CHAIR’S CORNER
by Michael Gosnell

Attack of the Killer Cholla

Over the Holidays, my wife’s family from London, Scotland, Boston, and Berkeley gathered in Phoenix for a reunion of sorts. To me, it seemed all they did was make daily pilgrimages to the local shopping mall. For one day, I was lucky enough to escape for a climb of the Superstition Mts. while also checking out the petroglyphs in Hieroglyphics Canyon. On my return I had just enough time to visit the Phoenix Botanical Gardens which was a treat.

While viewing the grounds, I overheard a young man tell his somewhat frightened girlfriend that this one cactus was called 'Jumping Cholla' because it was actually drawn to the warmth of our bodies and then it would 'jump' at us. I wanted to break in and dispel this silliness, but I walked on and started thinking about my different encounters with this carnivorous cactus which can be one of several Opuntia species.

I first met Mr. Cholla several years ago as I was finishing up a trip to big Rabbit, Villager and Rosa Pt. on an overnight backpack. Feeling pretty proud of myself, I quickly walked down a steep, sandy slope toward the desert floor and my truck. Unfortunately, I kicked a chunk of cholla, which had attacked the back of my shoe, up into my rear end. It was incredibly painful and I had to pull my pants away from my backside to remove the spikes from my rear. Ouch! Then I had to pull down my pants to remove those little daggers from me and my clothes. My apologies to anyone who might have been driving by at the time.

Recently, on a hike up to Coyote Peak in Anza Borrego with Mighty George Wysup, a chunk of cholla attacked his leg as he walked by it. I speedily grabbed two rocks to pull this out and just as quickly as it popped off of George, it seemingly attacked and dug into my hand. So painful! Luckily, George had a comb and I was able to pull the little bugger out. Then, of course, I sat there and removed spikes for awhile.

Finally, a story told to me by a Sierra Club leader. I have changed the names to spare embarrassment. Coming down from Martinez on an HPS trip, Joe, one the co-leaders, wanted to descend a different route. The other leader, Jim, said, "Ok, see you down." After a couple of minutes, the group heard a howl of pain coming from the other leader. He yelled for only Jim to come-no one else. So Jim found Joe and immediately saw his predicament. He had fallen onto some cholla (no warm-blooded attack here) and it was bad. It looked like he sat right on top of a large cholla branch. He asked Jim if he could help him pull out some spikes. As there were so many of them and Jim had no desire to "pull out cactus needles from Joe's sweaty, hairy ass" he helped him get up and start walking. It was an incredibly painful trip back and Joe couldn’t wait to see the doctor and have him remove all these needles.

Unfortunately, the doctor did not come through for Joe, but only had this to say with a hearty laugh about the dozens of broken off cholla spikes in his rear, "Don't worry, Joe. Your body will reject them!"

A few odds and ends: To follow up on Kino Peak, I talked to a ranger in the park and I specifically asked the question: Is there any way to climb the peak without breaking the law or putting our members in danger and she said no. So Kino is suspended until this area is safer. The ranger said that the problem is officially called 'border issues.' We have heard that there is drug trafficking in the area.

To everyone in our membership we are looking for DPSers who would like to run for the management committee - no prior experience necessary! Please drop me line at michaelgosnell@hotmail.com.

Also, make sure to send me your favorite desert photos - there will be nice prizes awarded!

Happy and safe desert peak bagging, Michael Gosnell

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE APRIL 12, 2008

The Desert Sage is published six times a year by the Desert Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscription to The Desert Sage is ten (10) dollars a year. See back cover for ordering details. The Desert Peaks Section's Sage is the property of the Desert Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. All rights reserved.

The Desert Peaks Section maintains a website at:
http://angeles.sierraclub.org/dps/

The Desert Sage explores the desert mountain ranges of California and the Southwest, stimulates the interest of Sierra Club membership in climbing these ranges and aids in the conservation and preservation of desert wilderness areas.
## TRIPS / EVENTS
### MARCH THROUGH JUNE 2008

| MAR 1-2 | SAT-SUN | DPS, HPS, WTC | Bridge Mtn, Muddy Mtn |
| MAR 8-9 | SAT-SUN | DPS | Spirit Mtn, McCullough Mtn |
| MAR 9   | SUN     | DPS, SPS, WTC, LTC | Stoney Point Rock Workshop / Checkoff |
| MAR 22  | SAT     | DPS | DPS Monthly Meeting and Potluck / Party |
| MAR 29-30 | SAT-SUN | DPS | New York Mtn, Clark Mtn |
| APR 4-6 | FRI-SUN | NAT SCI, LB | Desert Ecology Workshop |
| APR 5   | SAT     | LTC, WTC, HPS | Intro to GPS Class |
| APR 5-6 | SAT-SUN | DPS | Palen Mtn, Big Maria Mtn |
| APR 6   | SUN     | DPS | DPS Monthly Meeting and Potluck / Party |
| APR 12  | SAT     | LTC | Leadership Training Seminar |
| APR 19  | SAT     | DPS, HPS | Garnet Mtn, Sombrero Pk |
| APR 19-20 | SAT-SUN | DPS, HPS, WTC, LTC | Indian Cove Navigation |
| APR 26-27 | SAT-SUN | DPS, SPS, LTC | Sierra Snow Checkoff / Practice |
| APR 27  | SUN     | DPS | DPS Annual Awards Banquet |
| MAY 3   | SAT     | LTC, WTC, HPS | Beginning Navigation Clinic |
| MAY 3-4 | SAT-SUN | DPS, HPS, WTC | Indianhead, San Ysidro Mtn |
| MAY 10-11 | SAT-SUN | DPS, LTC, WTC, DC | Mojave Navigationoodle |
| MAY 16-18 | FRI-SUN | LTC, WTC | Wilderness First Aid Course |
| MAY 17-18 | SAT-SUN | DPS, SPS, LTC | Sierra Snow Checkoff / Practice |
| MAY 18  | SUN     | LTC, WTC, HPS | Warren Point Navigation |
| JUN 13-15 | FRI-SUN | DPS, NAT SCI, LB | Telescope Pk, Wildrose Pk |

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 on an outing, please go to: http://www.sierrachub.org/outings/chapter/forms/ or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version. Seller of Travel Identification # 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of CA.

| MAR 1-2 | SAT-SUN | DPS, HPS, WTC |
| MAR 8-9 | SAT-SUN | DPS |

### M: Bridge Mtn (6995'), Muddy Mtn (5387')
Climb the 2 newest photogenic additions to the Desert Peaks List. Each day hike involves some class 3 climbing, with no ropes. Participants need to be comfortable on cross-country terrain and steep rock with good handholds. Each hike is 9-12 miles total and takes 8-9 hours at a moderate pace. Saturday evening dinner at (Jeff Dhungana’s father’s) Himalayan restaurant in Las Vegas (optional). Contact Leader with relevant information. Leader: Alex Amies (alexamies@yahoo.com). Co-Leaders: Asher Waxman, Dan Richter.

| MAR 8-9 | SAT-SUN | DPS |

### I: Spirit Mtn (5639’), McCullough Mtn (7026’)
Join us for these two easy and scenic peaks in southern Nevada – McCullough is rated as Class 1 and Spirit is Class 2. Spirit is short and somewhat steep – 3 miles and 2000’ elevation gain; McCullough is 7 miles and 2000’ elevation gain. We’ll climb Spirit on Saturday and then caravan to the roadhead for McCullough for a Saturday night potluck. Email or sase with contact information and to Leader: Dave Perkins (david.perkins@csun.edu). Assistant Leader: Ann Perkins.

| MAR 9   | SUN     | DPS, SPS, WTC, LTC |

### E/M: Stoney Point 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, completed medical form required. Send sase/email, climbing resume, SC#, address, phones to Leader: Ron Hudson (rhudson@att.net). Co-Leader: Dan Richter.

| MAR 22  | SAT     | DPS |

### O: DPS Monthly Meeting and Potluck / Party
Potluck dinner at 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish to share. Management Committee meeting earlier at 4:30 PM. Event at the home of Audrey Goodman and Brian Smith, 2663 Centinela #302, Santa Monica. Please RSVP by email to music2835@yahoo.com or call 310-392-8730.

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**THE DESERT SAGE**

March/April 2008
MAR 29-30   SAT-SUN   DPS
MR: New York Mtn (7532'), Clark Mtn (7907'); A climb of 2 desert peaks in the Mojave National Preserve. 2 dayhikes with a campcar in the local desert. Sat climb NY via Keystone Canyon with a class 3 rock portion near the summit (5 mi, 2100' gain). Sun climb Clark from the SW via a class 3 rock route (2 mi, 1900' gain). Class 3 rock experience is required. Restricted to SC members. Will require medical form. Send sase or email (preferred) to Leader: Greg Mason (nosamg@gmail.com). Assistant: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com).

APR 4-6   FRI-SUN   Natural Sciences, Long Beach
O: Desert Ecology Workshop: Explore three important waterways on the borders of Mojave and Colorado Desert during spring wildflower season. Observe birds and other wildlife, flora, and fire's effects on the desert. Car camp at Whitewater Preserve near Palm Springs, Canyon hikes Sat/Sun, potluck Sat, LTC credit available. $30 to SC Natural Sciences Section w/ SC#, $35 w/o. Details via E-mail or SASE. Send payment, conditioning, contact, and carpool information to: Sharon Moore. Assistant Leader/Naturalist Sherry Ross, Assistant Leader Mei Kwan, Naturalist Kathy Keane. Contact: Sharon Moore, JUSTSLM@earthlink.net, 562-896-3081, 4425 E. Galeano St, Long Beach, CA, 90815.

APR 5   SAT   LTC, WTC, HPS
O: GPS Class: Introduction to Global Positioning System at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena. Apply early, no registration at door, start 9 am indoors. Focus on Garmin models includes features, selection, operation, use with maps (provided), hands-on field practice in afternoon. We have Loaner GPS. Send sase, phones, email, any GPS experience and model, $20 (LTC—no refund after Mar 31) to Leader: Harry Freimanis. Assistant: Phil Wheeler.

APR 5-6   SAT-SUN   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 (ltbidball@earthlink.net). Co-Leader: Larry Tidball.

APR 6   SUN   DPS
O: DPS Monthly Meeting and Potluck / Party: Potluck dinner at 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish to share. Management Committee Meeting earlier at 4:30 PM. Picnic event at Edna Espaneci's home, 2828 Arizona Ave, Santa Monica. Please RSVP to Mmart1@aol.com or phone 310.828-6547.

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 19   SAT   DPS, HPS
I: Garnet Mtn (5,680'), Sombrero Pk (4,229'): Join the celebration as Gene Maak finishes 2 lists. First we will climb Garnet Mtn to finish the HPS list. Then, after a drive of about 60 miles, we will climb class 2 Sombrero Pk to finish the DPS list. Festivities will continue with a potluck dinner and campfire at Borrego Palm Campground in Borrego Springs. Send e-SASE (preferred) or SASE to Gene Maak (grm auk@att.net). Leaders: Doug Mantle and Mary McMann.

APR 19-20   SAT-SUN   DPS, HPS, SPS, WTC, LTC
I: Indian Cove Navigation: Navigation noodles at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun for checkout. To receive homework assignment, email/sase navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, phones to Leader: Harry Freimanis (hfreimanis@ca.rr.com). Assistant: Robert Myers.

APR 26-27   SAT-SUN   DPS, SPS, LTC
M/E: Sierra Snow Checkoff / Practice: For M&E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email/sase, phones to Leaders: Tina Bowman, Tom McDonnell.

APR 27   SUN   DPS
Social hour 5 PM, dinner 6:30 PM. Outstanding presentation, “Wild Places of the Americas,” by renown photographer and adventurer Rich Henke. Send $36 per person (payable to DPS) by April 21 to DPS treasurer Gloria Miladin, 11946 Downey Ave, Downey, CA, 90242, email: gm500@yahoo.com. Specify Prime Rib, Salmon or Vegetarian. Tickets will be held at the door. The Reef adds $4 more for reservations received after Apr 21.

♦ MAY 3   SAT   LTC, WTC, HPS
I: Mt. Lowe (5603′)  Beginning Navigation Clinic: 4 mi 500′ gain. Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass. Beginners to rusty old timers welcome. Not a check-off. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. Send sase, $25 deposit (Sierra Club—refunded at trailhead), phones to Leader: Diane Dunbar. Co-Leader: Richard Boardman.

♦ MAY 3-4   SAT-SUN   DPS, HPS, WTC
I: Indianhead (3960′), San Ysidro Mtn (6147′): Enjoy desert scenery in Anza Borrego Desert State Park. Sat dayhike up beautiful Palm Canyon to DPS peak Indianhead (8 mi, 3200′ gain). Car camp at Borrego Palm Canyon with happy hour and potluck dinner. Sun am drive short distance to trailhead for HPS peak San Ysidro Mtn (4 mi, 2300′ gain). Send SASE or email (preferred) to Leader with contact information, recent experience and conditioning. Leader: Kathy Rich (KathyARich@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Will McWhinney.

♦ MAY 10-11   SAT-SUN   DPS, L TC, WTC, Desert Committee
I: Places We’ve Saved Navigation Noodle in the Mojave National Preserve: Join us for our fifth annual journey through this jewel of the Mojave now preserved, under the California Desert Protection Act, as a result of the efforts of Sierra Club activists and others. An intermediate xc navigation day-hike workshop will be conducted out of a car camp in the pinyon and juniper forests of the Mid Hills. Potluck and social on Sat, and for those arriving early on Fri. Send email/sase to Leader: Harry Freimanis (hfreimanis@ca.rr.com). Assistant: Virgil Shields.

♦ MAY 16-18   FRI-SUN   LTC, WTC
C: Wilderness First Aid Course: Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Includes lodging, meals, practice first aid kit. CPR within previous 4 years. Harwood Lodge.

♦ MAY 17-18   SAT-SUN   LTC, DPS, SPS
M/E: Sierra Snow Checkoff / Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Leader: Nile Sorenson (nsorenso@pacbell.net). Co-Leader: Doug Mantle.

♦ MAY 18   SUN   LTC, WTC, HPS
I: Warren Point Navigation: Navigation noodles at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy the Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, phones, email/sase to Leader: Harry Freimanis (hfreimanis@ca.rr.com). Assistant: Robert Myers.

♦ JUN 13-15   FRI-SUN   DPS, LONG BEACH, NAT SCIENCES
O: Telescope Pk (11,049′), Wildrose Pk (9064′) Weekend: Car camp to explore the "sky islands" high above Death Valley. See ancient bristlecones and bag an emblem peak. Telescope Pk: 14 mi rt, 3100 ft gain. Wildrose Pk: 8.4 mi rt, 2300 ft gain, both strenuous. Email (preferred) or SASE with recent experience, conditioning to Leader. Sharon Moore (JUSTSLM@earthlink.net). Co-Leader: Jean Konnoff.

**PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: LAST CALL**

The DPS is accepting entries for the photo contest up until Friday March 28.

Please submit your entries soon—we need at least 5 entries to be able to conduct the contest.

Winners will be presented awards at the banquet.

Email your digital entries to michaelgosnell@hotmail.com.
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR / ACTIVITY REPORT, February 8, 2008

Membership Summary

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Activity Report

New Members

Guy Dahms
Telescope Pk
11215 Sidney Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111-6321
505-299-3822
gedahms1@msn.com

Chris Wu
Martinez Pk
355 E 21st St, Suite G
San Bernardino, CA 92404
909-985-7284
909-886-8618 (work)
chriswu@medscape.com

Renewed Lapsed Members

Edward Stork
PO Box 63-3581
West Hollywood, FL 90029

New Subscribers

Ronald Parry
3126 Fairhope
Houston, TX 77025
parry@rice.edu

Address/Info Changes

<table>
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<th>Membership Renewals</th>
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<tr>
<td>David &amp; Elaine Baldwin</td>
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<td>Richard L. Carey</td>
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<td>Jim &amp; Susan Conley</td>
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<td>Paul Cooley</td>
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<table>
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<th>Donations (2007)</th>
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<td>$ 10.00 from Barbee Tidball</td>
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<td>$ 5.00 from William Gaskill</td>
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COME CLIMB WITH ME

Send notices to Audrey Goodman, Outings Chair, at music2835@yahoo.com for forwarding to the Editor.

COME CLIMB WITH ME Notices:

1) Small group looking to climb Big Picacho in April/May, and would like to be joined by someone(s) who has already done it, and would like to do it again. Contact Gloria Miladin (gm500@yahoo.com) if interested.

2) Bob Greenawalt is looking for companions to climb the following peaks in Death Valley National Park: Schwaub, Nevares, and Winters Peaks. For more information, contact him at 626-572-0419 or av261@lafn.org.

3) Aging, out-of-state DPS peakbagger seeks companions on his four remaining list peaks. Pico Risco/Cerro Pesca-dores in April/May; South Guardian Angel/Mt.Dubois in Sept. Willing to drive. Jim Prichard: jprichard@lewiscounty.com or 360-494-2335.

COVER PHOTO: Brown Peak from the Deadman Pass Road. Photo by Bob Sumner.

THE DESERT SAGE 7 March/April 2008
OUTINGS CHAIR

Hey there hikers/climbers,

It is a gorgeous day here in Santa Monica as I write this article at the last possible moment (kudos to our EVER patient editor Bob Sumner for putting up with my ‘right to the wire’ submissions). After a few restless weekends home, Brian’s out climbing with Terry Flood for the weekend, and I’m home catching up on DPS business and a board meeting/potluck later today. Unfortunately, I’ve been laid up a couple extra months from the hand surgery I had last Halloween. But happily I’m just about at the point where I can grip a pole again...just in time for what’s no doubt going to be a swell wildflower season in the desert. Brian and I are headed out to do Rincon Peak in Arizona President’s Day weekend. This is a peak some have offered as a potential for DPS list addition.

Speaking of board meetings/potlucks (yes I did, see above), we have a few more left for the season, so I hope you’ll all attend at least one and get in the loop with other friends. If not, you’ve still got some to choose from! The March one will be at the home of yours truly and her honey, and our animal farm (at last count, 2 cats, 1 dog and a dwarf bunny aptly named “Buns”).

Speaking of new peaks (I did that too!), we’ve had volunteers for our Mountaineering Committee since last issue, and you’ll see their names listed in this issue. You’ll also see a write up of La Madre Mtn, one that will be on a ballot for voting consideration SOME day in the not too distant future...this is a long process as you may know. According to current DPS bylaws, peaks for consideration need to be climbed by bona fide leaders in Sierra Club, so even if you would be interested in doing just one potential new peak, come join our committee for a bit, list your peak trip in the SAGE and lead an expedition. Write it up and I’ll get it published and voila! We’ve got another for a ballot and you’ve helped bring it to the club. It is of some concern to me that with recent new permit requirements for Death Valley Peaks, Kino being closed off to access by local Border patrol, and issues with the military concerning Argus and Maturango, completing the list as it currently stands will become more ‘challenging’, and I don’t mean just physically. I think it behooves us all, particularly leaders, to try and get some current explorations out for new areas. Even if done and written up years ago, it’s important to get some up to the minute information on each peak for consideration. How many times have you done a trip in the guide, only to find that dirt roads have disappeared or signs have changed?

Lastly, speaking of leaders (is this lead in getting tired or what!), I haven’t heard from anyone concerning redoing FA courses in order to keep your leader status current. I’ve got a lead or two for FA instructors who would be willing to do a group of us together and we could make a day out of it. Meet for breakfast prior to the start, or go out to dinner together when completed. **I need you to please e mail me and let me know if you’d be interested in doing something like this during the Spring.** I’m happy to arrange for it, if I get some feedback as to who would attend, and we can get a group together. Let me know if you’re in and we’ll work on a date.

Oh, and on the webmaster front, I think we’ve found ‘our man’ and will update all next issue. He’s expressed strong interest in getting our web site up to a high standard of usability and appearance so I’m excited at the prospect.

So get out, have fun, be safe and send in your write ups to the SAGE about the experience!

Happy Days to all, Audrey Goodman, Outings Chair

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ROAD INFORMATION

There has been some storm damage and snow issues on certain roads in Death Valley. The Hunter Mountain Road as well as the Saline Valley North and South Roads have been closed.

Be sure to check the Death Valley Morning Report (new url) at: [http://www.dvnha.org/morning_report/Morning.pdf](http://www.dvnha.org/morning_report/Morning.pdf)
DID YOU KNOW? Did you know that Bruno Geiger was climbing Baldy a few weeks ago, and he ran into David Larsen and daughter Samantha, she being the youngest to ever summit Everest? They exchanged email addresses after Bruno took photos, and then he discovered these were THE Everest Larsens! Well, that's at least four conquerors of Everest whom we know climb Baldy for conditioning.

And while we're on the subject of Mt. Everest, did you know that Dave Underwood (who now resides near Sacramento) emailed many of us that Sir Edmund Hillary had passed away at age 88? Dave included a short but wonderful bio of Sir Edmund. This brought to mind that years ago, I saw a great b/w photo of Mary Sue Miller and Ron Jones posing with Sir Edmund. I emailed Ron who said he met, "Ed," at a Sierra Club Fund Raiser. Ron added, "Those were in the days when the Sierra Club was mainly an outdoor organization, and REI hardly had any beautiful clothes for sale...only boots, ice axes, ropes, and stoves." But back to the story, Ron surprised this renown climber by asking him about his bee keeping activities with his father back in New Zealand. "I'll always remember the look of surprise on his face when I brought up the subject. We later spoke about various climbs in the New Zealand Alps."

Many of us know Ron as a Renaissance type person who is well-read and well-traveled and can speak on many more subjects than climbs and peaks. It'd be a great treat if we could run that impressive photo in one of our Sages. Did You Know that Sir Edmund's first words after descending from Everest to base camp were: "We knocked the bastard off." I doubt if periodicals back in 1953 quoted him exactly. They probably preferred something to the tune of, "For England and our Queen!" Four days later, Queen Elizabeth was crowned, and the perk of the day was announcing Hillary's and Tenzing's "bagging" the greatest prize of all. Good going for Ron and Mary Sue to have met Sir Edmund and enjoyed a memorable conversation with him.

And back home to our climbers, I chatted with Scott Sullivan and Elena Sherman at a recent (and wonderful) Super Bowl Sunday SPS banquet where many DPS, HPS, & SPS climbers preferred the entertainment of Henry Arnebold, Randall and Darrick Danta, over football. Scott related that he keeps in good condition with his yearly 100 mile race over the San Gabriels starting in Wrightwood, over Baden Powell, Chantry Flats, Mt. Wilson, and finally ending up at Johnson Rock, JPL. He has done this for the past decade, and his best time for 100 miles was 29 hours. Elena has done the race, too, and reminded Scott that she beat him in 1998 by 30 minutes! If you want to join Scott and Elena, go to the website AC100.com.

Did You Know that many of our great peak baggers take time out to volunteer with those who are physically challenged but eager to enjoy the Wilderness experience? Andy Fried works up at Mammoth with a group called the Unrecables, persons who may be blind, deaf, amputees, or having cerebral palsy; and Andy takes them skiing on Mammoth Mountain. Tina and Tom Bowman have also worked in this worthy skiing outreach.

And more has been going on in Mammoth as Barbara Sholle was featured on nation-wide news (A.P.) being interviewed when she was stocking up on provisions as she and Dave hunkered down for the Great Mammoth Blizzard of December 2007. The Sholles had received the reverse 911 call advising people to get to Von's and stock up. There were 150 mile winds and zero visibility, and as people were homebound and watching television, there was our Barbara on the evening news! In Texas, frozen iguanas were falling out of trees, and in Mammoth, it was wide-eyed tourists who had forgotten their chains.

Robert Michael writes us again from Colorado that they've had plenty of the white stuff, too. He gave us the latest report on, "yet-another-casualty-on-Little Bear," the Colorado peak which makes California peak-baggers shudder when going for the Colorado List of 14ers. Little Bear was discussed in the last issue specifically the death tunnel.
known as the Hour Glass. A couple of weeks after Jan. 1st, the Hour Glass claimed another victim in an avalanche. Bob so aptly writes, "It was less than two weeks when the predatory carnivorous Little Bear tasted its first human flesh of 2008. A brother and sister team from Loveland was attempting a winter ascent, when the avalanche rolled down the Hour Glass. The girl disappeared, and the boy survived; she now sleeps in the frozen embrace of the Little Bear until spring." Doug Mantle plans to return to Colorado this summer for his final peak of the Colorado 14ers, it being Culebra. We call it the $100 peak, because one must set up reservations with the kindly ranch lady and pay her $100 to climb her peak. The good news is Culebra is a fairly easy peak, and the getting is good if you want to show her the money!

This week a few of us went out to bag Smith Mtn., to get Gene Mauk lined up for his April 19th Sombbrero DPS List Finisher. Did You Know that our own Brian Smith has celebrated two Lists Finishers: one on the SPS peak named Smith and of course the second on the DPS mountain, Smith? Now, that's what I call good planning! Hey, Brian...don't forget there's a Smith Mountain on the HPS List, too!

I'll end my DYK column for now and will look forward to lots more info and scoops as we all get together for some of our celebrations coming up in the next few months. There will be List Beginners and List Finishers and those simply enjoying lovely days in the desert. FYI, I noticed an ad in a mail order catalog where one can order a stone cairn for $19.95 (not including shipping charges). The ad reads, "These cairns represent safety, hope, and friendship and are made of real stones. No two are alike!" Gosh, we can take people for free on DPS peaks, and there are plenty of cairns at no charge. And yes, I agree that a cairn eternally has represented hope that we're on our way (to a summit or the cars) and not hopelessly lost. There's never been a cairn (or duck) that I didn't like!

As you can see DPSers are multi-faceted, talented, handsome, beautiful, and quite extraordinary. Send us your tales (either recent or past history) to be shared with the membership. The weather is warmer, the rains have gone away--so, let's go get those desert peaks and surround ourselves with wildflower spectacular shows.

Happy climbing! - Mary McMannes

CONSERVATION

Greetings fellow DPSers! I hope that the winter is finding you well, and by the looks of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains, it is time to be heading out into the deserts and up onto the peaks that we love and strike our curiosities.

I realize that as you are reading this article, "Super Tuesday" has come and gone. However, it is, with an all be it cynical belief, which I think that there will be four remaining candidates vying for the presidential nominations. So, for this article, I have decided to look at each remaining candidate's environmental policy. First, I would like to begin with Republican candidates Senator John McCain and former governor Mitt Romney, followed by Democratic senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

When I perused Romney's website gazing for information pertaining to his stance on the environment, this is all I could find...ONE PARAGRAPH!! From the Romney Camp:

Ending Energy Dependence: For too long, America has been entangled with and dependent on foreign suppliers of oil. As long as America imports much of our oil from unstable regions and countries around the world, our national security and economic prosperity is threatened. Because energy independence is crucial to our economy and our national security, we must establish it as a top administration priority, and lead the U.S. to a future with affordable and secure energy.

When it came to John McCain, he didn't fair much better than the ambiguity forged by his rival. From the McCain Camp:

John McCain has a proud record of common sense stewardship. Along with his commitment to clean air and water, and to conserving open space, he has been a leader on the issue of global warming with the courage to call the nation to action on an issue we can no longer afford to ignore.

America has been blessed with a rich and diverse natural heritage. In the tradition of his hero, Theodore Roosevelt, John McCain believes that we are vested with a sacred duty to be proper stewards of the resources upon which the quality of American life depends. Ensuring clean air, safe and healthy water, sustainable land use, ample green space - and the faithful care and management of our natural treasures, including our proud National Park System - is a patri-
otic responsibility. One that must be met not only for the benefit of our generation, but for our children and those to whom we will pass the American legacy.

John McCain believes that America's economic and environmental interests are not mutually exclusive, but rather inextricably linked. Our economic prospects depend greatly upon the sustainable use of ample and unspoiled natural resources. A clean and healthy environment is well served by a strong economy. History shows that poverty is a poor steward.

The Democrats, as most people know, have built some of their domestic policies around the environment. Both Clinton and Obama have comprehensive environmental policies.

The Clinton Camp states that: Hillary has a bold and comprehensive plan to address America's energy and environmental challenges that will establish a green, efficient economy and create as many as five million new jobs.

Centered on a cap and trade system for carbon emissions, stronger energy and auto efficiency standards and a significant increase in green research funding, Hillary's plan will reduce America's reliance on foreign oil and address the looming climate crisis.

Setting ambitious targets, the plan would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050 to avoid the worst effects of global warming, and cut foreign oil imports by two-thirds from 2030 projected levels, more than 10 million barrels per day.

Hillary would transform our economy from carbon-based to clean and energy efficient, jumpstarting research and development through a $50 billion Strategic Energy Fund and doubling investment in basic energy research. She would also spur the green building industry by funding the retrofitting and modernization of 20 million low-income homes and take concrete steps to reduce electricity consumption, including enacting strict appliance efficiency standards and phasing out incandescent light bulbs.

Recognizing that transportation accounts for 70 percent of U.S. oil consumption, Hillary would increase fuel efficiency standards to 55 miles per gallon by 2030, but would help automakers retool their production facilities through $20 billion in "Green Vehicle Bonds."

To take the steps necessary to transition to a clean and renewable energy future, Hillary will urge all of the nation's stakeholders to contribute to the effort. Automakers will be asked to make more efficient vehicles; oil and energy companies to invest in cleaner, renewable technologies; utilities to ramp up use of renewable and modernize the grid; coal companies to implement clean coal technology; government to establish a cap and trade carbon emissions system and renew its leadership in energy efficient buildings and services; individuals to conserve energy and utilize efficient light bulbs and appliances in their homes; and industry to build energy efficient homes and buildings.

Finally, the Obama Camp:

* Reduce Carbon Emissions 80 Percent by 2050
* Invest in a Clean Energy Future
* Support Next Generation Biofuels
* Set America on Path to Oil Independence
* Improve Energy Efficiency 50 Percent by 2030
* Restore U.S. Leadership on Climate Change

The Problem

Foreign Oil: America's 20-million-barrel-a-day oil habit costs our economy $1.4 billion a day, and $500 billion in 2006 alone. Every single hour, we spend $41 million on foreign oil.

Climate Change: As a result of climate change, glaciers are melting faster; the polar ice caps are shrinking; trees are blooming earlier; more people are dying in heat waves; species are migrating, and eventually many will become extinct.

Barack Obama's Plan

Reduce Carbon Emissions 80 Percent by 2050

* Confront Deforestation and Promote Carbon Sequestration: Obama will develop domestic incentives that reward forest owners, farmers, and ranchers when they plant trees, restore grasslands, or undertake farming practices that capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
Invest in a Clean Energy Future

* Invest $150 Billion over 10 Years in Clean Energy: Obama will invest $150 billion over 10 years to advance the next generation of biofuels and fuel infrastructure, accelerate the commercialization of plug-in hybrids, promote development of commercial-scale renewable energy, invest in low-emissions coal plants, and begin the transition to a new digital electricity grid. A principal focus of this fund will be devoted to ensuring that technologies that are developed in the U.S. are rapidly commercialized in the U.S. and deployed around the globe.

Support Next Generation Biofuels

* Deploy Cellulosic Ethanol: Obama will invest federal resources, including tax incentives, cash prizes and government contracts into developing the most promising technologies with the goal of getting the first two billion gallons of cellulosic ethanol into the system by 2013.

* Expand Locally-Owned Biofuel Refineries: Less than 10 percent of new ethanol production today is from farmer-owned refineries. New ethanol refineries help jumpstart rural economies. Obama will create a number of incentives for local communities to invest in their biofuels refineries.

* Establish a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard: Barack Obama will establish a National Low Carbon Fuel Standard to speed the introduction of low-carbon non-petroleum fuels. The standard requires fuels suppliers to reduce the carbon their fuel emits by ten percent by 2020.

* Increase Renewable Fuel Standard: Obama will require 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels to be included in the fuel supply by 2022 and will increase that to at least 60 billion gallons of advanced biofuels like cellulosic ethanol by 2030.

Set America on Path to Oil Independence

Obama's plan will reduce oil consumption by at least 35 percent, or 10 million barrels per day, by 2030. This will more than offset the equivalent of the oil we would import from OPEC nations in 2030.

* Increase Fuel Economy Standards: Obama will double fuel economy standards within 18 years. His plan will provide retooling tax credits and loan guarantees for domestic auto plants and parts manufacturers, so that they can build new fuel-efficient cars rather than overseas companies. Obama will also invest in advanced vehicle technology such as advanced lightweight materials and new engines.

Improve Energy Efficiency 50 Percent by 2030

* Set National Building Efficiency Goals: Barack Obama will establish a goal of making all new buildings carbon neutral, or produce zero emissions, by 2030. He'll also establish a national goal of improving new building efficiency by 50 percent and existing building efficiency by 25 percent over the next decade to help us meet the 2030 goal.

* Establish a Grant Program for Early Adopters: Obama will create a competitive grant program to award those states and localities that take the first steps to implement new building codes that prioritize energy efficiency.

* Invest in a Digital Smart Grid: Obama will pursue a major investment in our utility grid to enable a tremendous increase in renewable generation and accommodate modern energy requirements, such as reliability, smart metering, and distributed storage.

Restore U.S. Leadership on Climate Change

* Create New Forum of Largest Greenhouse Gas Emitters: Obama will create a Global Energy Forum — that includes all G-8 members plus Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa —the largest energy consuming nations from both the developed and developing world. The forum would focus exclusively on global energy and environmental issues.

* Re-Engage with the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change: The UNFCCC process is the main international forum dedicated to addressing the climate problem and an Obama administration will work constructively within it.

Personal political beliefs aside, it does not take one long to see that both Democrat candidates have a much more comprehensive environmental policy than the Republicans. I am not here to try and persuade you to vote one way or the other, but please, when voting in the General Election in November, vote with the environment in mind.

All the best, Peter
Banquet Program features “WILD PLACES of the AMERICAS”

The Desert Peaks Section is pleased to announce that Rich Henke will be our speaker at our 2008 Annual Banquet. An avid photographer and adventurer Rich will present his talk and slide show “WILD PLACES of the AMERICAS”.

Rich Henke, world traveler and photographer for almost 30 years, takes us on an adventure to remote wilderness areas from Southern Chile to Arctic Canada. Far from roads, these places provide exciting destinations for canoeing, climbing, and backpacking. Starting in Patagonia, we visit Cerro Torre, one of the most beautiful mountains in the world, once considered the most difficult to climb. Far away on Baffin Island in Northern Canada, we witness a unique 10-day backpack through glacial valleys, past one of the most unusual peaks in the world, Mt Asgard. Other stops along the way include a solo climb of Huascaran - the highest peak in Peru, a visit to the Hunyhuash - where Joe Simpson survived his epic ordeal in "Touching the Void", a float of the Dirty Devil River in Southern Utah, a hike along the wild coast of the Olympic Northwest, and more.

Along with adventure travel and photography, Rich’s many outdoor activities include climbing, river and sea kayaking, mountain biking, backcountry skiing and canyoneering.

When: Sunday, April 27, 2008
Where: The Reef Restaurant, 880 South Harbor Scenic Dr.
Time: 5:00 pm - Social Hour/No Host Bar  6:30 pm - Dinner  7:30 pm - Program
Banquet tickets: $36. Please Reserve by April 21
Note: There is an additional $4 charge per ticket for reservations made after April 21
Dinner Choices: Prime Rib  Salmon  Vegetarian (indicate number of each)
Raffle items include: watercolor by Elaine Baldwin, serigraph by Edna Erspermer and many more wonderful items. Raffle tickets are 5 for $3 if purchased in advance or $1 each at the door.
For reservations: Please indicate number of banquet tickets at $36 a piece, specify your dinner selection: Prime Rib, Salmon or Vegetarian, and specify number of raffle tickets.
Mail check payable to DPS to DPS Treasurer: Gloria Miladin, 11946 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90242. For questions e-mail Gloria: gm500@yahoo.com or Edna: mtnart1@aol.com
Driving Instructions to the Reef: From the junction of the 405 and 710 freeways in Long Beach, drive south on the 710; follow signs toward the Queen Mary; exit right to “Piers H J, Harbor Scenic Drive”; at the first stop sign, turn left under the bridge; The Reef is ahead to the left.

"Lost in the Wave" Coyote Buttes

"Twin Walls" Baffin Island
Trip reports from scheduled DPS outings and private trips to any peaks or areas of interest to Sage recipients are welcomed and encouraged. Please refer to the back cover for CORRESPONDENCE submission details. Next submission deadline is APRIL 12, 2008.

The fires seemed like they wanted to consume Southern California completely. They raged in Malibu, they ripped the San Fernando Valley and the hills of Santa Clarita, razed hundreds of structures all around Lake Arrowhead, scorched thousands of acres in Orange County, and consumed thousands of homes in two major fires in San Diego, spreading across the border and into Mexico. That’s just naming a few of them.

What a great time to have a chili cook-off in the San Diego county desert area! We had 45 people sign up for the event, and as the date got closer, the fires kept growing, and we started getting some nervous participants. We kept in touch with the park headquarters at Anza Borrego State Park. The rangers we had contacted, who would “keep an eye” on our site for us were fighting fires in San Diego. The city of Borrego Springs became one of the numerous shelters for residents of towns like Julian and Rancho Bernardo.

Our site, way south of Borrego Springs on S2, but about 25 miles north of the city of Ocotillo, was, according to the Park Headquarters on the morning of October 26th, still open for us, but we should expect smoke. At that point, any place WITHOUT smoke was in jeopardy of overpopulation.

We sent out a mass email mid-week advising people to try to avoid driving the freeways in San Diego and to instead take the northern routes to the site via the Salton Sea or Temecula. The less traffic for the fire fighters to deal with, the better, so we wanted to stay out of their way.

We started getting some cancellations on the Thursday before the event, and a concerned Barbee Tidball called early Friday morning wondering about the smoke and traffic and whether we should cancel or try another site. Yvonne and I made another call to the park headquarters who advised us that the park was open, the wind was again blowing the smoke away from our area, and the fires were over 30 miles from where we wanted to play. Barbee was called back and reassured, so it was a “go”.

Jack Wickel caravanned with us on the way down. We left San Dimas around 1 pm, fighting heavy traffic until we reached the Palm Springs 111 turnoff from the 10, and then it opened up a bit. We got to the site about an hour before dark and started setting up for the 15th annual chili cook-off.

The direction to site was 1.1 miles east of S2 on “The Great Overland Stagecoach Road”, and .3 mile north off of that good dirt road. We were short of the Carrizo Badlands and surrounded by large creosote bushes. “Leveling rocks” for the vehicles were few and far between, as the ground was mainly sand and dirt, but it was a large flat area and we could have had a much larger group without crowding anyone. We put up a couple of “paper-plate” signs announcing the event at the turnoffs, but they could have been larger, because not everyone saw them.

Laura Webb arrived shortly thereafter, alerting us that Terry Flood had turned off the approach road a little early and was stuck in some sand. By the time Jack and I got to his vehicle, he had accumulated enough rocks to pave his way out of the sand, and we pushed him out.
easily. He must have been there a while, because he had lots of rocks in a place where none were evident!

Brad and Amanda Jamison showed up a little after sundown with their hog-dogs Marley, Kiah and Angel, and they got their camp and chili display arranged.

We had a great sunset Friday night, because there was definitely smoke around us, but it wasn’t bad where we were. People trickled in all night, as usual for DPS outings.

In the morning there were vehicles parked all over the place. Brian Smith and Audrey Goodman made their usual late night appearance, but Nevada and I woke Brian and Charlie up, leaving Audrey to doze a little. Henry Arnebold rolled in a little after 7:15, ready to hike. Larry and Barbee had hit major traffic on the way out, and found a fabulous dinner spot in the city of Redlands. By the time their gourmet meal was eaten, the traffic was lessened, and they got in around 1 am. Jack Wickel decided not to hike, as insomnia had struck him the night before, and he declared himself out of the game.

We were supposed to be on the road by 7:30, but it was 8:10 before we had carpooled 10 hikers into 3 vehicles for the climb of Sombrero Peak.

We reached the trailhead close to 9 am. Larry led the way past the palm trees and up the southern slope. This was the first “listed” hike for Josie Singelerry, a friend of Glen Bernard, (son of Randy Bernard, editor of the first DPS Road and Peak Guide), and Amanda Jamison, daughter-in-law of Scot and Yvonne. We almost lost Josie on the first steep slope, due mainly to the steep and loose footing, but, after a short rest near the top of the slope and some encouragement by Barbee and the rest of the group, we all continued on.

Meantime, Jack the Wickel officially woke up, realized we had gone without him, so he casually ate breakfast, packed up and leisurely drove to the trailhead alone. By the time we began the short rest near the top of the first slope, he was walking ahead of Larry. So what else is new?

Jack, Larry and Amanda reached the summit about ½ hour ahead of the sweep, and we were all on top before noon. There was still quite a view from the top of Sombrero, even with fires to the south, west and north. Pictures were taken, especially of Josie and Amanda, who both put their #1 in the register. Eleven happy faces on top! Terry Flood pointed out some of the non DPS peaks and landmarks of the area, as he and the “San Diego crowd” have climbed just about every circled topo point in the county. The wind shifted a bit on our way down, but the smoke wasn’t a bother.

The trip back down was fairly uneventful, except that two of the fastest “descenders” in the DPS, Mr. Tidball and Mr. Wickel, had a tall, thin and very fast Amanda on their heels all the way to the trailhead.

Back at the cars, Henry made the mistake of opening his cooler, and every beer he brought managed to spill down a thirsty throat. (thanks, Henry!) We saved one for Rich Gnagy, who was pointing out the best route for Barbee and Josie and Glen on the way down. Brian Smith and I vowed to pay him back, but it may not have happened!

Jack took Amanda, who was scheduled to cook in the chili cook-off, back to the site to start preparations while the rest of us regrouped. As they drove down Indian Gorge Road they saw and Jack photographed some bighorn sheep!

Upon our return to the site we found that the group had

Audrey Goodman, Laura Webb, Yvonne & Amanda Jamison, David Baldwin, & Gloria Miladin. Photo by Terry Flood.

Bighorn sheep near the Indian Gorge Road. Photo by Jack Wickel.
grown to 29 plus 8 canines. The chili was being prepared and some pumpkins were being carved. The desert was so dry that the pumpkins were all attacked by voracious stink bugs, happily burying their heads in the moist pulp of the gourds. Odd that not one tarantula was seen that weekend. They are usually out wooing other big black hairy spiders in October.

Terry Flood set-up horseshoe pits for participation of the tasters, and he and Greg Roach had their own contest.

Yvonne handed out colorful Halloween beads to all attendees this year instead of the usual chili beads. The Oriental Trading Company catalog sales loves it when Yvonne prepares for a party!

The theme of this year's chili cook-off was “chili-o-ween”, since Halloween was just a few days off. We had six cooks, all of whom prepared (and displayed) delicious and varied styles of chili.

After a short happy hour, Yvonne introduced the cooks, who described their concoctions, listed their ingredients and tried to entice the votes of the tasters. Ballots were handed out, and the tasting began around 5 pm.

The ballots were collected and the compilation was performed by JW and a couple of helpers. The results were as follows:

Best Texan: (Without beans) Yvonne Jamison and her “Yvonne's Body Part Brew”.

She also won “Best Chili Verde”.

Best Vegetarian: Won by Amanda Jamison, who will make Scot Jamison a grandfather come next July!

Spiciest Chili: Audrey Goodman, who drove to Borrego Springs in the morning for some ingredients for her “Anza Borrego's Famuz Center Market Chili” that proved to be exceptionally spicy and very good!

Best Traditional Chili was put together by Laura Webb with her Cowgirl Chili.

Yvonne was awarded Best Presentation. She had help from Laura Webb by hanging bones on creosote bushes, and she had hand wrapped trick-or-treat offerings, but her fruit filled sangria may have pushed the judges over the edge.

The most unusual chili was offered by long time favorite David Baldwin with his Black Sheep Chili. For those of us who love lamb, this was a special treat! For those who felt otherwise, well......at least they tasted it! David’s chili also took the Best Runner-up Trophy.

Gloria Miladin, who has been an active participant in the Chili Cook-off for many years, came out on top for Best Overall Chili with her “Gloria's Chicken Chile”. Gloria’s recipe, which included lima beans, and was particularly tasty to me, is listed on the next page.

She also made a run at best presentation with some help from her friend Maria.

Six pumpkins were entered in the carving contest. Elaine Baldwin carved a fantastic owl that took the trophy, but unofficial honorable mentions went to Brad Jamison with his puking pumpkin, Audrey Goodman with her vegetarian Groucho, Janet Damen’s mesh checkerboard (that had totally collapsed in the morning!), Laura’s cat pumpkin and Scot’s traditional horror face.

Special thanks to Carr's Trophies and Engraving of Lake Forest for again supplying outstanding Chili plaques for the cook-off and a very nice trophy for the best pumpkin carving. Bruce and Melinda could not attend this year due to the fires, but Christine Carr made a special run from Rancho Cucamonga to Lake Forest and back to San Dimas early Friday morning to pick-up and deliver the donated awards for the event. She’s great!

The only smoke that bothered the group at this chili cook-off was that from the campfire—it always seems to find its’ way into everyone's eyes at some point, but that happens with every campfire!

Audrey Goodman has compiled Desert Peak songbooks by polling DPS members for their favorite songs. She brought her guitar and had high participation sing-alongs at the campfire Saturday night. She has put lots of effort into the Desert Peak Section of late, and deserves special recognition for her contributions.

Normally the cooks are partially repaid for their efforts and food purchases with monies collected from the tasters. Since this year's event was held in a state park, there would have been lots of paperwork to submit and be approved had monies been exchanged. The leaders decided to forego the pleasure of bureaucracy by eliminating the $5.00 tasting fee, so we apologize to the cooks who had to foot the costs of their entries by
themselves.

Perhaps the tasting fee should go back into effect for the next chili cook-off, but an increase in taster fees should be considered.

Thanks to everyone who braved the traffic, fires and smoke to attend this 15th annual cook-off. Yvonne and I have enjoyed putting this event on for the past 5 years, but it is time to hand over the ladle to someone else. The “rules” that were passed on to us by Igor and Suzanne Mamedalin and Ron and Leora Jones a few years back are that the event must be reachable by 2wd vehicles, the site must be large enough to accommodate around 50 people, dogs and their vehicles, that it is close enough to the LA area to draw enough people to participate, and that there is a listed peak (preferably DPS, but we have done HPS peaks also!) to climb nearby.

We have tried to keep the site within a 200 mile range of LA, but each year it seems more difficult to find a location that fits the bill that is LEGAL, environmentally friendly, free of off-road traffic, has sufficiently high vegetation to allow personal privacy, (That’s FIRST in Yvonne’s book!), and that will be aesthetically pleasing to the participants.

We normally spend one or two weekends bouncing around the desert evaluating sites, and that’s a lot of fun! Three years ago we had found a great site set near Chuckwalla Mtn months before the event, but heavy rains washed out all the roads, and we panicked two weeks prior when we could not get there in a 4wd vehicle! Fortunately we were able to move the site and alert all participants before it was too late. We found the Anza Borrego Rangers to be very helpful this year, and the people at BLM have offered several choices over the years and have let us know if we were legal—(dashing quite a few plans, actually!). Don’t do one in Death Valley!

Since David Baldwin has accumulated such a large amount of wins, trophies and menus for this event, and he is passionately serious in his chili research, we mentioned that he and Elaine should consider taking the ladle. However, there are many passionate chili aficionados who attend the chili cook-off, so those interested should contact the DPS outings chairperson. We will be available to turn over the banner, ballots and other chili cook-off supplies to the next event organizer.

GLORIA’S CHICKEN CHILI

Ingredients:
1 lb chicken breasts cubed
4 white onions chopped
1 chicken cube for flavor
4 gloves garlic minced
1 large can of whole tomatoes (28 oz)
1 bag of small dry lima beans (cooked)
1/2 cup cashew nuts
1 cup bittersweet chocolate
4 green peppers coarsely chopped
5 dry Ancho and 5 dry California chilies (ground into a powder)
2 tbs each: cumin, coriander, and anise seeds (ground in mortar)
2 tbs oregano leaves
2 bay leaves
Olive oil for sautéing
Condiments:
Chopped avocados sprinkled with lemon or lime juice.
Fresh cilantro leaves coarsely chopped
Plain low fat yogurt
Chili Preparation:
In a stock pot sauté onion, garlic, green peppers, and salt in olive oil. Add chicken and stir to coat. Stir in chile, tomatoes, bay leaves, oregano leaves, and ground seeds of cumin, coriander and anise. Cover and simmer for 45 minutes. Add salt as needed.

Serve in a bowl topped with yogurt, avocados, and cilantro leaves.

TUCKI MTN
November 16, 2007
By Gene Mauk

On a fine November afternoon, Doug Mantle, Bob Sunner and I, met at a rest stop near the junction of Hwy 190 and the Emigrant Canyon road in Death Valley National Park for a planned climb of Tucki Mtn. We chose to drive the Telephone Canyon road as far toward the peak as we dared. So off we went. It took an hour to drive 1 1/2 miles to a fine camping area at a pass at about 4900’. The road to the pass is in surprisingly good shape considering how little use it gets. We were early to bed after a good dinner and the usual jovial jawboning.

At 6:45 the next morning we consolidated into my Explorer and drove another half mile up a rather steep road to the top of the first ridge to the north. We opted to
My thanks to Doug and Bob for helping me get another "needed" desert peak.

*Photos this article by Gene Mauk.*

LA MADRE MOUNTAIN
November 21, 2007
By Mark Adrian

Driving past this peak way too many times, it was fulfilling to finally summit La Madre with longtime climbing friends Terry Flood, Gail Hanna and Richard Carey, all well-seasoned DPSers. Despite being collared way too much by employment, I was able to escape those confines and enjoy a two week climbing excursion on the Arizona Strip, summiting La Madre en route, which has been on my agenda for some time. I had to forfeit the peak a few months prior after summiting nearby Sheep Peak near Hayford when friend ("grandpa") Terry Flood insisted on visiting his granddaughter, thus forfeiting any serious hiking potential. At least I caught up on cable cinema and balanced out from our marathon climb on Sheep (south of Hayford, a really swell climb from the east). And then again a couple months later, on return from 2x on N/S Guardian, La Madre loomed on the horizon as JohnStrauch and I sped past on the 115. So close but so far! Third time was a charm though and we had a good group and excellent weather.

After meeting in Baker and warming up on BM Silver Lake, our group of four started out the next day on a brisk, clear Fall morning for La Madre at the end of a rather rocky and slow-moving 4WD track (standard driving for DPSers). Being late November, the weather...
was clear and cool ... OK, kinda downright COLD ... layers were needed. Gail and Richard had attempted the peak the month before but had run out of daylight, aborted and turned back, so the route was partially scouted. Thanks to their previous efforts, we had good insight and the anticipated route went very well. Our route (from the north) somewhat paralleled the natural ridgeline and we meandered through beautiful and scenic pinon forests with great views of the Spring and Sheep ranges, including many DPS peaks. One fascinating feature of La Madre is a large, bald, exposed and apparently granitic slab, perhaps 45-degrees or more. A most unusual formation amidst the forested slopes. The final approach to the summit (8154') offers an optional and exhilarating hogsback and the views to the south, east and north are DPS class (although you have to overlook the Las Vegas sprawl). From the 4WD trailhead, the hike is about 4.5 miles RT, 2300' gain.

Personally, I feel La Madre should replace the antenna-strewn Potosi. Some modest class three (hogsback) near the summit was a sweet climax to the route. We all agreed this is a DPS nominee must. Of course, I have dozens of personal favorites (did someone say CABEZA PRIETA?), but this peak seems ripe for the DPS list. Qualifying our impression of La Madre, the omnipotent Bob Michael agrees: "Since La Madre is a spur that projects to the east from the same range toward the Las Vegas Valley, the views of the city, Lake Mead, and beyond to the Grand Wash Cliffs in Arizona and the Pine Valley Mountains in Utah arc superb."

With great trailhead camping, relatively easy 4WD access off pavement, an attractive climbing route, great views en route to the summit, a couple thousand feet gain and proximity to World class buffets, DPSers should surely embrace this peak as a List nominee, perhaps worthy of replacing nearby Potosi, my least favorite of any desert peak I have ever climbed in my life (OK, well maybe Canyon Point and Panamint Butte are contestable).

Attached map with waypoints should encourage DPSers to try this on for size as well as nearby Sheep Peak and Gass.

Courtesy of Richard Carey: On Nevada Hwy. 95 north of Las Vegas, turn west on Kyle Canyon Road, Hwy. 157. Drive 8.6 miles and turn left onto Harris Canyon Road which is unsigned, but is a wide, graded dirt road. Drive into the canyon then west for 2.7 miles and turn off left onto a poor jeep road. Four-wheel drive is needed on this road which is full of stones and has two steep dips. Drive south up the slopes for 2.8 miles and park at a small camp area at the end of the road.

*Photos this article by Mark Adrian.*

On the summit, back to front, Richard Carey, Gail Hanna and Terry Flood

Halfway to the summit along route's ridge and La Madre's peculiar "bald spot."
DPS XMAS PARTY & POTLUCK
December 2, 2007
By Mary McMannes

One of the great ideas to stimulate interest and excitement in DPS meetings was having monthly potlucks. I mean, who doesn’t love a party? And then with the wine flowing, it’s amazing how many people volunteer to lead trips (much to Audrey and Michael’s delight.) The October-fest potluck was held at Dave and Elaine Baldwin’s, and it was a great turnout, indeed. Dave was true to his vocation as Grill Master and was out there watching those German sausages and brats turn a golden hue while DPSers were soaking up draughts from a keg of dark ale. After all the revelers had eaten and drank to their satisfaction, the Roaches, the Baldwins, and the Bartells topped the evening off with some enjoyable slide shows.

December rolled around, and the 2nd was the chosen date for Mary Mac’s annual DPS holiday party in Lake Resedey—and twinkling Christmas lights were strung amidst balloons and DPS signs pointing the way to Party-Hearty Land in Mary’s townhouse. As promised, it was small but filled with love (ah shucks) and "COZY" was the word of the evening as 35 gathered, loaded with casseroles, salads, and desserts that would rival any Garrison Keillor’s most lavish Lutheran’s church dinner. Oh, did we ever eat, and oh did we ever drink! Storytelling and boasting flowed outrageously, and a good time was had by all. The important people were there (well, almost all of them) -- and we were delighted to meet Lubos (from Czechoslovakia) and Eva from Germany, new climbers to the DPS. Lubos had a great time sharing stories with Vic and Sue (Henney) about their climbs of the high point of Slovakia and also the high points of the U.S. (one of Lubos’ many climbing goals.) As I introduced this young couple to the various DPSers (also SPSers and HPSers), I was proud to say."

And he’s finished the List..and she’s finished the List..and she did all three lists (our Tina), and he did a first ascent of an Afghanistan peak back in the mid sixties (Erick Schumacher), and she’s the editor of the Echo (Sara), and he’s the chairman of SPS (Derrick)," and more accolades, too many to be mentioned here. What a collection of likers and climbers we have -- many of us may no longer be classified as the Young and the Restless, but we still are a specialized and exceptional gaggle of people yet performing with the Right Stuff. I looked around the room and felt enormous pride to have friends of this ilk gathered in my humble abode.

As the main entree eating wound down, people were seen running down to the garage where I had stored the desserts hoping to bring the delectables upstairs. Weaving in and out of trash cans and Betty McRuer’s car, the partiers helped themselves to an array of pies, cakes, fudge, and cookies. Is this what they mean by a progressive dinner? Well, no one went home hungry, that’s for sure.

Thanks to all who came and celebrated the official opening of the holidays— the Sholles, Henneys, Dantas (Derrick), Hollemans, Baldwins, Perkins, Edna E. and Ed, the Bowmans, the Schumachers, Roaches, Motherals, Frank Dobos and Lucille, Julie Rush, Betty McRuer, Lubos Brieda and Eva Koehler, Sherry Harsh, Tom Sumner. Forgive me if I missed a name or two.

Mima Roach gets the Fashion Statement of the Season with a black lace sequined ensemble complete with knee high velvet boots. Hubba hubba, Mima!

Big desert parties are pending in ’08 as we have some DPSers on the brink of List Completion — Ed Herrman, Dave and Ann Perkins, and Gene Mauk. I predict that Gene Mauk will be the first DPS List Finisher in 2008!

- Muy Muy Merry from Mary Mac
Randy and Glen Bernard, c. mid-1960s. Photo provided by Glen Bernard.

BOOK REVIEWS

A DEATH VALLEY DUO

DEATH VALLEY & THE AMARGOSA
(1986), Richard E. Lingenfelter

LOST MINES OF DEATH VALLEY
(1953), Harold O. Weight

DEATH VALLEY & THE AMARGOSA (1986), Richard E. Lingenfelter

The good news is that Richard E. Lingenfelter has done an excellent job in researching, compiling and writing Death Valley & the Amargosa, probably the single most extensive history of the area—beginning in the 1850s, shortly after the ‘49ers blundered through the valley, until 1933, when President Herbert Hoover proclaimed the area to be a National Monument—ever written.

The bad news is that Richard E. Lingenfelter has done a marvelous job of research in compiling... (see above).

Let me explain this apparent disconnect. The fact is, to be fair to their authors, I read all the books I review from cover to cover. The problem is that Lingenfelter has written such a detailed history, dealing primarily with the legions of prospectors, many of whom repeatedly drift in and out of the story, and the subsequent mines, many of which were worked and reworked, and named and renamed, that it is virtually impossible to keep the voluminous information sorted out in one’s mind.

To put it another way, this may not be the best book with which to curl up in front of a fire and read straight through. Perhaps one would be better off to use the 644-page volume as a reference on specific persons, places or events. Indeed, among the many admirable features of Death Valley & the Amargosa are its 25-page index, its 54-page bibliography, and its 106-page notes to the text, all of which make selective inquiry so very easy.

But let’s take a closer look at Death Valley & the Amargosa, which, to be truthful, does include a bit of information other than that relating to prospectors and mining.

In fact, leading off, Lingenfelter reminds us that Death Valley is the lowest, hottest and driest spot in America. Furthermore, it was in February 1861 when Joel Brooks, a braggart and ruffian who had been run out of every town in the southern San Joaquin Valley, became the first to guess that the floor of Death Valley might actually be below sea level. In spite of a government officer who branded him “a vagrant and outlaw,” and concluded that “his statements are totally unworthy of credit,” a month later, in March 1861, a barometric reading proved Brooks, who had helped surveyor Henry Washington run township lines through the valley four years earlier, to be correct.

Lingenfelter also informs us that the Indians native to Death Valley belonged to three tribes—the Shoshone (occupying the northern half of the valley and its surrounding mountains), the Southern Piute (occupying the area south and east of Furnace Creek), and the Kawaiisu (occupying the extreme southern end of the valley and the Panamints). “Actual boundaries in this barren land were ill-defined at best; all that mattered was who held the springs and pinyon lands, and even these distinctions were blurred by intertribal marriages.”

The first white men to enter the area were horse traders and horse raiders, who in 1839, while moving livestock from California to New Mexico, crossed a “hard, meager trail” along the southern edge of Death Valley. Next came the hapless ‘49ers, who lost their oxen, their wagons, most of their possessions and a few even their lives while crossing the valley, but who were also cause for the first silver rush in the area. Indeed, because of a small sample of rich silver-lead ore found in the vicinity of Tucki Mountain, and subsequently fashioned into a gunsight by Jim Martin, a member of the Georgian party, a group of Mariposa miners headed for Death Valley that very same spring, even before the snow melted off the Sierra passes, in search of what is now known as the “Lost Gunsight Lode.”

No significant finds were discovered, however, and prospecting in the area remained at a low ebb until early 1864, when Charles C. Breyfogle, a stout, balding New Yorker in his mid-fifties, discovered a rich gold-bearing ledge somewhere in the vicinity of Furnace Creek. His find, which he promptly lost again, the so-called Lost Breyfogle, became cause for an untold number of fruitless prospecting treks into the valley, including one in 1866, which included the then governor of Nevada.

An interesting sidelight to the Breyfogle story involves Leander Morton, one of the first to find gold on Gold Mountain, north of the current Scotty’s Castle, just
across the Nevada State Line. Looking for the lost ledge in the fall of 1865, he and two others found a rich-looking outcropping, took their samples for assay in Austin, NV, and found, unfortunately, that the ore wasn’t rich enough to mine profitably. In 1870, still looking for easy money, Morton attempted to rob a Central Pacific train. His luck was no better. He was caught, convicted and sent to Nevada State Prison at Carson City.

“Unrepentant, Morton led a massive prison break in September 1871, and headed back toward Death Valley to hide out until spring. He never made it. In Long Valley, near what is now known as Convict Lake, he and two other escapees were captured by a posse and hung. Such was the fate of the discoverer of Gold Mountain.”

In fact, it wasn’t until the final third of the nineteenth century that mining in the Death Valley area finally became profitable, and then it was due to the persistence of individual pocket miners. Indeed, there were three types of successful prospectors, i.e., those who found lodes “so rich that the ore paid a profit even though it had to be shipped hundreds or thousands of miles for reduction,” those who found lodes fortunately situated near a spring and stand of pinyon, so that the ore could be profitably worked close by, and, last but not least, those who ran scams, using rich assayers, not representative of their finds, to fleece investors in San Francisco and across the country.

Borax entered the Death Valley story in November 1881, when William T. Coleman and Francis Marion Smith purchased claims, located on the floor of the valley a few miles north of Furnace Creek, from Aaron Winters. During the decade that followed, Coleman, a respected but controversial San Francisco commission broker and vigilante leader, shipped, via the famous 20 mule team wagons, roughly a million dollars worth of borax out of the area—more than all of Death Valley’s gold and silver mines had yet produced. From 1890 to 1900, however, most borax production was shifted to the Calico area, so as to be closer to less expensive transportation on the Santa Fe railroad.

Lingenfelter dwells at length on the histories of Panamint City, 1874-75; the Ibex Mine (nine miles north of Saratoga Spring), 1882; the Confidence Mine (8 miles northwest of the Ibex Mine), 1891; Bullfrog mining area, discovered in the summer of 1904 by Frank “Shorty” Harris; the Keane Wonder Mine, discovered by Jack Keane and Domingo Etcharren in April 1904; Greenwater, discovered by Fred Birney and Phil Creason in January 1905; Rhyolite townsite, also established in 1905; Skidoo, discovered in May 1906; and the reopening of the old Tecopa mine by its long-time owner, Jonas Osborne, upon the arrival of the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad in the area in late 1906/early 1907.

And that was just about the last hurrah for mining in Death Valley. Except for an 1899-1915 resurrection of Borax mining along Furnace Creek Wash (the Lila C. mine); tale extraction, beginning in 1912, by Lycurgus Lindsay, from his deposit east of Tecopa; and the onset of the mining for clay for use in clarifying oil in the Southern California refineries (during the late 1920s to early 1930s), the heavy days of mining in Death Valley were over.

Death Valley, however, had become intriguing. Illustrated boxes of 20 Mule Team Borax, ever so popular throughout the U.S., inspired wonder about the area, and books such as The White Heart of the Mojave, reviewed in the Desert Sage, November/December 2007), and Frank Norris’ McTeague, a popular novel published in 1899, fanned imaginations. (Note: Erich von Stroheim, scoffing at the very real dangers, shot the desert scenes for his classic film, Greed—based upon McTeague—on location in Death Valley in August, 1923).

The first automobile arrived in Death Valley in June 1906. Indeed, mining mogul George Graham Rice sent an 80-horsepower Pope Toledo, driven by James Hopper, with his front man, “Shanghai Larry” Sullivan, and another as passengers, on a wild race from Goldfield, NV, across the floor of Death Valley, to beat steel magnet Charles Schwab to a new mining prospect at Emigrant Spring. And that was that, the automobile had come to Death Valley to stay.

In his last chapter, “A Nice Place to Visit,” Lingenfelter relates the story of Bob Eichbaum, who built a toll road over Tonne Pass in 1925, and who in November 1926, opened the valley’s first tourist accommodation, the Stove Pipe Wells Hotel. Eichbaum didn’t have a monopoly on the tourist business for long, however, as just three months later the Furnace Creek Inn, located on the low ridge at the mouth of Furnace Creek Wash, was opened by Borax Consolidated.
Further additions to the Furnace Creek facility, plus a nearby nine-hole golf course and an airfield were built in 1929.

And, of course, let’s not forget Death Valley Scotty. Indeed, the mysterious Walter Edward Scott—former trick rider for Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show, prospector, and bon vivant—had been making headlines for several years, and thus the construction of his “castle,” begun in 1922, also provided a big draw. One wag claimed that “all Death Valley is divided into three parts: Death Valley; the Death Valley mountain ranges; and Death Valley Scotty. And the greatest of these is Death Valley Scotty.”

In 1930, the Pacific Coast Borax Co. began a new radio show, “Death Valley Days,” a program that eventually “attracted a faithful following and went on to become one of the longest running shows on the air—fourteen years on radio plus eighteen more on television—the latter hosted for a time by Ronald Reagan.”

Due in large part to this growing popularity, President Herbert Hoover, on February 11, 1933, signed a proclamation designating Death Valley as a National Monument. Lingenfelter avers that this act prevented the valley from becoming another cluttered Las Vegas or Palm Springs, thus it “helped save the valley’s great illusions of elusive riches and unfathomable mysteries and lurking deadliness, feeding and guarding them but leaving them plenty of room to run wild, so that they too are still there to see—in the mind’s eye.”

Richard E. Lingenfelter is a research physicist at the University of California, San Diego. He has written over a dozen books on Western American history and lore, including, The Hardrock Miners: A History of the Mining Labor Movement in the American West, 1863-1893, and Steamboats on the Colorado River, 1852-1916.

**LOST MINES OF DEATH VALLEY** (1953), Harold O. Weight

This small, 72-page booklet describes a handful of the more important “lost” mine legends of the Death Valley area, beginning with the Gunsight lode, continuing with a history of Charles Breyfogle and his lost ledge, the Goler find (and subsequent loss), “The Golden Rocks of Avawatz,” “Oro Rico in Colorado Canyon,” “The Blue Ledge of the Ballarat Trail,” and finishing up with the story of the gold coins that were supposedly buried by the ‘49ers on their way out of valley in January 1850.

And while it is obvious that Harold O. Weight has devoted a good deal of time and energy in researching material for Lost Mines of Death Valley, which he describes as the “first serious attempt to trace (the legends) to their origins, follow their histories and variations, and assay them for authenticity,” he also admits that “in cross-checking, many discrepancies appeared, even in accounts of men who had—or were supposed to have had—personal knowledge.”

Thus it is that there are differences between Lingenfelter’s and Weight’s account on various subjects. For instance, regarding the silver gunsight that initiated the ongoing quest for the lost lode, Lingenfelter claims it was made for Jim Martin after his arrival at the California gold fields. Weight avers, however, that it was Captain Towne (or Townsend) who whittled it out of a piece of rich ore while he sat at a campfire on White Sage Flats, below Tucki Mountain, on the way out of Death Valley.

Regarding the buried gold coins of the ‘49ers, Lingenfelter believes that perhaps $2,500 or more was involved, and that it belonged to one of the Georgians. Weight, on the other hand, claims there were $6,000 in gold eagles or double eagles, and that they were buried by Thomas Shannon, one of the Jayhawkers.

As for the Breyfogle, Weight claims that Lost Mines of Death Valley includes “the first authentic history” of the lost lode. He further notes that “all the lost mines of Death Valley can be divided into two parts: The Breyfogle—and the others. (It is) one of the four great lost mines of the Desert West, the other three being the Pegleg in Southern California, the Dutchman in Arizona, the Adams of the New Mexico-Arizona border.”

Unfortunately, Weight writes in a terse, somewhat jerky style, which gives Lingenfelter, a really good writer, the edge in readability. In some mysterious, logic-defying manner, this difference also leads me to believe that the Lingenfelter is the more accurate of the two historians.
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