



The Desert Sage

OUR 77th SEASON

MAY–JUNE 2018

ISSUE NO. 375



<http://desertpeaks.org/>

Chair's Corner

by Tina Bowman



Bob Michael's proposal for adding peaks to the DPS list to bring the number up to one hundred is a good one. So how do we add peaks? Here are some highlights of the process. Any member can propose an addition or deletion in writing to the Mountaineering Committee,

chaired by the vice chair. Any proposed peak addition must be scheduled and climbed on a DPS-sponsored outing and reported in the Sage before the ballot appears, and there should be time for pro and con arguments in several issues of the Sage before the ballot is sent to members. A majority vote approves the listing (or delisting) of the peak. The bylaws give the full process here:

<http://desertpeaks.org/adobepdffiles/bylawsmarch2012.pdf>

The Chili Cook-Off was well attended, and no one blew away! The wagons (campers) were circled to make a bit of a windbreak, and cooks made their chili in the lee of their vehicles. If you haven't attended a Cook-Off, you've been missing a lot of fun and good food. We need volunteers to help with organizing it.

I'd say we've had a good year with a revitalized outings program, thanks to outings chair Sandy Lara. It's been a long time since the DPS schedule of outings has been as robust as it's been this year. Also, the management committee has been stellar to work with, each member doing an excellent job, always in a timely manner. We've been getting things done!

We're always looking for people to volunteer to

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THE NEXT SAGE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

IS JUNE 10, 2018

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help run the DPS. This year we found it hard to find nominees for the management committee, the big sticking point for people being the Sunday meetings. To address that problem, we'll consider conference calls or Skype on an evening during the week for some of the meetings, independent of the October through April monthly potlucks. If you have suggestions, please let me know!

Happy trails,
Tina

Desert Peaks Section Leadership for the 2017 - 2018 Season

Elected Positions

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Program / Banquet

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Cover Photo Credit...

goes to Tommey Joh. The photo is of DPS Webmaster and Guidebook Editor Jim Morehouse on the summit of Cerro Pescadores, and was taken on February 17, 2016. The mountain is one of four DPS listed peaks located in Mexico.

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.

◆ **OCTOBER 13** **SAT** **LTC**

E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program: Belay Skills: 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. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. the Monday two weeks after the final previous class outing, and the cost is \$75.00. 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).

◆ **OCTOBER 20** **SAT** **LTC, WTC, HPS**

I: Navigation: Beginning Clinic: Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers 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, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead (Sierra Club) to Leader: Diane Dunbar. (dianedunbar@charter.net or 818-248-0455). Co-Leader: Richard Boardman (310-374-4371).

◆ **OCTOBER 20** **SAT** **LTC**

E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program: 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 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. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. the Monday two weeks after the final previous class outing, and the cost is \$75.00. 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).

◆ **OCTOBER 27** **SAT-SUN** **LTC**

E-R: Advanced Mountaineering Program: 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. Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. the Monday two weeks after the final previous class outing, and the cost is \$75.00. 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).

◆ **NOVEMBER 10-11** **SAT-SUN** **LTC**

M/E-R: Rock: Sheep Pass/Indian Cove Joshua Tree Rock Checkoff & 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. Patrick McKusky (626-794-7321 or pamckusky@att.net). Co-Leader: Daniel Richter (818-970-6737 or dan@danrichter.com).

◆ **NOVEMBER 17-18** **SAT-SUN** **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

I: Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle: Navigation Noodle at Warren Point to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills, refresher, altimeter, homework and campfire. Sunday checkout. 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 9** **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.

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.

2018 DPS Election Results
By Tina Bowman for the Election Committee

Sixty-two people voted online via Survey Monkey, and eight voted by mail in the 2018 election. Here are the results.

For management committee, Laura Newman and Jim Fleming were elected (sorry for the multiple-choice glitch on the electronic ballot instead of a select boxes option). Thanks to Ron Ecklemann for being willing to run to fulfill the bylaws requirement to have three people running for the two positions. We had no write-in candidates.

Argus and Maturango were voted to be delisted: 37 yes to 23 no on the online ballot and 5 yes and 3 no on the paper ballot (42 yes and 26 no total). Navajo was voted to be delisted by a wider margin: 51 yes to 11 no online and 5 yes and 3 no by paper (56 yes, 14 no total).

The membership voted to amend Article IV, Section 1, of the bylaws to allow for the treasurer to be either an elected or appointed member of the management committee. If appointed, the other member of the management committee will be referred to as the fifth officer. The vote was 55 yes and 6 no on the online ballot and 8 yes on the paper one (63 yes and 6 no total).

Only two members voted not to allow electronic voting, one on the paper and one on the electronic ballot with 60 yes votes electronically and 7 yes votes by paper (67 yes to 2 no total). The bylaws thus will be amended to include electronic voting as well as a paper ballot for those members who do not receive email.

DPS ANNUAL BANQUET

Sunday May 20

Where: Vallecito Club House
1251 Old Conejo Rd.
Newbury Park, CA

Time: 4:00 pm Games
5:00 pm Happy Hour
6:00 pm Dinner

*Includes coffee and tap water.
You are welcome to bring your favorite
beverage. Wine and beer (provided by The Law
Office of Kenneth L. Snyder) will be available
for a donation.*



*Wynne with dogs, Rosy and Watson. Malpais Mesa, west of
Conglomerate Mesa, Sierra Nevada and Owens Lake in background.*



*Summit of El Picacho del Diablo,
October 1994. Wynne Benti with
Roy Magnuson, Ron Young, George
Toby, Scot Jamison.
(Photo: Bobcat Thompson)*

Wynne Benti presents:

33 Years in the Desert West

An Illustrated Memoir of Adventure and Activism

In 1985, Wynne Benti hiked to the summit of her first desert peak, Tin Mountain, following two aficionados, Ron Jones and Maris Valkass. It was the end of June, 95 degrees at 6am. After twelve hours, she stumbled into camp, Vibram soles softened by hot talus, the blue dye of her tee shirt leached white by sweat, someone handed her a 7UP® and she passed out, only to wake up later, thinking, "Wow." Trail hiking turned to peak-bagging and river canoeing, then working with the Kelso Depot volunteers, on the Nature Conservancy's Kern River, and the Desert Protection Act, flow releases on the Grand Canyon River. She finished the DPS and HPS lists. Past Chair of the Angeles Chapters Rivers Conservation Subcommittee and L.A. Rivers Task Force, she'll talk about the recent military expansions into almost 1 million acres of Nevada's public lands and Yucca Mountain.

Visit wynnebenti.com for more info.



*Desert Bill hearings, November
1989, Barstow CA. Almost 2,000 in
attendance. (Photo: Wynne Benti)*

Name(s): _____ Phone or Email _____

Number of reservations _____

\$30 until May 1 _____ \$35 after May 1 _____ Total enclosed _____

Stonefire Grill Buffet includes: Tri-tip, Salmon, 4 Sides/Salads, rolls, dessert, tap water and coffee.

Wine and beer (provided by The Law Office of Kenneth L. Snyder) will be available for a donation and you are welcome to bring your favorite beverage.

Please reserve by May 1. Mail check, payable to DPS, and completed form to DPS Banquet Chair:

Tracey Thomerson, 6808 Falconview Lane, Oak Park, CA 91377. Tickets will be held at the door.

For questions email Tracey Thomerson at tthomerson@roadrunner.com

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FOR THEIR DONATIONS**



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KENNETH L. SNYDER



MPOWERD™

COLUMBIA a Women's Medium Oyanta Trail insulated jacket and Mountain Hardware Paladin 33 L backpack.

DEUTER a Futura Pro 38SL backpack.

THE LAW OFFICE OF KENNETH L SNYDER wine and beer fur bar.

MOUNTAINSMITH a Tour fanny pack.

MPOWERED 1 each of the following: Luci BMRG F2017, Luci Outdoor 2.0 Pro F2017, Luci Lux Pro F2017 and Luci Candle Trio S20184ct

NALGENE a BPA/BPS free, 32 oz. plastic bottle.

Outings Chair

by Sandy Lara



Hello Fellow Desert Climbers!

We have had a great climbing season with 30 official trips to DPS peaks, additional trips to other interesting desert highpoints, and private trips to our Mexican peaks since the last banquet! This would not have been possible without so many leaders pitching in. Many thanks to the following

41 leaders who led one or more peaks this season: Molly Arevalo, Phil Bates, Megan Birdsill, Tina Bowman, Justin Bruno, Regge Bulman, Ron Campbell, Jinoak Chung, Tejinder Dhillon, Daryn Dodge, Ross Doering, Ignacia Doggett, Peter Doggett, Bob Draney, Jim Fleming, Rich Gillock, Jim Hagar, Matthew Hengst, Mat Kelliher, Jack Kieffer, Rod Kieffer, Matthew Kraai, Peter Lara, Sandy Lara, Tim Martin, Lisa Miyake, Geoffrey Mohan, Jason Park, Kathy Rich, Neal Robbins, Dwain Roque, Gary Schenk, Jason Seieroe, Bill Simpson, Nile Sorenson, Suzanne Steiner, Gideon Strich, Monica Suua, Cate Widmann, Sunny Yi, and Bernie Yoo. Many of these trips were co-sponsored with WTC and HPS. It's great to be able to introduce DPS to members of other sections.

Edgar Peak was suspended at the last Management Committee meeting due to the current prohibition of going off trail in the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area. It will be reinstated after this restriction is lifted. Nearby Mitchell Point may only be climbed via Route D as the other routes go through the restricted area.

Our membership decided via ballot to delist Navajo, Argus, and Maturango. These three peaks were suspended many years ago due to access issues. Access has not changed over the intervening years, so they have now been removed. Comments were submitted regarding adding new peaks to the list to replace those removed, including a suggestion to increase the number of peaks on the list to an even 100. Please see Tina's Chair column on page 2 of this issue of the *Sage* to see how this can be accomplished.

As always, I welcome your trip submissions so we can continue to offer outings to our members and encourage climbing and conserving our peaks.



Treasurer's Report

By Laura Newman

DPS Account Summary from
January 1, 2018 to
March 31, 2018

INCOME

Donations	\$130.00
Membership/Subscriptions	\$1005.00
Merchandise	<u>\$15.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$1,150.00**

EXPENSES

Banquet Expenses	\$167.40
Merchandise Expenses	\$2.76
Sage Expenses	\$144.93
Sage Printing Expenses	\$153.50
Sales Tax	<u>\$6.75</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$475.34**

PAY PAL BALANCE **\$9.41**

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE **\$3,438.78**

EDGAR PEAK SUSPENDED (3/11/18)

Edgar Peak (San Bernardino County) resides in the Providence Mountains State Recreation Area. The staff there has communicated to several DPS leaders and Management Committee members over the past several months that the entire area is closed to cross-country travel. As there is no legal way to access the peak, the Management Committee has voted to suspend it until the area is open. Neighboring Mitchell Point can be accessed legally via DPS Route D only. Please do not use Edgar/Mitchell Routes A, B, or C as these travel within the State Recreation Area. The Mitchell Caverns are now open but require advance ticket purchase on-line.

DPS Membership Report

by Ron Bartell

Membership Summary

<u>Type</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Sustaining</u>
Member	106	30
Household	29	
Subscriber	23	3
Totals:	158	33

Activity Report

New Members

Megan Birdsill	Pinto Mtn
Mihai Giurgiulescu	Castle Dome Pk
Lawrence Lee	East Ord
Annie Stockley	New York Mtn

Sustaining Renewals

Gary Bowen	1 year
Greg Gerlach & Kelley Laxamana	3 years
Brian Smith	1 year

Renewals

Misha Askren MD	1 year
Randy & Joyce Bernard	2 years
Edward Herrman	1 year
Sue Holloway	2 years
Gary Hughes	1 year
Robert Langsdorf	3 years
Paul Nelson	1 year
John Ripley	1 year
Carleton Shay	1 year
Penelope Smrz	1 year
Tom Sumner	1 year
Bruce Trotter	1 year

Donations

\$10 from Gary Bowen
 \$20 from Greg Gerlach & Kelley Laxamana



Welcome to new member Megan Birdsill! Megan grew up in Phoenix and has always felt comfortable slathering on sunscreen and carrying an unreasonable amount of water wherever she goes. After taking WTC and leadership training, she completed her I-rating last year and looks forward to meeting more DPS-ers and the adventures to come.



Welcome to new member Annie Stockley! Annie started climbing while living in Scotland, later moving to San Diego for better weather. She has led Sierra classics such as Clyde Minaret and Charlotte Dome, and her favorite climbs are those which have an amazing view, or include 3rd class climbing.

We also welcome new members Lawrence Lee and Mihai Giurgiulescu!

Special Offer to New 2018 DPS Members and Subscribers

Beginning in 2018 the DPS would like to welcome new members and subscribers (who don't yet meet the criteria for membership) with a year's free subscription to *The Desert Sage*. New members as well as new subscribers should send the membership application form to the Membership Chair, Ron Bartell, by email (desertpeakssection@gmail.com) or USPS (the form with the address may be downloaded in Word or Adobe Acrobat format at <http://desertpeaks.org/aboutus.htm>), or may be found in this issue of the *Sage*. Although the *Sage* is available to all on the web site, members and subscribers receive an email with a link as soon as a new issue is published.

Conservation Chair

by Dave Perkins



The Skinny On Carbon Offsets

The average American produces 17 metric tons of carbon pollution per year. A metric ton is about 10 % bigger than a U.S. ton. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is invisible to the naked eye, but when you are driving your gasoline or diesel powered car or cooking with fuel

or flying you are producing varying amounts of CO₂.

Here are two examples of the amount of CO₂ put into the atmosphere:

- Driving 10,000 miles at 25 mpg produces 3.52 tons of CO₂ per year.
- Flying 10,000 plus miles and 15 hours round trip for 2 people produces 7.36 tons of CO₂ per year.

There are two ways to reduce your carbon emissions: by your personal actions such as riding a bicycle or installing solar panels on your house, or by offsetting your emissions by the purchase of carbon offsets. You can offset one metric ton of CO₂ for somewhere between \$6.00 and \$10.00.

A list of actions to reduce emissions can be found at a number of websites including COTAP.org. Actions generally fall into four categories: driving, air travel, home, and other, which includes water use, food, recycling, and clean energy. A study of PG&E customers homes analyzed the amount of electricity used by devices such as battery operated vacuums or screw guns when not in active use. It was found that 23 percent of the average annual residential energy consumption of the homes analyzed was used by these devices.

Carbon offsets are a form of trade. When you buy an offset, you fund projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The projects might restore forests, update power plants and factories or increase the energy efficiency of buildings and transportation. Carbon offsets let you pay to reduce the global GHG total instead of making radical or impossible reductions of your own. GHG emissions mix quickly with the air and, unlike oth-

er pollutants, spread around the entire planet. Because of this, it doesn't really matter where GHG reductions take place if fewer emissions enter the atmosphere.

Carbon offsetting should not be done in place of taking steps to reduce one's carbon emissions, but carbon offsetting and carbon emissions reduction should be done in tandem. Measuring your carbon emissions not only reveals where you currently are, but also helps you identify areas for improvement and track your progress. There are a number of Carbon Footprint Calculators on the WEB where you can get an estimate as to the amount of CO₂ that you are putting into the atmosphere per year. Offsetting the amount which you are not able to avoid empowers you to take full responsibility for your carbon pollution, which is your contribution to climate change.

The NRDC website has examined the issue of the quality of offset programs with a piece entitled: "Should you buy carbon offsets?" They conclude that one should buy offsets from programs that have been certified by programs like Green-e Climate, which help individuals identify reliable carbon offset sellers.

Letter to the Editor

Comments on List Reform

In response to Bob Michael's thoughts and suggestions, I quite agree that the list should be brought up to an even 100. It is my understanding that many of the desert peaks on the list were chosen because of some significant geological, archaeological, botanical or historical feature, as well as being highpoints and scrambling fun. Over the years I have certainly enjoyed the process of climbing DPS listed peaks. They are much more than just arid highpoints. While agreeing that the military eats up too many peaks (think Mount Grant by Hawthorne, Nevada), I think Argus and Maturango should be replaced along with Navajo. I have always wondered why Canyon Point was on the list and think perhaps Kino Peak, though a fun scramble, should be dropped because of the border problems. Notch Peak is a great suggestion. Ibapah Peak, Jumbo Peak, Mormon Peak, and Pilot Peak all have distinctive features and might also be satisfactory additions. Perhaps we could have some sort of primary election to screen out the most suitable additions to the list.

Respectfully submitted, James Prichard, Packwood, Washington

Passages

Frederick Johnson 1927-2017

Although deeply saddened by the news of Frederick Johnson's passing, I'm thankful to have retrieved his obituary from the San Francisco Chronicle (showing a lifespan from August 2, 1927, to November 1, 2017) and also to have found some background from materials I saved as part of the SPS old-timers series. A special thanks to Richard Carey for alerting us to Fred's death.

First, I have a sheet describing Fred's first trip with the Sierra Club, a hike on March 29, 1942, at age 14 to Mount Pinetop located above San Fernando in the San Gabriel Mountains.

Second is background on Fred's being on Waucoba Mountain while still at age 14. The date was June 7, 1942, and the trip was co-led by Chester Versteeg and Niles Werner. Fred appears (second from the left) with the summit group in a photo taken by Werner. That picture is the earliest known one from the DPS archives and is preserved in the Angeles Chapter digital archives.

Third is a photo of Fred atop Mount Kaweah that same year during World War II on a Sierra Club base camp trip. (It's grainy, and I have only a photocopy of it.)

Fourth, from the DPS archives (on a CD) I found that Fred joined the section in 1945 and earned his emblems in 1946, 1967 and 1987 as the list grew. In 1988, he earned his HPS emblem. I don't have the early SPS member rosters, but Fred was on an SPS trip in December 1959 when he was living in Los Angeles and on one in 2017 when he was living in Berkeley. Fred received his SPS Emblem status on September 1, 1967.

Finally, from my records of the SPS old-timers series came this information: And in a show of ongoing enthusiasm for hiking, Johnson and Dave Jenkins of Sonora arrived a day early for the 2007 trip and climbed Slate Mountain (9,302') via the Summit Trail from Quaking Aspen, a 10+-mile round trip with some 2,300 feet of gain. The 2007 trip was labeled The Needles et al. in Giant Sequoia National Monument.

The top photo is a close-up of Fred that I took on September 9, 2006, in route to Wonoga Peak as part of the SPS old-timers series and the bottom photo is the group atop Wauoba Mountain in 1942 as described above.

Regards, Jerry Keating





Trip Reports

DPS member Quin Hodges on the way to Sentinel Peak via DPS Route C. Photo credit: Dain Clark.

Corkscrew Peak (5,804')

By: Melissa Wetkowski

January 14, 2018

After a great day of hiking Eagle Mountain #2, a group of nine caravanned to Death Valley to find a campsite for the night. Being that it was the high season at Death Valley, we were lucky to find availability at Sunset Campground in Furnace Creek, across from the Furnace Creek Visitor's Center. We all set up for the night among towering mansion motorhomes before sharing in a nice happy hour around a big propane fire pit that one of our group members ingeniously brought with him. We shared stories around the cozy fire while trying to shut out the sounds of generators buzzing.

The next morning, we all set out for Corkscrew Peak, a short drive into the endless desert from Sunset Campground. Corkscrew Peak is a prominent peak in the Grapevine Mountains of northern Death Valley. Approaching from the south on Daylight Pass Road, the mountain range to the northeast rises from the open flat desert, and the appropriately named Corkscrew Peak catches the eye as its apex twists and turns like a corkscrew reaching into the sky.

Led by Phil Bates and Rod Kieffer, we set out across the alluvial fan with a gradual upward slope. As this is a very exposed hike in the desert, we were happy to stop under a small patch of shade provided by an embankment to hydrate and cool off before surrendering to the exposed path up the mountain.

To reach the summit, we went up the main wash and then branched off to the left up a gully going directly to a saddle on the ridge. From there it was an easy ridge traverse to the summit for this very strong group. While

there is no "official" trail, the increasing popularity of this hike has left a very obvious use trail and cairns to follow once you leave the wash.

Given that it was a sunny day and a steady incline, we made sure to make a few stops along the way to keep hydrated. As we climbed higher on the ridge, the hot sun was nicely quelled by a beautiful and much welcome breeze which allowed us to continue on at a fair clip given the steep grade of the route along the ridge. Just below the last climb to the summit, we stopped at a natural arch, which some have named Hole-in-the-Wall, to take in some amazing views and photos of the Death Valley basin and the mountains visible from there. Parallel to and just below the parapet we continued up the spiral scree traverse with cautious footing.



On the summit of Corkscrew Peak, from left to right: Andrew Horvath, Philip Bates, Rod Kieffer, Lisa Miyake, Jason Seieroe, Tommy Porter, Melissa Wetkowski, Sandy Lara, and Peter Lara. Photo credit: Peter Lara

We reached the summit in less than three hours. From the top, we took in the vast 360 degree views from Badwater Basin and Telescope Peak to the full range of the Sierra Mountains where we could spot Olancha Peak, Mount Whitney, Mount Russell and many others.

All nine of us signed the summit register and had lunch before making the swift and uneventful descent down the same route. We returned to the cars around 2:00 p.m. where we parted with our companions. Some of us headed to Tecopa for a relaxing dip in the hot springs before the long Sunday afternoon drive home.

Smith Mountain (5,913') & Stewart Point (5,265')

By Gary Schenk

February 17-18, 2018

Friday night saw vehicles spread out on the Greenwater Valley Road in Death Valley. The next morning leaders

Trip Reports - continued

and participants met up a mile or so from the turn off to Gold Valley and carpooled 4WD style to the jump off point for Smith Mountain. At the point where the guide says turn right to Gold Valley, we took a shortcut Sandy Lara had reported. It was quite a bit shorter, but seemed quite a bit rougher.

The hike up to Smith was uneventful, which is what happens when Tina Bowman is in front. It was perfect hiking weather and the view from the top quite remarkable. We enjoyed perusing the register and munching on lunch.

We were back at our camp on Greenwater Valley Road quite early in the day. Larry and Barbee Tidball had spotted a nice spot with plenty of room just off the road.

It's not called the Desert Party Section for nothing. Barbee provided a great veggie stew and everyone else chipped in quite admirably. Most retired early to prepare for the next day.

We caravanned to the spot to start Stewart Point and took off at a reasonable time. It was my turn to lead and I must admit to getting us off to a terrific start, leading us smartly and efficiently from the cars to the wrong saddle. It wouldn't have been so bad but I had told myself to make sure to NOT go to that saddle. Oh, well. We were back on track soon enough.

Stewart is a bit more complicated mountain than Smith. We had a false start here and there trying to figure out when to leave the wash and might have gone one dry waterfall too many but we made it around the tough parts and were soon at the ridge leading to the summit. If you like steep and loose terrain, this is the peak for you. It wasn't that much suffering and we got to the top in some sort of order.

The Resting Spring Mountains are quite nice, by the way.

Descending the ridge soon had us all wishing we were climbing it again, particularly your humble correspondent's right ankle.



**The group on the summit of Smith Mountain, from left to right: Benny Haddad, Gary Schenk, Lisa Barboza, Mary Jo Dungfelder, Tina Bowman, Jim Edmonson, and Larry Tidball.
Photo credit: Ron Eckelmann**

We made it back in good form, Tina leading the way, her bad knee apparently in better shape than my bad ankle.

All in all a great weekend in Death Valley with good people all around. Thanks to Barbee and Larry Tidball, Lisa Barboza, Ron Eckelmann, Jim Edmonson, Benny Haddad, and Mary Jo Dungfelder for being there, and to Tina Bowman for arranging the trip and being such a steady leader.

Pyramid Peak (6,703') By Tina Bowman March 23, 2018

A week before the outing, Nile Sorenson and I had two participants for this Friday climb but eight by the time we all met on the side of highway 190. Thursday was a very rainy day at home, but I drove out of the rain around Victorville to the forecast of decent weather for our trip. We had a great group: Rana Parker and Ben Uong, Karen Andersen and Ron Hudson, Lisa Barboza, and Jim Green. A little rain and lots of lightning to the east Thursday night woke some of us up as we camped at "Slab City," very close to the start of the hike.

At 7:02 we were off and hiking toward the low spot in the hills over two miles away. Some participants went ahead of the leaders, ahem, as we ambled along, chatting. Inadvertently we went over 3900' and then down again before gaining the ridge as described in the guide's route A. With several nice breaks and under Nile's leadership, we reached the summit at 11:34 and enjoyed the views. Telescope had a lot of snow from the storm, and we could see Olancho, Langley, Whitney, Williamson and other snow-covered Sierra peaks to the west and Charleston on the east.

At 12:20 we started down to the saddle just northwest of

Trip Reports - continued



On the summit of Pyramid Peak, in front, from left to right: Lisa Barboza, Karen Andersen, Jim Green, and Ron Hudson. In back: Nile Sorenson, Rana Parker, and Ben Uong. Photo credit: Tina Bowman

point 4600'. As I had done at least twice, we headed down this drainage, soon being on pretty good use trail. This was a route Greg Gerlach and Kelley Laxamana had taken up, and I would prefer it over route A (it's between routes A and B) as an up as well as down route. Too bad I didn't remember it that well before we went up the ridge for route A.

Back to the cars before 3:45, Jim Green headed home, and Nile drove off to get in position to climb Brown the next day. The other six of us went back to Slab City for the night and shared a bit of happy hour and campfire as a nice ending to a fine day. The next day, Saturday, all six joined the crowd at the Chili Cook-Off at various times. It was another fine couple of days in the desert, despite the strong winds on Saturday.

Tamarisk Service, Little Cowhole Mountain (1,699'), Cowhole Mountain (2,252'), & Cave Mountain (3,585')

**By Debbie Bulger
February 8-13, 2018**

Richard Stover and I were camped at the Desert Studies Center because we had signed up to clear tamarisk (an invasive tree that sucks up needed water) with the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Desert Committee and the National Park Service. The only problem was the nation was on the verge of a government shutdown.

When we woke up in the middle of the night, the continuation bill had not yet passed the House or been signed by the President.

The Desert Studies Center, run by Cal State Universities, occupies a 1940s resort run by a radio evangelist at Zzyzx, on Highway 15 not far from Nevada. History buffs will enjoy the historic buildings and wildlife utilize the fresh water pools of the resort adjacent to the expansive Soda Lake where once salt was collected.

By nine the next morning we were hard at work. While experienced people used chain saws on the tamarisk, we dragged and carried the cut branches and trunks several hundred feet to the road where other volunteers loaded them into trucks. We worked for the next six hours with a break for lunch.

Across Soda Lake we could see our objectives for the next two days: Little Cowhole Mountain and Cowhole Mountain. Despite their low elevation they proved satisfying climbs.

After work most of the volunteers headed to Shoshone for a conservation meeting. Richard and I took much needed showers and headed for a quiet spot in the desert to spend the night.

We set up camp at the base of Little Cowhole. We were laid back, leisurely enjoying ourselves after our work day: No map, no GPS, total exploration mode.

With no map I had no idea where the summit of Little Cowhole was, so we ended up climbing two other bumps before finally arriving at the summit. As a result we fortuitously stumbled upon an interesting miner's cabin constructed of old railroad ties, probably taken from the nearby Tonopah and Tidewater rail road, which was built to replace the 20 mule teams hauling borax.



Miner's cabin built with old railroad ties. Photo credit: Richard Stover

Trip Reports - continued

Climbing the sandy south slope of Little Cowhole was tedious, but the view was terrific. We could see Soda Lake, Zzyzx where we had worked, and Cowhole Mountain, our objective for the next day. The descent was fast. On the way down we spotted a Zebra-tailed Lizard, a large metal tank housing a Desert-banded Gecko, and unfortunately, numerous balloons. We were back in camp with plenty of time to have tea and cookies and explore some more.

The next day we hiked two miles across the desert to climb Cowhole Mountain. If you have never walked in this type of terrain, I would caution you to watch out for the kangaroo rat holes. The seriously cute nocturnal Kangaroo Rat has huge eyes and stays underground during the day. They live in colonies and their villages are clusters of holes leading to underground apartments. As hikers walk by, they are in danger of breaking through the surface and having a foot drop several inches.

I must have stepped through a lot of thin crust that day, because that night my muscle memory caused my leg to twitch as I broke through in a dream. “Oooph!” I cried and woke up only to discover I was in my sleeping bag.

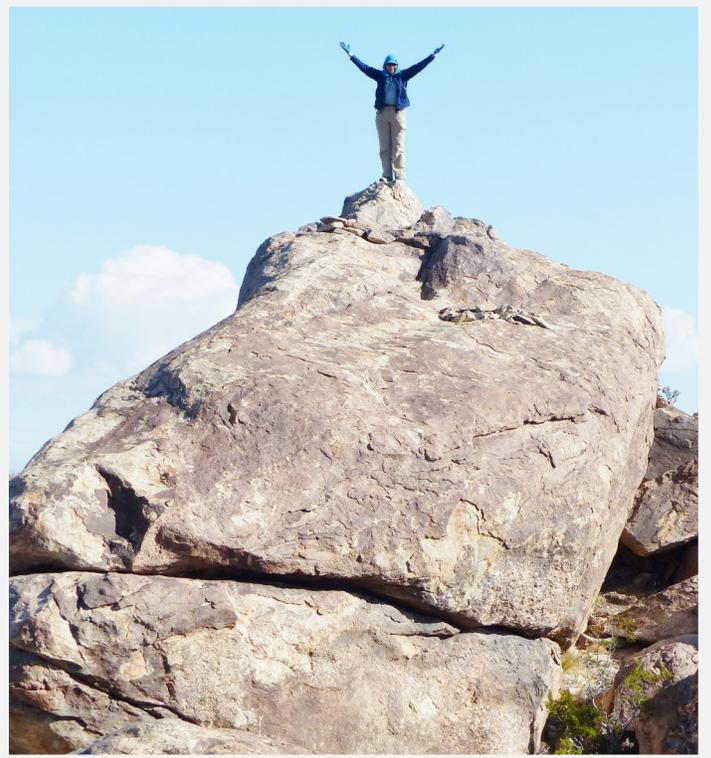
We took the usual route up the north gully, past the black dike and a few dry waterfalls, climbing steeply in places to the summit ridge. A golden eagle watched us as we ascended. The abrasive limestone can be rough, so I recommend gloves.

Near the top we observed the fossils described by Dignonnet in *Hiking the Mojave Desert*. After more views and photo opportunities, we descended a less steep route on the SE side. Our trek back to camp flushed out a black-tailed jackrabbit and a coyote among other creatures. We had plenty of time for supper and an evening campfire.

After a leisurely breakfast the next day in a restaurant in Baker, we drove to the Afton Canyon road and took a dirt road east to the start of our climb of Cave Mountain. We had intended to pull invasive Sahara mustard in the area but were too early in the season. Instead, we hiked to the saddle, spied on the mine on the east side of the peak, and enjoyed the desert.

The year before in March we had chosen not to climb Cave since there were extremely high winds. Tomorrow, the climb would be on.

It was a delightful surprise. This straightforward scramble brought a big smile to our faces as we spotted a bighorn ram about halfway up the peak. We froze when we saw it and thus were able to observe it first watching us to try to



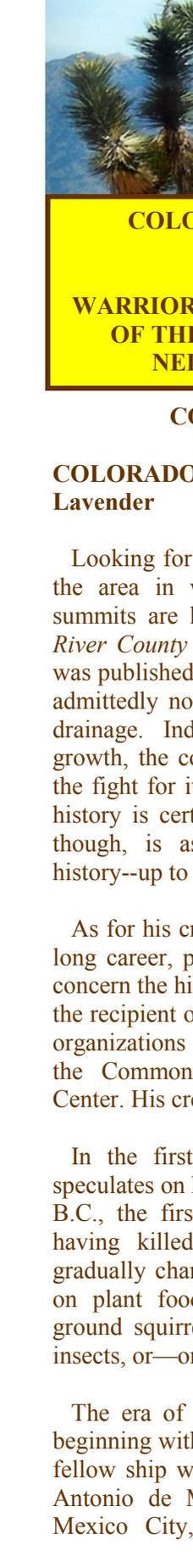
**Debbie Bulger on the summit of Cave Mountain.
Photo credit: Richard Stover**

discern if we were dangerous, then moving from right to left across our field of view. We later saw its tracks and scat as we climbed higher.

Ahead we saw what appeared to be the summit: a cairn with a stick protruding from its top. Atop the stick sat a raven contemplating our progress. I’m King of the Hill it seemed to say.

But the cairn was not the summit. A bit further north sat the true summit—a large boulder sheltering a wood rat’s nest on its north side.

Our return route took us further to the west for variety and past a fine coyote gourd looking very much like a spilled container of tennis balls. Actually, it’s a relative of the pumpkin. All our observations and photo stops resulted in the climb taking over five hours, but we still had plenty of time to drive partway home to a hotel with a hot shower. Another successful trip.



DESERT BOOKS

By Burton Falk

**COLORADO RIVER COUNTRY (1982),
David Lavender**

**WARRIORS OF THE COLORADO: THE YUMAS
OF THE QUECHAN NATION AND THEIR
NEIGHBORS (1965), Jack D. Forbes**

COLORADO RIVER HISTORY

**COLORADO RIVER COUNTRY (1982), David
Lavender**

Looking for an interesting but relatively brief history of the area in which most of the Desert Peaks Section summits are located? Well, David Lavender's *Colorado River County* could be just the book for you. Because it was published thirty-six years ago, however, the volume is admittedly not the latest word on the history of the vast drainage. Indeed, due to the area's relentless population growth, the continuing pressures on its environment, and the fight for its limited water resources, a new up-to-date history is certainly called for. What Lavender has done, though, is assemble a reader-friendly, comprehensive history--up to date, at least, until the early 1980s.

As for his credentials, Lavender (1910-2003), during his long career, published forty volumes—most all of which concern the history of the Western United States—and was the recipient of several awards for literary excellence from organizations including the California Historical Society, the Commonwealth Club, and the Western Heritage Center. His credentials are outstanding.

In the first chapter, "The Ancient Ones," Lavender speculates on how at the end of the Ice Age, around 10,000 B.C., the first people of the area—the Paleo-Indians—having killed off the once-large herds of mammals, gradually changed into the Desert People, living "mainly on plant foods, supplemented occasionally by rabbits, ground squirrels, birds, fish, lizards, desert turtles, large insects, or—on lucky days—deer or bighorn sheep."

The era of the Spanish entradas (entries) comes next, beginning with Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca and his three fellow ship wreck survivors, who in their 1536 report to Antonio de Mendoza, the King of Spain's viceroy in Mexico City, described those whom they met while

wandering in the Sonoran Desert as people who "wore clothes made not of animal skins but of cotton, lived in buildings many stories high and had turquoises, copper, and emeralds." That was enough for Mendoza to fund a reconnaissance of the area headed by the Franciscan priest, Fray Marcos de Niza. On his return to Mexico City, Niza imaginatively reported that the six Zuni pueblos of western New Mexico—later to be known as the cities of Cibola—were "glorious," and that he had erected a cairn to mark the spot where he took possession of the land in the viceroy's name. That news encouraged Mendoza to appoint Francisco Vazquez de Coronado to set out on a two-year entrada (1540-1542), during which a few of Coronado's men became the first Europeans to view the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon.

Sixty years later, in 1604, Juan de Onate, the infamously cruel Governor of New Mexico, with a group of thirty soldiers and two friars, traveled by way of Zuñi, the Hopi pueblos, and the Bill Williams River to the Colorado River, which they followed to its mouth in the Gulf of California. There they mistakenly concluded that the gulf continued indefinitely to the northwest, giving rise to the commonly held 17th century belief that California was an island.

For almost a century after Onate's expedition, European exploration of the Colorado River valley was minimal. In the early 1700s, the Jesuit father Eusebio Francisco Kino, founder of the Mission San Xavier del Bac, near Tucson, and many others, began making journeys into the lower Colorado area, during which he eventually proved that Baja California was a peninsula, not an island, and that the Colorado River flowed into a gulf nearly eight hundred miles long.

By the 1770s, because sailing to California from mainland Mexican ports was undependable and time consuming because of both the Japanese Current and the prevailing winds, the Spanish decided that California needed to be connected to Sonora by an overland route. In 1774, Captain Juan Baptista de Anza and a company of soldiers, fording the Colorado River at a point near present day Yuma and then traversing the Imperial Valley, established such a route. During the winter of 1775/76, the ever-reliable Anza repeated the daunting task, taking more than 200 settlers safely with him to California.

Desert Books - continued

Doubts remained about the Yuma route however. “The Apaches were troublesome (and) the deserts west of Yuma were difficult to traverse, especially in the summer.” In 1776, with the intent of blazing a more secure route, two Franciscan priests from Santa Fe, Atanasio Dominguez and Silvestre Vélez de Escalante, set out to establish a more northerly passage between New Mexico and California. Due to the illness of Dominguez, however, their exploratory group, while still in mid-Utah and with winter approaching, decided to head back to Santa Fe. Although nearly starving on their return, they did discover a place to ford the Colorado—later named the Crossing of the Fathers—a site now covered by Lake Powell. Sections of the route that Dominguez and Escalante established through southern Colorado and mid Utah eventually became known as the Old Spanish Trail.

In 1821, Spanish control of Mexico ended, and the newly independent nation, anxious for imported merchandise, invited foreign traders to enter New Mexico. Americans who had been busy trapping beaver in the Rockies further north, took advantage of the opening and began pouring in, “often posing as merchants to reach the streams that attracted them.” With the arrival of men such as William Ashley, Jedediah Smith, James Ohio Pattie, and Ewing Young, the 1820s and 30s became the era of the trappers. And as more and more Americans arrived, Mexico’s control of the area ebbed.

Lavender doesn’t have much to say regarding the American acquisition of the Mexican Southwest, including California, which occurred in 1848 with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. He does, however, recount the arrival of the American military during the fall of 1846, under the command of General Stephen Watts Kearny, and the 2,000-mile march of the 500-plus-man Mormon Battalion, under the lead of Lieutenant-colonel Philip St. George Cooke, from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to coastal California. It’s worth noting that the St. George Cooke’s men—having just been run out of Illinois and generally at odds with the Federal Government—had enlisted, “with the understanding that their pay and clothing allowances would be turned over to their church, thus helping to defray the cost of the Mormons’ migration to Utah.”

It should also be noted that by 1854, the Mormons, under Brigham Young’s leadership, were well established in Utah, and that the church hierarchy, considering how ill-treated the sect had been in the mid-west, decided that they “preferred complete isolation from the rest of the nation.” Indeed, by the spring of 1857, a rupture between Utah and the Federal Government, the roots of which were both

political and religious (think polygamy), was imminent. As a defensive measure, for support should any hostilities occur, the U.S. Army, under the command of Lieutenant Joseph Christmas Ives, launched a steamboat—the *Explorer*—on the Colorado to transport war material between the gulf and Fort Yuma. Although the incipient conflict was ended by negotiation, the military did use the *Explorer* during the summer of 1858 to supply a new post at Fort Mojave, near present day Needles, following a series of attacks by the Havasupai and Mojave Indians on California-bound emigrants.

In his chapter “Utah’s Dixie,” Lavender explains that the Mormon were interested not only in converting the local Indians—whom they considered to be a lost tribe of Israel, the Lamanites—but also in acquiring their land. A good map of Utah would be of great help while reading this chapter.

Subsequent chapters include, “Testing the River,” regarding the adventures of John Wesley Powell, and his twelve-man crew, who in 1869 made a three-month voyage down the Green and Colorado rivers, including the first confirmed passage by persons of European descent through the Grand Canyon. And “Measuring the Land,” next, relates Powell’s later mapping of the Colorado between Green River, Wyoming and Kanab Creek in the Grand Canyon.

In “Searching for New Oases,” Lavender discusses the continuing Mormon desire for isolation and self-sufficiency. Indeed, because of the Mountain Meadow Massacre, during which, on September 11, 1857, some 120 settlers, on their way to California, were murdered by a group of Mormons—and for which no one had yet been prosecuted, plus the anti-bigamy law passed by Congress in 1862, the Mormons became intent on establishing new colonies in the Arizona Territory. Some believed that the law wouldn’t reach them there, while others, bigamists married in Utah, believed they could not be tried in the Territory due to a local statute of limitations.

The final two chapters, “Selling the Scenery,” includes a history of the growth of tourism in the area, especially boating and rafting on the Colorado, and “Claiming the Water,” which discusses historic water rights, the development of the Imperial Valley, and the accidental creation of the Salton Sea.

Colorado River Country provides an excellent although truncated history of the area. Even today it is well worth a read.

Desert Books - continued

WARRIORS OF THE COLORADO: THE YUMAS OF THE QUECHAN NATION AND THEIR NEIGHBORS (1965), Jack D. Forbes

I acquired a copy of *Warriors of the Colorado* several years ago, thinking that at some appropriate time I would read and review it. Recently, because I had reached a point in assembling a history of the Western American deserts, I needed more information on why crossings of the Lower Colorado River became so difficult during the period from 1781 to 1854. Hoping to shed light on the subject, at last I read the volume.

In fact, *Warriors* does explain the root of the problem, namely the combative Quechans, one of the many tribes of the Lower Colorado River, which included the Halchidhomas, the Halyikwamais, the Cocopas, and the Mojaves—tribes which the Spanish referred to collectively as the Yumans.

Kicking off *Warriors* with the chapter, “Xam Kwatcan: The Beginning,” Forbes presents the Quechans as a tribe with a complex ancestral heritage living in a land which was changed and re-changed at the will of the Colorado River. In succeeding chapters, it is noted that the Yumans, in general, “with their dark brown coloration, shared a common trait with Indian groups ranging from northern California to the Yaqui River of Mexico, but which were sharply set off from the lighter-skinned Indians in some sections of coastal California, Arizona, New Mexico and elsewhere.”

Furthermore, the Yumans were big and strong. Melchior Diaz—a member of Coronado’s 1540 entrada, and one of the first Europeans to visit the area—“commented upon the great size and strength of the Colorado River Indians, reporting that a log which six Spaniards could not carry was handled easily by one Indian.”

After Diaz, only a few resolute priests visited the Yuman tribes—the Jesuit Kino in 1700, the Jesuit Sedelmayr in 1750, and the Franciscan Garces in 1771. It wasn’t until January 1774, when Juan Baptiste de Anza and his group of thirty-four men, on their way to establish an overland route from Sonora to coastal California, arrived at the Colorado River near present-day Yuma, that meaningful contact between representatives of Spanish Mexico and the

Quechans took place.

Upon the receipt of a few gifts, the Quechans helped Anza, his men and their livestock to safely cross the Colorado. Indeed, a rapport of sorts was established between the groups. Unfortunately, Spain, in their usual insensitive quest for conquest and religious conversion, was not content to leave the tribe to its own devices.

In December 1780, 21 soldiers, 20 settlers, and 12 laborers, accompanied by their families, arrived near present-day Fort Yuma Hill, where they set about to establish Concepcion, the first of two new Spanish pueblos. Lacking supplies of all kinds, the newcomers became, in effect, “unwelcome guests” of the Quechans. A month later, in January 1781, a second pueblo, San Pedro y San Pablo de Bicuner, located on the river four to five leagues below Concepcion was also founded. Fray Garces, one of the priests assigned to Bicuner, reported that it was difficult to get the Indians there to give up the site “because of the conveniences they had and their love for the area.”

In writings recovered after his death, Garces further observed that the new arrivals “believed that the best land ought to be for them,” and, furthermore, that he and his three fellow friars “were experiencing difficulties in their attempts at converting the Quechan voluntarily.”

Forbes adds that twenty Quechan men were soon subjected to lashings for wounding a corporal’s horse—which may have entered and trampled one of their fields, and that, meanwhile, Garces chillingly observed, “the Quechans resisted (the settlers by) using moderation which was very strange considering their barbarity.”

Tragically, the Quechan moderation ended on the morning of July 17, 1781, when the tribe simultaneously attacked both new pueblos, Concepcion and Bicuner, massacring fifty Spanish males, and taking the women and children as captives.

Although the captives were later ransomed, and permission was given to remove some of the bodies, including the corpse of Garces, who had been beaten to death with war clubs, “(t)he two stations beside the river



Yumas Indians: "United States and Mexican Boundary Survey. Report of William Emory..." Washington, 1857, Volume I.

Desert Books – cont.

where he and the others died were never reopened.” The Spanish made a few long-distance attempts at retribution, but they eventually gave up their interest in conquering and converting the quarrelsome tribe.

For the following sixty-plus years, until the late 1840s, the Quechans held possession of the Yuma crossing area, the most favorable place to ford the Colorado. During that period, the Quechans continued to capture prisoners from neighboring tribes and sell them as slaves.

Gold was discovered in California in 1848, and the traffic at Yuma Crossing increased dramatically. The Quechans, in fact, began doing a profitable business ferrying Argonauts across the river. Trouble started anew, however, when several Americans, including U.S. soldiers under the leadership of Lieutenant Cave J. Coats, and a gang of “cutthroats” led by John A. Glanton set up competing ferry services. The Quechans neutralized the latter group by murdering most all of them.

In November 1850, to quell the unrest, the U.S. Government set up a nearby garrison, Camp Yuma, after which the Quechan power in the region came to an end.

Forbes ends his history by noting that the tribe, “after a 312-year struggle with the Europeans...was gradually reduced to the status of a conquered people. Their lands were taken from them without compensation, and no reserve was set aside for them until 1883. Every Anglo-American who wanted to acquire a portion of their heritage took advantage of them, and the United States government offered them no protection.”

Comments? burtfalk@aol.com

Great Basin Peaks Section News By Sharon Marie Wilcox

**Work and Play in the Las Vegas Range
By Sharon Marie Wilcox
February 8, 2018**

In February, Friends of the Nevada Wilderness sponsored a work party to establish a trailhead for Gass Peak in the Las Vegas Range. This range is located directly north of Las Vegas. Gass Peak (6,943’) overlooks the city, but contrary to brochures listing it as the range high point, Quartzite Mountain (7,133’) claims range high point. Gass is on the Nevada P2K list, making it desirable for those hiking that list.

We planned to join this FNW volunteer trip and then a group of us would hike Gass Peak the following day. Our first meeting spot was the Corn Creek Visitor Center in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. A good place to stretch legs on their nature trails and look at exhibits before tackling the rough roads.

We camped near the Gass Peak trailhead in the company of Joshua Trees with a view of the snowy Spring Mountains.

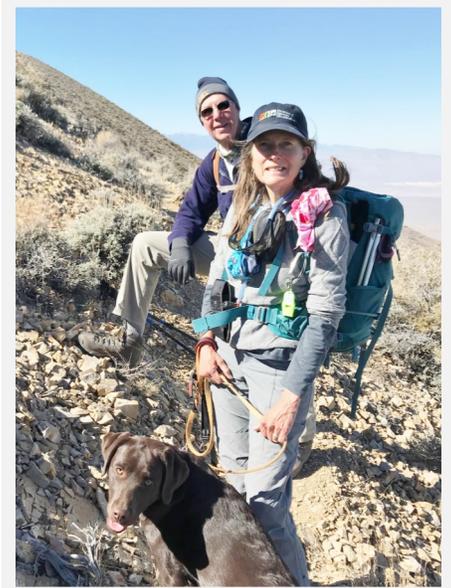
In the morning, our group set out to work on the trailhead. First a safety talk, then we spent the day establishing the trail. FNW is a great organization with many interesting volunteer opportunities. They have year round projects on their website with new additions each month.

At the end of the day, we surveyed our progress, then returned to camp for a shared dinner and campfire. Dinner highlights were a delicious tamale pie served by Vicky Hoover and Grace’s Dutch oven dessert.

The next morning, with high winds predicted, most of the group opted not to hike the peak. Larry Dwyer, Ann Henny, Sharon Marie Wilcox, and her dog, Ruby headed up Gass Peak, about seven miles round trip. This peak was named for an early Las Vegas Valley settler, Octavius Decatur Gass.

The trailhead started up an old road and then we found a good use-trail most of the way to the summit. On the summit, we turned our backs to the communications facility and city view to take in the spectacular views of surrounding ranges including Fossil Ridge, the Spring Mountains and the Sheep Range.

We relaxed on the summit and noted the numerous peaks in the surrounding ranges that we have hiked. A pleasant view to reminisce many memorable adventures in the Great Basin plus limitless future opportunities.



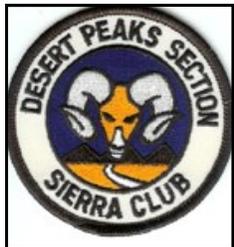
Ruby the dog, Sharon Marie Wilcox, and Larry Dwyer near the summit of Gass Peak.

Desert Peaks Section Merchandise

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1556 21st Street,
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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.

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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 **June 10, 2018**.

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