services.

One of the first notable characters in bringing water to Los Angeles was Joseph B. Lippincott, a Los Angeles-based engineer who was named chief of operations for the Reclamation Bureau in California. Although Lippincott's job was meant to preserve land in the Owens Valley for local use, he also managed a Los Angeles-based consulting firm, and soon, betraying his responsibility toward the area, he began pushing for O.V.'s water to come south, believing that outcome would be the best use of the resource.

Two other men of early significance in the Los Angeles water scene were Fred Eaton, and, more familiarly, William Mulholland. Eaton was born in Los Angeles in 1856, and grew up in a family prominent in Southern California water development. At the age of fifteen, he began working for the Los Angeles City Water Company, and by the time he was twenty, he had taken over as the firm's superintending engineer. Later, due to his expertise in water and the fact that he had once been mayor of the city, he became "the perfect bridge to draw together the business and political communities behind a campaign for municipal takeover of the city's water supply."

Desert Books - continued

William Mulholland was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1855, the son of a postal clerk. His early years were spent as an apprentice seaman, working at lumber camps in Michigan, and clerking two years at an uncle's dry goods store in Pittsburgh where, upon reading Charles Nordhoff's *California for Health, Wealth and Residence* (1872), he determined to move west. In 1878, the 23-year-old arrived in Los Angeles where he took a job as a ditch-tender for the Los Angeles City Water Company. In a never-completed autobiography he wrote, "The Los Angeles River was the greatest attraction. It was a beautiful, limpid little stream with willows on its banks...It was so attractive to me that it at once became something about which my whole scheme of life was woven. I loved it so much." To this Kahrl adds, "Probably no man has known the Los Angeles River as well as Mulholland, and the lessons it taught him became the keystone of all his later works."



William Mulholland

After eight years on the job, Mulholland emerged as Fred Eaton's protégé and heir apparent for the superintendence of the water company. "Although the two men were nearly the same age, they seemed to have little in common beyond their great energy and ambition. Eaton was elegant, well-born and smooth in manner; Mulholland was gruff and direct..."

Both men realized that growth in Los Angeles could not continue based on water available from the Los Angeles River. Eaton left the public sector and became interested in the Owens River water for his own gain. Mulholland, who had studied the prospects of tapping Piru Creek in Ventura County and the Kern, Santa Ana, Mojave, and San Luis Rey rivers, concluded they were all too small and, furthermore, were already tied down by preexisting water rights claims.

In 1904, Eaton invited Mulholland to make an exploratory trip of the Owens Valley with him, the story of which has become legendary. To keep their mission a secret, the two traveled by buck-board, camping out along their way. "The trip was not all

hardship, though; it became a standing joke among the work crews along the line of the aqueduct in later years that they could trace the path Eaton and Mulholland had cut across the desert by following the trail of empty liquor bottles the two men left in their wake."

Soon after their trip, Eaton began buying up Owens Valley property, even as Mulholland met secretly with the Board of Water Commissioners, whose support for an aqueduct he won. Lippincott meanwhile decided that Reclamation would withdraw its claims on Owens Valley water and allow an aqueduct to be built but only if it were to be publicly financed, owned, and managed.

A minor glitch in the situation arose in 1905 when Stafford W. Austin, federal lands register in the Owens Valley, joined with several other local residents by filing claims on the surplus water of the valley in a plan to hold the rights until an association of Owens Valley irrigators could be organized to assume control of the rights on behalf of all the residents of the valley.

Unfortunately, it was "a foolish and pointless exercise on Austin's part...showing only enthusiasm on the part of the claimants." Austin was profoundly embarrassed by his failure and soon resigned as federal land registrar. Stafford's wife, Mary Austin, author of the widely acclaimed *Land of Little Rain*, was also disappointed. Soon after the fiasco, she divorced Stafford, and "went alone to Carmel, where she worked and wrote steadily in a less hostile climate."

Between June 1905 and June 1906 -- an astonishingly short period of time, all things considered -- Reclamation ceded its Owens Valley claims to Los Angeles, a bond issue was passed to raise money to cover the sums already paid by Eaton and to make necessary further purchases in the Owens Valley, the aqueduct was planned and designed, and a second bond issue was passed to cover its production costs.

Desert Books - continued

And on November 5, 1913, the Los Angeles Aqueduct, which extended over 233 miles and required the construction of 142 tunnels totaling 53 miles in length, 500 miles of highways and trails, 2 small power plants, 169 miles of transmission lines, and 240 miles of telephone wire, delivered its first water to a thirsty City of Angels.

While Kahrl minimizes the arrival of the water ceremony, the late California State Librarian, Kevin Starr, in his masterly *Material Dreams: Southern California Through the 1920s*, describes the scene thusly: "(A) crowd of between 30,000 and 40,000, many of them carrying tin cups to take their first drink, gathered outside the city of San Fernando at the base of the last spillway in the aqueduct system....After a brief speech Mulholland unfurled an American flag, an Army cannon boomed, the spillway gates were raised, and the water of the Owens River cascaded down a long spillway. Abandoning the formal program, the crowd rushed to taste the waters. 'There it is. Take it,' Mulholland remarked to the mayor with characteristic understatement."

Because of its newly abundant water supply, the population of Los Angeles grew five-hundred percent during the first two decades of the 20th century. By 1919, the amount of water being used in the Los Angeles area had surpassed the 90 cubic feet per second as Mulholland had originally projected, and, instead, was being consumed at a mean of 220 cubic feet per second each day.

A new source of water was needed, and thus by the fall of 1923, Mulholland was busy planning a 242-mile aqueduct that would transport water from a storage site at Parker, AZ, cross the desert, then proceed via tunnels through the San Jacinto Mountains to a storage basin in Riverside County. That huge project, eventually owned by Los Angeles and several other cities and known as the Metropolitan Water District, pumped its first Colorado River water into Southern California in 1941.

In 1923 also, Mulholland began work expanding the water sources in the Owens Valley. Additional water rights were purchased and wells were dug. Sensing a one time opportunity, many Owens Valley farmers

offered to sell their upper Owens Valley water rights for eight million dollars. When the hard-nosed Mulholland rejected their offer, the so-called Little Civil War ensued. An hour after midnight on May 23, 1924, forty-some Owens Valley residents dynamited the aqueduct a few miles south of Lone Pine. When a buyout offer was still not forthcoming, on November 16, 1924, one hundred or so O.V. farmers and townspeople sized the aqueduct at the Alabama Gates, north of Lone Pine, and diverted the water back into the long dry Owens River. With still no buyout offer forthcoming, the acrimony continued to fester.

And as Los Angeles' population and water usage kept increasing, Mulholland and the Department of Water and Power continued to purchase Owens Valley land, although in smaller parcels. By the end of 1926, it is estimated that the city owned or was negotiating for 90 percent of all the land and water rights on the Owens River, thus severely limiting the area of its agricultural promise

Mulholland's steely grip on the Department of Water and Power was loosened, however, on March 12, 1928, when the Saint Francis Dam, built in 1926 on Ventura County's Santa Clara River primarily to store up to a year's supply of water, collapsed. "A hundred foot wall of water bearing huge chunks of concrete on its crest swept down the Santa Clara Valley and obliterated three towns and more than four hundred lives along its path."

As the architect of both the dam and the city's parsimonious policy toward the Owens Valley, the seventy-one year old Mulholland had become "a liability the city could no longer sustain." He formally retired in November, 1928 and, devastated by the tragedy, spent the rest of his life in relative seclusion.

With Mulholland out of the picture, his long-time refusal to purchase Long Valley land (now the site of Lake Crowley) ended, and the way became open to develop additional water resources in the Upper Owens Valley and the Mono Basin. Obstacles, of course, soon arose. The bond issue necessary to build the dam to form Lake Crowley, for instance, was inadequate. To provide for the needed capacity, a more expensive higher dam, fifty feet of which had to

Desert Books - continued

be sunk beneath the level of the streambed was necessary. And to bring Mono Basin waters down to the Owens River, the department had to tunnel 11.3 miles through the extinct Mono Craters. "Once the (hard-rock mining) crews had finally been assembled, in 1934, their progress on the tunnel was slowed by cave-ins and by steam, hot water, and volcanic gases they encountered."

Unfortunately, after the Mono extension went into operation in 1941, the level of Mono Lake began to decline steadily at the rate of one foot per year. Because of the lake's abundance of avian foodstuff--infusoria, flies, and brine shrimp--plus the fact that its Negit Island provided protection from predators for nesting birds, it had become home to the second largest rookery for California gulls in the world, and a breeding area and stopover for other migratory shorebirds. Would this great natural resource be destroyed by the need to keep Angelinos' lawns green and swimming pools full?

In 1960, by which time Los Angeles was drawing 16% of its water supply from the Metropolitan Water District, and because Arizona had a long standing suit pending in the U.S. Supreme Court in its attempt to secure a greater portion of the Colorado River's flow for its own use, the Department of Water and Power authorized engineering to begin on a second aqueduct, the so-called second barrel, to bring even more Owens Valley/Mono Basin water to the Los Angeles Basin.

This was additional bad news for Mono Lake. "Since the advent of the second aqueduct (1971), the rate of decline of Mono Lake's level increased to 1.6 feet per year. "At that rate a land bridge would soon be formed to Negit Island, allowing predators to devastate the nesting colonies. Could this be allowed to happen?*

Kahrl concludes his opus by proposing that the policies of the Department of Water and Power have been "neither benevolent nor malicious, they (were) merely practical. The department's interest is focused exclusively upon the protection of the water resource it has acquired for the city's welfare." Indeed, by the time *Water and Power* was published in 1982 the Department's "Los Angeles first" attitude had changed

little since the fall of William Mulholland fifty-four years earlier.

* *Water and Power* was published before the fight to save Mono Lake began in earnest. *Desert Books* intends to examine that successful effort in a future essay.

Corrections to my Death Valley Trip Report from Sage Number 370

By Gregory Frux

Bob Burd noted some errors in my Death Valley trip report and on my map from the last Desert Sage, as follows:

Ryan Benchmark (5,148') is the high point of the Greenwater Range, not Brown Peak. I'll have to go back and climb the correct peak sometime in the future.

The high point of the Owlshead Range is Owl Benchmark (4,665'), not Owlshead High Point. I climbed the correct peak, Owl Benchmark; however, I mislabeled the peak in my trip report and on my map as Owlshead High Point.



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:

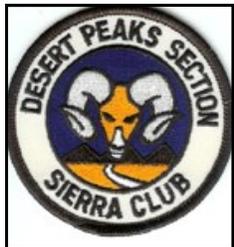
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SAGE SUBMISSIONS: The Sage editor welcomes all articles, trip reports and photographs pertaining to outdoor activities of interest to DPS members. Trip participants are encouraged to submit a trip report if the participant knows that the trip leaders 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 **October 8, 2017**.

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