Mt Fuji, Japan

Photography Contest

Mt Jefferson Attempt

http://angeles.sierraclub.org/dps/
Finally, the Desert Peaks season has arrived!

As the cold and snow begin to overtake the Sierras, our deserts cool and their mountains become wonderful environments for exploring and climbing. Thanks so much to all our leaders and Audrey for organizing the many trips our section has to offer this season. We are blessed to have experienced leaders volunteering their time to take out us out for adventures in our beautiful southwestern deserts.

I love to check the Death Valley Morning Report and see how the area is doing with rain. So far, Death Valley has about 3/4 of an inch since July which is pretty good considering the area can receive no rain whatsoever during the winter season. With a little luck and some well-timed storms, the desert will bloom and become a colorful backdrop for our peakbagging. I love to botanize in our deserts. Even though they seem so stark, there are over 2000 species in the California deserts, not to mention Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Mexico.

I hope to see everyone at our 15th Annual Chili Cookoff and Pumpkin Carving Contest October 27th and 28th at Anza Borrego State Park. I will be a taster and I'm trying to talk my wife Julia into being a cook. Contact Yvonne Jamison if you plan on tasting or cooking and Scot Jamison along with the Tidball's will be leading a hike up to Sombrero. Other hikes are possible depending on what people would like to do. Wilson Peak on the Lower Peaks list is a wonderful hike in Anza Borrego.

At our last meeting, the management committee decided on a Desert Peaks Photo Contest with the winning photos and perhaps a few runner-up shots to be published in the Sage. There will be prizes of $100 for 1st, $50 for 2nd and $25 for 3rd place. I’m sure Audrey will have more details later in this issue.

Happy Desert Peakbagging and please drop me a line if you have any concerns,

Michael Gosnell
TRIPS / EVENTS
NOVEMBER 2007 THROUGH APRIL 2008

O: DPS Monthly Section Meeting & Potluck/Party: Potluck dinner at 6:00 pm. Bring a dish to share. Management Committee Meeting earlier at 4:30 pm. November event at the home of Dave and Elaine Baldwin, 3760 Ruthbar Drive, Hawthorne, CA. Please RSVP at dwbaldwin@aol.com or 310-675-4120.

♦ NOV 3 SAT DPS

ibs: DPS Monthly Section Meeting & Potluck/Party

♦ NOV 3-4 SAT-SUN DPS

Mr: Porter Peak (9101'): Join us for a climb of this nine thousand foot peak in Death Valley. We will approach Porter from the west side driving up Pleasant Canyon to the stone corral. The climb itself is 3100 feet gain, seven miles (2WD) or 2000 ft gain and 4 miles (4WD). We will decide based on available vehicles and current road conditions. On Sunday we can explore this area of Death Valley, perhaps hiking up to Panamint City. Email or sase with recent conditioning experience to Leader: Dave Perkins or Co-Leader: Ann Perkins.

♦ NOV 10-11 SAT-SUN DPS

Mr: Mopah Pt (3530'), Chemehuevi Pk (3694'): Join us for two climbs in eastern San Bernardino Co. Sat. Mopah, class 3, 8 mi, 2000’+ gain. Sun climb of Chemehuevi, class 2, 7.5 mi, 2000’ gain. Must be Sierra Club member to climb Mopah and submit medical form. E-sase or sase with recent experience on rock and conditioning to Leader: Tina Bowman. Co-Leader: Tom Bowman.

♦ NOV 17 SAT LTC

Mr: Mt. Rubidoux Rock Workshop/Checkoff: This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock must be pre-arranged. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable rock climbing experience. Helmet, basic climbing gear, and completed medical form required. Send or e-mail climbing resume, SC#, address and phone # to Leader: Tina Bowman. Co-Leaders: Doug Mantle, Tom Bowman.

♦ DEC 1-2 SAT-SUN DPS

Mr: Old Woman Mountain (5326'): Join us for a climb of this San Bernardino County summit. We will approach Old Woman from the north, using route A or B. The climb is 3200 feet gain, seven miles, and should take seven hours. On Sunday we can explore this or other areas nearby in the wonderful botanical transition zone between the Mohave and Colorado Deserts. Well-behaved canines welcome. Email or sase with recent conditioning experience to

THE DESERT SAGE
4
November/December 2007
Leader: Dave Perkins or Co-Leader: Ann Perkins.

♦ DEC 1-2 SAT-SUN DPS, WTC
I: Pinto Mtn (3983'): Enjoy desert scenery and burn off some Thanksgiving gluttony on a backpack in Joshua Tree. Sat late-morning start and 3 mi backpack to camp. Sun climb a wash to the summit and descend a ridge back to camp and then to cars. All cross-country route with some steep and rocky sections, but at a steady, reasonable pace. 12 mi rt, 2400' gain. Send email or sase with contact info and conditioning to Leader: Reggie Bulman (r_bulman@fastmail.us). Assistant: Bill Jackson (WAJ13@columbia.edu).

♦ DEC 1-2 SAT-SUN DPS, WTC
M: Eagle Mtn #2 (3806'): Start the holiday season off right climbing a fascinating desert peak. Fri night, camp at the trailhead or show up early Sat morning for a climb up Eagle Mtn #2. Ascend a prominent gully to a jagged summit ridge to a panoramic summit view. Head back to camp for happy hour and stargazing. Class three experience, helmets, and medical form required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send esase/sase and recent climbing and conditioning experience to Leader: Josh Hibbard (joshuahibbard@hotmail.com). Assistant: Anne Marie Richardson (annemarie1313@yahoo.com).

♦ DEC 2 SUN ***DATE CHANGE*** DPS
O: DPS Monthly Section Meeting and Potluck/Party: Potluck dinner at 6:00 pm. Bring a dish to share. Management Committee Meeting earlier at 4:30 pm. December event at the home of Mary McMannes, 19545 Sherman Way #98, Reseda, CA. Please RSVP at marymuir@earthlink.net or 818-701-6513.

♦ JAN 26, SAT LTC, SPS, DPS, HPS
M/E: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone # to Leader: Nile Sorenson. Co-Leader: Tina Bowman.

♦ JAN 26-27 SAT-SUN DPS
I: Old Woman Mtn. (5,325'), Sheephole Mtn (4,593'): Escape to the Mojave Desert for 2 moderate hikes and famous DPS car camp and potluck. Sat hike Old Woman, 5 miles, 2200' gain. Sun drive to Sheephole trailhead and hike 5 miles and 2100' gain to summit. Send SASE or e-mail to Leader: Barbee Tidball. Co-Leader: Larry Tidball.

♦ FEB 2 SAT HPS, DPS, WTC
I: Rabbit Pk # 2 (6640+'): Very strenuous outing in Anza Borrego State Park (6,700' gain, 16 mi rt on use trail and prickly x-country). Bring lunch, 4-5 quarts water to trailhead, lug sole boots, flashlight. Limited participation. For more information/reservation email leaders with recent hiking experience. Leaders: Joe Young and Asher Waxman.

♦ FEB 9 SAT LTC, SPS, DPS, HPS
M/E: Local Baldy Snow Practice: Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone # to Leader: Nile Sorenson. Co-Leader: Tom McDonnell.

♦ FEB 23-24 SAT-SUN DPS
I: Chemehuevi Peak (3694'), Stepladder Mts (2927'): Join us for two class 2 peaks in the beautiful desert wilderness near Vidal Junction. Saturday 7.5 miles with 2000' of gain, Sunday 12 miles with 1500' of gain. Car camping Saturday night. Please bring a potluck item for a fun shared feast. There will be some dirt driving requiring high clearance, 4WD/AWD vehicles on Sunday so we will ride-share as needed. Please email a leader with contact info and conditioning. Leaders: George Wysup, Gary Schenk.

(continued next page)
APR 5-6 SAT-SUN ***DATE CHANGE*** DPS

I: Palen Mtn (3,848’), Big Maria Mtn (3381’): Saturday dayhike Palen, 5 miles 2600’ gain. Car camp with happy hour and potluck dinner. Sunday hike Big Maria 5 miles, 2300’ gain. Send SASE or e-mail to Leader: Barbee Tidball. Co-Leader: Larry Tidball.

APR 12 SAT LTC

O: Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. For info, see LTC section in front of Schedule. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Mar 31. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2008. Registrar: Steve Botan.

APR 27 SUN DPS

O: Desert Peaks Section Annual Banquet: The Desert Peaks Section will host their annual banquet on Sunday April 27, at The Reef, 880 S. Harbor Scenic Drive, Long Beach, CA. More details to follow in the next Sage.

TREASURY REPORT

2007 Annual DPS Treasury Report
Beginning Bank Balance as of 1/1/07  3,506.63
Ending Bank Balance as of 10/11/07  4,045.62
Total Deposits:  5,318.55
Total Debits:  5,066.08
Total Earnings:  $ 252.47

CREDITS:
Merchandise Sales:  Quantity
DPS Guides: 370.00  10
Patches : 3.00  1
T-Shirts: 36.00  3
Pins: 12.00  1
DPS History CD: 30.00  1
Membership Dues:  1,410.00 (Est)

DEBITS:
Sage Printing:  1,407.30
Sage Mailing:  527.46
Sales Tax:  65.75
Postage:  18.04
Bank Account Fees:  56.00
Banquet Deposit for 2008:  500.00
Awards for You:  178.61
Banquet Speaker Fees:  880.50
Reimbursement Fees for Banquet:  1,431.89

Estimated Cost of Operation for 2008 $ 3,000.00

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 Bartell, 1556 21st Street, Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266

Include accurate address information. For your convenience, you may choose to use the order form on page 22.

NOT-SO-PLEASANT CANYON

A recent trip up Pleasant Canyon to the trail head for Porter Peak was more like a jungle safari. The narrow road was completely hemmed in by over growth of willows and other invasive vegetation. Be sure to take loppers along and travel in groups of 2 or 1 at a time in intervals, as it is extremely difficult to find a turn-out place for any vehicle traveling downhill while you are going up. -Edna Erspamer
If anyone out there has a current address for Willard and Marion Dean would you please send it to Ron Bartell (Membership Records) at ronbartell@yahoo.com. They're paid up for several years but their Sages are being returned by the Post Office. Thanks!

CONSERVATION

Greetings fellow DPSers! I hope that the summer holiday season found each of you well, and with Fall upon us, it is time to think about heading out into the deserts and up into the peaks that we love and strike our curiosities. And it is with the changing of the season, that I am very happy to report the very recent, bipartisan proposal from Senator Barbara Boxer and Congresswoman Mary Bono.

On 27 September 2007, Senator Boxer Congresswoman Bono introduced legislation that they have been crafting over the past year. The “California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act” would protect land within the bounds of Riverside County and would include: four NEW wilderness areas, six ADDITIONS to existing wilderness areas, four wild and scenic rivers and additions to Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. (See Page 12.)

This sweeping legislation, if passed in its entirety, will protect 191,000 acres of wilderness including: Joshua Tree National Park, the Pinto Mountains, the South Fork of the San Jacinto River (approximately 31 miles!), and it will expand the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument by 5,000 acres.

In addition to the conservation of land, the bill protects habitats for: the threatened Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, the California Desert Tortoise, as well as: mule deer, mountain quail and bald eagles. Four biologically critical watersheds will be preserved as well: Fuller Mill Creek, Bautista Creek, Palm Canyon Creek and the North Fork of the San Jacinto River.

What is so encouraging about the bill, in particular and in contrast to Senator Boxer’s earlier “California Wild Heritage Act of 2007”, is that it included bipartisan support, and over 50 local Riverside County businesses support the legislation because of the economic benefits of preserving scenic beauty. The bill is, then, a win-win for conservationists and businesses alike, and it goes to show that conservation can happen with the support of both sides of the aisle.

With that, Very Sincerely Yours, Peter

The only track now visible was one
That from the torrent’s further brink held forth
Conspicuous invitation to ascend
A lofty mountain.
- William Wordsworth (Book VI, The Prelude)
Hey all,

I hope you’re enjoying the weather beginning to cool down as much as I am as a relocated Northeasterner who craves Vermont autumn foliage and crisp, clean air. Of course, by the time you read this we could have Santa Ana’s again and if so, please just ignore and read on.

As I return to my full time music teacher life I get to again revel in the cacophony of young voices with loud percussion instruments that I create 5-6 times in a day—hopefully in somewhat precise rhythm. Yet even as I delight in this activity, I am struck by how hungry I feel for the quiet of the desert. Ah, the quiet. Sitting on the side of a mountain looking out at any number of lovely sights and vast expanses. Closing my eyes, breathing deeply and listening to the gorgeous sound of... NOTHING. Then eventually that persistent fly buzzes along, or the bird twitters, or if you’re lucky, the sheep clack on the rock, smaller furry critters scurry about or the rattlesnake does his little percussive bit—hopefully not too close by. But even with all of these, there is still a vast expanse of space and quiet just beyond the minute orchestra of nature around me. This feeling of forever, peace, and rustic gentility is so calming to my nerves and replenishing to my soul, whether I get to the top of ‘whatever’ peak, or not. I’ve had some of my best desert memories sitting on a mountainside waiting for my cohorts to summit and return for me. Just sitting and being...

Whatever one’s take on God, nature, spirits of the universe, et al, can there be any doubt that our quiet and colorful desert mountains in the late autumn, winter and early spring represent an access to the best places hidden deep within us, and without us—whatever He/She/They may be to each of us.

Returning to more mundane matters, I hope many of you were able to join us at the upcoming Chili Cookoff hosted by the lovely Jamisons. Scot will no doubt grace our pages with a write up and we’ll have photos for our next issue. We will be having, or just have had our November board meeting/potluck party at the Baldwin’s. These monthly gatherings during our ‘key’ season are terrific events to socialize at, find other climbers for private trips, or get up to snuff on our DPS led outings that you may want to participate in. Not to mention the AWESOME food which is always present. Desert folk know how to cook—no doubt about it!

Recently, we have embarked upon our project to research out and propose some new peaks for our list. With a little band of merry volunteers known as the Mountaineering Committee (which anyone is welcome to join by writing to me), we are culling through lists of suggested peaks to nail down the bonafide desert climbs not currently on our list. All levels from class 1-3 or 4. It’s important to me that we include some class 1 peaks which are truly ‘do-able’ for our newer members, and some new and interesting challenges for the more experienced folk. I’ve heard from a number of people vis a vis suggestions, so if you’re thinking of some mountains you’d love to see on our list, now’s the time to email me with the names, locations and elevations for us to consider. The committee will develop a list of peaks which seem worthwhile for us to pursue and will present these to the DPS Management. Then we’ll begin scheduling outings to scout out same, and publish trip reports in the SAGE as they come in for your perusal. Our goal is to provide you all with ballots displaying a choice of peaks for your consideration and vote as to whether we add it, subtract something else, etc. It will all ultimately be up to you.

So I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our November and December potlucks (December is on a Sunday night—the 2nd and is also a Christmas party). Enjoy the season my friends.

Warm Regards,
Audrey Goodman,
DPS Outings Chair
Did You Know, it's time to get serious about these desert peaks as the weather is cooling down, and fall has fallen upon us? And please on Dec. 2, hike on over to my place (Lake Reseedy a.k.a. Reseda) for a well-deserved potluck and libations and Ho Ho Ho. We changed the date to Sunday, so some of our climbers could get back into town.

As George Toby once remarked, "My condo is small but filled with love." Or in this case lots of good food and drink!

Did you know more people die of bee stings than any other misfortune in the wilderness? Now, I believe it! When our small group returned from bagging more miles on the Pacific Coast Trail in September (Gene Mauk and the Motherals), I ran (not walked) to the nearest pharmacy and got my Epi-pen kit. Flashback: we were ambling along up there near Shasta, when I saw a bear ahead of us a few yards. "Rayne!!" I yelled. "There's a bear ahead of you." He looked up and sure enough, the bear looked at us and ran down the hill. We got excited and ran right to the spot where the little "so and so" had been digging a wasps' nest, and alas, guess who got swarmed? The bear was laughing in the bushes, I suppose. Anyway, they attacked us and stung us all here n' there -- and it WAS frightening. Gladly, we assessed the damages of only two or three stings per hiker. However, my face was swelling up like the notorious Elephant Man; and we became concerned about anaphylactic shock and potential throat closure. Mary Mo announced she'd be glad to save my life by inserting the camel hose down my throat if emergency procedures were needed. Four miles to the car--and no cell phone reception. We popped Benadryl, and away we went hoping for the best. I am sure I hiked the fastest I ever have, because the idea of Mary's adept use of my camel water hose was not appealing to me at all. Someone has later told me that if a real emergency from bee stings occurs it's within the first fifteen minutes.

In all seriousness--I'd recommend everyone carry Benadryl on every hike and climb. Truly! Dr. Dean Odell spent a considerable amount of radio time on this problem and says, "Anyone can develop a new allergy and a fatal allergy to bee stings at any time." So, leaders and climbers, be prepared. The nests are in the ground and in a dark hole; easy to step into with no warning. I know I'll carry an Epi-pen kit and Benadryl, forever. Small straws and a sharp pen knife might be an addition, too. One does reconsider and ponder his mortality after such a close call.

Did You Know how we DPSers (and SPSers and HPSers) love our lists? And when one list is done, there's another one to take its place. And if not--we'll make one up. Mankind is dominated by competition against himself--and what

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Did You Know how we DPSers (and SPSers and HPSers) love our lists? And when one list is done, there's another one to take its place. And if not--we'll make one up. Mankind is dominated by competition against himself--and what better way to compete than with a List? Vic and Sue (Wyman-Henney) scurried away from jobs and L.A. responsibilities and hit the road in early August. They had the Colorado 14ers to finish (there's 54 in all)--since I was there at the same time hoping to capture a few myself, they kept me cell phone close. The nemesis and crux move for them was a peak called Little Bear. Since so many people are now clamoring up these 14ers, Little Bear gets over-run in a loose chute called the Hour Glass. Vic and Sue talked to various people who told hair-raising stories of bodies falling from the top of the Hour Glass. These two are invincible climbers, but they do value their lives especially when the stats are against them. Vic researched for hours and days and actually figured out a route to bypass the Hour Glass--however, they were on the climb for over 18 hours. But success was theirs (and no storms that day which is remarkable in Colorado.) It was a cakewalk with Quandary being their last peak. Congrats--you two are awesome. From Colorado, they came downhill and started bagging those state highpoints all the way back East. Last word is they're headed for Guadalupe, Texas, and I bet their good money these two will come back with TWO reasons to celebrate. Lucky for them, they bagged McKinley in their youth so the coveted 50 will be theirs.

Did You Know Gene and Jan Mauk are also chasing the High Points' List and bagged five more this month back East. They'll have one more to do in Hawaii and will be happy with 49 state high points. Ask Jan sometime about how she almost ran over Albert Einstein with her bicycle when she was in college. It's a true story!

One of our past heroes now deceased was Paul Lipsohn who came up with the idea of walking the entire border that surrounds the contiguous U.S. His one rule was he had to stay within five miles of the actual border (unless he could walk on water.) He actually did it by himself and set up a shuttle with his car and a motor scooter. Paul walked the entire border (follow your finger around the U.S. map--pretty amazing, I'd say), and only rode the scooter in retracing his steps back to the car.

Did You Know Karen Leonard accomplished her goal of writing the Story of the DPS? I've read it, and it's great. She has immortalized many of us. Question--will we be able to play ourselves in the movie? Karen covered everything, and it's quite a read! I thought of one additional chapter to add the tabloid zest -- "Spouses and Girlfriends/Boyfriends Who Came Home a Day Early From a Hike." Yikes and double yikes! I've got stories, and none of them
have happy endings. I promise to tell a few if you come to the potluck!

Speaking of Mary Motheral --did you know in her rabid years of bagging peaks, she also bagged 25 speeding tickets mostly up highway 395? In her youth, she speaks of a short career as a carhop at the local A&W Drive-in. 'Chili fries with a mug of root beer, Mary Mo!' She didn't tell us if she wore roller skates when taking orders. (P.S. Speaking of Mary, she, Rich Gnagy, Jay Titus, Burt Falk, Gerry Roach, Richard Carey are among our friends who climbed all 50....and many of those western peaks are not gimmies!)

I know a few people are near to finishing the Great DPS List, and we'll look forward to some serious celebrating out in our favorite desert places. Truthfully, is it really about the lists or is it our need to get out there and go places we've never been? Mark Twain aptly said, "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. Throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor, and catch those trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Go get those peaks--sign those registers--cross' em off on the LIST, and don't come home a day early!

Happy Climbing from Mary Mac  (Submissions for Did You Know are always welcome, marymuir@earthlink.net.)

2007 DPS SURVEY RESULTS

Only 46 of the 262 DPS members responded to my 2007 survey, which went out by email to the approximately 148 members who have email addresses (and two people asked for it after reading about it in the Sage). However, the picture these responses give is worth reporting, as it confirms one's impression that the membership is aging and that we need to recruit new and younger members. The first finding is that exactly half of those who responded, 23, were over the age of 59, in their 60s (14), 70s (6), and 80s (3). These older climbers were overwhelmingly male as well, consisting of 19 men and 4 women. Another 18 respondents were in their 50s, 10 women and 8 men. Only 5 respondents were under 50: 4 men in their 40s and 1 man in his late 20s.

Reflecting this older pool of respondents, more than half were list finishers, 25 of the 46, 15 men and 10 women. 32 men and 14 women responded to the survey: 30 of the men had four years or more of higher education and 11 of the women did, showing that our mountain climbing section continues to attract chiefly professional, middle class people (see below). 17 of the men and 5 of the women, about half of the men and a third of the women, were currently married.

Looking at the pattern of hiking, most respondents found the DPS after one year or more of hiking in the mountains. Decade by decade, we find two respondents beginning to climb in the 1930s and four in the 1940s; one of the latter began hiking with the DPS (just founded in 1941) in that decade. In the 1950s, four began hiking and three began with the DPS; in the 1960s, nine began hiking and four began with the DPS; in the 1970s, six began hiking and six also began hiking with the DPS. The 1980s was the big growth spurt, with thirteen people beginning to hike and fourteen beginning to hike with the DPS. The 1990s saw a decline, with only two people beginning to hike but six beginning to hike with the DPS. So far in the 2000s, five people have begun to hike and six have begun to hike with the DPS.

How does this profile compare with earlier, also partial, surveys of the membership? In 1987 and 1988 I took similar surveys. The 1987 one was filled out at two consecutive monthly meetings by 41 people, 22 men and 19 women. Only 8 of these respondents had finished the list, and only 5 respondents were over the age of 60, all of them in their 60s. 10 respondents were in their 50s, and more than half of the respondents, 24, were under 50, 14 in their 40s and 7 in their 30s (two were teenagers and two did not answer the question). Currently married respondents were in the minority, nine of the 38 who answered this question (six men and three women were married, while the gender balance was 14 men and 14 women among the single and divorced respondents). The educational profile was almost identical to that in 2007.

In 1988 the survey went out in the Sage and 62% of the 62 respondents said they did not come to meetings, so the 1988 survey captured a different slice of the membership. The respondents, 43 men and 15 women (some missing data), were 1/5th of the mailing list. As in 1987, the oldest respondents were only in their 60s and the largest cohort was that of those in their 40s. 47% of those responding had graduate or professional degrees, with 56 of the 59 who responded to the education question having at least some college. 14 or 23% of the respondents had finished the list, three women and eleven men. 47% of the men and 13% of the women were currently married.
Finally, a 1990 survey went out in the Sage focused on views about the Desert Protection Act and the insurance crisis then gripping the outings sections. It drew 55 responses, 46 of them from members who never came to meetings. In 1990, about 30 people were attending the meetings (now, of course, we have changed the nature and locations of the meetings entirely).

What these surveys tell us is that our membership is aging but very loyal, still out there taking the Sage, responding to email surveys, and probably climbing. Attendance is down at meetings and on official trips, although many members may be climbing privately. But the main message is that we need to attract younger climbers to our section.

- Karen Leonard

### 2007 DPS SURVEY: PEAKS TO ADD & DELETE

Compared to surveys taken in 1987 and 1988, the 46 respondents to the 2007 survey expressed fewer opinions about the peaks they liked and disliked and the worst dirt roads. Some of the respondents explained that they had done the peaks long ago and these details were not fresh in their minds. But here's what they said, and save for the paucity of peaks to add, there is lots of continuity from the earlier surveys.

Favorite peak: Big Picacho, 10; Telescope, 5; Boundary, South Guardian Angel, Little Picacho, Bridge Mountain, 3 each; Baboquivari, Weaver's Needle, Castle Dome, Charleston, and Eagle #2, 2 each; and one vote each for North Guardian Angel, Keynot, Inyo, Indianhead, Kofa, Wheeler, Ruby Dome, Corkscrew, and Last Chance.

Least favorite peak: Canyon Point, 7 votes; Rabbit, Virgin, and Eagle #2, 2 votes; and one vote each for East Ord, Maturango, Chuckwalla, Tucki, Big Maria, Indianhead, Tipton, and Dubois.

Peaks to delete: Maturango and all the Mexican peaks, 4 votes; Navajo, 2 votes; and one vote each for Argus, Stephladder, Eagle #1, Canyon Point, Nelson, Pleasant, Jacumba or Sombrero, Potosi, and Ruby Dome (the last because "it's not really a desert peak").

Peaks to add: Only Calico and Saline were suggested.

Prettiest campsites: Mahogany Flats, 5 votes; Arc Dome, 3 votes; Lemoigne Canyon, 2 votes; and one vote each for Panamint Butte, Babo, Wheeler (upper), Corn Springs at Big Pine, Rosa Mountains, Canon de Guadalupe, Virgin, Ajo, Montgomery, Inyo Crest, Grandview by Castle Dome, Boundary, White, South Guardian Angel, New York Mountain, ridge by New York Butte from Cerro Gordo (same as Inyo Crest?).

Worst dirt road: Swansea to New York Butte, 4 votes; Avawatz and Bridge Mountain, 3 votes; Pico Risco, Palen, Indian Creek to Dubois, and the Saline to Death Valley road, 2 votes; and one vote each for Navajo, Brown, Manly/Needle from the west, New York Butte, Old Dad, Cerro Pinacate, Porter via Pleasant Canyon, the Lippincott Mine Road, Big Pine to Death Valley, Goler Wash, and Cottonwood Canyon.

- Karen Leonard

### COME CLIMB WITH ME

**LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO CLIMB WITH?**

The DPS is launching a feature called "Come Climb With Me" for members to advertise for other members to climb with on private trips. There is no fee, however a couple of restrictions:

1. No ads for a money making product or venture will be accepted here (but you're welcome to list such as a Paid Ad which you can contact our editor about).

2. You must include a way to reply, level of hiker needed for the peak proposed, and approximate time of year you'd like to go, plus equipment requirements if any.

The rest is up to you. Many private trips occur anyways, and we thought it would be helpful to our membership to have a place where trips could be listed and hikers solicited. It's just another way to get out, enjoy yourself with experienced DPSers, work on your list, or just have a grand time. Send notices to Audrey Goodman Outings Chair for forwarding to the editor at music2835@yahoo.com.

(Continued next page)
COME CLIMB WITH ME Notices:
Small group looking to climb Big Picacho in April/May, and would like to be joined by someone(s) who've already
done it, and would like to do it again. Contact Gloria Miladin (gm500@yahoo.com) if interested.

California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act Reintroduced
by Ryan Henson, Policy Director, California Wilderness Coalition

Friday, September 28, 2007 - The California Wilderness Coalition is pleased to announce that yesterday Representa-
tive Mary Bono and Senator Barbara Boxer introduced a major wilderness, wild and scenic river and national monu-
ment bill for Riverside County.

The "California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act " will protect over 202,000 acres in four new wilderness areas, six
additions to existing wilderness areas and four additions to the San Jacinto-Santa Rosa Mountains National Monu-
ment. The bill will also add 31.5 miles to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by protecting four important
streams. As the name of the legislation implies, the bill includes a wide range of ecosystems including Joshua tree
forests, groves of cedar and pine, oak woodlands, steep river canyons, chaparral thickets and cactus gardens. The ar-
eas included in the bill are listed at the end of this message.

While crafting the bill Representative Bono and Senator Boxer reached out to a variety of interests including tribes,
water districts, fire safe councils, local elected officials, equestrians and others and worked hard to take their concerns
into account.They were assisted in these outreach efforts by a coalition of conservation groups including the Cam-
paign for America's Wilderness, Friends of the River, National Hispanic Environmental Council, National Parks Con-
servation Association, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and the California Wilderness Coalition.

Proposed For Protection in the California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act

New Wilderness Areas:
--Beauty Mountain Wilderness: 16,700 acres
--Cahuilla Mountain Wilderness: 7,131 acres
--Pinto Mountains Wilderness: 24,080 acres
--South Fork San Jacinto Wilderness: 21,540 acres

Additions to Existing Wilderness Areas:
--Agua Tibia Wilderness Additions: 1,950 acres
--Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness Additions: 14,480 acres
--Joshua Tree National Park Wilderness Additions: 81,178 acres
--Orocopia Mountains Wilderness Additions: 3,760 acres
--Palen-McCoy Wilderness Additions: 20,320 acres
--Santa Rosa Wilderness Additions: 3,300 acres

Wild and Scenic Rivers:
--Bautista Creek: 9.8 miles
--Fuller Mill Creek: 3.5 miles
--North Fork San Jacinto River: 10.12 miles
--Palm Canyon Creek: 8.1 miles

Additions to the San Jacinto-Santa Rosa Mountains National Monument:
--Santa Rosa Peak (3,507 acres)
--Snow Creek (50 acres)
--Southeast Area (4,679 acres)

from The Newsletter of the Conservation Committees of the Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club, October 2007
Are you wondering what to do with those wonderful digital photos filling up megabytes on your computer? Well, I can tell you what to do with at least one or two of them. Send them in for our:

DPS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2008

Rules are:

1. Photo must be digital.
2. Photo must be from a desert peak trip, 'official' or private from 2007-2008.
3. Three entries allowed per participant.
4. Prizes will be awarded at the 08 Banquet in April, and will be listed in the SAGE with the winning photographs shortly thereafter.
5. Include captions about where the photograph is from and when it was shot. Please also note anything exceptional about the camera settings, filters used, etc. if applicable.
6. Email entries to DPS Chair Michael Gosnell at michaelgosnell@hotmail.com.
7. Prizes are:
   1st place - $100.00 gift certificate at REI
   2nd place - $50.00 gift certificate at REI
   3rd place - $25.00 gift certificate at REI
   and will be awarded by a panel of DPS judges who are experienced desert photographers.

Looking forward to your gorgeous entries!! - Audrey

Here are a few sample photos of different desert phenomena.
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*If I am missing anyone or you are on this list erroneously please let me know.

- Audrey (music2835@yahoo.com)
leader Roxana Lewis, assistant Dottie Sandford, and 13 participants toured Japan on a scheduled Sierra Club Angeles Chapter trip. The highlight of the trip for me was the climb of Mount Fuji, at 12,387’ the highest point in Japan.

We had spent the previous week in Kyoto, a very beautiful and historic city, with interesting side trips by rail to Nara, Hiroshima, and Lake Biwa. Another highlight was my 71st birthday, for which artist Elaine Baldwin water colored a card for me, which all signed.

On July 21 we took a bullet train to Shin Fuji, then a long bus ride to the Fuji 5 Lakes area to an upscale hotel in Kawaguchi-ko (-ko means lake). We were not to enjoy sleeping the night in this hotel because we were to take the 7:45 pm bus to the 5th station on the north slope of Fuji-san.

The tradition is to start the hike at night and get to the crater rim in time to see the sunrise. Who were we gai-jin to defy centuries of honorable tradition? 12 of us boarded the bus for a ride through the gloomy fog and rain. Scattered thunderstorms were predicted and it was drizzling as we departed Kawaguchi-ko (elev; about 2700’). I didn’t think we had much of a chance to attain the summit, figuring there would be heavy rain and lightning on the mountain.

My a priori information was that the hike was equivalent to climbing Mt San Jacinto and that there is a trail all the way to the summit, and a separate trail for the descent. There is an opportunity to take a wrong trail on the return and end up on the wrong side of the mountain which, being a typical volcano, looks pretty much the same from any direction, especially at night.

Studying a guide that Roxana provided told me that the trailhead elevation at 5th station is about 7550’, so the elevation gained would be about 4900’. This is a rather serious hike. There are a number of huts (with food and drink service), shrines, and outhouses (100 yen donation) along the way. We started hiking at 9 pm. A popular tourist diversion is to purchase a pine hiking stick and get stamps burned into the wood at the various stations en route. I just used my Leki pole, which doesn’t burn.

For the first 2 miles the 12 of us hiked slowly along a road through the mist. It was not at all cold. The road ended and we began ascending a steep trail. There were a lot of hikers besides us and staying together was difficult. I soon found myself well behind Bruce Hale, Hassan Kilany, and DPS veterans David and Elaine Baldwin.

The light drizzle had stopped and we could see several stars above us. The clouds were obviously a low altitude phenomenon and I saw hope that we might actually do this thing. I was ascending with an ever-increasing crowd of climbers (mostly Japanese) and occasionally hiked with Tina Rozsa and Haesoon Yoon. Tina was handicapped by hiking in a pair of $15 sneakers that she purchased at the trailhead. Ouch.

I was carrying only 2 liters of water, which I expected to last the entire climb. I didn’t want to have to spend the 500 yen that the vendors were getting for ½ liter of water. I had a mocha triple shot which I consumed at about 2 am to ward off drowsiness.

As expected, the temperature diminished and the wind
increased with elevation and it was quite chilly above 10,000’. There were areas of the “trail” that might be considered class 2, with hands required. The path was marked with chains here. At about 11,000’ a large number of hikers caught up with me and there was quite a mass of humanity going for the peak. Hiking fast was now impossible. To the credit of the Japanese hikers, they were all quite polite, not at all pushy. I estimate that there were 3000 hikers going for the summit that night. That’s a lot of headlamps!

I reached the crater rim, with its hut and store, just after 4 am and just before the rather ordinary sunrise, to find Bruce, Hassan, and the Baldwins. Shortly after, Haesoon arrived there and the 2 of us elected to go together to the true summit. To get to this point we had to undulate about 2/3 of the way around the rim, about 30 minutes hike each way. There is a plaque near the true summit- in Japanese, naturally- that says the point is at 3775.63 meters above sea level. On the way we passed a shrine, either Buddhist or Shinto (I was too ignorant to determine which) and- a post office! Had I known I could have mailed letters, which would have received a Mt. Fuji post mark.

It was now 5 am and I had lost track of the rest of the group. I found the descent trail- steep with loose gravel- and headed for the 5th Station bus terminal. I managed to avoid wandering off on the wrong trail and eventually found more of our group. Most had not bothered with the true summit and just wanted to get back and take a long nap, I suppose. I learned that 10 of our group had made it to the crater rim. Dottie had gotten sick- probably the altitude - and Gerry Cox stayed with her overnight in a hut. The cost for this stay is 7000 yen including meals. The accommodations are rather third world and perhaps not as sparkling clean as is everything else in Japan. But it is good to take along an extra 7000 yen as insurance.

By 6:30 am the sun was up with a fury and it was very warm. There’s another reason to make this hike at night. My 2 liters of water was almost gone and I partly refilled from a snow bank. I bummed a bit of water from Elaine to avoid paying that 1000 yen per liter- about twice the price of Japanese gasoline.

After what seemed an interminable hike I reached the bus terminal at about 9 am. Total time up and back was 12 hours, far from a record time. I bought a coffee from a machine and finished off my trail food for breakfast. Tina was there, waiting for the 9:35 bus. I learned that Roxana, George Rendell, and Reyna Beyale all made it to the rim and caught the 8:35 bus.

Back at the Route Inn hotel in Kawaguchi-ko I tried to nap, but that cup of coffee was a mistake. This was an unforgettable adventure. Another great international trip led by Roxana. She plans a reprise of this 10 day excursion in July 2008. Contact her at Roxtlewis@aol.com.

ATTEMPT ON MT JEFFERSON
September 24-26, 2007
By George Wysup

Getting sick of bagging HPS peaks. Aargh, Need some variety! It’s September and gasoline is only $2.90, so I must take a long trip. How about . . . northern Nevada? I’ve already climbed Wheeler and got within 700 feet of Ruby Dome, which leaves Arc Dome and Jefferson. After scrutinizing the DPS guides I think I can drag my old body up these.

I convinced my old (very; he’s 3 years older than myself) buddy Joe Whyte to share the experience. Joe is really good at keeping me out of trouble since he balks at doing anything that might be remotely insane. And we share an unmitigated disgust regarding the current federal administration.

Late Monday morning we departed for Tonopah. Going up I-15 through Cajon Pass we noticed a frosting of snow on Mt Baldy. Traveling by way of Baker and Shoshone we quickly arrived in Tonopah. Along the way there was ample evidence of substantial rainfall, to wit: the normally dry washes were running strong with muddy water. As we neared the metropolis of Tonopah we noticed a white mantle on what I believed to be the Toquima and Toiyabe ranges. I realized that the arctic weather that had hit me on a San Gorgonio area hike the previous Saturday had headed northeast and left some precipitation in its wake.

We selected the colorful Clown Motel because of the rate - $34 double for seniors. Bob Hoeven and I had parked ourselves at this place a few years ago and found it a good bargain. It is clean and in fairly good order. It was popular with truckers and bikers. Later we learned Dirty Dick’s Saloon in Belmont, Nevada.
that there is no good place to dine in Tonopah. The only negative was that a few trucks got an early start, at 3 am.

Tuesday morning we departed to drive the 50+ miles to the Mount Jefferson (11,941’) trailhead. We parked at the “2WD” spot at 9771’, even though I was driving my 4Runner, because the hike looked to be short and easy. The dirt roads were fine, and quite scenic, to this point. Continuing to the “4WD” spot would have been no problem.

We found the first patches of snow at about 10,200’ on a south facing slope. The trail we were following disappeared at this point, probably because the broad, easy face does nothing to channel hikers onto a single path. We climbed easily to 10,600’ in the rapidly deepening snow, which was soft on this sunny day. Climbing past bump 10973 to about the 11,000 contour we could plainly see that the trail, traversing around the left side of bump 11,560+, was in deep snow, hiding some large rocks. Realizing that 70+ year old legs break more easily than young legs, we opted to save this peak for another day.

We could see Arc Dome (11,773’) and its approaches to the west. It was obvious that we would encounter the same problem, or worse, if we were to attempt that one. The hike is much longer and the final ascent is steeper and is on the north-facing slope. On the return to Tonopah, where we had contracted to spend another night, we passed through the interesting “ghost” town of Belmont, once the county seat before it was moved to Tonopah. We spied “Indian Maggie’s” saloon “circa 1866” which appeared to be open for business. I love to visit old saloons that serve beer. I even love new saloons that serve beer.

We checked it out and found a very ancient-looking padlock on the door. Disappointed, we were about to leave when a bearded old (younger than us, though) dude in cowboy regalia sauntered toward us. He was more than willing to unlock the bar and let us in. He sold us beers ($2 each) and we conversed at length as we drowned our sorrow in not bagging Mt Jeff.

We learned that the population of Belmont is 8. There is a church in town that is visited by a preacher every other week. The saloon is part of an operating inn where one can, indeed, score rooms. He told us that the inn recently hosted a wedding party of 300 folks from Kansas. I’m sure they didn’t all stay at the inn. There are several campgrounds in the area. It looked to be a good place to have a wedding (are you listening, Wynne?).

Wednesday we departed early for home, via Death Valley. I would have liked to have bagged a peak on the way, but I neglected to bring the guides. It was too hot for the lower peaks anyway. A ranger at the Furnace Creek visitor center recommended a drive up Echo Canyon. Why not? We drove the rather bad road for 11 miles to a turnaround where further fun by the off road set is made difficult by judiciously placed boulders. Most 2WD vehicles would be unable to drive this road. On the way we passed through some awesome narrows in the limestone cliffs. We then hiked east for about 3 miles, past Schwaub Peak, to the top of an escarpment where we had a grand view of Charleston Peak and much of western Nevada. On the drive back we investigated the Inyo Mine (Google it), which has not been terribly looted or devastated, likely to the length of the bad road.

Not exactly a peak bagging adventure, but it was interesting.

Photos this article by George Wysup.

COVER PHOTO: Wheeler Peak from Baker Peak saddle. Photo by Bob Sumner.
Six years ago, Desert Books reviewed six early volumes on Death Valley, including: *Death Valley* (1930), Bourke Lee; *Death Valley, the Facts* (1930, revised 1936), W.A. Chalfant; *Death Valley Men* (1932), Bourke Lee; *Here's Death Valley* (1940) C.B. Glasscock; *Death Valley and its Country* (1946), George Palmer Putnam; and *Loafing Along Death Valley Trails* (1951), William Caruthers.


Well, Death Valley seems to inspire writers. Here are four more volumes for your consideration.

**THE WHITE HEART OF THE MOJAVE** (1922), Edna Brush Perkins

Edna Brush Perkins described herself and her friend Charlotte Hannahs Jordan as “middle-aged, mothers of families, and deeply involved in the historic struggle for the vote” (FYI, the U.S. Woman’s Suffrage Movement successfully culminated in 1920, with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution). During the winter of 1919, perhaps as a reward for their hard work, the two friends decided to take a vacation from “the bluff and banality and everlasting tail-chasing which goes on inside the stateliest statehouses and the two-room suite with bath.”

And, although they both lived in New England, they were intrigued by the “great empty space just east of the Sierra Nevada Range and the San Bernardino Mountains vaguely designated as the Mojave Desert.” Ms. Jordan especially wanted to visit Death Valley, as she was “tired of looking at the Twenty Mule Team Borax boxes and wondering what kind of place they came from…” “Think of the hotness and brightness,” she said. “It must be an awful, lonesome, sparkling place.” Perkins thought that the Mojave would be “like a tiger, terrible and fascinating.” The idea appealed to her, too.

So, having been offered the use of an automobile if and when they came to California, the intrepid ladies were soon traveling west by rail to discover for themselves just what those wide open spaces might contain.

Once in Los Angeles, however, almost everyone with whom they talked discouraged the idea of a Death Valley trip. Friends drew a dismal picture of them getting stuck in the sagebrush and slowly starving to death. The people at the Automobile Club told them nobody ever went there. What were they thinking of?

So instead, Perkins and Jordan opted to visit the Imperial Valley, where it soon dawned on them that they hadn’t crossed the country to visit newly cultivated farms; they had come west to visit the mysterious desert. Determined to get to Death Valley somehow, they returned to Los Angeles.

Procuring a map at the Auto Club, Edna and Charlotte set off yet again, this time heading, via Cajon Pass, Victorville and Barstow, for Johannesburg, from whence, by way of Ballarat, they planned to drive to Death Valley. The Joburgians, however, discouraged this scheme. Instead, they persuaded the ladies to follow a pair of young miners who, in a light Ford truck, were about to leave for Silver Lake.

Well, the route that the two vehicles followed (which is inaccessible today, as it lies within Fort Irwin) is a bit hard to determine as no place names were mentioned. Edna’s description of the “wild and fearful” country through which they made their day-long journey is alone worth the price of the book.
Arriving at Silver Dry Lake that evening, the ladies were provided lodging in a shack by the Brauers, a kindly German couple who ran the local general store and provided board to the few travelers who visited the nearby silver mines.

A day or two later, the couple, along with the local sheriff, Julius Meyer, as guide, drove off intending to enter Death Valley via its southern entrance. Bouncing along on an “unspeakable” route, mostly in a wash, with their engine boiling merrily, Saratoga Springs was as far as they could coax their vehicle. Gazing north into the long valley, surrounded by majestic, immovable mountains, they realized they had discovered the White Heart of the Mojave. Although they wouldn’t get there that year, they made plans to return the next.

And indeed, the doughty duo did return to Silver Lake the following year (1920), once more driving their borrowed car. Hiring Sheriff Julius Meyers, who they christened “The Official Worrier,” to act as their guide, they departed Silver Lake for Beatty, NV, by way of a seven-hour journey on the old Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad. Regarding that trip, Edna notes, “On the morning of train day our bed-rolls and duffle-bags on the station-platform, and ourselves getting into the coach in knickerbockers and tough, high shoes created more excitement than Silver Lake had known for some time.”

From Beatty, the trio made tracks for Death Valley on an overloaded grocery wagon, “the outfit,” pulled by a white mule, Molly, and a big, thin, red horse, Bill. They had so much baggage and so many provisions (including at Charlotte’s insistence, dried prunes), that oft times the women walked behind the outfit.

Admirably, the threesome didn’t rush their desert adventure. Indeed, they made stops at Rhyolite (already a ghost town), the Keane Wonder Mine, and Furnace Creek Ranch (at the time an active ranch furnishing provisions for the local mines), after which they crossed the valley, heading for Stovepipe Wells and points west. Next they camped at Emigrant Springs, made a day trip to Skidoo (also a ghost town in 1920), climbed Pinto Peak, and eventually maneuvered their wagon a good distance up Wildrose Canyon, from whence they scaled Mt. Baldy, and got, before being turned back by ice, within 400’ of the top of Telescope Peak.

Other than encountering a sand storm near the Stovepipe Wells sand dunes, their return trip to Silver Lake in early April was uneventful. Reclaiming their car, they then drove, via the Ivanpah Valley, to Needles, where their desert adventures came to an end.

Edna’s final words on the Mojave were, “Some travelers look at her curiously, some look longingly, some shudder, some pass with the window shades pulled down. All the time she is singing on her rosy mountain-tops and in her deep, hot valleys where the blaze of the sun is hot.”

The desert bibliographer, E.I. Edwards dismisses The White Heart of the Mojave curtly: “The author writes charmingly, indulging now and then in a vagrant description of some personal incident or experience…yet I search in vain for an early account of Death Valley’s history, of its flora and fauna, its inhabitants, its geology, its borax mining activities.” “What I get mostly is irrelevant camp gossip and descriptions of hurried excursions over the desert.”

Well, in my opinion, Edwards himself is missing the point. The central theme, as I see it, is that two resolute women dared to undertake a risky adventure in a relatively unknown area, and not only did they survive, but they had a hugely successful trip. This most readable volume would be a welcome addition to any desert lover’s library.
THE SHADOW OF THE ARROW (1941), Margaret Long, M.D.

The title of Dr. Margaret Long’s book comes from a Piute saying as recounted by Mary Austin, i.e., “…it is possible for a man to travel far without suffering much if only he keeps his head in cover; two hands breadth of shadow between him and the smiting sun or hot, staring moon. So if he has a quiver full of feathered arrows, winged with three slips of eagle feathers, he sticks them in the sand by their points, cloudy points of obsidian flaked at the edges, and lies down with his head in the shadow.”

Similar to Edna Perkins and Charlotte Jordan (see review above), Margaret Long was also a steadfast, strong-willed New Englander. Her father had been governor of Massachusetts and, later, Secretary of the Navy during the McKinley and Roosevelt Administrations; Margaret herself was a graduate of both Smith College and John Hopkins Medical School.

First practicing medicine on the east coast, Dr. Long then came west to Denver, Colorado, where for years she was associated with several local tubercular hospitals. Between the years 1921 and 1940, Long and her friend Ann Martin, a suffrage campaigner who once ran for Senator from the State of Nevada, made several trips to the Death Valley region, where they collected the material for this book.

In her prologue, “An Automobile Trip in Death Valley, 1921,” Dr. Long boasts that in October of that year she and Ms. Martin became the first women to enter Death Valley alone. She does concede, however, that Edna Perkins and Charlotte Jordan had explored the area a year earlier, but with the help of a guide, the “Worrier” Perkins and Charlotte Jordan had explored the area a year earlier, but with the help of a guide, the “Worrier” of The White Heart of the Desert, Sheriff Julius Meyer. She also admits to enjoying “Mrs. Perkins’ charming little poems in prose (that) catch the elusive spirit of the desert and portray admirably the sense of its mystery and power.”

Part I of The Shadow of the Arrow, “Retracing the Trail of ’49” consists of 3 chapters in which all those physical and historical features that Edwards complained were missing in White Heart are included.

Part II of Shadow—indeed, the rest of the book—describes the routes of those ’49ers that opted to take the “direct” route from near the present town of Enterprise, Utah, via Owens Lake, Walker Pass and the San Joaquin Valley, heading for the gold mines of California.

Utilizing the memoirs of the ’49er survivors, especially those of Juliet Wells Brier (a tag-along member, along with her husband, James W., and her son, John W., Jr., of the Jayhawker Party) and William Lewis Manly (author of the classic Death Valley in ’49, and member of the Bennett/Arcane Party), as their guides, Long and Martin made several trips into the Great Basin and the Mojave Desert retracing the routes of the pioneers. Of special interest was Long’s take on the rescue route of Manly and Rogers, whom, as you will recall, left the starving Bennett/Arcane Party in Death Valley, and for twenty-five days traveled to and from the Fort Tejon area to bring back much-needed supplies and to lead the group safely back to Southern California.

Unfortunately, Long equivocates on this enigma, commenting only that Manly and Roger, “The Boys,” must have crossed the Panamints either by Six Springs Canyon or Galena Canyon, and that they returned via a “rough-looking canyon” in the western side of the Panamints, nearly opposite their camp on the top of the Slate Mountains. Long does cite John E. Wolff, who in his 1931 self-published pamphlet Route of the Manly Party of 1849-50 in Leaving Death Valley for the Coast, proposed that “The Boys,” on their return, ascended South Park Canyon rather than Redlands Canyon, as had been commonly believed.

E.I. Edwards considers The Shadow of the Arrow “a vigorous, first-hand contribution to Death Valley literature; one of the best, in my opinion, that has ever been made available. I would rate it among the first half-dozen Death Valley items of paramount importance.”

GOODBYE, DEATH VALLEY (1956, Revised 1967), L. Burr Belden

This 63-page booklet, published by the Death Valley ’49ers, Inc., sets out to “trace the largest of several parties (i.e., the Jayhawkers, a name used 10 years before it appeared in Kansas) who became mired in Death Valley during December, 1849…”

While the material included has been rehashed many times, it is still entertaining to relive the excitement that was generated during the first few months of 1849, as John B. Colton of Galesburg, Illinois began to recruit partners to form a wagon party and head west. Most of the 36 that eventually joined his group, which was in effect “a one-for-all, all-for-one social fraternity,” were young men eager for adventure and a good time. Belden claims that because of their strong initial bonding “(m) ore than one survivor of the Death Valley ordeal owed his life to a shared ‘last drop’ of water from a fellow Jayhawker’s canteen, or a divided bite of precious biscuit.”

DEATH VALLEY IN 1849 (1978), John Southworth

Also small (127 pages), Southworth’s booklet does an excellent job in consolidating the stories of the diverse parties that ended up in Death Valley in late 1849, making the entire experience much more understandable. In doing so, the author also clears up a couple of questions I’ve always had, i.e., where does the copious
water supply flowing from Tavertine Spring (which feeds the Furnace Creek Ranch area) originate? Answer: “By virtue of hidden underground passageways through porous or broken rock which extends at least as far east as Nevada’s Pahrump Valley and snow capped Charleston Peak, large volumes of good water flow downhill westward, under intervening mountains and the saline Amargosa River, to be stopped at the eastern edge of Death Valley by the nearly vertical fault zone that separates the Black Mountains from the Funeral Mountains along the line of Furnace Creek Wash.”

Southworth also explains why a date of 1849 can be found inscribed on a rock in Marble Canyon, far from the escape route most would think logical today. Answer: “The emigrants in reality moved straight west from the south end of the Sand Dunes…The modern (paved) road goes southwest from the same place, at times almost due south in the Towne Pass area.”

In his appendix C, Southworth discusses the legendary prospector John Lemoigne, a native of France, who died while crossing the desert alone in 1917. An interesting character, Lemoigne operated a silver mine in the general vicinity of the famous Lost Gunsight lode, and who, disdaining wealth, blew up a mansion, similar to Scotty’s Castle, that had been built for him with the earnings from yet another mining venture.
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