Dear DPS members, friends, dwellers of the tents and comfy SUVs, and all who roam the wild and thorny places.

Things are certainly abuzz in the Desert Peaks Section, and it’s not due to bees or cicadas. Instead, we are on the brink of many good transitions, and we hope you’ll participate in our various discussions and mark your ballots wisely. Webmaster Larry (Alford) Hoak, with the help of Tina Bowman and Christine Mitchell, have finally ushered in our DPS ListServ, and we have high hopes of emulating HPSer Communications maven Karen Leverich in getting timely announcements out to you. And if you’re not on email, you can count on the fact we’ll telephone or snail mail you, because we are Equal Opportunity DPSers. The name for our ListServ is Angeles-Desert-Peaks-News. Now, doesn’t that have a nice ring to it?

Please read carefully the items on the ballot and vote wisely for or against a by-laws change where DPS management can suspend a peak that is illegal or dangerous or both. Consideration is up for deleting Argus and Maturango where we spent many a good weekend celebrating the Burro, ourselves, and the succulent barbecues hosted by the McCoskers, Ron Jones, and others. Too bad those peaks eventually became part of a military reservation where climbers are not keen on trespassing. Tina urges us to delete those peaks; Doug Mantle, on the other hand, believes in the sanctity of the List and the histories and traditions of our glorious past not easily cast aside. Thus, we suspend, but we don’t delete. What is your vote? There are pending List Finisher celebrations in the near future where those eager climbers are finishing once, twice, and even three times. Kino is the Bugaboo on the Border, and even armed border guards fear for their lives in going into Kino territory. Safe to say, that was Barbara Lilley’s peak, as she first climbed it and became an advocate to place it on our List. Gone are the easy days of ambling up Kino; now, one dodges the drug lords and traffickers who have no regard for DPS List Finishers or for that matter, little regard for human life.

I am truly anticipating the upcoming DPS banquet, May 16th, and although Taix’s holds a tender place in my heart, I’m willing to get excited about the Proud Bird, too.

Elaine Baldwin has worked feverishly to get everything in place (Thanks, Elaine!), and Japhy Dhungana will pry himself away from Yosemite and dazzle us with a program we won’t soon forget. He is young, courageous, a constant spiritual learner, and we’ll learn how he logged in so many miles from L.A. to Patagonia carrying his few belongings in a bike pannier. Doug Mantle (not Doug on a Stick) will be our gracious, witty, and wonderful emcee. With complimentary wine, classic books for sale, a raffle—it’s all up hill from here.

Some lovely and worthy people will be jumping up from their seats to receive coveted DPS awards. Have you sent me YOUR choices? I know I have my favorite picks, but how about yours? The laurel wreaths await to be worn by recognized DPS heroes and heroines.

And so as your grateful chairperson of the past two years, I ride off into the sunset with the best of memories and the greatest of new and old friendships. The DPS ride was definitely an E-Ticket ride in my life, and as you know, old DPS chairpersons don’t fade away, they hang around and become DPS consultants. And so be it. Be strong, be well, and be involved in exploring and loving our desert lands. Once you’ve tasted the DPS brand, you won’t settle for anything less.

Always my best, Mary Mac
TRIPS / EVENTS
MARCH Through MAY 2010

MAR 6-7  SAT-SUN  DPS  Nopah Range, Smith Mountain
MAR 7    SUN    DPS  DPS Potluck and Management Meeting
MAR 12-13 FRI-SAT DPS  Mount Ajo, Superstition Mountain
MAR 13-14 SAT-SUN DPS  Pahrump Point, Stewart Point
MAR 20-21 SAT-SUN DPS, WTC  Umpah, Kettle
MAR 26-28 FRI-SUN DPS, WTC, LTC, others  Desert Ecology Workshop
MAR 27    SAT    LTC  Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar
MAR 27-28 SAT-SUN DPS  Dry Mountain, Tin Mountain
APR 10    SAT    LTC  Leadership Training Seminar
APR 10-11 SAT-SUN DPS, WTC  Bridge Mountain
APR 11    SUN    DPS  DPS Potluck and Management Meeting
APR 11    SUN    DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS  Stony Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff
APR 17    SAT    DPS, WTC  Spectre Point, Dyadic Point
APR 17-18 SAT-SUN DPS, HPS, WTC  Martinez Mountain
APR 17-18 SAT-SUN DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS  Indian Cove Navigation
APR 24-25 SAT-SUN DPS, WTC  Castle Dome Peak, Signal Peak
APR 24-25 SAT-SUN DPS, LTC, WTC, DC  Mohave National Preserve Navigation Noodle
APR 24-25 SAT-SUN DPS, LTC, SPS  Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice
MAY 1-2   SAT-SUN DPS, WTC  Bridge Mountain
MAY 8    SAT    DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS  Sierra Snow Training
MAY 8    SAT    LTC, WTC, HPS  Beginning Navigation Clinic
MAY 16    SUN    DPS  DPS Annual Banquet
MAY 21-23 FRI-SUN LTC, WTC, HL  Wilderness First Aid Course
MAY 29-30 SAT-SUN DPS  Mount Dubois, Boundary Peak, Montgomery Peak

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or call 415-977-5528.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

CST 2087/66-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

♦ MAR 6-7  SAT-SUN  DPS
I: Nopah Range (6394'), Smith Mtn (5914'): Sat 4200'gain, 10 mi, cl 2 on Nopah Range near Death Valley. Sun we'll climb Smith Mtn (2300'gain, 5.5 mi rt). Long dirt road driving makes high-clearance 4WD vehicles useful. Send email (preferred) or sase to Leaders: Virgil Popescu (gillypope@ca.rr.com) and Patricia Arredondo.

♦ MAR 7   SUN   DPS
O: DPS Potluck and Management Meeting: Come to the home of Christine Mitchell and Ron Bartell in Manhattan Beach. Meeting starts at 4:30; potluck at 6 pm. Bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. Contact Reservationist: Christine Mitchell (christinebartell@yahoo.com).

♦ MAR 12-13  FRI-SAT  DPS
I: Mt Ajo (4808'), Superstition Mtn (5057'): Join us for one or both cl 2 peaks. Fri hike up Ajo in Organ Pipe Natl Mon (7.5 mi, 2600' gain); Sat climb Superstition and see petroglyphs, maybe big horn sheep (6.5 mi, 3000' gain). Send e-sase or sase with conditioning to Leader: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Co-Leader: Mary McMannes.

♦ MAR 13-14  SAT-SUN  DPS
I: Pahrump Pt (5740'), Stewart Pt (5265'): Climb these peaks situated in eastern part of the Death Valley area. Sat climb Pahrump (3400'gain, 8 mi). Sun climb Stewart (2600'gain, 6.5 mi). Happy hour Sat night. Send email with
conditioning and experience to Leader: Virgil Popescu (gilypope@ca.rr.com) or Co-Leader: Patricia Arredondo (paarredo@verizon.net).

**MAR 20-21**: SAT-SUN  
DPS, WTC  
MR: Umpah (3553’), Kettle (3460’): Exploratory climbs of Umpah, the high point of the Mopah Range, and its southern neighbor Kettle, a mile long mesa. Both are in the Eastern Mojave northeast of Vidal Junction. Car camp in the local desert with a happy hour Sat night. Sat we will climb Umpah (9 mi rt, 2000’ gain), Sun Kettle (9 mi rt, 1900’ gain). Class 3 rock experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members (medical forms required). Send email/sa E-mail d detailed resume including class 3 rock experience to Leader: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Assistant: Asher Waxman.

**MAR 27**: SAT  
LTC  
Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC. Register for Apr 10 seminar. Next seminar: Fall 2010. Contact Registrar, Steve Botan (ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org).

**MAR 27-28**: SAT-SUN  
DPS  
I: Dry Mtn (8674’), Tin Mtn (8953’): Climb these two peaks in the northern part of Death Valley National Park. Desert Wildflower season. Climb Tin Sat, 4400’ gain, 7 mi rt. Great potluck and camping Sat night near parking for climb. Dry is 5700’ gain, 12 mi rt for a long day Sun; start early. Good conditioning required. Send email or sas e with conditioning, experience, rideshare info to Leader: Ron Hudson (hudsonrf@verizon.net) or Co-Leader: Kathy Rich (kathrynrich@gmail.com).

**MAR 26-28**: FRI-SUN  
DPS, WTC, LTC, Natural Sciences, LB  
O: Desert Ecology Workshop: Explore important waterways on the borders of Mojave and Colorado Desert during spring wildflower season. Observe birds and other wildlife, flora, and human impact on the desert. Car camp at Whitewater Preserve near Palm Springs, Ridge hike Fri, 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 Leader: Sharon Moore (justslm@earthlink.net). Assistant Leader/ Naturalists Sherry Ross and Ginny Heringer, Assistant Leaders Mei Kwan and Margot Lowe.

**APR 10**: SAT  
LTC  
Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Mar 19. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2010. Contact Registrar, Steve Botan (ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org).

**APR 10-11**: SAT-SUN  
DPS, WTC  
MR: Bridge Mountain (6995’): A hop across the Nevada border for a fun climb on fantastic Red Rock sandstone. Saturday, a late start and a short backpack to camp. Sunday, climb Bridge, then back to camp and out to cars. 12 mile total rt, 3100’ gain. Must be comfortable on exposed third-class rock. Helmet and medical form required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send email with experience and conditioning to Leader: Regge Bulman (r_bulman@fastmail.us). Assistant Leader: Eric Scheidemantle.

**APR 11**: SUN  
DPS  
O: DPS Potluck and Management Meeting: Come to the home of Barbee and Larry Tidball in Long Beach. Meeting starts at 4:30; potluck at 6 pm. Bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. Contact Reserv: Barbee Tidball (lbtidball@verizon.net).

**APR 11**: SUN  
LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC  
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 and climbing gear required. Email or send climbing resume, completed medical form (2 copies—including SC# on form), address and phone to: Leader: Ron Hudson (hudsonrf@verizon.net). Co-Leaders: Greg Mason, Pat McKusky.
MR: Spectre Pt (4400'), Dyadic Pt (4360'): Climb these rugged peaks in the beautiful Coxcomb Mtns in Joshua Tree NP. From hwy 62 we'll hike cross country up washes and class 2 rock to Spectre and then class 3 rock to unlisted Dyadic Point, 16 mi rt, 2300' gain. Expect a long day due to rugged terrain, though we should be rewarded with wildflowers. Send email or sase with experience, conditioning, climbing resume, medical form, phone, and carpool information to Leader: Joe Speigl (jspeigl@yahoo.com). Co-Leader: Kathy Rich.

I: Martinez Mtn (6,560+'): Enjoy desert scenery on this challenging point-to-point backpack featuring a peak in the Santa Rosa Wilderness near Palm Springs. Water will be scarce so be prepared to carry extra. Saturday: 11 mi, w/approx 3000' gain climbing Martinez Mtn. (3+ miles will be x-c). Sunday: 14 mi hike out with car shuttle return. Send email, phone #s, conditioning, and recent backpacking experience, including comfort w/x-c travel to Leader: Dave Scobie (davescobie@gmail.com), Assistant: Beth Epstein.

MR: Bridge Mtn (6995'): Saturday climb Bridge Mtn near Las Vegas, 6.5 mile total rt, 2700' gain. Saturday night happy hour and Sunday drive back. Must be comfortable on exposed 3rd class rock. Helmet, climbing harness, and medical form required. Restricted to Sierra Club members with appropriate experience. Send email or sase with Sierra Club #, climbing resume, experience with 3rd class rock, conditioning, and contact information to Leader: Rod Kieffer (rocketteck@yahoo.com). Co Leader: Mike Adams.

MR/E/C: Sierra Snow Training: Sierra Snow Training: Come train for a day with an AMGA-certified guide in the Sierra near Bishop. Most of your fee will be subsidized by the Sierra Club. Training includes techniques of snow mountaineering and leading groups on snow climbs. Open to SC members who are M- or E-rated OR aspiring mountaineering leaders with appropriate experience. Space is limited; Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, check for $25 made out to SMI (non-refundable deposit if a replacement for your spot isn't found), contact info to
**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR / ACTIVITY REPORT, February 12, 2010**

**Membership Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Sustaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriber</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals:</strong></td>
<td><strong>233</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Activity Report**

**New Members**

- Ron Campbell
- Rosa Pt
- Alan D Kopmeyer
- Clark Mtn

**Sustaining Renewals**

- Robert A. Beach
- Fred & Marianna Camphausen
- Paul Cooley
- Mike Daugherty
- Burton A. Falk
- Rich Gnagy
- Wolf & Karen Isaacsen Leverich
- Doug Marble
- Pamela Stores
- Robert Wyka

**Membership Renewals**

- Dean Acheson
- Tom & Lynda Armbruster
- Lori & Eric Beck
- David Beymer & Maura Raffensperger
- David Boyle
- Harry Brumer
- Dan Clark
- David Comerzan
- Mark Conover
- Gary Craig
- Janet Darnell
- Ron Eikelman
- Jim Fleming
- Terry Flood
- Bruno Geiger
- Geoff Godfrey
- Ellen & Ron Grau
- Rich Henke & Rena Tishman
- Edward Herrman
- Robert Hicks
- Bob Hooven
- Delores Holladay
- Sue Holloway
- John Hooper
- Ron Hudson
- Yvonne & Scot Jamison
- Frederick O. Johnson
- Kathy Kline
- John & Kathleen Lakey
- Barbara Lilley

**Donations**

- $10 from Rayne & Mary Motheral

**Activity Reports**

**MAY 8**

**SAT**

**LTC, WTC, HPS**

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

**MAY 16**

**SUN**

**DPS**

**O: DPS Annual Banquet:** Join us at the Proud Bird near LAX for this year’s banquet. Socializing 5:30-7:00, dinner at 7:00, followed by awards and a program by Jeff Dhungana, “Cycling to Patagonia: A Million Dollar Trip on $10 a Day.” For reservations, mail check for $30 member and $35 non-member by May 5 to Treasurer Gloria Miladin, 11946 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90242. Please specify dinner selection: Steak/Salmon/Vegetarian and number of raffle tickets: 5 for $3. Tickets will be held at the door. Questions, contact DPS Banquet Chair: Elaine Baldwin (DWBaldwin@aol.com) or DPS Chair Mary McMannes (marymuir@earthlink.net).

**MAY 21 - 23**

**FRI-SUN**

**LTC, WTC, Harwood Lodge**

**C: Wilderness First Aid Course:** Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Fee includes lodging, meals and practice first aid kit. Proof of CPR within previous 4 years required to enroll. Fee $205 with SC#/$215 non-member (full refund through April 16). For application contact Leader: Steve Schuster (steve.n.wfac2@sbcglobal.net).

**MAY 29-30**

**SAT-SUN**

**DPS**

**MR: Mt Dubois (13,559’), Boundary Pk (13,140’), Montgomery Pk (13,441’):** Sat climb Dubois x-c 9 mi, 5300’ gain. Car camp Sat night. Sun climb Boundary, high point of Nevada, and Montgomery (8 mi, 4200’ gain rt). We might see wild horses and will climb on snow. Some poor dirt road driving. Open to Sierra Club members only with appropriate snow experience. Send e-mail or sase with SC#, snow exp, conditioning, rideshare info to Leader: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Co-Leader: Kathy Rich.

**THE DESERT SAGE**

March/April 2010
PRIVATE TRIP

Sunday March 21 (NOT a Sierra Club outing). Red Hill: Private Outing - All Welcome!! San Diego Sierra Club County Peak List Finish!! Come join Shane Smith as he finishes his 100th and final peak on the list - Red Hill (2 miles round trip, 800' gain). Meet 8 AM at the intersection of Interstate 8 and the exit for Ocotillo (25 miles west of El Centro). We will be parked immediately on the north side of Interstate 8 & standing by the cars (with cell phone as well: 760-265-0567). We are starting early so other peaks in the area such as Whale, Granite, Jacumba, or Sombrero can be climbed if desired. The San Diego County Peak List is a wonderful list of 100 peaks that can be climbed in conjunction with many southern HPS and DPS peaks. Learn more about it at http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/peaks/ Hope to see you there!! For Additional Info (sssmith4@yahoo.com). Private Outing Leaders: Terry Flood and Steve Smith.

OUTINGS CHAIR

Thanks, leaders, for all the fine trips you’ve been leading for the DPS! The deadline for the July 4th through October Schedule of Activities is March 10th. Once that passes, we can advertise outings in the Sage as well as the DPS web site, so if you have a hankering to lead an outing to one of our higher peaks this summer or get the fall season off to a good DPS start, please send me your trip write-ups!

The Angeles Forest Restoration Project now has its own web site: http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/AFRP/AFRP_Site/Home_Page.html

Please consider helping out by getting training and joining a work party. - Tina

FOUND

FOUND: A digital camera on Whipple in January. If you think it is yours, please contact John Hooper (760-934-8844) or grayhawk@qnet.com.

PEAK GUIDE UPDATES

There have been some interesting reports coming to this writer about changes in driving routes and a wrongly marked gridline for Tim Mountain in the Road and Peak Guide.

TIN: When I climbed Tin Mountain with Dave Perkins, some of us using GPS instruments found that the peak seem to be out in the air somewhere. We climbed the peak successfully and never thought anything more about the difference in UTM readings. Maybe it was “operator error.” Jeff Bonds recently noticed the same difference. After comparing his Road and Peak Guide 5th edition against the USGS Tin Mountain Quad, he found that our map in the Guide is not marked correctly. The peak is approximately 450 meters east of the 459 N-S grid line not the 458 N-S grid line, listed in our guide. This never kept anybody from getting the peak, but it does clear up the mystery of the peak seemingly out in the air.

STEPLADDER: Tina Bowman recently climbed Stepladder Mountain and reported some changes in the driving route. On the drive from or to Highway 95 she found an excellent dirt road, the Metropolitan Water District (MDW) road, just 0.1 mile north of the Lake Havasu Road shown on the AAA auto club map, which is the western extension of the Chemehuevi Road listed in our guide. It is a bit longer, but closer to Vidal Junction and much faster. If you are coming from Vidal Junction, this road will take you quickly to the junction with the pipeline road in 11.2 miles according to the AAA San Bernardino County map. The Pipeline road mentioned in the guide is BLM road NS203 and has a flexible BLM reflective marker. There is a stop sign for traffic returning to Highway 95. She clocked the mileage to the power line road at 8.8 miles not the 7.8 listed in our guide. There are actually two ways to get to the road that leads south to the trailhead. One is the route listed in our guide as a faint dirt road heading south down Chemehuevi Valley shown as 0.55 miles past the Metropolitan power line access road off the Pipeline Road. Tina reports that driving a short distance further you come to a road signed NS254. Turn left here and follow this road to the road going south down the valley. She reports that this road was sandy in spots but ok for a 2WD vehicle. She was able to
drive 5.6 miles to the Wilderness Boundary not the 1.4 miles she encountered on a previous trip “a very unpleasant surprise.” This is a few yards beyond a road going NW with a BLM road marker stake. This parking spot is roughly 0.9 miles beyond the parking spot listed in our guide and between BM 549.8 and BM 522.3 on the DPS map in our guide. For the hike she went a few minutes further south along the road before heading off SW. It saved a little distance and was pretty easy going.

DUBOIS: The traditional route to Mount Dubois has been blocked off by a large housing development. The following route to the trailhead on Middle Creek has good gravel roads and is well signed: From the Post Office in Dyer, NV drive 11.9 miles North to Chiatovich Road. Turn left on Chiatovich Road and drive 4.75 miles past Gillum Lane to Kirby Road. Turn left on Kirby Road and drive 3.8 miles to Doris Meadow Trail where you turn right and drive to Settlers Way. Turn right on Settlers Way and drive 1.4 miles, passing a Middle Creek sign, a large green building on the right and 0.5 mile further, the Trail Canyon Road, to the Middle Creek Road. Along these roads there are road signs marking the route to Middle Creek. Drive the Middle Creek Road to the trailhead. - Edward Herrman

KINO PEAK UPDATE

After climbing Ajo Peak on Oct. 27th, 2007, Ann and Dave Perkins, Bob Hoeven, and Anne Rolls stopped by the Visitor Center of OPNM. We were chatting with the ranger and told her of our plans to climb Kino the following day. She informed us that the area around the peak was closed to visitors, and told us, among other things, about the ranger who had been killed in that area. That was enough to make us change our plans! Sue Holloway and John Strauch were going to join us for the climb, but we managed to get in touch with them and they agreed with our decision.

In early fall 2008, Sue Holloway called the Visitor Center and talked to the head ranger about the area and a potential climb of Kino. He said the area was still closed and would remain so as it was too dangerous. He went on to say that he doesn’t send staff into that area unless there are at least 2 of them and both are armed!

In preparation to once again try to climb Kino, we checked the Park’s website and it’s perfectly clear that the area in and around Kino is still closed as the situation has not changed. We called the park and talked to a ranger to confirm and, yes, the area is completely off limits (as of 1/21/10). We don’t think peaks that present this kind of danger (i.e. the real possibility of being shot or otherwise harmed by other people) should remain on the list. - Ann and Dave Perkins and Sue Holloway

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Club will offer outdoor leadership training April 10

Interested in becoming an outings leader for the Club?

Angeles Chapter is home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet - thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions. You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a class offered by the chapter Leadership Training Committee on Saturday, April 10, at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena.

The class covers all the basics of leadership. Experienced leaders will tell you how to plan a trip, prevent problems on the trail and make sure that everyone – including you – has a great time. They’ll also explain good conservation and safety practices. And they’ll give you tips for getting your “O” rating quickly and then, if you choose, pursuing more advanced ratings.

The all-day class costs $25. The application is online at angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc. Mail the application and check, payable to Sierra Club, to Steve Botan, LTC Registrar, 18816 Thornwood Circle, Huntington Beach 92646. You also can reach Botan by phone (714-321-1296) or e-mail (ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org).

Applications and checks are due March 27. Scholarships are available for those in financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com).

COVER PHOTO: Stepladder Mountain. Photo by Tina Bowman.

THE DESERT SAGE 9 March/April 2010
HELP WANTED: CONSERVATION

Part of the DPS charter is to help protect the desert and raise awareness of conservation issues. One of the main responsibilities of the DPS Conservation Chair is to write a column for the Sage on a conservation topic of your choice. The Sage is read by a lot of people including people at the National level of Sierra Club, the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, and of course the Angeles Chapter. Writing the column would take roughly 30-60 minutes every 2 months. It’s your chance to be heard. If you are interested, please contact Mary McMannes.

DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION

First off I would like to acknowledge the much appreciated apology provided in the last issue of the Desert Sage by those who inadvertently drove into the park’s designated wilderness. Here’s an opportunity for interested wilderness lovers to help the park out.

Besides a summit register some of you may have noticed scattered wire, a wooden frame, or occasionally decaying batteries left on the summits of desert peaks. All of the above are remnants left behind in the late 1940s and early 1950s by USGS surveying teams.

These hardy teams hauled supplies up the mountain high points to build a triangle shaped wooden frame held down by wires tied around a pile of nearby rocks for use in surveying summit altitudes. They often carried batteries up with them to power the drills used to install the metal cadastral markers.

All of the eighteen DPS peaks and most of the more than eighty other named peaks and named Bench Mark (BM) summits in the park are located within designated wilderness which ideally should be as pristine as possible. Unfortunately besides leaving the cadastral markers more often than not these USGS teams abandoned their work supplies up on the summits. Since this debris is over fifty years old, I have consulted with the park’s archeologist before cleaning up the summits. It’s been determined that the decaying batteries and scattered wire are not historically significant and are potential hazards that should be removed. However, if the wooden tower is still standing then it should be left in place such as the ones located on Black Top in the Saline Range and on Marble BM peak in the Last Chance Range.

Many, but not all of the DPS peaks in the park have been cleaned up over the years while others—especially the less often climbed BM summits—are still have USGS debris on top. I cleaned up Sentinel, Sugarloaf, White Top, and Leaning Rock peaks last year, but am unsure which of the other DPS peaks or BM peaks also need a clean-up.

Since many if not all of the DPS peaks in the park will be climbed by DPS listers over the next couple of years, I am asking your assistance in providing information on which peaks still need a clean-up or for that matter which are already clean and can be scratched off my list.

I always bring along gloves and a plastic bag in case I find decaying batteries and a paper grocery bag to hold any wire so if you climb prepared to haul out a little debris then I have no objection to you helping out. You can contact me at charlie_callagan@nps.gov with any information about USGS debris on Death Valley National Park peaks.

Charlie Callagan
Ranger Naturalist
Wilderness Coordinator
Death Valley National Park
760-786-3282

Charlie Winger and Charlie Callagan cleaning up wire on Scruge BM near Red Wall Canyon.
Photo by Dave Cooper.
Instant Climate Action, by Tom Bowman

Last December, just before the climate summit in Copenhagen, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) honored my company and four others with CoolCalifornia Small Business of the Year awards. It was the first time CARB called attention to the pivotal roll small businesses will play in slashing greenhouse gas emissions under AB32, the state’s landmark climate solutions law. Receiving the award was a great honor, of course, especially because it sends an important signal. And our story demonstrates just how easy and cost-effective cutting emissions can be.

AB32 is an ambitious law. It will return California’s statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. That’s 30 percent below where they are projected to be if we do nothing to reduce them. Looking farther into the future, emissions will be nearly eliminated by 2050: a full 95 percent below our emissions today. Achieving these goals is a tall order, and AB32 has come under intense attack from the state’s biggest carbon polluters. Joining forces with the California Chamber of Commerce, these companies formed the AB32 Implementation Group to thwart the law. They are getting some help in the legislature too, where a bill that would prevent AB32 implementation was recently introduced.

The news media is riveted by all the controversy. They seem equally captivated by the promise of new technologies and glamorous green buildings. But these large-scale efforts leave most of us on the sidelines; few of us will ever build a new building or invent green technology. More importantly, new technologies take time to mature and new infrastructure takes time to build, so the beneficial effect on California’s carbon emissions will emerge very gradually over several decades.

The message in Copenhagen was clear: we need to begin reducing emissions now, not decades from now. Where will these rapid emissions cuts come from? If they happen at all they will come from us. Households and small businesses are the “first responders” in the climate crisis. We can slash emissions now, while we wait for climate policies and capital investments to come online.

To many people, personal-scale actions seem trivial because the climate system is global and worldwide emissions are growing by leaps and bounds. In fact, by increasing the efficiency of our homes, offices, and vehicles, we can slash emissions by a significant margin virtually overnight. No single company or family can do it alone, but together we can achieve AB32’s 2020 goal in just a few years.

How do we do it and what will it cost? We cut our emissions by 65 percent in just two years by taking one step in a three-step plan. Our investments paid for themselves in about fifteen months and we now enjoy an annual savings of $5000 on gasoline, electricity, maintenance, and office supplies as a result. Best of all, nobody had to make any sacrifices.

Step #1—Improve the Passive Efficiency of Your Building. This means adding insulation and installing more efficient windows or window films, increasing natural ventilation and daylight, shading windows from direct sunlight, plugging appliances into power strips that you can switch off to eliminate “vampire” loads, replacing water heaters with flash units, xeriscaping and, when the time comes, installing lighter-colored or more reflective roofs.

Step #2—Upgrade the Efficiency of Your Active Systems. These include lighting, automobiles, heating and air conditioning, and office equipment. We made most of our emissions cuts in this area: we bought a hybrid, replaced an old copier with a multi-function machine and turned other machines off. We replaced a broken air conditioner with an efficient model and we installed CFLs. These simple changes have encouraged us to print less often, reducing our materials and maintenance costs also.

Step #3—Generate Your Own Renewable Energy. By doing steps #1 and #2 first you can buy smaller, less expensive solar electricity and hot water systems.

Some business owners say they spend too little on energy to make these actions a high priority. In truth, the financial impact of AB32 on most small companies will be hard to notice. A recent study projects an increase of 0.3 percent in average operating costs, which amounts to an increase of less than three cents on a $20 dinner at Santa Monica’s popular Border Grill.

On the other hand, saving $5,000 per year doesn’t hurt, and any effective response to the climate crisis depends on these first steps. Improving energy efficiency is the only way to make an immediate impact on our climate future, so
climate action ultimately comes down to us.

As Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, told the National Academy of Sciences two years ago, “Maximizing energy efficiency and decreasing energy use will remain the lowest hanging fruit for the next several decades. It is something that we can do and we must do.” Now we know how.

Tom Bowman is president of Bowman Design Group, which designs exhibitions and interactive media, and Bowman Global Change, which helps organizations make sustainable transformations. Learn more about Bowman’s case study at http://www.coolcalifornia.org/case-study/sustainable-by-design.

---

**DPS 2010 ANNUAL BANQUET**

**When:** Sunday, May 16, 2010

**Where:** The Proud Bird, 11022 Aviation Blvd, Los Angeles (near junction 405 & 105)

**Banquet tickets:** $30 DPS members  $35 non DPS members Please Reserve by May 5

**Time:** 5:30 pm - Social Hour/No Host Bar

7:00 pm – Dinner *(Includes complimentary wine at each table)*

**Dinner Choices:** Marinated Sirloin Steak  Baked Fresh Salmon  Vegetarian Wellington

**MC's:** Doug Mantle and Mary McMannes

**Program:** Jeff Dhungana presents: **"Cycling from LA to Patagonia"**  *A million dollar trip on $10 a day.*

Our speaker, born in Nepal, graduated with honors in anthropology from UCLA. Eschewing a career in academia, “Japhy” hopped on a bike and rode literally to the ends of the earth. That adventure is the topic of our program. But the adventures continue. He hails now from the high walls of Yosemite where he hopes to teach at the Yosemite Institute...and become the world’s best rock climber. Given his talent, boundless optimism, and easy charm, he probably will. – Doug Mantle

See the scenery, the towns and vistas that Jeff bicycled through from Los Angeles to the tip of Patagonia. Meet the generous and kind people who helped him when he broke down or met impossible challenges of weather and terrain. **Check out Jeff Dhungana’s website:** http://www.transformundo.com/

---

*THE DESERT SAGE*
**Raffle:** We continue our tradition of providing you a chance to win fabulous prizes. This year’s offerings include: A beautiful serigraph by Edna Erspamer, a painting by Betty McCosker, a framed watercolor print by Elaine Baldwin, REI gift certificates, a copy of Bob Sumner’s new guidebook, a copy of “Desert Summits” by Andy Zdon. Tickets are available 5 for $3 if purchased in advance before May 5 or $1 each on the day of the Banquet. Tickets will be held at the door.

**Book Sale:** Mary McMannes will offer a Classic Wilderness and Climbers Cheap Book Sale. *(Be sure to bring books to donate to the Sale)*

**For reservations:** Please indicate number of banquet tickets: $30 for DPS members or $35 non-members. To become a member of the DPS you must (1) belong to the Sierra Club (2) have climbed 6 of the 99 peaks on the DPS list and (3) send $10 to Membership Records for a SAGE subscription.

Include your dinner selection/s: Marinated Sirloin Steak, Baked Fresh Salmon or Vegetarian Wellington. Also, please specify number of raffle tickets: 5 for $3 if purchased in advance before May 5. Tickets will be held at the door. Mail check payable to DPS to Treasurer: Gloria Miladin, 11946 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90242. For questions e-mail: Elaine Baldwin: dwbaldwin@aol.com or Gloria: gm500@yahoo.com

**Driving Instructions to the Proud Bird:**

**Northern Approach:** 405-South and take Century LAX exit. Stay in right lane and exit (Century West exit 46). Turn left at the bottom of the ramp onto La Cienega Blvd South. From La Cienega take the 1st right onto Century Blvd heading west. Turn left at 2nd signal onto Aviation Blvd South. The Proud Bird is .07 mi. on left.

**Southern approach:** 405 north, exit Imperial Hwy, left onto Imperial Hwy, right on Aviation. Restaurant 1 block on right.

**Eastern approach:** 105 west to La Cienega /Aviation exit. Left at bottom of ramp onto Imperial Hwy. Right on Aviation. Restaurant 1 block on right. **Free Parking in Proud Bird parking lot.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Welcome back to Scoops De Jour and what’s astir in the Land of Little Rain. No January doldrums for the climbing groups, as we were all wined and dined and entertained royally by the various January banquets (HPS, SPS), plus a mid-week fun and funny program presented by DPSer Randy Bernard in Montrose. As HPSers walked into Taix’s Champagne Room, there were Bob and Maureen Cates dressed in their vintage 1920s hiking garb, complete with knee high leather laced hiking boots purchased from Ebay. Boy, did they ever look good. And much to my shock and surprise at a tight-for-space banquet room, there was a huge canvas tent with all the camp accoutrements set up by Bob’s friend, Peter Ireland. How they ever got all those people in there plus a tent is beyond my wildest imaginations. We all had great fun taking photos inside and outside the tent with gold line rope circling our bejeweled necks. Bob’s program on the fine Sierra Club lodges and local LA hikes of the late 1800s and early 1900s was marvelous. The next Saturday night found us all at the same place, same time, for the SPS banquet, and the room was rowdy and energized with several from WTC. Nothing like new blood and bragging rights from newcomers intertwined with old timers telling it like it WUZ. Steve and Rima Curry were doubling over with laughter enjoying the bravado of veteran List Finishers, Rich Gnagy and Ret Moore. Paul Garry gave a top choice show on his heroic climb of Cho Oyu, 26,906’. Doug on a Stick held his head up 7 times for climbing the SPS List over and over again. Two Buck Hank, Henry Arnebold supplied us with $2 Chuck and as always showed great humor in emceeing the program. At the end of January, DPSers filled the Verdugo Hills’ meeting room and got more laughs as Randy took us on his 500 mile pilgrimage of Spain’s el Camino de Santiago. After the presentation, we will now refer to Randy as, “One Pair of Underwear, Randy!”

DYK, there are desert peaks ahead of us to climb and climb again, and congrats to Tina Bowman who hustles the thorny bushes urging, begging, enchanting DPS leaders to lead the trips we all desire. Spring climbing is the best for Desert Peaking, and then we’ll get those big snow-covered higher ones in July, August, and September. By way of the grapevine, I heard the Tidball’s Turtle and Mopah trip was more fun than a barrel of desert jackalopes with some newbies showing up from Colorado, New Mexico, Tucson, and Fresno. Leaders, keep track of those peaks you lead for the new Leader Emblem (leading 50 peaks.)

DYK, our good friend and ranger, Charlie Callagan, has sent us the latest word on Register Policy for the peaks in
Death Valley National Park. “Do not place any new summit registers on peaks that do not already have one. Vacant summits will remain vacant. It is OK for now to replace old, tattered, or full summit registers on peaks with already existing ones. In other words, if a summit is empty, don’t place a register. Otherwise, if the register is showing wear and tear or filled to brimming, then replace it.

And Did You Know that Anne Anglim is newly returned from a successful climb of Aconcagua (22,835’) complete with lightning bolts and wild snow on her descent. Congrats to our infectious doc and climbing super star. We promised her we wouldn’t get swine flu while she was gone, but now she’s back, who knows?

And DYK, those wedding bells are breaking up that old gang of mine? Jeff Koepke (still trying to locate Jay Suhiro) mailed me the news flash that Bob Meador and E. Leone Wenzel tied the knot up there in Oregon. Women have been chasing Bob for sometime, all the way from Independence to Death Valley and up the Oregon coast. Leone captured the heart of our free spirited DPSer, and now we’re gonna have to juggle spouse names such as Leora Jones, Lenora Dykeman, and now Leone Meador. It was noted that Bob’s best man was Billy Drinkwater who must have been the party planner for Dan Richter’s HPS List Finisher party following the celebration on San Guillermo.

As of late, marriages seem to be in the makings for many older DPSers, and when commenting on the fact, one of our older and wiser DPS sages said it was the Boomer solution to the approaching Existential Blues and realizing one’s life is a finite affair. The roving reporter welcomes all good news of Nuptial Bliss coming my way, with or without existential blues.

DYK, we have a few DPS List Finishes in the near future and maybe sooner if we make a final decision on Kino. Shane Smith (DPS and HPS List Finisher) invites us to his San Diego County Peaks List Finish (100 peaks), Sunday, March 21st. You can go to the website (http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/peaks/) or write Shane directly at ssmith4@yahoo.com. Go early in the weekend and bag Jacumba, Sombrero, or Whale and Granite. Lots of peaks down there states Steve Smith and Terry Flood, leaders of the climb and party. Shane finishes on Red Hill, 2 miles r.t. and 800’ gain.

And if San Diego is not far enough south for you, how about some peaks and volcanoes in Argentina and Chile? Doug Mantle is newly back from visiting international guide (and DPS member in good standing,) Marcelo Altamirano who can provide you with some pretty wonderful adventures down his way. Doug bagged Osorno (3x), Bariloche (known as the Zermatt of Argentina), and Tronador. For all of you who have climbed in Argentina, it’s an alpine experience of hut-hopping replete with . . / good food, wine, pisco sours, and more. Write Marcelo and Julieta at: www.cordilleramistica.com.

On a serious note, we are sorry to receive the news that Dean Acheson’s sister, Jeannie Munos, was killed in the Haitian earthquake. Jeannie’s husband Jack was dust from the rubble of the concrete building, but Jeannie had been in another part of the 4th floor apartment and could not be found. Two other Methodists missionaries had arrived from Michigan, the day prior, and they also lost their lives with Jeannie. Our condolences go out to Dean, Dean’s brother, and his Mom and Dad in Indiana. You can make contributions to the Red Cross in memory of Jeannie Acheson-Munos.

DYK in Ruth Dyar Mendenhall’s fine little climbing book (which will be one of the bargains at the DPS banquet book sale), legendary climber Glen Dawson is mentioned constantly, but so is our favorite fellow in the whirling kilt, Rob Roy McDonald. And Did You Know, Mario and Yolanda Gonzales from Denver write about Mario’s extended summer backpack over the Colorado Trail where Mario had the Meltdown on Day #10. He thought he had Giardia, but alas, he had been poisoning himself with iodine as he purified his water with the old iodine method. Former DPS chairman and zany gent, Mike Manchester reports there was an oft-visited feature on YouTube of a randy couple participating in extra curricular activities while rappelling. Mike says, “Sure gives a new twist to the term, Figure 8, doesn’t it?” Speaking of scaling high walls, Patty Kline never fails to please us climbers with her yearly Christmas cards of Patty on the face of something high and steep and sheer. In Ron Young’s Sierra Club treasures, there was a full set of Patty’s photo cards, probably numbering 30 or more.

Do You Remember your close calls? Sure, we all do, and do you want to see

THE DESERT SAGE

March/April 2010
your photo plus a spine tingling story in Sierra magazine? If you do, how about submitting your story called Near Miss to paul.rauber@sierrac1ub.org. He suggests sending a few lines to whet the editor’s appetite, and he’ll write you for “the rest of the story.” I’m thrilled to think there’ll actually be some climbing articles in a magazine which focuses nearly 100% on conservation or so it seems. John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club loved the flora and fauna, but hey, don’t forget it was the Climb that fed his spirit and nourished his soul.

Please send in your reservations for our upcoming banquet which will prove to be the crème de la crème of 2010 banquet experiences. And for goodness sake, vote on the ballot issues. We’ve got some fabulous people running for management: Jim Fleming hangs up his two year HPS chairman hat and with all that experience and know-how, he’s coming on over to DPS. Jim and Winnette have experienced the joys of bagging desert peaks, and they won’t go back. Kevin Gray is a delightful young man who is gaining desert peaks, one right after the other, and here’s our chance to bring in new blood and energetic ideas to our section. Finally, long-time friend and member of all three climbing sections, Bob Wyka, joins the ballot too. Bob has been around since the 1970s and was well known for putting the SPS membership files on MS Access and leading us forth into the Age of Technology. All three choices are stupendous, and as you can see DPS management in the upcoming year couldn’t be in finer shape.

Did You Know, there’s a movie coming out soon about the 1936 harrowing climb of the Eiger? The film will surely knock your Woolrich socks off. The trailer headlines reads: “They would give everything to get to the summit and give even more to get down.” Peak-baggers can surely relate to that quote, as we recall climbing days that became the long day’s journey into night, and the sight of a parked car was enough joy to last a lifetime. And so, that’s what’s astir in the Land of Little Rain. -Mary McMannes, Roving Girl Reporter, “Looking for scoops in all the right places.”

RESCUING A WILD HORSE FROM A MOUNTAIN LION

On the first day of the 1986 Memorial Day weekend, the objective of our party [Neko Colvins, Roy Magnuson and I] was Piper Peak [9450’] in the Silver Peak Range, which lies to the southeast of Boundary Peak [a DPS Emblem Peak and the high point of Nevada]. As we drove eastward up the McAfee Canyon Road in the Fish Creek Valley towards the roadhead [at ~7300’], we saw a large number of wild horses nearby, all of whom were looking at us accusingly. From the roadhead, we ascended north along a ridge that heads up Piper Peak and then descended south along an adjacent ridge separated by the prominent canyon that leads back to the car. Upon reaching the east-west ridge of Piper Peak, we had a great view looking north down to a small plateau containing a tiny lake surrounded by a number of wild horse bands, which were taking their turns to drink. On the slopes below that plateau, a large number of other wild horses could be seen. While Neko and I were finishing our lunches nearby, Roy went up the peak itself and encountered a rattlesnake buzzing away in the cairn, so retreated. Later when all of us got to the summit, the snake had made its escape, so I couldn’t add it to my list of rattlesnake encounters!

On the descent route and as we were rapidly approaching a small clearing [at about 8800’], we saw a white, wild horse standing broadside to us. We wondered why the horse didn’t depart as we drew ever nearer. Now, with all three of us walking abreast [so as to get a better view], we got to within about 40 yards of the horse, a large [probably male], charcoal-colored mountain lion [definitely not the typical mountain lion tawny color] leaped up from behind some brush immediately in front of us [about twenty feet away] and bounded away to our right over a number of bushes before disappearing. [An aside: if you can accept charcoal as a suitable color for a mountain lion, then accepting “white” as a suitable color for a wild horse should be easy.] Meanwhile, the wild horse proceeded in the opposite direction [to our left] up the clearing and soon disappeared from view. The white horse appeared in good shape judging from his appearance and speed of departure. So, it could be said that, in a fortuitous manner, we had rescued the wild horse … at least for the time being.

It should be noted that approaching a mountain lion in that manner is not without risk. However, we inadvertently had staked the cards in our favor by (1) approaching in a three-abreast alignment, (2) wearing broad-rimmed hats, parkas, hiking pants and boots [which collectively made us appear larger], (3) moving at a brisk pace directly towards the mountain lion, and (4) talking all the while. Collectively, those factors likely un-nerved the lion [who may never have seen a human type before], so it could have very well interpreted our approach as an attack of zombies, evaluated the odds, and made his exit.

On the other hand, we did not linger at the scene, as we had a schedule of peaks to climb [Mt Olsen in the Sierra Nevada, Potato Peak and Bodie Mtn in the Bodie area] and not to be overlooked: the Memorial Day weekend return trip to Los Angeles. - Gordon Macleod
Adding a suspension clause to the DPS by-laws makes good sense to me because it would allow the management committee to suspend a peak and then reinstate it when conditions improve. For example, Kino is not safe to climb now, but we hope that the border situation will improve and that we will be able to climb it again without fearing for our safety, even our lives.

As recommended by the Mountaineering Committee and approved by the Management Committee for the ballot, Argus and Maturango, however, should be voted off the list. We have not been able to climb them legally for many years now, and the chance that we may do so legally in the future is very remote. Having the peaks on the list makes it appear that the DPS and, by extension, the Sierra Club condone trespassing on a military reservation, which we do not. For legal reasons, the peaks should be voted off the list. Since completing the list is a goal of many DPSers, we should make it an entirely legal endeavor. - Tina Bowman

Regarding Argus and Maturango: The skittish have tried for 30 years to get these off the List, erasing some of the DPS' most cherished memories, including a dozen burro roasts. How rude, lets simply suspend them, the situation has changed before and will again, I'm thinking of Campy leading a sanctioned trip through the NWC Base some years ago... - Doug Mantle

The Suspension clause is a good idea. It allows the Management Committee to act rapidly in the membership's best interest, when unusual situations develop (such as on Kino Peak.) It offers an alternative to peak deletion in places where the situation may improve someday. I urge a YES vote on the Suspension by-law. -Bob Sumner

Let me add my voice in praise of McFarland for the sacred LIST. A rugged, challenging, high, very Alpine peak in a wilderness setting...what's not to love? - Bob Michael

McFarland had been on my to-do list since I read Bob Michael's 1998 Sage writeup, and I finally climbed it on Dan Richter's exploratory lead for the DPS last September. I was expecting an interesting climb, with some good third class. In my opinion that's what it would take to make this peak a candidate for the list, since Charleston and Mummy are nearby and higher; McFarland would have to be a very good climb to be a candidate. But I was disappointed. The approach is long, on trail and a stretch of old dirt road, with almost 1000' of downhill. The peak is guarded by impressive cliffs, but after leaving the trail the route ascends broad, steep, forested gullies, mostly on loose footing, for over 1000' - an unpleasant slog, often kicking steps in the steep dirt. There is one short third class pitch, memorable only for the sand and gravel on the footholds. The climbing is not good enough to justify adding a third peak so close to Charleston and Mummy. -Ron Bartell

Regarding McFarland: Why is the DPS going back to the Spring Mountains yet again? It is already well represented by Charleston, Mummy, Bridge, Stirling, and Potosi. Can't we find any peaks in other ranges in Nevada? There are 314 mountain ranges in Nevada, and we can't find one new peak in one new range? I don't buy it. And what about all of the unrepresented ranges in Arizona? I don't see a justification for adding a sixth peak in the Spring Mountains. I recommend a NO vote on McFarland. -Bob Sumner

Please send additional pro/con arguments to the DPS Management Committee, by March 15, for the following ballot items:
--addition of McFarland to the list
--deletion of Argus and Maturango from the list
--addition of a suspension of peaks clause to the by-laws
--addition of a Leader Emblem to the by-laws
John and Tammy Hooper let me tag along for this peak because it was one of the last DPS peaks in Mexico I haven’t visited. And it is one of the few peaks left on the DPS list that John hasn’t been to. We planned to climb Pico Risco first, but were turned back by cold winds, heavy cloud cover and snow flurries before we even got near the trailhead for the peak. Yes, you heard right, we had snow in Baja California. So we drove over to Cerro Pescadores to investigate the trailhead for a summit attempt the following day.

Following our scouting mission, we stayed in Mexicali for the night. Having brought no camping gear and unwilling to put up with the 2+ hour wait at the border crossing, we stayed at the best-looking hotel in downtown Mexicali. I believe it was a Holiday Inn. Even though it was a weekend, the hotel was almost completely devoid of guests and we were the only visitors in the hotel bar and restaurant. We didn’t get much sleep that night due to the occasional sound of gunfire and the wailing of police sirens almost hourly on the road outside our window. Things finally calmed down around 5 am and we decided to get an early start to avoid traffic and banditos. Could this be why downtown Mexicali is not a tourist destination? Having said this, I should point out the hotel employees were all very courteous and we felt safe there.

Looking at trip reports and the DPS Guidebook there are at least four different points between km posts 21 and 25 from which to leave Mexico Highway 5 and drive on dirt roads towards the Pescadores trailhead. Because these turn-offs for the trailhead are next to what appears to be an ever-expanding garbage dump, road conditions may have changed over the years. And perhaps continue to change in the future. The easiest drive route and closest approach to the peak has been mentioned in some of the most recent trip reports and below I try to describe it in detail.

Drive route for Cerro Pescadores: Drive south out of Mexicali on Highway 5 and locate kilometer post 21. Continue 0.15 to 0.2 mile past km post 21 and turn right onto a good, graded dirt road that is rail-straight, but hard to spot from the highway until you are right next to it. The correct dirt road is just past another dirt road that had a gate across it. When we were there, a small sign with the word “Pacheco” inside an arrow was near the start of this road. But that was it for signage. After turning off the highway, drive 2.9 mi. past the edge of a garbage dump to the end of the graded road section. Turn left onto a dirt track for 30 feet and then right onto another dirt track and continue SW 0.4 mile to where the track enters deep sand in a wash. This is the trailhead for all 2WD vehicles, and is also the location of “The Gap.”
noted on the DPS Guidebook schematic map. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are needed to go farther up the wash, so John put his FJ Cruiser into 4WD and swam through the deep sand through the gap another few tenths of a mile into the larger wash that runs NW-SE on the DPS map and parked. This parking spot is completely out of view of Highway 5 and the garbage dump and appears to be seldom visited by other 4WD vehicles.

From the gap, the prominent gendarme at a bearing of 230 degrees noted in the DPS Guidebook route description was an excellent way to identify Cerro Pescadores and the prominent ridge that is followed to its summit. However, don’t look for antennas on “7 antennae” hill as a way to locate this nearby feature because we saw no antennae on it.

From the car, we followed the DPS route description and hiked SW up a wash towards the peak for nearly one mile, then started up the ridge that leads to the summit. We went a little past the spot shown on the DPS map where one is to start heading up the ridge, so the climbing began a little steeper than expected. This ridge is a long one, going for about 1.8 miles to the top. Early on, we followed short sections of a vague use trail and occasional ducks. But the use trail had all but disappeared in the first 1000 feet of climbing. What didn’t disappear was the large amount of Bighorn sheep scat along the ridge. Although we watched for them, we saw no Bighorns.

About 2/3 of the way up it becomes steeper and rockier for awhile, and then levels off some once the gendarme is reached. From the gendarme, it’s a little under 0.5 miles to the summit with occasional ducks to follow over a few ups and downs. This last section of the climb had some interesting route-finding issues that are described well in the DPS Guidebook, but nothing that was particularly hard to figure out.

Someone went to a lot of trouble to build a high cairn on the summit, perhaps to make this peak the highest in the range? To the north, nearby Puerta Peak (my Spanish-speaking wife tells me this means “door” in Spanish) looks about the same height as Cerro Pescadores. One of the most interesting sites from the top was the geothermal area to the east. It looked like the earth was leaking steam from at least 20 different spots. Looking at the summit register, Cerro Pescadores appears to be a true DPS peak because only Americans familiar with the DPS list climb it. And none too often! Last ones to sign were Bob Burd and Tom Becht nine months earlier in February. Somewhat surprising it is not climbed more often because there is a fine view from the summit.

On our return, we dropped to the left off the ridge at a saddle at about the 1500 foot elevation. We then worked our way down into the first gully we came to thinking this would be a more direct way back to the car. This first gully ended in a class 4 waterfall pitch, so we continued up and over into the next gully to the NW. This one went fine and stayed class 2 the rest of the way into the main wash.

During our climb, we ran across curious small trees that I have not seen or noticed before on other desert peaks. These trees were one of the few plants on our hike without spikes or thorns, and their small leaves gave off a strong mint-like aroma when pinched. John and Tammy called them “elephant” trees because of their similarity to other desert plants they were familiar with.

The climb was just under 6 miles round trip with 3100 feet of gain, and took us 7.5 hours round trip.

---

**DPS HOLIDAY PARTY**

**December 6, 2009**

**By Ann Perkins**

The annual DPS holiday party was held at the home of Dave and Ann Perkins. At 4:30 the management committee arrived, and the first guests came around 5:00, followed by a steady stream of revelers bearing food until we lost count at somewhere between 45 and 50! Forgive me if I don’t list each name, but that would take a good chunk of the write up. I will mention that as usual, Rich Gnagy takes the prize for coming the farthest for the party – all the way from Sacramento. The wine was plentiful and good, and we enjoyed appetizers – Christine Bartell brought great deviled eggs, and Edna Erspamer and I had the identical contribution – cranberry chevre logs from Trader Joe’s. They’re really good! A large array of salads and main dishes included a wonderful plate of teriyaki beef, a lamb stew, chicken, broccoli and tuna casseroles, Tina’s waldorf salad, Mary Mac’s cranberry salad, and a potato dish that Sherry Harsh contributed when she learned Mary Mac was not bringing her cheesy potatoes. Everything was delicious – I know I didn’t list all the dishes, but you’ll have to accept what my memory dredges up! Everyone managed to find a place to sit – and with that size crowd, it was a chance to get up close and personal with each other.

Part of the focus of the party was a celebration of Charlie Knapke’s many contributions to the DPS and to the Sierra Club in general, and after dinner Mary gave a short speech and made a presentation of a large card that all of us had signed, a poster listing Charlie’s accomplishments, and a beautifully decorated cake which we then proceeded to enjoy. We were happy to have Charlie there enjoying himself – thanks to Devra Wasserman and her husband for making sure he came. There were many other desserts of course, including an apple crisp by Jan Brahms, the pie queen.

---

**THE DESERT SAGE**

18

March/April 2010
It was a great occasion for meeting new people (yes, we are seeing some new faces in the DPS), reconnecting with old friends, and swapping climbing and other stories. What a good way to kick off the holiday season!

The Holiday Party hosts, Dave and Ann Perkins
Photos by Mary McMannes

Ron Bartell, Sue Holloway, Barbara Sholle, Christine Mitchell

Mirna Roach with cake adorned with flowers (the flowers were edible)

Anne Anglim, Edna Erspamer, Julie Rush, Sherry Harsh

Charlie Knapke, Mary McMannes, Devra Wasserman
George signed out and Tom took over as sweep. We made the top at 11:30 and spent twenty-five minutes there, having lunch, identifying peaks, and trying to stay out of the wind.

The return hike went well with everyone being careful on some loose and steeper areas. After a short break once we were off the ridge, which seemingly only the leaders wanted to take, we were off for the cars. I noted the curious phenomenon of people spreading out on this homestretch trudge. George was waiting for us back at the cars, which we reached at 2:40 or so. It was still pretty nippy out, so there was no lounging by the cars after this hike. Soon all were headed their various ways, satisfied with having rounded up Pinto.

There was week of rain before a DPS trip scheduled for the weekend of 12-13 Dec 2009. Being Sierra Club leaders, we watched the weather but decided it was a go with a predicted chance of clearing. After all, this is the desert. So off we went to meet up at the Pyramid Peak trailhead off Hwy 190 in Death Valley. With a roster of 9 a week before and storms brewing all over California, I was not surprised at only the 4 participants and 2 leaders who arrived there ready to go. My co-leader Paul Garry and I were joined by Keith Christensen, John Sefton, Steve Eckert, and a DPS legend, Dave Perkins. It was cold and cloudy, but no falling rain or snow at 7 am.

Pyramid was not visible from the trailhead, buried in the clouds. We wondered if it really did exist. Dave climbed it before and he mentioned something about the sun being out to see it last time. We trusted that. So off we headed to the visible low point across the desert. I told the group, “we go until the weather gets bad, then we head back”. All agreed as if they had a choice and we soon were across the 2.5 miles of slightly elevating desert. Once into the narrowing wash almost to the saddle, to our left we saw a couple choices to climb up. Still no rain and still no top to Pyramid. Someone broke out the DPS guide routes and because I did not plan with the guide, I looked at the DPS guide and my plan and decided Route B (further East route) was where we were headed. Besides, we already passed the A route start.

Up we went upon a north traveling ridge (SE ridge route) with lots of black rock and passed by the east side of it like the guide (and my plan) showed. This seemed to follow very well and we came upon a use trail off and on. We got into the clouds at about 5500’. Clouds went in and out and still no rain or snow. Everyone was moving well, it was cold and breaks were short as we knew it...
was only a matter of time before the weather came. Following the use trail made it fairly straight forward in the clouds. Visibility was less than 100 feet at times.

We came to a flat spot which is a clear feature on the topo (and the 3 or 4 GPSs we had among us). The slope ahead of us was the last ridge climb to the peak, Pyramid must be there somewhere. Still no rain or snow falling, but there were ample patches of collected snow all around us as we climbed along the off and on use trail. Many thanks to my companions for finding the use trail after losing it many times. We were a good team. Visibility was poor, our GPSs were tracking our every move, no rain or snow falling, off we went into the clouds.

DPS climbs are usually sunny and provide for fantastic views. We had none of those usual views. Our fantastic views were the amazing crystal ice formations on the rocks and plants. Wind blown and crystal white, one cannot find a more scenic path on this route. These are the views, I’m sure, most climbers seldom see on a climb of this peak. We were fortunate to be amongst this beauty. Photos cannot provide the extreme and intricate details of this ice.

I led the group right to the summit rock pile. I climbed a slippery rock ledge to the top which was easily bypassed around the back side thanks to Steve’s find. At the summit and in the presence of the register, we were very happy to be there now as the clouds decided to open up and a snowy ice rain began. Ok, we need to go. With a quick sign, bite to eat and a fast photo, off we went down the peak.

I chose a nice sand slope, knowing that it was well left of our ascent route. We descended quickly in the sand, but I heard shouts behind me saying we needed to get back to the use trail. So we traversed right a few rocky ridge lines finding our use trail and the obvious flat spot landmark. The rest of the descent was via a deep gully west of the black ridge we just climbed. This was far superior to the black ridge and we all commented on why the DPS did not have an up route in this gully. Rain was light and we got a little wet, but nothing major. Our descent to the wash was fast down the gully and before long we were heading across the desert to the cars at dusk. About 10 miles and 10 hours round trip. Dave headed off home and the rest of us went to the Furnace Creek campground for a nice meal at the lodge restaurant.

In the morning, the 4 of us in 3 cars (John went home), headed to the Smith trailhead. Dumping 2 of the cars at the road intersection and everyone piled into my Jeep for the 4WD to the start point. Paul led this route to Smith with ease as the sun was shining brightly despite a cold wind. Across the desert into the deep canyon with very steep sides. A few class 2+ moves over a waterfall and we were within sight of the Smith ridge. In no time, Paul had us at the high point, but not Smith. Smith is a saddle and short climb away west of this high point. The views were wonderful and we had a great time lounging close to the saddle for lunch out of the cold wind. Paul inhabited a cave for this break. The descent was via the same route.

A special note about conservation. Charlie Callagan from the NPS (Wilderness Coordinator for DV) sent me an email asking that we remove all wire and metallic objects from our peaks. History had the USGS teams leaving lots of garbage at the top of these peaks. I removed about 1 pound of steel wire and some old battery casings found at the top of Smith. I was glad to do our clean up task. Charlie did note that this was approved by the archeology folks at NPS and that we should leave the wood behind to rot where it sits. I encourage all DPS climbers to follow this recommendation when climbing DV peaks. Thanks to all the participants and especially Paul for co-leading this successful trip.
EDGAR PEAK, MITCHELL POINT
November 6, 2009
By Steve Eckert

The DPS Archives contain the oldest report I'm aware of that mentions me: http://angeles.sierrachab.org/dps/archives/dps02360.htm.

One of the two "lost" people in that 1982 report was me, except I wasn't the unequipped novice that I had been reported to the rangers. And we had signed out! When I finally got around to going back for the peaks, I also managed to find a legal way around the locked gate mentioned in so many trip reports.

I drove as far as I could in a passenger car toward the Bonanza Mine, then hiked dinner and walked away from my car at dusk, around 5 pm. Since it gets dark very early in November, why not take a sunset walk? Anyone with a high clearance vehicle could drive 2 miles of 4WD road I hiked up before dry camping in the wash just beyond the DPS Guide's Gilroy Canyon trailhead. The stars were great, the insects were singing, and Vegas looked radioactive!

The next morning I left camp at 4:30 am, NOT using a headlamp! The moon was still very bright and directly overhead pre-dawn, just as planned. I think I left the wash at the junction of the DPS Guide's Route B and C, but above that I definitely didn't follow the guide. Out of the wash and above the brush, cholla, and cat's claw, all I had to contend with were a few prickly pears and the occasional agave. Not at all the horrible terrain I'd expected from other reports! I didn't get stuck, even walking by moonlight. Maybe it's just Route D that's bad?

I reached the Route C ridge (5000') at 5:30 am, just as first light showed on the horizon. An hour of pre-dawn cross-country with no headlamp! Once on the ridge, the low-lying cactus gives way to pine trees but the footing is still mostly harsh limestone which really wants to tear you up if you slip. At 4900' the ridge gets much harder, but mostly Class 2. The DPS Guide says to leave this ridge at 1700m, but unless I was completely on the wrong ridge, that's not possible. There's a gorg and cliffs to the right of the ridge here, so I just stayed on the ridge which tops out on the 2020m bump directly south of Mitchell.

I arrived on the summit of Mitchell at 8:15 am, mid-60s, slight breeze. Nice! Next? Back at the bump I collected my cached water and headed south. At the next saddle, I dropped southeast from the saddle to 6300' where I climbed 5' of class 3 to get through a cliff band. This would be harder to figure out going the other direction. I immediately climbed up through another band of cliffs, then angled up to the ridge. Staying mostly to the left (east) of the ridge, I went down and over a bump, then down to almost 6100' which is the low point of the ridge traverse between the peaks.

After the big saddle north of Edgar (just below 6300'), I think the best route is to climb the left (east) side of the ridge, making sure to stay left of the rib above 6450'. The 2000m contour (6600') is where I entered the summit chute. Below that it's rocky, steep, and disorganized. Stay in the chute or you'll end up crossing back into it just below 6900'. Near the top of this chute there are lots of trees and bushes, but they are not impenetrable. The correct saddle is only 50 yards from the summit, and Edgar is a class 2-3 scramble from there.

It was just noon when I got to Edgar, but it felt like a long day because I had been climbing for almost 8 hours already. I stayed on top for an hour relishing having bagged both of them in a day without a 4WD vehicle. Rather than descending all the way to the saddle, I turned northeast below the rib, following a nice purple sandy gully into the trees and avoiding all the cliffs.

At 5800' I popped out of some trees and into a larger drainage. On the way up this drainage junction would be very hard to find, but it's critical to turn south here on the way in! This junction defines the line between great walking and weaving around brush, trees, boulders, and cactus. At 5300' there is another vague drainage choice, where you would stay right on the way up. At 5150' there's another canyon branch that would be a left fork on the way up. There is a major fork at 4900' on the way up, where climbers would bear left. It sure is easier to follow a drainage DOWN than UP!

Below this the drainage skirts the cliffs on the west side of Point 1512, doing a U-turn and joining Route B on the north side of Point 1512. If you reverse my route, be sure to bear left at 4900' after passing those cliffs. At 4600' I rejoined the main wash which drains the south face of Mitchell, turning southwest back to the old trailhead and easier walking. Back to my pack at 3:20 pm, back to the car at 4:45 pm, I had time to clean up and have a beer before dark even though it was a 12 hour day (including very long breaks) in November.

Trip totals: Around 12 miles of walking (ignoring the "squiggle factor" for all the brush, which at times was 2x), and about 4800' of gain (not counting all the little ups and downs, which might add a few hundred feet more).
Part I of this Historic Desert series (see Desert Sage, Nov/Dec 2008 & Jan/Feb 2009 issues) recounted the 8-year (1528-1536) odyssey of Cabeza de Vaca and his three companions as they became the first non-North Americans to venture across northern Sonora.

Upon reaching Mexico City at long last, the four adventurers reported to Antonio de Mendoza, the Royal Viceroy, that the people they had met in the north lived in permanent houses, wore cotton blankets of fine quality, and traded parrot plumes for turquoises, emeralds, and fur robes with people who lived still farther north in “very large houses.” Cabeza de Vaca also mentioned that the mountains through which they had passed exhibited “many signs of gold, antimony, iron, copper and other metals.”

The Viceroy wondered if the northern area might be as rich a discovery as Mexico had been, or, possibly, the site of the Seven Cities of Antilia, the fabled communities reputedly founded by seven Portuguese bishops who, pressed by conquering Mohammedans centuries earlier, had fled west into the “Ocean Sea?”

In the spring of 1539, Mendoza, cautious by nature, sent a small party north to reconnoiter the area. The man he chose to lead the venture was a Franciscan priest, Fray Marcos de Niza; his guide was to be Esteban, a Moroccan, one of Cabeza de Vaca’s three travel companions.

Five months later Fray Marcos reappeared in Mexico City to report he had traveled to the outskirts of the place called Cibola, where he had seen an Indian community “larger than the city of Mexico.” Though he did not claim to have entered the city of Cibola, he reported that the city stood on a high hill, that it was made of gold, and that he could see the Pacific Ocean off to the west. Unfortunately, Marcos also had to report that Esteban, who had arrived at the first of the seven Cibolan cities a few days before him, had been slain there by angry residents. Unfortunately also, as it turned out, was that Fray Marcos’ information was highly exaggerated.

Mendoza, whose motto was “Do nothing, and do it slowly,” found himself forced to act with uncharacteristic dispatch. Indeed, Hernan Cortés, the man who had conquered Mexico some twenty years earlier, Pedro de Alvarado, who possessed a right from the King of Spain to explore north along the west coast of New Spain (as Mexico was then known), and Hernando De Soto, who had royal authorization to explore and colonize Florida, an ill-defined area stretching indefinitely westward from the Atlantic Ocean, were all aware of Marcos’ glowing report, and any one of them might attempt to reach and exploit the area before Mendoza could.

With uncharacteristic alacrity, Mendoza raised funds, recruited a group of high-quality officers and soldiers, and asked his close friend, Francisco Vásquez de Coronado, to act as his captain general for what was to become the best-prepared expedition Spain would ever make into an unknown country.

Don Francisco Vásquez de Coronado (1510-1554), the man whose name remains emblazoned across the Southwestern U.S landscape even now, 470 years later, was the second son of a noble Spanish family, a birth placement which meant that by the rules of primogeniture he would inherit little or nothing of the family estate. Seeking his own fortune, Don Francisco—much like hundreds of other younger sons of noble families—decided to try his luck in the New World.

Once in Mexico, Coronado, attractive and popular, became a trusted friend of Viceroy Mendoza. In 1537, the Viceroy dispatched him to quell an Indian uprising, and the following year he appointed Don Francisco as a member of the Mexico City council. In August 1538, Mendoza named Coronado as governor of Nueva Galicia, a post previously held by Nuno de Guzman, a rogue who treated the natives of what are now the Mexican states of Jalisco, Nayarit and S. Sinaloa so poorly that it scandalized nearly everyone.

On February 22, 1540, once again at Mendoza’s request, Captain General Coronado and his entrada, including over 300 soldiers, 700 Indian helpers and four
Franciscan friars, set out to ascertain the wealth of the seven cities of Cibola and to convert the natives living there to Christianity.

Leading his large expedition through what is now Sinaloa, Sonora, SE Arizona, and finally to Cibola itself—the Zuni country of New Mexico—Coronado found neither splendor nor wealth. Although certainly disappointed, he dispatched his lieutenants in various directions: Pedro de Tovar northwest to the Hopi villages; Garcia Lopez de Cárdenas, further west, to become the first European to gaze into the Grand Canyon; and Hernando de Alvarado east to Acoma and the pueblos along the Rio Grande and the Pecos River.

The only encouraging news resulting from these forays came when Alvarado returned with a Plains Indian nicknamed the Turk, who told tales of the wealthy kingdom of Quivira to the east.

Coronado, ever hopeful, moved his entrada east to spend their first winter on the Rio Grande, near the present day Albuquerque. Unfortunately, in the process of commandeering two pueblos for his entrada’s use, the expeditionaries angered the locals, leading to an ill-conceived war in which hundreds of Indians were killed, several of whom were cruelly burned at the stake.

In the spring of 1541, the entrada moved east once more, this time in search of Quivira. After weeks of aimless wandering around the Texas Panhandle, where the party encountered large herds of “monstrous beasts,” i.e., bison, Coronado sent most of the group back to the pueblos on the Rio Grande. Then, with directions provided by a group of Plains Indians, he and a party of thirty horsemen proceeded north through the grasslands of Oklahoma, across the Cimarron and Arkansas Rivers, until, in early June 1541, they reached Quivira, near the present day town of Lyons in south central Kansas. Once again Coronado was disappointed—Quivira was nothing more than a group of poor Indian villages, empty of gold, silver and jewels.

Abandoning his quest at last, Coronado retreated to spend a second winter on the Rio Grande, during which time he was severely injured in a fall from his horse. In 1542, the Captain General returned to Mexico City, where, two years later, his conduct while among the Pueblo Indians was investigated by a special judge sent from Spain. Eventually cleared of all charges, Don Francisco Coronado remained a friend of Viceroy Mendoza, retained his position as governor of Nueva Galicia, and as a member of the governing council of Mexico City. In 1554, after a few years of declining health, Don Francisco Vásquez de Coronado’s died in Mexico City at the age of forty-four.

So, you may ask, why bother to consider Coronado and his entrada when the closest the main body of the expedition ever got to a DPS listed peak came while advancing north up the San Pedro River Valley, some 70 miles east of Baboquivari Peak? Well, the answer to that query lies with the adventures of two ancillary members of the expedition.

Realizing that Coronado’s large entrada would need to be resupplied during the long expedition, Mendoza commissioned Hernando de Alarcon to sail a fleet of supply ships north along the west coast of Mexico, where it was planned that they would be met by the expedition. Coronado, however, turned further east than anticipated and the meeting never took place. But Alarcon’s effort was not a total loss. In fact, he and his crew proved for once and for all that Lower California was a peninsula, not an island, and a few months before Cárdenas spotted the Colorado River at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, Alarcon and his men sailed far enough up the lower part of that river to become the first Europeans—even before Cabrillo—to set foot in California.

And that brings us to the exploits of yet another member of Coronado’s entrada, Melchor Diaz, of whom Stuart Udall wrote, “He rode more miles, saw more unexplored country, took more risks, and blazed more trails than any (of Coronado’s men)...” In a belated attempt to rendezvous with Alarcon, Diaz and his small party became the first Europeans to travel the Camino del Diablo, the infamous trail which follows approximately today’s Mexican border, just north of Cerro Pinacate. Unfortunately, by the time Diaz arrived at the Colorado, Alarcon had left, taking the supplies with him. And regrettable as that may seem, an even greater tragedy occurred a few weeks later, when Diaz, beloved by his men, accidentally gored himself with his own spear while in an area southwest of present day Yuma, dying a few days later.

Because of Coronado’s important place in history, many books, articles and papers have been written about him and his explorations. Three representative volumes are reviewed below.

CORONADO: KNIGHT OF PUEBLOS AND PLAINS (1949), Herbert Eugene Bolton

In the course of this Historic Desert series, Herbert E. Bolton (1870-1953) will become a familiar name. Not only did he research and write Coronado: Knight of Pueblos and Plains, but he also spent twenty-two years completing his five-volume work, Anza’s California Expeditions; wrote Rim of Christendom, the definitive biography of Father Eusebio Kino; and, in addition to many shorter works on the Southwest, authored the Pageant in the Wilderness, a history of Father Escalante and his attempt to open a route from Santa Fe through the Great Basin to Monterey.

Bolton spent his last forty-three years on the UC Berkeley campus, serving both as the Sather Professor of...
History and as the Director of the Bancroft Library, in whose dusty stacks he mined Mexican and Spanish archives for much of his material.

The historian Samuel Eliot Morison claimed that Bolton wrote history "that sings to the heart while it informs the understanding." Upon its publication, Coronado, Knight of Pueblos and Plains, eminently readable and scholarly, became the gold standard against which all other Coronado histories were measured. New information, however, has come to light in the sixty years since Bolton's work was published. Indeed, later-day researchers have proposed both different motives and a more probable route through Texas and Oklahoma for the entrada, as noted below.


Stewart Udall (1920- ) is best known for his 8-year term as Secretary of Interior during the John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson administrations (1961-69). A lifelong conservationist, Udall was raised on a ranch in St. Johns, AZ, very near Coronado's route as he approached Cibola, and was first attracted to the Coronado story as a boy.

In his preface to the first edition of Majestic Journey, Udall explains that, for the most part, he agrees with Bolton's conclusions regarding Coronado's route. He does note, however, "that a new generation of ethnologists has completed studies that demonstrate that before Columbus there were trade-trail networks connecting the homelands of the inland natives with settlements of their coastal Indian neighbors in northern Mexico." The location of these trails throws new light on Coronado's path, explaining "why the conquistadores were never lost and did not waste time hacking trails through wild country."

Udall discusses theories regarding a more probable route of Coronado through the vast grassy plains of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. Until Coronado artifacts are located, however, none of these can be proved for certain. Because this geographic area does not impact the DPS, those various possibilities won't be explored here.

Majestic Journey includes excellent color and B&W photographs by Jerry Jacka, offering an idea of what the countryside must have looked like in the mid-Sixteenth Century. If you are content with a basic history of the Coronado entrada, and would like to get a feeling for what the expeditionaries must have experienced, I highly recommend this volume.

THE DESERT SAGE

NO SETTLEMENT, NO CONQUEST: A HISTORY OF THE CORONADO ENTRADA (2008), Richard Flint

Richard Flint is a research associate in history at the Center for Desert Archaeology, Tucson, AZ. His other publications include The Coronado Expedition: From the Distance of 460 Years and Documents of the Coronado Expedition, 1539-1542.

No Settlement, No Conquest does not consider the actual route of Coronado—the author's volume, The Coronado Expedition, does that. Rather, Flint notes in his introduction, "How the Coronado entrada was conducted and why it unfolded as it did; what the responses of the natives of Tierra Nueva were to the expedition and why they pursued the options they did; what effects the expedition had on its own members and the Indians it sought to control; how the events and outcomes of the expedition fit with those of similar, contemporaneous undertakings (are all explored in this book)."

Also, whereas both Bolton and Udall downplayed the cruelties promulgated by the Coronado expedition upon the locals, Flint gives us a more graphic idea of what actually took place.

He wraps up this worthwhile volume thusly: "In some of the acts of the Coronado expedition we are confronted with the basest of human drives, all too easy to succumb to. May their story heighten our resolve to do better. In other behaviors of the expeditionaries we can take pride as fellow humans. May they inspire our emulation."
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 use the order form at the bottom of this page.
**ORDERED BY:**

**SHIP TO:**

**(IF DIFFERENT)**

**STREET:**

**NAME:**

**CITY/ZIP:**

**STREET:**

**CITY/ZIP:**

**PHONE:**

**QUANTITY** | **ITEM** | **PRICE** | **TOTAL**
--- | --- | --- | ---
| | DPS Peaks List | $1 | 
| | Road and Peaks Guide (5th Ed) printed version (price includes shipping) | $9.99 (SALE PRICE) | 
| | Road and Peaks Guide (5th Edition) CD ROM version | $30 | 
| | 1 Year SAGE subscription | $10 reg. / $20 sustaining | 
| | DPS Complete History and Lore CD ROM | $15 |

Mail order form for above and payment to:

(Make check payable to the Desert Peaks Section)

Gloria Miladin, DPS Treasurer
11946 Downey Ave
Downey, CA, 90242

Grand Total: ____________________

**QUANTITY** | **ITEM** | **PRICE** | **TOTAL**
--- | --- | --- | ---
| | DPS Patch | $3 | 
| | Emblem Pin | $12 | 
| | List Finisher Pin | $20 | 
| | Desert Explorer Award Pin | $12 | 
| | DPS T-shirt (see item below) (Tan w/black and gray print (M, L, XL only) | $12 | 

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

$3.50 / $4

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

(Make check payable to the Desert Peaks Section)

Gloria Miladin, DPS Treasurer
11946 Downey Ave
Downey, CA, 90242

Grand Total: ____________________

**THE DESERT SAGE**

March/April 2010
DESERT PEAKS SECTION

DPS NEWSLETTER - The DESERT SAGE - Published six times a year by the Desert Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT SAGE IS APRIL 10, 2010.

SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP - It costs ten dollars a year to subscribe to the SAGE. Anyone can subscribe to the SAGE, even if not a member of the DPS or the Sierra Club, by sending $10 to Membership Records. To become a member of the DPS you must (1) belong to the Sierra Club (2) have climbed 6 of the 99 peaks on the DPS peaks list and (3) send $10 to Membership Records for a SAGE subscription. Non-members who subscribe to the SAGE are not allowed to vote in our elections. Renewals, subscriptions, and address changes should be sent to Membership Records, Ron Bartell, 1556 21st Street, Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266. The subscription/membership year is for six issues, regardless of when payment is received.

EMBLEM STATUS AND GUIDES - To receive DPS emblem status you must climb 15 peaks on the list, five of which must be from the list of seven emblem peaks, and have belonged to the section of one year. To work on the list you will probably want to buy from the Treasurer (Gloria Miladin, 11946 Downey Ave, Downey, CA, 90242) the Desert Peaks Road and Peak Guide 5th Edition - $28 + $2 Postage. If you like to explore without much direction just purchase the DPS PEAKS LIST - $1 (enclose a self-addressed envelope). Send completed peak and emblem lists to Membership Records, Ron Bartell, 1556 21st Street, Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266.

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

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

EDITOR - Bob Sumner, PO Box 2354, Hawthorne, NV, 89415-2354
Email: bobsumner@att.net