FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

South Guardian Angel
Zenobia Peak, Colorado
Book Reviews

http://angeleschapter.org/dps/
Summer is over, fall is here, and it’s time to head for our great desert playground! We have some great trips on tap for the season, including “the first-ever eponymous Desert Peaks Section list finish” on Smith Mountain. We are looking forward to these trips as a chance to dry out after a decidedly un-desert vacation recently concluded.

Hopefully you won’t think the less of us for the adventure recounted here, but this year things came together for us to experience the rugged beauty of the world-class Kalalau trail on Kauai’s Na Pali Coast. We arrived on the island the day before the start of our hike, giving us time to find fresh grocery items and gas for the stove, drop extra baggage at our after-hike accommodation to make the parked car less tempting to would-be thieves, and drive the 40 miles from the airport to the trailhead at Ke’e beach. With permit in hand ($10/person/night from the Dept. of Land and Nat. Resources), we started hiking in the early afternoon and were immediately drenched in sweat from the exertion of carrying our packs over the maze of rocks and roots in the humid, 85 degree air. We shared the first two miles of the trail to our first night’s camp with hordes of day-trippers, many clad in swimwear and flip-flops. The muddy trail and fantastic scenery made for slow going – about 1 mile per hour – so we passed on the 4 mile RT side trip to the waterfall and contented ourselves with an exploration of a short sea cave and some relaxation on Hanakapi’ai beach including a fantastic sunset. The short tropical twilight left us eating supper in the dark, and we headed for the tent early as the first drops of evening rain began to fall. A night of showers made the trail slippery the next morning as we climbed steeply through the steaming forest to the 725’ highpoint of the trail. Here the trail clings to the impossibly steep cliff giving long views up and down the coast to the ends of the trail before plunging into the next valley then climbing to the nose of the ridge beyond, a pattern repeated for the next 5 miles. At Hanakoa stream we stopped for lunch and water. Water was a concern for us due to the reported presence of leptospira bacteria in the water, so we added chlorine before filtering and hoped for the best. The final 5 miles of the trail is drier as the topography to the east traps most of the rain. One effect of this is to diminish the vegetation, opening heart-stopping views straight down from the edge of the narrow trail to the pounding surf hundreds of feet below. Late in the day we crested the last ridge and were greeted with the stunning sight of the Kalalau valley, its furrowed walls glowing a thousand shades of green in the afternoon sun. Descending Red Hill, we crossed Kalalau stream and strolled down the shore to find a campsite beneath high, fluted cliffs overlooking the broad beach adjacent to a small, cascading waterfall; paradise!

We are still looking for people to help out the DPS. Please see the Help Wanted ad in this issue and call or write to me if you can volunteer for one of the open positions. We hope to see you at the DPS party on November 4th at the Baldwin “camp” in Hawthorne.

Happy Hiking. -David Baldwin, DPS Chair
TRIPS / EVENTS
NOVEMBER 2006 THROUGH MAY 2007

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate, please go to: http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/ or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

♦ NOV 4 SAT DPS

E/R: Weavers Needle (4553’): Enjoy a 4th class climb of a great peak near Phoenix, 10 mi, 2300’ gain. Restricted to SC members with appropriate rock climbing exp. Send e-sase or sase with SC#, rock exp., and conditioning to Leader: Tina Bowman. Co-Leaders: Doug Mantle, Tom Bowman.

♦ NOV 4 SAT DPS

O: Desert Peaks Section Monthly Meeting and Potluck/Party: Potluck dinner at 6:00 pm, bring a dish to share. Management Committee Meeting earlier at 4:30 (all members welcome). November event at the home of Dave and Elaine Baldwin, 3760 Ruthbar Dr., Hawthorne. RSVP to DWBaldwin@aol.com or 310-675-4120.

♦ NOV 11-12 SAT-SUN DPS

I: Whipple Mtn (4130’), Big Maria Mtn (3381’): Join us for these two Class 1 peaks near the Arizona border. On Saturday we will climb Whipple by route B (2700’ gain, 9 miles). 2WD can make it to the road head on this route. After the climb we’ll start in the direction of Big Maria and find a camping spot for a great DPS potluck. Sunday climb Big Maria – 2300’ gain and 4.5 miles if we do the 1.7 mile 4WD section, a little more gain and 7.9 miles if we stop at the end of the 2WD road. We’ll decide based on current road conditions and available vehicles. Send SASE or email (preferred) to Leader: Dave Perkins. Co-Leader: Ann Perkins.

♦ NOV 18-19 SAT-SUN DPS

I: Edgar Peak (7,162’), Mitchell Point (7,048’): These two peaks can be done in a very tough single day, but we’ll take a more reasoned approach and climb one peak each day this weekend, with a great potluck dinner and camp on Sat evening under starry skies. Both days will be full, with about 3000’ gained during 8 hour round trips each day over rough terrain. Good conditioning required, but the roads (some dirt) are OK for any car. Opportunity to tour Mitchell Caverns for those interested (fee). Send email or sase w/cond/exper to Leader: Gary Craig. Co-Leader: Sue Holloway.

♦ NOV 18-19 SAT-SUN DPS, LPC

I: Careys Castle, Monument Mtn (4834’): Off-trail desert dayhikes in Joshua Tree National Park. Saturday, adventurous 9 mi rt, 1400’ gain to visit remote and renowned Careys Castle. Primitive carcamp and extremely nice happy hour that evening. Sunday, 5 mi rt, 1600’ gain to attain the highpoint of the Hexie Mountains. 4wd helpful. Email/sase to Leader: Wayne Norman. Co-Leader: Erik Siering.

♦ NOV 18-19 SAT-SUN DPS, HPS, WTC

I: Villager Peak (5756’), Rabbit Peak #2 (6640’): Very strenuous cross country backpack to these Santa Rosa Mountain peaks. Early Saturday start to Villager will be 7 miles, with nearly 5000’ gain carrying all your water for the weekend, ugh. The desert terrain is steep and rocky with abundant cholla. Saturday evening relax and enjoy a
traditional Sierra Club happy hour. Early Sunday start to Rabbit, return to camp, pack up and hike back to cars, 14 miles, 3000’ gain, carrying much less water. Rain cancels. Send SASE (preferred) or 2 SASE, phone, recent conditioning/experience to Leaders: Wayne Vollaire, Ron Campbell.

♦ DEC 2 SAT DPS

O: Desert Peaks Section Monthly Meeting and Potluck/Party: The Desert Peaks Section will host a monthly meeting and potluck at the home of Mary McMannes. Old and new members are encouraged to come. 6:00 PM. Management Committee meeting at 4:30 (all members welcome). Mary McMannes, 19545 Sherman Way, #98, Reseda, CA 91335-3450 (Ph. 818-701-6513). Bring your favorite dish to share.

♦ DEC 2-3 SAT-SUN DPS, International Community

I: Indianhead (3960’+): Do a great introductory Desert Peak in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park: On and off trail, through a palm canyon, up steep ridges, down steep gullies, 7 mile loop, 3000’ gain. Flowers should be a fine bonus. Kids welcome (with parents). Campfire, convivial Happy Hour Sat night. Options for Sunday. Send email (or 2 sase) w/interests, experience, questions to Leader: Asher Waxman. Co-leader: Alex Amies.

♦ DEC 2-3 SAT-SUN DPS

I: Nopah Range (6394’), Pahrump Point(5740’): We’ll climb Nopah on Saturday and Pahrump on Sunday. While we may try a different route on Nopah, it will still be a long, fairly hard day. Pahrump (3400’ gain/8 mi RT) will be a little easier. Join us for these climbs and enjoy a potluck on Saturday night. Send e-mail (preferred) or SASE to Sue and include conditioning/experience and phone number. Leaders: Richard Carey, Sue Holloway.

♦ DEC 16-17 SAT-SUN DPS

I: Cerro Pescadores (3543’+), Sombrero Peak (4229’): Journey across the border from Calexico Saturday morning to climb Cerro Pescadores, much dirt road navigating, some 4WD, then 7 mi, 3100’ gain class 2 hiking. Return stateside for carcamp and potluck in Anza-Borrego area. Sunday climb Sombrero, 1200’ gain, 10 mi. Send SASE or email to leader with contact info, conditioning and rideshare info: Leader: Beth Epstein. Co-Leader: Asher Waxman.

♦ JAN 6 SAT DPS

I: Pinto Mtn (3,983’): Climb this desert peak located in Joshua Tree National Park. The trip will be a day hike. The class 2 route is from the southwest with 2,400’ gain and 9 mile rt. Participants should be in good condition. Send SASE / email with experience and conditioning to leader. Leader: Alex Amies. Assistant: Jennie Thomas.

♦ FEB 3-4 SAT-SUN DPS

M: Brown Peak (4,947’), Eagle Mountain #2 (3,806’): Climb these two desert peaks in and near the unique Death Valley National Park. The trip will be two day hikes with a car camp and happy hour on Saturday night. Climb Brown on Saturday (class 2 route, 2000’ gain, 6.5 mi rt). Climb Eagle #2 on Sunday (class 3 route, 1800’ gain, 5 mi rt). We will have time to go to nearby Tecopa Hot Springs to soak after the Saturday hike. Participants should have experience on class 3 rock. Send email with experience and SC# to leader. Leader: Alex Amies. Assistant: Asher Waxman.

♦ MAR 3 SAT DPS

O: Desert Peaks Section Monthly Meeting and Potluck/Party: The Desert Peaks Section will host a monthly meeting and potluck at the home of Barbee and Larry Tidball. Old and new members are encouraged to come. 6:00 PM. Management Committee meeting at 4:30 (all members welcome). Barbee and Larry Tidball, 3826 N. Weston Pl, Long Beach, CA 90807-1556 (Ph. 562-424-1556). Bring your favorite dish to share.

♦ APR 7 SAT DPS

O: Desert Peaks Section Monthly Meeting and Potluck/Party: The Desert Peaks Section will host a monthly meeting and potluck at the home of Ellen and Ron Grau. Old and new members are encouraged to come. 6:00 PM. Management Committee meeting at 4:30 (all members welcome). Ellen and Ron Grau, 3700 Blue Gum Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92885 (Ph. 714-777-4644). Bring your favorite dish to share.

♦ MAY 6 SUN DPS

O: Desert Peaks Section Annual Banquet: The Desert Peaks Section will host their BANQUET May 6th. THE REEF, 880 S Harbor Scenic Dr. Long Beach, CA. Details to follow in the next schedule. For Information contact: Frank Dobos, 602 Frontenac Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90065-3954, fdobos@earthlink.net (ph. 323-221-8301).
OUTINGS CHAIR

A Call for Volunteers

I realize this seems like it is early in the season, but we need members to step up and offer their services for the Management Committee. There will be 4 open positions, and we need those interested to please come forward and let us know. The Membership and Treasurer positions require some computer savvy and of course email. Please contact any of the current DPS Mgmt Committee members – we need your support.

You all know I’m not one to be cynical or provide SAGE articles that are a “bit of a downer”, but I have to say, I’m not happy with Dennis Richards’s (who by the way isn’t even a member) Open Letter to the DPS. A phone call would have been nice. It seems lobbying a CHEAP SHOT at leaders or others who volunteer their time for HIS benefit, is standard operating procedure. Where is Dennis when it comes to offering his volunteer service to a “greater cause” other than his own ego and “advice”? Again, he isn’t a member so won’t even be reading this. His remarks and others like him just discourage our leaders from putting up with people like him.

He’s not the first and won’t be the last. I have to wonder, did he lift a finger to write his Congressman or BLM concerning Moapa Peak being threatened by a communications tower? How’s that for driving over a boundary marker. Or perhaps the new subdivision that is going in up by Boundary / Montgomery? Or perhaps all the other BLM land up for grabs thanks to our Congress allowing lumber and mining and developer interests to come first. Their passage of a zoning law this week takes zoning out of the hands of local communities and into the hands of – yup you guessed it – the developers and Congressmen.

Yes, I’m angry. I’m angry because people like Dennis take a cheap shot at those of us trying to do our best to help those who want to keep some shred of wilderness out there for people like him to enjoy. I can’t thank our leaders enough for all they do. They made a difference in my life . . . they showed me a piece of the wilderness FEW get to see.

Have fun out there,
Ellen Grau, Outings Chair

CONSERVATION

“Winding through western Nevada and eastern California, the Amargosa River has often been called the diamond of the Mojave Desert.” Thus begins an article, “Protecting A Desert Jewel”, from the current Desert Report, published by the Sierra Club California/Nevada Desert Committee (website, www.desertreport.org). The article, by Susan Sorrells, goes on to give some of the history of the Amargosa and to describe the recent (2005) formation of the Amargosa Conservancy. The Conservancy is working with local people and government agencies to protect the Amargosa River as a whole against such problems as an overdraft of adjacent underground aquifers. A major success so far is its acquisition of 160 acres at the headwaters of Willow Creek in Amargosa Canyon, an area that includes Old Tecopa. The Conservancy’s Resource Advocate, Brian Brown, is given as a contact for more information (phone 760.852.4403).

This is the Off-Highway Vehicles issue of the Desert Report, with a number of related articles. Other items of interest include the Desert Committee’s meeting schedule: “four meetings a year, usually the second weekend in February, May, August and November…. Contact Tom Budlong at 310.476.1731, tombudlong@adelphia.net, to be put on the invitation list”. And for Outings Leaders: “Co-sponsor your desert trips with the CNRCC Desert

BANQUET NEWS

Sunday, May 6, 2007. Save this date for our yearly Banquet. We will meet again at THE REEF restaurant in Long Beach. Exciting program is planned and good food is served to get together our Section members. More details in the next Sage. -Frank Dobos

COVER PHOTO: New York Butte from Keynot Peak. Photo by Bob Sumner.
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR / ACTIVITY REPORT, October 8, 2006

Membership Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Inactive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining Sub</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriber</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals:</strong></td>
<td><strong>255</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity Report

**Membership Renewals**

- Ryan B. Gilmore: 1 year
- Steve Corona: 1 year
- Mike Daugherty: 3 years
- Steven Dover: 1 year
- Harold Fowler: 1 year
- William Hemmings: 1 year
- Rich Henke: 1 year
- Robert Hicks: 1 year

HELP WANTED

The DPS needs your help. We are seeking volunteers for the following positions. Please contact David Baldwin, DPS Chair if you are interested in helping out. Your efforts will be appreciated.

Membership Chair

The Membership Chair maintains membership records for the section including the names and addresses of active Section members together with a list of member achievements. The records are currently maintained in a Microsoft Access database, so access to a Windows computer and some basic computer skills are desirable. The Membership Chair accepts membership applications and renewals, produces mailing labels for the Sage six times per year, and produces a complete membership report for publication in the Sage annually.

DPS Guide Editor

The DPS Guide Editor maintains the DPS Road and Peaks Guide, currently in its 4th edition, capturing updates to existing route descriptions as they are reported or gathered through personal experience, publishing these updates in the Sage for the benefit of the membership, and adding route descriptions for new peaks added to the DPS list. A significant current need is to ensure that all route descriptions in the guide conform to the legal descriptions of desert wilderness areas as published by government agencies, particularly the BLM. Larger projects to be undertaken by the Editor with the advice and consent of the Committee may in the future include a new edition of the Guide, an update to the CD version, or web publication of route descriptions.

Candidates for Election to the DPS Management Committee

Each year 2 or 3 of the five members of the Section Management Committee are elected by the membership to 2-year terms. Committee members are elected at-large and decide after the spring election who will hold the positions of Chair, Outings, Treasurer, Secretary, and Programs for the upcoming year. Terms for 3 of the current Committee members will expire at the end of the season and candidates for these positions are needed for the spring 2007 election. Committee members perform the duties of their position as outlined in the Section Bylaws, attend meetings throughout the year, and generally attend to the business of running the Section.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

If you haven’t already done so, please consider renewing your Sage subscription. Dues are $10 per year and multiple year subscriptions are encouraged. If you feel even more compelled, the DPS offers a “sustaining” dues option ($20) which delivers your Sage via first class mail. Send your check made payable to “Desert Peaks Section” to:

Ron Grau, 3700 Blue Gum Drive, Yorba Linda, CA, 92886

Include accurate address information. For your convenience, you may choose to use the order form on page 18.
im and I were lucky to hit Zion during a cold front. It was the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend and we had been told that Lava Point campground would be a zoo. We arrived a day earlier than planned to find the campground nearly empty – we had our pick of any 5 of the 6 sites. That night the temp dropped to below 25 degrees. The next day, after enjoying a peaceful campsite, we scouted out the route. When we got to the base of N. Guardian, the route was not obvious. We evaluated a few potential drainages but none were viable. There was a lesser sandstone bump east of N. Guardian that turned out to be the key. We passed through an E-W trending slot on this bump to get to its slopes. We wandered all over this until we found cairns marking the route. The cairns were more to your left side while descending the slab – further left than we expected. We were glad we did reconnaissance as this would have consumed precious time during the actual climb. We had recent route descriptions from other non-DPS sources, but when we put them to use, we found them to be short on useful details. We actually found the old DPS description (pre-Subway closure) more accurate than any later descriptions! After scouting the route, we then climbed West Northgate via a ramp on the eastern side and returned to camp.

That night our two friends, Laurie and George, met us at the campground and we made plans to do South Guardian the next day while temperatures were still reasonable.

We headed out at sunrise, hiking down the Northgate Peaks trail to the low point between the two. Below is the description of the route. I will add that on the way down, we made the mistake of not trending left on the slopes of the sandstone bump, missing the cairns and ending up on the wrong rib. We were one rib over! Fortunately, there was a place where we could cross-over to the easternmost rib about half-way down so we were able to correct our mistake without retracing our steps. We also carried orange survey tape, at the suggestion of a friend who had previously climbed SGA, and used it to mark our way from the Subway to the peak – that turned out to be extremely advantageous. If you are not alert and good with route-finding, it is very easy to lose your directions when descending from SGA. This could cost you a lot of time route-finding during an already very long day. All-in-all, it took us 12 hours to do SGA. What a fine peak! My only regret was that I did not have my camera when we did the final pitch to the summit – I had left it at our belay point for the final...
summit pitch, along with my pack. Don’t repeat that – the views are too stunning to miss. Fortunately, George kept his wits about him and had his camera on-hand for summit photos. One other interesting note, the summit register had an entry of two people who had climbed the peak in April, claiming to have done the peak in 2 hrs 45 min!

Here is a detailed description of the route: Hike down the Northgate Peaks trail to the low point between them. Head S to an area between NGA and East Northgate. You’ll be east of NGA. Look ahead and see a red sandstone bump NE of NGA (see photo). You will start your descent on the slopes of this bump. Find a slot trending E_W on this bump (walking around to the left of the bump to find the slot), walk thru the slot and head down its sandstone slopes, trending somewhat left until you pick up cairns. Don’t descend more than 200-300 feet without locating the cairns – otherwise you are off-route. Follow the cairns, watching for a sharp left turn about half-way down that will lead you off the left side of this ridge. Follow the cairns down the easternmost rib to the canyon bottom. You must end up on the east side of the east rib to descend to the subway. As you get close to the subway, it will get very steep and brushy. You will be hanging onto vegetation sometimes to negotiate the steep slopes. If you come out right, you will be directly across from the ascent route. The ascent route is marked by a large jug-handle arch at the start (see photo). Go up past this arch and up the gully, past difficulties, to the top of the gully. Drop down into a little depression and up the other side. Drop into a sandy wash and follow it all the way to its end where you will climb and navigate sandstone slabs to the ridge. It is important to find and follow the sandy wash to its end at the sandstone slabs – don’t try to get on the ridge too soon. The sandy wash is on the SE side of SGA, before the Hoodoos. As you navigate the sandstone slabs to the ridge, look for cairns to follow. There was one
difficult step-up where we placed long slings to assist the ascent and descent. Ascend the ridge to near the summit where steep slabs may require a fixed line (anchored to bushes) – this is just beyond a step-across crack (not wide but it goes down a long, long way). Summit and enjoy the views. Carefully retrace your steps back to the subway and back up to the sandstone bump. We rappelled the final few hundred yards to the subway, avoiding difficulties by the jug-handle arch. Orange flagging to mark the route from the subway is highly recommended and will expedite your return.

We used 1 rope (needed only for final pitch and rappel back to subway – good climbers might not require), a #3 friend (above the jug-handle arch) and several 20’ slings. We left 2 packs with water and food at the canyon bottom and took only 2 packs with essentials to the peak. A minimum of 3 quarts of water is recommended – 4 probably needed for hot weather.

*Photos this article by Susan Cooper, G. Kazynski, & J. Long.*

**DESSERT PEAKING WITH THE DINOSAURS**

**ZENOBIA PEAK, COLORADO (9,006‘)**

**June 2006**

By Bob Michael

The great Uinta Mountain uplift which studs the northeast shoulder of Utah with 13,000-foot peaks dies out on its arid eastern margin in the northwest corner of Colorado into a wild geological jumble of folds and collapsed fault blocks at the juncture of three great regions of the West; the Middle Rockies to the west, the Colorado Plateau to the south, and the Gobi-like expanse of the Wyoming high desert to the north. The Green and Yampa Rivers just happen to flow together in the middle of all this grand structural chaos, and they have cut the northernmost of the great Utah canyon systems into it.

This may just be the best place in the world to view the classic “Laramide” structural style of the Rockies, typified by flat-topped asymmetrical uplifts with the sedimentary rocks on their flanks flexed into folds like formed plywood. Imagine a flat-lying stack of sandstone and limestone beds a thousand feet thick – a common Utah/Azrizona sight. Now try to picture bending these rocks into a 90-degree flexure. BREAKING rock in a fault is no problem, easy to understand. BENDING ROCK like SHEET METAL is beyond all comprehension! (One of the few other places on Earth where this sort of thing is well exposed is in the desert ranges of...Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.)

Dinosaur National Monument preserves this grand wreckage. The Monument offers more in the way of river-running and canyon hiking than peakbagging, and some of the canyoneering – such as the 8-mile RT hike down Jones Hole Canyon to the Green River in Whirlpool Canyon, compares to the very finest Utah canyons anywhere. (Also not to be missed is the short hike out to Harpers Corner – if no rangers are to be seen, duck under the guardrail and go on out to the mildly exposed point for an Angels' Landing/Toroweap-level experience!)

But of course Edmund and Karen Mohr of Denver and I just HAD to bag a named peak in our recent Dinosaur ramble – and Zenobia Peak, the monument highpoint, was the obvious target. This peak is located north of the Yampa and east of Lodore Canyon on the Green in the remote, little-visited northeast quadrant of the Monument, at the end of a LOT of dirt road driving. In fact, a 4WD road goes to the very summit where there is a still-functioning fire lookout, so it's no mountaineering challenge, but still a marvelous scenic back country adventure in country that looks like nothing else in Colorado.

The peak is accessed via a road which shows optimistically on the map as the “Douglas Mountain Boulevard”. (Calling this back country track a
“boulevard” is rather like calling the Puente Hills a “mountain range”). The approach from Colorado Highway 318 is shown on the mid-scale map. It's really pretty simple to follow; after you climb onto the broad flat Ponderosa-dotted top of Douglas Mountain on County Road 116 (the “Boulevard”), just bear right at every juncture despite what the sometimes-confusing BLM signs might suggest. The road is increasingly rough but fine for 2WD high clearance until the last few miles to the peak. 18.0 miles from Highway 318, if you are on the right track, you will find a gate which, while unlocked, has “No Trespassing” signs; boldly go through. (We were assured by the lookout that the road into the Monument is public right-of-way.) 1.4 miles beyond the gate is an intersection in a flat where the better-looking road goes right; go left here. Although we were in a capable 4WD which could surely have made the top, we parked .3 mile further, where the road definitely deteriorated into washed-out ruts; after all, this is not the HPS and we wanted a healthy hike, not a decadent drive-up.

From where boots hit the dirt, it was a little under three miles and about 1400' gain to the top. The route passes through terrain and sparsely wooded vegetation reminiscent of northern Nevada and utterly unlike anything else in Colorado; we had to constantly remind ourselves we were in the same state as Aspen, Longs Peak, etc. Shut your eyes, breathe deep, and you were high in the Panamints or Toquimas; the air was perfumed from the mountain mahogany trees that formed scattered groves. Elsewhere in Colorado, mountain mahogany is a rather scruffy little bush; here it formed trees like I have only seen elsewhere in the high ranges of the Great Basin. Near the Monument boundary, the road passes through one little forested area with Ponderosas, Douglas firs and aspen, and then starts the very steep climb up the barren (but flowery!) conical summit. Surprise! There was a 4WD Chevy pickup on top and a lonely fire lookout who made us feel right at home. He surveys one of the most enormous views I've ever had, from the Kings Peak region of the high Uintas east to the Sierra Madre of Wyoming and the Park Range behind Steamboat Springs, Colo.; north to the buckskin barrens of the Red Desert; south to country that looks for all the world like the Mogollon Rim. Below us to the northwest was the remote grassy prairie of Zenobia Basin with the deep maroon gash of Lodore Canyon beyond. As the West of the imagination ever retreats before unrelenting population growth, it's nice to know there are places like this left.

Photos this article by Bob Michael and Edmund Mohr. Maps on following pages.
Northwest Colorado area map.
Dinosaur National Monument area map.
Zenobia Peak area map.
The desert attracts a wide variety of devotees, including those who are spiritually and esthetically captivated by the area, those who relish the healthful living conditions thereon, those who desire to get away from a money-driven society and those who seek to live an inexpensive existence. In 1932, for all of the above reasons, Marshal and Tanya South began building their home, Yaquitepec, on top of Ghost Mountain in what is now Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. There, until 1946—except for two years spent in other desert locations—the couple and their growing family eked out a simple existence. From February 1940 through December 1946, Marshal supplied monthly accounts recounting his family’s experiment in primitive living to *Desert Magazine*—a series which contributed to the early success of that publication, and through which South won both the affection of a great number of admirers and the scorn of a smaller group that disparaged his unconventional ideas.

So just who was Marshal South, this come-lately desert Henry David Thoreau?

Well, that’s a tricky question, because, as Diana Lindsay, who researched and compiled the biographic forward, notes in her introduction, there has been a long-standing “aura of mystery and secrecy” surrounding his past. “Marshal South, like a character out of one of his western novels, was part fiction.”

In fact, Marshal South was born Roy Bennett Richards on February 24, 1889, in a seaside suburb of Adelaide, South Australia. His mother, Annie Emma Afford Richards, was a native Australian, however his father, Charles “Charlie” Bennet Richards, was born in Wisconsin, and moved with his family to Australia when he was nine years old.

Roy grew up on a sheep station—one of several owned or leased by Charlie—at Pandurra, about 24 miles west of Port Augusta, a town some 200 miles north of Adelaide.

Later, as a bright, precocious youngster from a well-to-do family, Roy attended St. Peter’s College in Adelaide, South Australia’s most prestigious boy’s school, where he became interested in writing. In 1904, at the age of 15, the *Port Augusta Dispatch* ran what may have been his first published short story, and for the next three years several more of his works—prose, poetry, fiction, humor, satire, and commentary on political and social issues—were published in the same newspaper. The editor of the *Dispatch* was so enthusiastic about Roy that he called him “our boy author—a coming and promising second to the late Mr. Guy Boothby (a popular and prolific South Australian writer in his day).”

In 1908, however, Annie ended her marriage to Charlie, and with her two boys, Roy and Norman (the latter born in 1897), and all the money she could lay her hands on, she departed for the West coast of the United States.

Why Annie pulled up stakes in Australia remains unclear. Could it be that marriage to Charlie had become too difficult? Indeed, Charlie, a strong willed man, had been previously married and divorced, something rather uncommon for the time. Or could it be that Charlie wanted Roy to work on the sheep station while Roy intended to pursue a writing career?

Lindsay doesn’t know the answer, but she does state that Annie and the boys “moved around for a couple of years before settling in Oceanside, California, because of their fear of being located” by Charlie.

Perhaps concerned that his father could locate him if he published under his given name, or just because he just had a penchant for pseudonyms—or both—as early as May 1912, at age of 23, Roy began publishing in the United States (in a poem that appeared in the *Los Angeles Tribune*) under a new pen name, B. Richards.

By 1914, Lindsay notes, “B. Richards was again in writing stride and had once more become the darling of the local newspaper,” the *Oceanside Blade*. Indeed, in May 1914, the *Blade* stated: “Oceanside’s favorite poet, B. Richards, who writes under the name of Marshal South...is surely some poet, and as he is still young, the *Blade* looks for him to make a name for himself.”

Two years later, as World War I raged in Europe, B. Richards organized the Oceanside Debate Club, at the first meeting of which he spoke on “National Defense and the fallacy of disarmament, and before the meeting...
In January 1915, the *Blade* noted, “The American Defense League, an organization for the encouragement of public interest in matters of national defense was formed…Marshal South, President…”

By the fall of 1915, “Marshal’s activity…had reached a crescendo, just as his poetry had.” Notables such as Theodore Roosevelt met with him “to discuss the policies and objectives of the League.” South’s poem “Progress,” a pro-national defense piece, was published in *American Magazine*, and later won a gold medal at the annual elocution contest at Erasmus Hall in Brooklyn. The poet/activist was praised by the *Los Angeles Times* as “Once in a long, long dreary while, the intervals of waiting being stuffed with mediocrities, is heard the note of some real singer rising high and clear…”

Ironically, Marshal’s clarion call for self defense was heard—but, for him, perhaps in the wrong place—for during the summer of 1916 he was drafted into the Transportation Division of the Army Quartermaster Company and sent to Camp Henry J. Jones in Douglas, Arizona.

While stationed in Arizona, Marshal met and married his first wife, Margaret, and, in December 1919, he became the father of his first child, Marshal Jr. Unfortunately, only a few months later, in June 1920, Margaret asked Marshal to leave. The marriage failed, according to Lindsay, because Marshal—who grew up in wealth but never valued it—was not interested in money. “He valued creativity and freedom. Margaret was practical and ambitious. She wanted a spouse that could provide a comfortable home and living…”

Marshal moved back to Oceanside and became deeply depressed—in fact, he even contemplated suicide—until he met Tanya Lehrer, the woman whom he credited with “binding up his ‘broken heart’ and bringing ‘the rest of peace to a tortured soul’.”

Tanya was born in November 1897 (thus she was eight years younger than Marshal) in the Russian Ukraine. Her parents, orthodox Jews, had been subjected to periodic pogroms by the Czarists, and were happy to emigrate to the U.S., “arriving in New York in October 1906 when Tanya was eight years old.”

Marshal and Tanya met while they were both working—he as a carpenter, she as a secretary—for the Rosicrucian Fellowship in Oceanside. Tanya had come west to join the Rosicrucians in 1920, after giving up a well-paying position in New York, in order to pursue her interest in “astrology, the occult and spiritual pursuits.” She too was a writer, and during the early 1920s her poems and articles appeared on a regular basis in the Rosicrucian Fellowship Magazine.

The couple was married in March 1923, and two or three years later they “began taking camping trips to the desert, exploring sites along San Diego County’s...
Henderson had created the perfect family, but in doing so he painted Marshal into a corner. Unfortunately, living a primitive lifestyle eventually grew tiring for Tanya. Water, for example, was a constant problem, and in dry years the South's ever-expanding cistern system couldn't meet their needs. Baths were virtually nonexistent.

In regard to food, once a month Marshal would fire up the Model T and drive into Julian, where after mailing his latest contribution to Desert Magazine and picking up his check for $40 from the same publication, he would purchase sacks of beans, corn, and other inexpensive supplies, all of which he and his family would later have to lug up the mile-long trail to the top of Ghost Mtn. To supply milk for the children, two goats were kept on the mountain top.

Nudity, too, was de rigueur at Yaquitepec. As Lindsay explains, “There was no extra water for washing clothes and clothing holds body odor. Although Marshal felt very comfortable with no clothes, Tanya was not… When company came to Ghost Mountain, Tanya always wore a dress.”

At the bottom of the trail leading to their home, the Souths erected a sign reading in part: “No clothing is worn here. Therefore if you cannot accept and conform to, in clean-minded simplicity, this natural condition of life, we ask in all friendship that you come no further, but return by the path you came. The peace of the Great Spirit be with you always.”

In October 1942, the Souths, searching for a new home with a more reliable source of water, left Yaquitepec for Utah. Their quest, however, “was doomed from the start. They did not have the funds to buy property. If Marshal had to get a job to support (his family), he could no longer be who he was. He required isolation to keep up the image of the character he had created.”

Although the South family returned to Ghost Mountain in November 1943, in July or August 1945 they were forced to move once again when their property became part of the Naval Air-to-Air Gunnery Range. During this second exodus, lasting until April or May of 1946, neighbors provided the family with temporary housing on property at the base of the nearby Laguna Mountains.

In October 1946, shortly after their second return to Yaquitepec, Tanya filed for divorce. As Lindsay explains, “Tensions…had been running high…Tanya’s concerns for financial security and the children’s future were not being met. She constantly worried about the children’s safety and wondered what would happen if an accident occurred and Marshal was gone. Marshal turned a deaf ear to her concerns and was unhappy with Tanya’s complaints.”

Tanya took the children, first to Carlsbad—where the boys received their first haircuts—then to Point Loma. Although they had been home schooled, and though they had to learn to socialize with other children, all three children grew up to lead successful lives. Rider became an aircraft mechanic, working first for the Navy and later serving in the Army Signal Corps. He and his wife, Lucile, who is some twenty years his senior, have contributed an interesting introduction to Lindsay’s book.

Tanya died of old age in 1997, just prior to her 100th birthday. Lindsay notes, “(her) bitterness intensified in the years after she left Ghost Mountain. She felt that people blamed her for the divorce—for destroying the great experiment. People could not understand how she could leave ‘such a great man.’”

Marshal himself seemed lost without his children, whom he rarely saw again. Moving to Julian, he continued to write occasional articles for Desert Magazine, and, in order to earn a little extra money, he painted a frieze for the Julian Library and a desert scene on the wall of the chamber of commerce. Due to a heart condition, however, his health began to fail, and on October 22, 1948, living alone in a trailer in the back yard of friends in Julian, he died a broken man. He was only 59 years old.

Randall Henderson eulogized Marshal South, as follows: “He was a dreamer—an impractical visionary according to the standards of our time, but what a drab world it would be without the dreamers. Marshal’s tragedy was that he tried too hard to fulfill his dream. He would not compromise. And that is fatal in a civilization where life is a never-ending compromise between the things we would like to do and the obligations imposed by the social and economic organization of which we are a part.”

Marshal South and the Ghost Mountain Chronicles contains a complete collection of South’s writings (see next page for a brief example) as published in Desert Magazine. Because of this wonderful repository, and also because of Diane Lindsay’s well-researched biographical portrait of the author, I consider this volume to be a DPS classic.

Do yourself a favor—purchase and read a copy of this fascinating book. Not only will you enjoy being privy to the “great experiment,” but, because Lindsay has generously offered to donate a portion of the proceeds from its sale, you will also be helping to provide funds for the educational and interpretive displays found at the Anza-Borrego State Park Visitor Center.
Marshal South excerpt from Desert Magazine, January 1942

The earth—and the desert—wings on towards the turn of the year. Cold days of storm mixed with days when sunshine sparkles over Ghost Mountain as warmly as in late spring.

There is this great charm to the desert: every season seems to be, of itself, perfect. In the summer when the heat drenches mountain and lowland and weaves fantasies of mirage across the swimming distance we assure ourselves solemnly that now the desert really is at its best. Then come fall and winter. And the storms beat and the house fires roar. And there is crisp joy in the tangy air. And the southern-drifted sun comes up each morning in sunrises that are the most beautiful to be found in all the world—heaving up from a vast couch of mysterious blue velvet and wading knee-deep through all the gold and pearls and rubies and flashing diamonds of ten thousand overturned treasure chests to light the fires of day. Beauty in prodigal measure. And, reveling in it all, we forget. And we declare with equal assurance that undoubtedly fall and winter are the desert’s best seasons.

But it is the same old tale in spring. When all the facts are assembled, we have to admit we have been hasty. There are no “best” seasons on the desert; or rather, they are all “best.” At least so they seem to us. Which is perhaps to be taken as a confession of a satisfied frame of mind. But then that is the sort of peace and contentment that the desert gives, if only one will live close to its heart.

Walter Studhalter

My father, Walter R. Studhalter, was an HPS and Desert Peaks member. I wanted to report the sad news that he died from heat exhaustion while hiking in the Cargo Muchacho Mountains on Friday July 14th. He was 85. I thought you might want to place a notice in your newsletter or something.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

David Studhalter
4845 Denny Avenue
North Hollywood, CA, 91601
818-506-8215
ionus@speakeasy.net

THE DESERT SAGE 18 November/December 2006
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Peaks List</td>
<td>$1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road and Peaks Guide (5th Ed) printed version</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road and Peaks Guide (5th Edition) CD ROM version</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Year SAGE subscription</td>
<td>$10 reg. / $20 sustaining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Complete History and Lore CD ROM</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Archives CD ROM</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Treasurer</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.O. Box 90043</td>
<td>Pasadena, CA 91109-0043</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Patch</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emblem Pin</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>List Finisher Pin</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Desert Explorer Award Pin</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS T-shirt (see item below) (Tan w/black and gray print (M, L, XL only)</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For T-shirt orders, add $3.50/1, $4/2 or more, per order for handling $3.50 / $4

**Grand Total:**

**Mail order form for above and payment to:**

**DPS Treasurer**

**P.O. Box 90043**

**Pasadena, CA 91109-0043**

**Questions?:** (818) 248-0455

---

**Mail (T-shirt / patch / pin) order from and payment to:**

**Diane Dunbar**

**DPS Merchandising Chair**

**2351 Chapman Road**

**La Crescenta, CA, 91214-3014**

**Questions?:** (818) 248-0455 (H)
DESERT PEAKS SECTION

DPS NEWSLETTER - The DESERT SAGE - Published six times a year by the Desert Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT SAGE IS DECEMBER 9, 2006.

SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP - It costs ten dollars a year to subscribe to the SAGE. Anyone can subscribe to the SAGE, even if not a member of the DPS or the Sierra Club, by sending $10 to Membership Records. To become a member of the DPS you must (1) belong to the Sierra Club (2) have climbed 6 of the 99 peaks on the DPS peaks list and (3) send $10 to Membership Records for a SAGE subscription. Non-members who subscribe to the SAGE are not allowed to vote in our elections. Renewals, subscriptions, and address changes should be sent to Membership Records, Ron Grau, 3700 Blue Gum Drive, Yorba Linda, CA, 92886. The subscription/membership year now is for six issues, regardless of when payment is received.

EMBLEM STATUS AND GUIDES - To receive DPS emblem status you must climb 15 peaks on the list, five of which must be from the list of seven emblem peaks, and have belonged to the section of one year. To work on the list you will probably want to buy from the Treasurer (Pat Acheson, PO Box 90043, Pasadena, CA 91109-0043) the Desert Peaks Road and Peak Guide 5th Edition - $28 + $2 Postage or if you like to explore without much direction just purchase the DPS PEAKS LIST - $1 (enclose a self-addressed envelope).

CORRESPONDENCE - We welcome all articles and letters pertaining to outdoor activities of interest to DPS members. Some submittals tend to be too long and space limitations and other considerations are factors in the decision to publish an article/map. The editor may modify submittals in a perhaps, misguided attempt to increase clarity or decrease length but will hopefully not modify your meaning. Trip reports on official DPS sponsored trips are always printed. If you are a participant and know that the leaders are not going to submit a trip report then feel free to submit a report. We welcome reports of private trips to unlisted peaks and private trips using non standard routes to listed peaks. Please DATE all submissions. Please indicate topo map names, dates and contour intervals. Digital (word processor files) content are essential and will help ensure that there are no typographical errors. Send copy to the Editor (see below) by the published deadline. Please include a SASE if you would like to have your material (maps/floppies) returned. If possible, print on the back of a picture when and where it was taken, what it is of, who is in it, and who took it. Email usually works best for simple text-based submissions and minimizes editing complexity. Email editor for details on submitting attachments and/or digital photo scans.

ADVERTISEMENTS - You can advertise in the SAGE to recruit participants on private outings or sell items. The cost is $3 per line with a maximum of 5 lines per ad.

EDITOR - Bob Sumner, PO Box 7337, Mammoth Lakes, CA, 93546
Phone: 760-924-3078.  Email: bobsumner@worldnet.att.net

THE DESERT SAGE
SIERRA CLUB, ANGELES CHAPTER
3435 WILSHIRE BLVD, SUITE 320
LOS ANGELES, CA 90010-1904

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED