Are you looking for a way to give back to DPS for all the fun it's given you? Then why not consider running for the Management Committee. The only requirement is that you be a member of DPS. Here's how it works. The Management Committee is composed of five people who serve for two years each. Two are elected in odd years, three in even years. After each election, the group of five decides how they want to divvy out the positions: Chair, Vice Chair/Outings, Secretary, Treasurer, Meetings/Banquet Chair. Then the Management Committee (including appointed positions) meets once a month from September through April. Meetings, of course, are followed by the Potluck Party.

The main functions of the Management Committee are to keep track of the money, schedule and produce the monthly potluck/meetings and the annual banquet, and oversee the trip process. They also oversee the activities of the appointed positions who are responsible for assembling/producing/mailing the Sage; managing our membership database, registers, records and archives; keeping up with and reporting on conservation, safety, and peak status issues; and, maintaining the website. Mostly this just means keeping out of their way!

Other activities include whatever each particular Management Committee is interested in taking on. This is very dependent on the focus of the committee members at the time. Do you think DPS needs to geographically expand its peak list? Completely revamp our communications? Get more involved in conservation activities? Expand our membership? Attract younger members? Include more technical peaks? Develop more leaders? Of course, part of any 'extra credit' task would be selling the changes to the membership.

A discussion I hear frequently at DPS activities is: Will DPS survive? If we can't attract new, younger members, then the inevitable will happen. People of a certain age know and love DPS. But the world has changed a lot since the DPS was officially organized in 1945.

Once you get to the trailhead and put your boots on, the experience remains pretty much the same as it was in 1945. (We'll talk about 4WD, GPS and cell phones some other time!). The challenge of a strenuous climb, spotting a bighorn, the pride of accomplishment at the summit, the companionship of like minded souls, the adventure, learning to identify another cactus, spotting a new bird, the puzzle of route finding, another checkmark on your peak list, the satisfaction of leading a group to the summit, just plain being outdoors and getting exercise. These are the joys of the desert climb that keep us coming back. And we want to share that experience with new, young friends. How do we find them, attract them, make them feel welcome, and finally make them belong.

There isn't a mysterious 'DPS in crowd' of candidates for the management committee. Every member is eligible and encouraged to participate in meetings. We need input and feedback to keep us moving forward.

So how about it? Ready to get involved in the workings behind all these DPS trips you're enjoying? Maybe you're interested in supporting the section but being a leader isn't your thing. If you are interested and think geography is an issue, it could still work even if you live out of the immediate L.A. area. There are only eight meetings a year. Ron and I (and many others I'm sure) would be very happy to give a bed to a traveling Management Committee member. Also, DPSers are not a stay-at-home bunch so Management Committee members have been known to phone it in occasionally. Elaine Baldwin 'attended' a meeting last year from Missouri via AIM.

If you think you are interested in running for Management Committee, contact one of the nominating committee members (myself or Mary McMannes) and we'll be glad to answer any questions.
TRIPS / EVENTS
JANUARY Through JUNE 2011

JAN 9  SAT  DPS  DPS Potluck and Management Meeting
JAN 18-19 SAT-SUN DPS  Mopah Point, Umpah Point, Turtle Mountain
JAN 22 SAT  DPS, LTC, SPS, HPS  Local Baldy Snow Practice
JAN 29-30 SAT-SUN DPS  Whipple Mtn, Chemehuevi Peak
FEB 5-6 SAT-SUN DPS  Black Butte, Chuckwalla Mtn
FEB 12 SAT  DPS, LTC, SPS, HPS  Local Baldy Snow Practice
FEB 13 SAT  DPS  DPS Potluck and Management Meeting
FEB 26-27 SAT-SUN DPS  Pyramid Peak, Eagle Mountain #2
FEB 26-27 SAT-SUN DPS  Rosa Point, Indianhead
MAR 13 SAT  DPS  DPS Potluck and Management Meeting
MAR 19 SAT  LTC  Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar
MAR 26-27 SAT-SUN DPS  Sandy Point, Last Chance Mountain List Finish
MAR 26-27 SAT-SUN DPS, WTC  Tensor Peak, Spectre Point, Dyadic Peak
APR 2  SAT  LTC  Leadership Training Seminar
APR 2-3 SAT-SUN DPS, LTC, WTC, DC  Mohave National Preserve Navigation Noodle
APR 3  SUN  DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS  Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff
APR 10 SAT  DPS  DPS Potluck and Management Meeting
APR 15-17 FRI-SUN LTC, WTC, HL  Wilderness First Aid Course
APR 16  SAT  LTC, WTC  Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain
APR 16-17 SAT-SUN DPS  Mount Palmer, Grapevine Peak
APR 20  WED  DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS  Advanced Mountaineering Program—Basic Safety System
APR 23  SAT  DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS  Advanced Mountaineering Program—Belaying
APR 23-24 SAT-SUN DPS, LTC, SPS  Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice
APR 30  SAT  DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS  Advanced Mountaineering Program—Rappelling
MAY 7  SAT  DPS, LTC, SPS  Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice
MAY 7-8 SAT-SUN DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS  Advanced Mountaineering Program—Rock Techniques
MAY 14  SAT  LTC, WTC, HPS  Beginning Navigation Clinic
MAY 15  SUN  DPS  Annual Banquet
MAY 28  SAT  DPS, FC, CC  Centennial Trails Restoration in Angeles National Forest
JUNE 4-5 SAT-SUN DPS  Hayford Peak, Mount Stirling

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://sierracclub.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 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

♣ JAN 9  SUN  DPS
O: DPS Potluck and Management Meeting: Come to the home of Gloria Miladin for a DPS potluck and management committee meeting. Meeting starts at 4:30; potluck at 6 pm. Bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. Contact Reserv: Gloria Miladin (miladingloria@yahoo.com).

♣ JAN 18-19  SAT-SUN  DPS
MR: Mopah Point (3,530'), Umpah Point (3,553'), Turtle Mountain (4298'):
Join us for three peaks in the Turtle Mountain Wilderness area. Saturday climb Mopah and Umpah 9 mi rt, 3800' gain, with happy hour after. Sunday climb Turtle Mtn, 13 mi, 2700' gain. Must be comfortable with 3rd class rock, have helmet and climbing harness, and submit medical form. Restricted to Sierra Club members only. Send e-mail or sase with Sierra Club number, climbing resume with experience on 3rd class rock, conditioning, and contact information to Leader: Matt Hengst
* JAN 22 SAT DPS, LTC, SPS, HPS

**M/E: Local Baldy Snow Practice:** Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone # to Leader: Nile Sorenson (nsorenso@pacbell.net). Co-Leader: Tom McDonnell.

* JAN 29-30 SAT-SUN DPS

I: Whipple Mtn (4130'), Chemehuevi Peak (3694'): Join us for a winter climb of these two low elevation peaks near the Colorado River. We will climb Whipple by route B, 2700' gain, 9 miles. Chemehuevi is 2000' of gain and 7.5 miles. Driving distance between the peaks is short; there is 1 mile of poor dirt road, but 2WD can probably make it or we can carpool the last mile. DPS happy hour and potluck Saturday night. Leader: Dave Perkins; send email/SASE to Assistant Leader Ann Perkins (ann.perkins@csun.edu).

* FEB 5-6 SAT-SUN DPS

I: Black Butte (4504'), Chuckwalla Mtn (3446'): Join us for two class 2 hikes near the historic Bradshaw Trail. Sat Black Butte, 1600' gain, 3 mi if we have enough 4WDs or 1830' gain, 6.6 miles from the 2WD parking spot. Sun Chuckwalla, 1600' gain, 3 mi. Be prepared for catclaw. Send contact, rideshare info to Leader: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Co-Leader: Tom Bowman.

* FEB 12 SAT DPS, LTC, SPS, HPS

**M/E: Local Baldy Snow Practice:** Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone # to Leader: Nile Sorenson (nsorenso@pacbell.net). Co-Leader: Doug Mantle.

* FEB 13 SUN DPS

**O: DPS Potluck and Management Meeting:** Come to the home of Christine Mitchell and Ron Bartell for a DPS potluck and management committee meeting. Meeting starts at 4:30; potluck at 6 pm. Bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. Contact Reserv: Christine Mitchell (christinebartell@yahoo.com).

* FEB 26-27 SAT-SUN DPS

**M: Pyramid Peak (6703'), Eagle Mountain #2 (3806'):** We'll climb these two Death Valley Peaks over the weekend and carcamp/potluck on Sat night. Sat climb class 2 Pyramid 10.5 mi, 3500' gain. Pyramid is located within Death Valley National Park. Sun climb class 3, Eagle 3 mi, 1800' gain. Comfort on class 3 rock required. Send email or sase with recent experience, conditioning and carpool info to Leader: Gary Schenk (gwschenk@socal.rr.com). Co-Leader: Tina Bowman.

* FEB 26-27 SAT-SUN DPS

I: Rosa Pt (5000+), Indianhead (3860+): Join us in Anza Borrego. Rosa Pt. is a strenuous climb up canyon and ridges with an overall gain of 4800' and 12 miles rt. Car camp with BBQ chicken potluck Saturday night. Sunday a more leisurely day with 3200' gain and 4 miles rt to climb Indianhead. Send sase or email with experience and conditioning, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Barbee Tidball (ltbtidball@verizon.net). Co-Leader: Larry Tidball.

* MAR 13 SUN DPS

**O: DPS Potluck and Management Meeting:** Come to the home of Tom Sumner for a DPS potluck and management committee meeting. Meeting starts at 4:30; potluck at 6 pm. Bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. Contact Reserv: Tom Sumner (Locornnr@aol.com).

* MAR 19 SAT LTC

**Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar:** Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC. Register for Apr 2 seminar to be held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena. See LTC web site (www.angeles.sierrachub.org/ltc/) for registration information or ad in the March-July 4th Schedule of Activities. Next seminar: Fall 2011.

* MAR 26 - 27 SAT-SUN DPS

I: Sandy Point (7062'), List Finish on Last Chance Mtn (8456'): Assuming the Sandy Point ascent on Sat is a
success (2000' gain, 11 mi), Last Chance Mtn (3000' gain, 5 mi) on Sun will be Daryn Dodge's DPS list finish. Join us for one or both peaks. We will have a short celebration on the summit of Last Chance Mtn, and perhaps back at the trailhead, so climbers can drive home at a reasonable hour on Sun. Send e-mail or sase with conditioning and experience to Leader: Daryn Dodge (ddodge@oehha.ca.gov). Co-Leaders: John Cheslick, Kathy Rich, Gary Schenk.

**MAR 26-27**

**MR:** Tensor Peak (4418'), Spectre Point (4400+'), Dyadic Peak (4362'): Visit three rarely climbed peaks in the remote Coxcomb Mountains. Sat backpack into camp (5 mi, 1300' gain). Sun climb peaks then back to camp and out to cars (9 mi, 2000' gain). Must be comfortable on third-class rock and must carry all water for two days. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmet, harness and medical forms required. Send email or sase, experience/conditioning to Leader: Regge Bulman (film185@fastmail.us). Assistant Leader: Eric Scheidemantle.

**APR 2-3**

**I:** Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle in Mojave National Preserve: Join us for our ninth annual journey through this jewel of the Mojave; preserved under the California Desert Protection Act, as a result of the efforts of Sierra Club activists and others. A basic to intermediate xc navigation day-hike workshop will be conducted out of the Mid Hills area in the pinyon and juniper forests at 5500' elevation. Potluck and social on Sat, and for those arriving early on Friday. Limited to 14 participants. Send email/sase to Leader: Robert Myers (mmyers@ix.netcom.com). Co-Leaders: Virgil Shields, Ann Shields, Adrienne Benedict.

**APR 3**

**E/MR:** 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-include SC# on form), address and phone to: Ldr: Ron Hudson (hudsonrf@verizon.net). Co-Ldrs: Greg Mason, Dan Richter, Pat McKusky.

**APR 10**

**O:** DPS Potluck and Management Meeting: Come to the home of Barbee and Larry Tidball for a DPS potluck and management committee meeting. 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 (ibtidball@verizon.net).

**APR 15-17**

**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 $210 (full refund through March 11). For application contact (e-mail preferred) to Leader: Steve Schuster (steve.n.wfac2@sbcglobal.net).

**APR 16**

**MR:** Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain: This navigation workshop is limited to individuals participating in the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd class terrain. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helments and medical forms required/group size limited. Send email/sase, SC#, class 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Leader: Robert Myers (mmyers@ix.netcom.com). Co-Leader: Jack Kieffer.

**APR 16-17**

**I:** Mount Palmer (7958'), Grapevine Peak (8738'): These two great Death Valley peaks, near Rhyolite, Nevada (ghost town) beckon to our Desert Rat souls! Sat Palmer, el 2, 2200' gain in 9 mi rt if we have enough 4WDs or 3100' gain in 11 mi from our 2WD campsite. Sun we will hike class 1 Grapevine, 1600' gain, 4 mi (w/4WD) or 2500', 6 mi rt from camp. Send contact, rideshare info to Leader: Jim Fleming (jimf333@att.net). Co-Leader: Tina Bowman.

**APR 16-17**

**I:** Indian Cove Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR / ACTIVITY REPORT, December 9, 2010

Membership Summary

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Activity Report

Achievements

Fifty Leads

Emblem	 Jim Hinkley 2 years
#579 Paul Garry 11/14/10 Signal Pk
#580 Keith Christensen 11/14/10 Signal Pk

New Member

James Barlow Stewart Point 2 years
Larry Edmonds Rabbit Peak 1 year

Sustaining Renewals

Steve Corona 2 years
Jim Long & Susan Cooper 5 years

Membership Renewals

Mark Adrian 2 years
Jan Brahm & David Reneric 1 year
Debbie Bulger 1 year
Geoff Godfrey 1 year
Michael Gosnell 2 years
Dave Halligan 2 years

Jim Hinkley 2 years
Ron & Leora Jones 1 year
Karen Leonard 1 year
Wayne Martin 1 year
Dove Menkes 1 year
Mary & Rayne Motheral 1 year
Paul & Pat Nelson 1 year
Bill Oliver 2 years
Chuck Pospishil 1 year
Kathryn Rich 2 years
Daniel B A Richter 1 year
Gerry & Jennifer Roach 1 year
Jim Scott 1 year
Barbara & David Sholle 1 year
Nile Sorenson 1 year
Asher Wixman 2 years
Charles Winger 1 year

navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sace, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: Robert Myers (rmmyers@ix.netcom.com). Assistant Leader: Phil Wheeler.

♦ APR 20  

WED  

DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS

M/E R: Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Basic Safety System: First of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today’s indoor evening workshop of 4 hours reviewing ropes, knots, harnesses, helmets, and basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sace or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Leader: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Assistant: Pat McKusky.

♦ APR 23  

SAT  

DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Belaying: 2nd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on belaying and principles of anchor building. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sace or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Leader: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Assistant Leader: Pat McKusky.

♦ APR 23-24  

SAT-SUN  

DPS, LTC, 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 Ldr: Nile Sorenson (nsorenso@pacbell.net) Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

♦ APR 30  

SAT  

DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Rappelling: 3rd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sace or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Leader: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Assistant leader: Pat McKusky.

♦ MAY 7  

SAT  

DPS, LTC, 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: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Co-Leader: Tom McDonnell.

♦ MAY 7-8  

SAT-SUN  

DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS

M/E R: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors: 4th of 4
climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Leader: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Assistant: Pat McKusky.

- MAY 14
  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 15
  SUN
  DPS
  O: DPS Annual Banquet: Save the date for the banquet! We’ll return to the Proud Bird. Program TBA. For more details, check the Desert Sage or DPS website or contact DPS Banquet Chair: Jim Fleming (jimf333@att.net).

- MAY 28
  SAT
  DPS, Forest Com, Camera Com
  O: Centennial Trails Restoration in Angeles National Forest: (Location dependent on hillside conditions) Commemorate Angeles Chapter Centennial by joining the Forest Committee’s San Gabriels Trail Crew to help restore and maintain parts of the 500+ mile trail system in the Angeles National Forest. Tools and instructions provided. Boots, gloves, long-sleeved shirts and pants mandatory. Hiking distances vary. Events typically run 9 am to 3 pm. Bring lots of water, lunch, safety glasses if you have them, and enthusiasm to work as little or as much as you want. Contact leader (email preferred) week before for destination, meeting time and location. Leader: Steve Anderson (steveanderson1138@msn.com). Assistant Leader: Mary McMannes.

- JUNE 4-5
  SAT-SUN
  DPS
  I: Hayford Peak (9912'), Mount Stirling (8218'): Join us for these two Nevada peaks north of Las Vegas with chance to see great wildlife! Sat Hayford, class 1, 4100' gain in 15 mi rt. Camp in area Sat night. Sun we will caravan north and climb Stirling, class 1, 2200' gain, 4 mi rt. Send contact, rideshare info to Leader: Jim Fleming (jimf333@att.net). Co-Leader: Tina Bowman.

OUTINGS CHAIR

By the time you read this, Sue Holloway’s 2X list finish and John Strauch’s list finish will be treasured memories. Congratulations, Sue and John!

Daryn Dodge has scheduled his list finish for March 27th on Last Chance, with Sandy being the penultimate peak the day before. Should be a great time to celebrate in Death Valley. I know that Virgil Popescu is closing in on finishing the list as well. Who else?

Many thanks to Daryn for becoming the Mountain Records Chair for the DPS. Please send register reports to Daryn rather than to the Outings Chair. He’s listed with the other members who have appointed positions (page 3).

Here are the next publications deadlines: February 12th for the March-April Sage and March 10th for the July 5-October Schedule of Activities. Please send me your trip announcements at least several days prior to these deadlines. Earlier submissions greatly appreciated! We can, of course, publish an outing on the DPS web site if you miss these deadlines.

Finally, I encourage leaders to offer exploratory outings to peaks that aren’t on our list or to areas for desert exploration. Why not combine a listed peak with an unlisted one or a visit to a special desert area? - Tina

CONSERVATION

The battle is heating up between BrightSource Energy, a company applying to build a large solar power plant in the Ivanpah Valley area of the Mojave Desert, and environmental groups such as the Wildlands Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife, and a local chapter of the Sierra Club. This controversy was mentioned in a previous issue of the Sage.
but there are many sides to the issue, and I would like to refer you to an online article by Todd Woody of Yale at http://e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=223

The article is interesting not only for the extensive background of the problem which the author presents, but also for the responses from readers, including Carl Pope of the Sierra Club. -Ann

ROAD & PEAK GUIDE UPDATES

I have received updates for the Road & Peak Guide from Tina Bowman, Mary McMannes and Daryn Dodge and my thoughts on the approach to Big Picacho.

AJO

Tina reports it's more like 11 miles on the dirt (and sometimes paved) road to the well-marked parking area for the Bull Pasture/Estes Canyon trails. Contrary to what the Guide says, there's actually a trail to the summit, continuing past the Bull Pasture backcountry sign-in spot. A book that Kevin Gray bought says the trail is 5 miles one way. My Avocet showed 3350' gain; Paul Garry had something like 2900'—in any event, more than what the guide indicates.

SUPERSTITION

Tina writes that the road is completely paved to the parking area for route A, and the second cattle guard mentioned is gone. This trailhead is very large, paved, and marked no camping. The route itself after we left the Hieroglyphics Canyon trail by the petroglyphs had some ducks and some use trail—ducks especially in the trickier areas. We went up to the balancing rock and followed ducks onto the ridge, which is easier above the balancing rock for the most part. At one point the route goes on the south side of 4402 and then north to regain the ridge, bypassing rock towers. When we came down, Paul Garry noticed ducks on the north side of the ridge near the balancing rock. The slope looked shallower than on the south side, so we came down that way, following ducks and use trail sporadically until we came down fairly close to the wash. Here we found a well-ducked use trail that took us on down stream to the petroglyphs and the main trail. We agreed that this was better, at least for the descent, than our route up to the balancing rock. The way up was steep and somewhat loose (ball bearings) when we couldn't get on more solid rock.

PORTER

Daryn Dodge reports that on a recent DPS trip led by he and Kathy Rich, they found that the road from Ballarat to Clair Camp is now 4WD about 2 miles from Ballarat. In 2007 when Edna Erspamer, Gary James and I drove up the road thru Pleasant Canyon to climb Porter, the dirt road was rough, narrow and almost closed by vegetation in the wetter parts of the canyon. Once we drove thru the wet areas the road became 2WD again.

BIG PICACHO

Travel Permits for Mexico must be obtained at the border. You must stop on the right just after you cross in to Mexico. There are two exits to the immigration office. The road from Colonet to the observatory is now paved. Stop at the Ranger Station for a camping permit. When I climbed Big Picacho the cost was $3.00 a day. - Ed Herrman

ANNUAL DPS TREASURY REPORT

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ESTIMATED COST OF OPERATION FOR 2011: $6,000

THE DESERT SAGE 9 January/February 2011
The Great Basin Peak Section continues up the trail of progress. Our membership has increased, more members reached Emblem status, and Bob Sumner became our first member to achieve the Silver Circle level. Now who will be first to achieve the Gold Circle level?

Dennis Ghiglieri, our webmaster, added a section for trip reports and pictures. Ed Corbett wrote the first report covering our GBPS hike to Virginia & Pah Rah Peaks in the Pah Rah Range near Pyramid Lake. We continue to welcome suggestions on improvements, corrections, & updates to our peak list and website.

Erik Holland has agreed to let us use his wonderful Wheeler Peak sketch for all of our future awards and t-shirt. Our Emblem patch is currently in production & the GBPS Committee approved the design for the Silver Circle pin & t-shirt.

In September, the GBPS again joined the Desert Peak Section for an amazing outing up Mt. Jefferson and Arc Dome. Our skillful leaders Tina Bowman, Mary McMannes, and Jim Fleming organized an enjoyable weekend of camping, hiking, and camaraderie. In addition to bagging two peaks, we were fortunate to spot an immature golden eagle, big-horn sheep, antelope, and beautiful autumn colors.

Join us! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out the Great Basin Peak Section website at http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/GBPeaksSection.html. - Sharon Marie Wilcox

As you are no doubt aware, these are troubled times in Mexico because of the drug cartel violence. While our peaks are not in any areas that are currently classified as unsafe, it's probably wise to travel in groups during daylight only and not stray off the main roads when you cross the border back into the States. For more information, you might wish to review the information available at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html

- The Management Committee

And so the old year ended with a big bang and surely not a whimper with a double whammy List Finish on Black Butte and Orocopia. Sue Holloway is now a two-timer (2x for DPS List) and her great friend John Strauch is sporting a new List Finisher pin for joining the elite group of those who’ve conquered all these magnificent desert peaks. Congrats to both of you for a fine way to end 2010 plus making it possible for partygoers to leave a grand party in the desert and dash madly back to the San Fernando Valley for Dave and Ann Perkins’ fabulous holiday party in Northridge. We’re looking forward to more List Finishes in 2011; Daryn Dodge in March, and can Virgil Popescu be far behind especially after his long day’s journey into night on Muddy Mountain? We hope to see a write-up aptly called “Night on BeMuddlement Mountain.”

DYK, the fall colors were beautiful in Ashland, Oregon, and even more beautiful for triple list finisher (DPS, SPS, HPS) Gene Mauk who now collects miles and miles (1706) on the Pacific Crest Trail. In October, in the company of Rayne and Mary Motheral plus this Roving Girl Reporter, Gene ran (yes he ran) across the Oregon border with arms held high in victory. He told everyone that he’d quit the PCT after crossing into Oregon, but we all knew that was a fairy tale, for sure. The latest is he’s racing towards Crater Lake in 2011, and I wouldn’t doubt if the Never Quit guy makes it to Canada. Thanks, Gino, for all the memories as we’ve accompanied you here and there along the PCT.

Gene Mauk and Mary Motheral at the Oregon border. Photo by Mary McMannes.
And DYK, what a treat it was to hear from Paul Freiman of San Diego? Avoiding elaborate and complicated car shuttles as does the Mauk group, Paul hiked 900 miles on the PCT from April 24 through October. In Paul’s own words, “On April 24, I just wanted to hike and hike and hike. Now, it’s October, and I’m worn out. I’ve lost my gusto. In the last five months, I slept in a tent four months. My sleeping bag zipper is broken, and the tent zipper is broken, too. And I am in need of repair. Signed, Tall Paul, the Ruined One.” Paul ended his lament in quoting a champion known as Buck 30 who’s a triple crown winner in completing the PCT, Appalachian Trail, and Continental Divide Trail. Buck says, “How can you go back to normal when you have stretched the meaning of normal? You’re ruined. You are ruined. You ARE ruined!” Far from being ruined and fully recovered, Paul and Scooter are eager to hike 1,000 miles on the Appalachian Trail next year. That Paul is quite the guy, and that Scooter is quite the dog.

Did You See (DYS) the lengthy obit written about Paul Kenworthy in the L.A. Times (Oct. 24, 2010) covering his worthy life accomplishments? Besides being one of our good hiking and skiing friends, his past memberships included SPS, DPS, Ski Mountaineers, and the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force. DPS extends our condolences to Paul’s family plus long time companion, Noreen Charnofsky. Paul proudly displayed two Oscars on his mantle and was a voting member of the Academy. Disney recognized Paul’s genius early on with his documentaries “The Living Desert” and “The Vanishing Prairie.” Not only was Paul a film genius, he also invented something called the Snorkel camera. The Hollemans reminded me this camera was used on Masterpiece Theater, as it was an apparatus that zoomed in and out of hard-to-get-to places plus around corners, nooks, and crannies. Doug Mantle recalls two trips to North Palisade where Paul did not make the summit due to weather and Art Blauvelt’s broken ankle. If for one did not realize that Paul attended the Academy Awards yearly, and I would have been pleased to have accompanied him, at least once.

Further List Finishing Madness? DYK, our DPS webmaster, Larry Hoak and wife Vicky are bagging national parks and monuments? As of this present writing, there are 392, but the list keeps growing despite budget cutbacks. Larry says he has 355, but there are some far off ones in Guam, Samoa, and the brushy backcountry of Alaska. And you guys were complaining there’s a lot of driving for desert peaking?

Notables in the DPS News: Did You Know that Pat Arredondo trekked off to Katmandu with DPS treasurer, Gloria Miladin, and Pat returned home with more than what was advertised in the travel brochure? Hopefully, Pat has healed from his broken arm and will be off climbing again soon. Dave Jurasevich writes that Graham Breakwell is recovering from a freakish fall where he snapped his femur thus requiring surgery, pins, and screws. And DYK Angie Wysup emailed that she’s recovering nicely from knee surgery. Hearing from her made me miss George all over again. Angie would like to hear from her friends.

Did You Know, it was great hiking with Kevin Gray and Greg Gerlach in the Superstitions, and Kevin is proud to have finished his first triathlon? Greg, meanwhile, is eager for the spring and summer to arrive, so he can bag his last Sierra peak, Gardiner. No thanks to hoisting a champagne bottle and cup on the Razor Edge of Life that one must slide across to gain that summit. However, we’re all looking forward to Greg’s major milestone and accomplishment.

DPSers are on the move. Much to our chagrin, Sue Holloway has pulled tent stakes and moved her caravan to West Falmouth, Massachusetts. We are betting she’ll return to us continually wearing her John Muir tee-shirt which states “The mountains are calling, and I must go.” Hope to see her at the May banquet where she’ll receive her Leader Emblem in having led 50 DPS peaks. Past Chair Linda McDermott is back working at the South Pole again, and if you’ve like to receive her lengthy daily Penguin reports, please let me know. What a fine surprise to receive holiday greetings from newlyweds, Wynne (Benti) and Scot Marburger (is he the original Marburger Man?), looking beautiful and handsome on this their wedding day. Another welcomed photo newsletter came from Ron and Leora Jones. We’re looking forward to honoring Ron at the May DPS banquet, as the first recipient of the Leader Emblem for leading 50 peaks (and for Ron, many more than 50. Try ten leads on Big Picacho.)

Aliens in Mono Lake? Will those little fellows be visiting our many List Finish parties in our preferred area near Mono Lake? Evidence there is a microbe living on arsenic in Mono Lake, and perhaps this is the latest evidence of life somewhere out there in the universe. George Noory on his nightly whoo-whoo radio program is going crazy with delight. Bob Michael is bemused. “I can’t think of a better place to find an alien life form than spooky Mono Lake with its volcanic islands and creepy sci-fi tufta towers.”
The Chili Cook-Off was stupendous, almost as great as attending the Academy Awards! Dave and Elaine Baldwin are sensational as organizers and hosts. People lounged at the campground as delectable chili aromas wafted throughout the area. Tina Bowman and Asher Waxman, on the hand, made the long and arduous climb up a new route on Granite. Ed Herrman was heard to say, “That’s the hardest climb of DPS peak thus far, even harder than Big Picacho.” But back to the chili fest. Dave announced “The winners are A, B, and E. I guess we must be dwelling in the Land of Lincoln.” I had to turn to Randy Bernard, perpetrator of bad jokes and ask him to explain. “Uh, Mary—A B E, you know ABE!” (Top winners were Barbee Tidball, Janet Damen, and Denelle Rozell.) Everyone was lusting after those beautifully created and fired-in-the-kiln bowls made by Jim Hinkey. All the winners received a bowl, and with prizes like that I bet there will be more chili chefs next year. Gary Craig was missed at this event, and someone commented that Gary had celebrated a milestone birthday, and that among his gifts was a solar shower to be used in the desert and the backcountry. The shower gift carried a small note that read, “We hope to see more of you in the desert, Gary.” Here here!

And DYK, Terry Flood and other notables accompanied Shane Smith in November on his latest List Finish, this time the Lower Peaks List, on Cahuenga Peak. Sorry, many of us missed it due to the simultaneous broadcasts over in the Superstitions. Shane has now completed DPS, HPS, the San Diego Peaks List, and probably soon, SPS. Congrats to you, Shane. And Did You Know that Terry Flood has an ongoing bet with a buddy in Colorado as to who will get a cell phone first and get married first? There’s $500 riding on this one. Come on girls and Verizon, let’s make Terry lose his bet in 2011!

Speaking of Colorado, Would You Like (WYL) to accompany our Boulder (CO) DPSers Susan Cooper and Jim Long in finishing the DPS list as they need two (yes, only two) peaks, Pico Risco and Cerro Pescadores? They’d love to go in March, and maybe we can convince them to have a List Finish party on this side of the border? Email Susan at ace-coop@msn.com. Surely Doug Mantle and Ed Herrman need those peaks again?

Oops and Nitpickers column. I was happy to hear from Fred Lodbell, Scott Surgent, and Andy Martin who in unison asked me what I meant by writing that Ed Herrman and Vic and Sue Henney had finished the County High Points of Nevada, since none of the three had made it up restricted Mount Grant. Well, fellows, you are surely right, and I hear Ed, Sue, and Vic plus a couple hundred more are waiting to apply to climb this peak with military escort. Contrary to the Dalai Lama’s teachings about enlightenment, “I want to not want,” there are many WANTING Mount Grant.

DYK, Tom Bowman was smiling so broadly after Prop 23 lost in our California elections? Tom’s televised appearance and photo made quite a splash in our last Sage, and he and Tina worked ardently to defeat this measure sponsored by two wealthy Texas oil companies. Go to ClimateEngage.org to read about Tom’s latest efforts in fostering more public engagement in climate issues. I learn constantly from Tina about living more green(ly) as we’ve carpoolled to various peaks this summer and fall. I must be trying to live more frugally, as I left the scat of my pants somewhere on a rock face or a cat’s claw bush in the Superstition Mountains.

That’s the news from the Land of Little Rain. In closing, a heart touching request from Chilean trapped miner, Edison Pena, who asked rescuers if they’d send down a photo of the sun. Edison missed the sun more than anything. I thought about how much we take for granted, the daily rising and setting of the sun, and those good friends who turn our faces towards the sun when shadows are swirling. I wish my fellow climbers and trekkers the best in 2011. Be strong, be well, and be involved in exploring and loving our desert lands.

Your Roving Girl Reporter, Mary McMannes

Shane and Steve Smith. Photo by Terry Flood.
We had heard stories about the challenges of this peak over the years and we had seen Ted Brasket's awesome pictures taken on the "normal" route. We then read a write-up by Gerry Roach, which can be found on the Internet, which suggested that there might be a slightly easier though longer route to the south of the normal approach. We started at the junction of FR 407 (on the 7 -1/2' topo) and an unmarked dirt road (UTM 0640500E, 4309600N), about 2 miles south of White River Campground, heading west. One could probably go up the unmarked road a couple of miles or so further with a 4 wheel drive vehicle, but we didn't want to try it in our Honda CR-V. Currant Mountain has a significant notch to the left of the summit. Ascending or descending the peak via this notch is apparently one of the so called standard routes on the peak. It does not look appealing either from the bottom or the top.

The valley that we were looking for is at first difficult to see, in a somewhat hidden valley. We followed Gerry's instructions to the 5th switchback in the unmarked dirt road, walked up the hill another 200 yards and found the overgrown but passable vehicle track down into the valley on our left. We crossed the bottom of the valley to a large wash, turned right and followed this wash. The key is to watch the terrain and to head south-southwest into the hidden valley. We headed for UTM 0638100E, 4307600N which would assure us that we were in the correct valley. The canyon is filled with avalanche debris but the center watercourse provided a good and mostly clear path all the way to the head of the valley. This watercourse may be better in some years than in others.

The valley ends at about 10,400' (UTM 0637400E, 4307000N). The toughest part of the climb begins here. We went up steep scree and small talus to the top of the ridge on our right and then followed that ridge (more steep scree and small talus), going left when we needed to bypass obstacles on the ridge, to a point where the east-west ridge joined the main north-south ridge of the mountains, at about 11,160'. This section comprises 750 vertical feet of really difficult class 2 (Gerry calls it class 2+) and it's not much easier on the descent. The redeeming feature of this part of the route is the beautiful Bristlecone pines.

Upon reaching the main ridge, we descended to the notch and then headed for the west ridge of the peak. From there we simply walked up the remaining ¾ mile or so to the summit (11,513'). The short airy summit ridge is fun but not difficult. The views are awesome, especially the views of the "route" coming from the north. The summit register was placed by Gerry Roach five years ago. In the last 5 years there have been only 5 entries in the register. This is a beautiful peak and as Gerry noted in the register, it would be a good candidate for addition to the DPS list. It should be on every desert peakbagger's "to do" list.

The participants on this trip were Paul Garry, Brian Smith, Kathy Rich (Co-leader), and Daryn Dodge (Leader).

The four of us met outside the small store at Ballarat at 5 pm on Saturday and began the drive up Pleasant Valley. We chose this approach on the south side of Porter Peak because it allows a good chance of getting both peaks the same day. Leading the group up the road, I quickly confirmed my lack of ability to navigate and drive at the same time by turning left instead of right at the first junction half a mile from the Ballarat store. Brian soon got me back on track going the correct way. The DPS Road and Peak Guide says the road is 2WD up to a mining area called Clair Camp. Note that the road is no longer 2WD! Only 2 miles from Ballarat, the 2WD drive vehicles could not continue safely up the steep, loose road. However, the Guide mileages to various features along the road matched my odometer very closely.

Everyone then piled into my Jeep Cherokee, I shoved it into 4WD, and up the road we went. There were some challenging, white-knuckle sections of this drive, particularly in the section about 2.5 miles in where the runoff from a spring flows down the road. This part of the road is chewed-up and overgrown with vegetation.

Continuing on, we passed an old broken down road grader near Clair Camp (is this why the road is no longer 2WD?) along with numerous other rusted hulks of old cars. At Clair Camp, there was no evidence of a gate that might be shut, as indicated in the DPS Road and Peak Guide. However, this mining camp still appears to be occupied by a few miners. It was dark by 7 pm and we still had about 2 miles to go to our planned Drive Route D trailhead. So we turned onto a dirt road off to our left which led to some camping spots among pinyon pines and junipers. We had an evening Happy Hour with a nice assortment of wine, beer, cheese and crackers. Thanks to Brian for bringing the tasty tomato and cheese hors d’oeuvre.

Sunday morning, we continued driving up the road 2 miles and reached a loop at the end of the road. There are campsites here as well. The hike began in a moderately dense pinyon and juniper forest, although there was minimal bushwhacking involved. Note where your car is because it cannot be seen from up high. Paul took a waypoint with his GPS just in case. It took us about 1 hour and 45 minutes for the 2000 foot gain to Porter Peak, where we had a wonderful view of Death Valley, Sentinel Peak, and Telescope Peak. Even nicer was the view of the ridge that connected Porter and Sentinel Peaks. I had envisioned a few difficult rocky spots and some significant up-and-down action on this crossing, but it looked like it would be quite an enjoyable stroll.

The four mile ridge to Sentinel Peak went rather quickly. We passed through a ghost forest along the way, where a past fire had killed the trees and left bleached skeletons of trunks and branches. The most demanding part of the day was the 1000 foot climb to Sentinel Peak. Still only class 1-2, just a little steeper and looser than the climb up Porter. A nice thing about Sentinel Peak is that the highest point is the closer of two high points on the summit ridge. This almost never happens in the Sierras.

On the way back, we re-crossed the top of Porter again. Do we get to claim a second climb of Porter? Since no one bothered to sign in the register again, I believe the answer is no.

From the top of Porter Peak we made a rough estimate...
where the car was parked among the trees a little over a mile away, and then made our way towards that spot. Kathy did a fine job of leading us through the forest back to the hidden car.

The drive portion from the Ballarat store to the Route D trailhead was 11.1 miles and takes about 1.5 hours without stops. The 10 mile round trip hike took us about 9.5 hours and came out to about 4700 feet of total gain.

18TH ANNUAL DPS CHILI COOKOFF
KELSO DUNES, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
October 23, 2010
By David Baldwin

On this fine fall weekend, 41 desert chiliheads gathered at Kelso Dunes in the Mojave National Preserve for the 2010 DPS Chili Cookoff, the 18th annual event. Saturday dawned clear and cool, perfect for a little desert enjoyment before the big competition got underway. Some gathered with leaders Larry and Barbee Tidball for an exploration of Afton Canyon confounded by high water in the Mojave River. Some slipped and slid the 600 vertical feet to the top of Kelso Dunes (minus the legendary booming sand due to dampness from recent rains). An ambitious group led by Tina Bowman and Asher Waxman tackled Granite Mountain #1 by a southern approach. Others just relaxed in the desert sun. By midafternoon most had filtered back to camp and 8 cooks had registered as follows:

A Janet Darnen First Course Chili
B Audrey Goodman Chopin’s Desert Salon Chili
C Denelle Rozelle Choke Your Chicken Chili
D Dave Baldwin White Sage Chili
E Laura Webb Monster Mash Chili
F Sandy Houston 3 Bean Chili Chili
G Barbee Tidball White Harvest Chili

Soon the campsite was filled with the wonderful aromas of competition chili. Janet prepared shrimp; Dave diced 4 kinds of white root vegetables; Laura set the table for a trio of monsters; Audrey played Chopin; and Barbee di-
rected a crew of sous chefs over mountains of chopped onion and peppers. Four talented artisans set to work on pumpkins for the 4th DPS Pumpkin Carving Challenge. By request, time was extended to allow cooks time to finish their entries before the entire group gathered around the community tables so each cook could promote their chili to the crowd of judges. With the orange glow of sunset on the horizon, judges with ballots in hand began making the rounds. The Granite Mountain group arrived at dark, just in time to get their ballots in to Jack Wickel for the computerized scoring. As the full moon cast its light over the dunes, the satisfied tasters settled in around the campfire. The following winners were awarded ceramic bowls handmade by Jim Hinkley and certificates hand lettered by Elaine Baldwin:

Best Overall and Best Traditional – Denelle Rozelle
1st Runner-Up – Traditional – Barbee Tidball
2nd Runner-up – Traditional – Janet Damen
Best Texan – Laura Webb
1st Runner-Up – Texan – Audrey Goodman
Best Vegetarian – David Baldwin
1st Runner-Up – Vegetarian – Sandy Houston
Spiciest Chili – Audrey Goodman
Best Presentation – Laura Webb
Most Original Recipe – Janet Damen
Best Pumpkin – Elaine Baldwin

Sunday, those without too much heartburn from the spicy food set off for the summit of the Kelso Dunes while others spruced up the campsite before all drifted away for the long drive home.

Note: The National Park Service administers the Mojave National Preserve and has established rules for large groups of at least 7 vehicles or 15 participants. The Chili Cookoff was conducted under a Special Use Permit (fee: $70, reduced from $325). Certain rules apply including keeping all wheels of vehicles on established roadways and removal of all human waste from the Preserve. For more information see http://www.nps.gov/moja/planyourvisit/permits.htm.
Ingredients:
- 2 tablespoons corn oil
- 1 large red onion, chopped
- 4 large garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin (less to taste)
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano (more to taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon aniseed
- 1/2 teaspoon Cayenne pepper
- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken thighs
- 1 15-ounce cans cannelloni beans (white kidney beans)
- 2 15-ounce cans small white beans
- 1 cup canned chicken broth
- 1 7-ounce can diced green chilies
- 1 single serving container of plain Greek yogurt
- Olive oil
- Grated cheddar cheese
- Sour Cream

Over a Coleman stove (most important) sauté onions for approximately 5 minutes. Add cumin, oregano, aniseed, and cayenne pepper. Sauté another 2 minutes. Add broth. Drain beans; reserve 1/2 cup bean liquid. Add beans and reserved bean liquid to the pot. Simmer until chicken is tender and cooked through, about 10 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Top with cheese and sour cream. Add chilies and Greek yogurt to the pot. Cook, cook, and cook some more.

GRANITE MOUNTAIN #1
KELSO SAND DUNES
October 23-24, 2010
By Tina Bowman

The original plan was to lead this at the end of February from Cottonwood Wash, the usual route given in the DPS Guide. Then I found out that that route currently involves trespassing in a research area, but the peak can be accessed from Willow Springs Basin, Budweiser Canyon, or Bull Canyon. I went for Willow Springs Canyon since Ron Bartell had climbed that route in 1999 and had sent me his route information. Because of the class 3 Ron reported, I changed the trip from an I rating to an M, and then canceled the trip because the forecast was for rain and possibly snow at the summit. Daryn Dodge, who was in the area already, climbed the peak solo and was fortunate with the weather. He too gave me some route information.

Since this was a Sierra Club trip, we definitely wanted to stay out of the Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, run by the University of California, Riverside. Established in 1978 and encompassing 9000 acres, the GMDRC supports more than 130 research projects, some of them designed for 25 years or more in duration. Some studies focus on soil crusts, so keeping the soil undisturbed is crucial. To find out more about the research center, check out http://granites.ucr.edu.

I rescheduled the climb for October 23rd with Asher Waxman and Mary McMannes as co-leaders and this time made it an MR trip. Daryn reported that there was a dry waterfall where people might want a belay since the easy side around it was blocked by catclaw. I figured it
was better to plan on using the rope and have the proper approval for that rather than get to a spot where we needed a rope to continue the climb and then have to turn back because we didn’t have it. As it turns out, we found our way around the tricky spots and didn’t use the short rope I brought at all.

High clearance but not 4WD was needed to get to the parking spot. Take the Kelbaker Road exit off I-40 about 78 miles east of Barstow, and go 0.3 miles north to where the road curves north. Instead of staying on Kelbaker Road, go straight onto a wide dirt road. This is where our group met and consolidated into three vehicles: two Toyota pickups and a Volvo Cross-Country station wagon. We drove north about 0.4 mile to a four-way intersection and turned left for another 0.4 to where a corral and water tank are shown on the map and a road heading north. Both the corral and tank are gone now. This road north is before Willow Spring Wash, which is quite large in this area. We then went north on the road 1.8 miles to the wilderness boundary stakes and parked—room for about five cars if they’re parked carefully.

We ended up with a group of nine. Mary McMannes decided not to climb because of plantar fasciitis. Participants were May Adachi, Anne Anglim, Daniel Bleiberg, Gary Bowen, Jim Fleming, Ed Herrman, Maria Yocum. Off we went at 7:40 continuing on the road past the boundary marker and into Willow Spring Wash. The road picks up again on the right just above the wash, though we didn’t get on it till near its end—it would have been fine to stay in the wash. Beyond the end of the road the wash narrowed and became choked with boulders. We hadn’t gotten much above our starting elevation of about 3800’ when we began climbing over rocks and dodging catclaw. Ron Bartell had noted that the third class ended a ways above the 5400’ level. Fortunately, the catclaw ended way below there, though there were other spiky plants to scratch us. With bobbing and weaving most of the climbing consisted of a single move at a time, but the times were seemingly unending. We avoided willows near the spring.

Above the third class the wash broadened as we approached the east ridge of Granite. The south ridge leading to the summit was to our left on the way up, and eventually we could see the block at the south end of the summit area. My mistake was heading toward this block and adding more class 3 to what we’d already done. We went on the east side of the block and along the easy ridge to the summit, getting there at 1:25. Our group had been slowed by one participant, who was feeling unwell from overexertion.

We left the summit at 1:45, anxious to get down and head to the chili cook-off. Though very slow at first, the ill participant eventually felt better and moved a bit faster with encouragement from everyone. May danced along on the rocks. Eventually, I pulled out my cell phone. Jim Fleming left a message for Winnette Butler, who was at the chili cook-off; I left one for Mary McMannes, who was also there. Winnette had cell service and got the message; Mary did not. I also called home just in case anyone tried calling there. The message was that we were fine, just slower than expected. I think we were all relieved to get beyond the third class and into easy walking in the wash and then the road. We made it back to the cars at 6:35 before we would have needed the headlamps. More messages were left. We headed back to the other cars and then caravanned to the chili cook-off at the end of the road by the Kelso Sand Dunes. Despite having missed some of the fun, we enjoyed some great food and camaraderie around the campfire.

Sunday the plan was either to climb Kelso Peak or to
hike up the Kelso dunes. Some folks had climbed the dunes before the cook-off, but others were interested in hiking up there on Sunday. We decided not to drive from the cook-off area to climb unlisted Kelso Peak. It was 8:35 when we finally started the hike (Barbee Tidball was talking to a ranger, who was checking on our group). Barbee swept our group, which included May Adachi, Anne Anglim, Daniel Bleiberg, Jan Brahms, Kevin Gray, Mary Motherall, David Renerick, Larry Tidball, and Jack Wickel. Because the sand was still damp from rain earlier in the week, the walking was easier than usual up the dune. We enjoyed the views; then some of us ran down the face of the dune while others plunge stepped. Soon we were back at the cars and getting ready to head home.

DPS NOVEMBER MEETING & POTLUCK
November 6, 2010
by Mary McMannes

Can you hear the oompah sounds wafting in the air as those bergermeisters and frauleins gathered at Dave and Elaine Baldwin’s house for our annual Octoberfest in November? I think it’s my favorite potluck of the year, because there’s nothing more beckoning and heartwarming than comfort foods of cheesy potatoes, brats, seared tenderloin from the grill, cooked red cabbages, kartoffel salads, hot golden horse radish mustards and more. And need I mention the elaborate desserts accompanied with bowls of newly whipped fresh cream?

It was a fabulous gathering as always, and thanks to Dave and Elaine for mustering up the energy to have another major DPS event following the Chili Fest in the desert.

Thanks also to generous DPSers who brought canned foods and non-perishables to be donated to the Reseda Food Bank for local Resedians who are cold and starving during the holidays. A raffle was won by contributors, Pat and Gerry Holleman, and they were delighted with their $25 gift certificate to REI. Someone even donated a big bag of Halloween candy plus Tootsie Rolls. This Roving Reporter felt it essential to sample a Tootsie on the way home. Thanks to Tina, Mary and Rayne, Bob Wyka, Kevin and Josephine, Jack W, and Ron and Christine. Edna kept asking for a raffle ticket, and we kept telling her she had to bring a can of food in order to participate.

Among our happy party participants (other than those mentioned above) who wanted to dance the polkas but restrained themselves to eating, drinking fine brews, and telling big stories: Dottie and Mike Sanford, Mike and
Sandy Houston, Ron Eckelmann and Doris Gilbert, Steve and Terry Churchill, Greg and Mirna Roach, Dave and Barbara Sholle, Jan and David Renerick, Gloria Milladin (newly back from Katmandu), Larry and Barbee Tidball, Julie Rush, Janet Damen, Jim and Madeline Riepe, Brian Smith (newly back from Thailand), and me the Roving Reporter. I think 39 were in attendance, and all waddled joyfully and with full girth out to their cars after a memorable evening with the Baldwins.

MOUNT AJO, SUPERSTITION MTN  
November 12-13, 2010  
by Tina Bowman

Friday morning, November 12, nine peak-baggers met at the Bull Pasture-Estes Canyon trailhead in Organ Pipe National Park close to the Mexican border. Some of us had stayed in the campground near the visitor’s center the night before—very nice sites with new bathrooms with showers of solar-heated water. The nine were Winnette Butler, Keith Christensen, Jim Fleming, Laura Franciosi, Paul Garry, Greg Gerlach, Kevin Gray, Mary McMannes (leader), and I (Tina Bowman, leader). We expected a tenth, but perhaps the snail mail sase didn’t reach him.

Off we went at 7:10 (California time) on the Bull Pasture trail, taking a break at the back-country sign-in near Bull Pasture. A trail now goes all the way to the top of Ajo, continuing from Bull Pasture. Though steep and rather loose in sections, it is easy to follow. Kevin had bought a book with trail information, which included Mt. Ajo. That guide gives ten miles round trip, which seemed about right. My Avocet showed 3350’ gain for the day, but I think Paul’s watch showed about 2900’. Either way, it’s more than the 2600’ given in the DPS guide.

We found a huge box on the summit, apparently locked with padlocks on either end. It fooled me, so we wandered out the summit ridge past the antenna and solar panels and then back to the box. Keith realized it wasn’t truly locked shut and opened it. A PVC tube inside had some sheets of a National Park Service register. Because it was windy, we came down a short ways from the summit and had lunch in a nice spot below the ridge and out of the wind.

With Mary leading we were back on our way down at about 11:30. We took another nice break at the sign-in and reached the cars about 2:45.

Now we had the long drive to get close to Superstition. I had decided on the primitive camping near the Weaver’s Needle trailhead since it was a known (and free) quantity. Mary and I found it without trouble and Kevin, who was following us, also, but no one else joined us. There are some wide-open areas where people were camped both before and after this spot, but this spot was shaded from the road by brush and small trees, making it hard to find in the dark. In the morning, I drove the last mile to the Weaver’s Needle trailhead (outhouse there) and found Greg, Paul, and Keith camped there. Jim and Winnette had camped closer to the route A trailhead, and Laura had stayed with her brother and his family in Phoenix.

The road to the route A trailhead for Superstition is all paved now with hiker signs to point the way, and the parking area is huge, paved, and posted no camping. Having started hiking at about 7:10 again, we enjoyed having trail to the petroglyphs in Hieroglyphics Canyon. We stopped to look at the petroglyphs a bit before heading up slope, eventually picking up ducks and bits of use trail that took us to the balancing rock and a bit of a scramble below and beyond it, leading to easier slopes above the balancing rock. We would wait now and then for the end of the group to catch up. Unfortunately, a softball-size rock was dislodged (maybe by me, but I’m not sure), fell a few feet, and hit Winnette’s index finger.

Jim Fleming and an organ pipe cactus, on the way to Ajo.  
Photo by Winnette Butler.
This wasn’t enough to stop Winnette.

We took a break once we were on the easy slopes, then worked up toward 4402’ and around the south side of it, then back up to the ridge, where there was a good use trail. Ducks guided us around and up a pile of rocks and up towards the summit. Closer to the summit than 4402’ we encountered the twenty feet (probably fewer) of class 3, and then on we trundled to the summit, most of the group getting there at 11:00.

Down we went about 11:50. Jim and Winnette had signed out at the summit, but we made sure everyone got down the third class. After that we kept Jim and Winnette at least periodically in sight.

At the balancing rock we boldly went a different way than our route up, dropping down on the north side of the ridge. Paul had seen this route, and when I had peered over the ridge earlier in the day while route-finding, I noted that it looked like a shallower slope than what we had come up. The route went really well with ducks to play connect-the-dots with and some use trail. Having avoided most brush and cactus, we were delighted to find a well-ducked use trail above the wash, taking us back to the petroglyphs and the more established trail. Again we spent time enjoying the rock art and having a snack. When we started down the trail for the cars, we could see Jim and Winnette coming down the slope below the balancing rock.

Hitting the trail about 3:00, we were back at the cars before 3:40. We celebrated having bagged two peaks. Laura and Kevin both had now climbed six or more DPS peaks and were set to become members! Woo hoo! Thanks to Mary for joining me in leading this outing with great weather and fantastic people.
My first desert peak was Rosa Point in 1987. Since then I've been content to climb a few a year, usually with DPS friends from San Diego County. I climbed more than half the listed peaks with Sue Holloway – we had a lot of overlap on peaks which I needed for the first time and she needed for the second time. But by February we had finished the peaks we both needed, so I was pretty much on my own, looking to the DPS Outings for my remaining six peaks. In November, Sue moved to Cape Cod, with plans to return in December for her 2X List Finish.

In October, I climbed Granite Mtn #1 and then attended the DPS Chili Cook-Off at the Kelso Dunes. While at the Cook-Off I talked with Bob Hoeven about my remaining five peaks. When he heard I needed New York Butte, he offered to drive me up the extreme 4WD road. My schedule was pretty full, but eventually we decided on Thursday, November 18, assuming there wasn’t any snow by then. Needle Peak was on the schedule with Dave & Ann Perkins for Saturday, November 20. I could do Pleasant Point on Wednesday and Tucki Mtn on Friday. Suddenly a list finish on Black Butte looked possible!

For Pleasant Point, I left San Diego Wednesday morning and arrived at the Cerro Gordo townsite before noon. I drove around to the Route B trailhead. The drive is scary from the saddle, with narrow, outwardly sloped road sections. I hiked over to the two abandoned cabins, then up the steep loose slope to the ridge. From there I dipped down around the false summit and hiked up to the peak. The return hike was easier, as I was able to avoid the loose slopes, contouring from the prospects on the ridge down to the drainage beyond the cabins. The Route A upper road gate was locked, making Route A longer and more gain than Route B, but I would say Route A is still the easier approach.

Thursday, I met Bob in Lone Pine and left my car by the highway at the Swansea – Cerro Gordo Road. We picked up Paul Garry and Keith Christensen a short distance in, near the big sign. They had set up a shuttle and planned to bag five peaks from the list of 10,000' non-Sierra peaks! The drive up was pretty uneventful, with Bob completely in control. The Road and Peak Guide does a good job of describing the various sections. Bob and I hiked to New York Butte, while Paul and Keith headed south for their first peak before doubling back for NYB and the other three on their agenda. They ended up finishing at 10 pm! Bob and I returned to the highway, where I had a note on my windshield informing me that I was on private property and should not be parking there. I headed for the Stovepipe Wells Campground, arriving around 3 pm.

Friday, Dave Perkins, Brian Smith, Virgil Popescu and Gloria Miladin joined me for the Tucki Mtn climb. The 4WD Route B drive in took about an hour. The wind picked up and it was quite cool. We didn’t spend too much time on the peak, which has a couple of nice reference marks for Benchmark Death. We stopped at the Martin Crossing Cabin on our return to the cars. After a beer or two at the Furnace Creek Saloon we got some dinner at the Café, then drove around to the Warm Springs Canyon Road meeting place for tomorrow’s Needle Peak climb.

The night was extremely windy. I set up my tent, but it collapsed on me during the night with a broken pole and a tear in the fly. At 6:30 am the group of sixteen began the 22-mile, 1.5 hour drive in to the Willow Springs trailhead. The hike was very windy and cold. When we arrived at the summit the rain started and lasted about an hour and a half. I had planned to attend the potluck and spend the night with the group, who were climbing Manly on Sunday, but the forecast was for more bad weather, so I decided to head for home.

So now I can have my list finish on Black Butte on December 10 and join Sue for her second list finish on Orocopia the next day, with celebration for both finishes. Thanks, Bob, for the drive up New York Butte. Another two days and it would have been snowed in! And thanks, Sue, for all the great DPS trips.
In regard to the history of the desert Southwest, the eminent UCLA librarian and Southwest scholar Lawrence Clarke Powell was once quoted as saying: “Although I know that Cabeza de Vaca came first, I am unable to name his followers in their proper order: Coronado, Vargas, Onate, Mogollon, Alvarado, Anza and Kino— the music of their names is quite enough for me.

So, considering that even the brilliant Powell could be historically challenged, let’s review what we’ve covered so far in this Historic Desert series:

1528-1536: The Spaniard Cabeza de Vaca and three companions become the first non-Native Americans to wander across northern Sonora and live to write about it.

1538: Fray Marcos de Niza, with a large party including Estaban, one of Cabeza de Vaca’s travel companions, venture north from New Spain (Mexico) into present day S. Arizona & W. New Mexico in search of the legendary Seven Cities of Cibola. Although Estaban is slain by Indians, Fray Marcos returns to report that the Zuni pueblo of Hawikuh, which he assumed to be Cibola itself, was larger than Mexico City.

1540-1542: Encouraged by de Niza’s report, Francisco Coronado leads a large but eventually disappointing expedition through present day Sonora, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma & Kansas. Meanwhile, Hernando de Alarcón, who had been commissioned to sail ships up the west coast of mainland Mexico to supply Coronado, fails to do so. Alarcón makes history, however, by returning to contend that Lower California is a peninsula, not, as commonly believed, an island. In addition, by sailing far enough up the lower part of the Colorado River, Alarcón and his men become the first Europeans—even before Cabrillo—to set foot in the present day California. Another splinter group from Coronado’s expedition, led by Melchor Diaz, while making a belated attempt to rendezvous with Alarcón, become the first Europeans to travel the Camino del Diablo, the infamous trail which approximates today’s Arizona/Sonora border, just north of Cerro Pinacate.

During the next 150 years or so the areas that are now Sinaloa and Southern Sonora fall slowly—one valley at a time, one tribe after another—under the influence of New Spain. Catholic missionaries proselytize the indigenous people, gathering them into pueblos, teaching them farming and stock-raising and attempting to protect them from the exploitation of the Spanish civilians who coveted them as laborers in their mines and elsewhere. It was during this period (1598) that Juan de Oñate, the ruthless colonizer of New Mexico—the man who, after the Acoma tribe rebelled, had the left foot of every adult male Indian cut off—led a party seeking a trade route between New Mexico and the Gulf of California, thus becoming the first Europeans to venture down the Gila River all the way to the Colorado River. And that brings us to Pimería Alta, i.e., the land of the Upper Piman Indians, consisting of Northern Sonora and Southern Arizona, which in 1690 remained largely a blank area on the map. It also brings us to Father Eusebio Francisco Kino (1645-1711), perhaps the most able and admirable of the pioneers of the desert southwest, a man whose story we know quite well thanks to his own writings and to the in-depth research of historian Herbert Eugene Bolton.

Eusebio Francesco Chini (Kino is the German version of his Italian family name) was born in 1645 in Segno, a small farming town in the Tyrolean Alps, a few miles northwest of the Italian city of Trent. Instead of becoming a farmer, however, the bright, young Eusebio was sent off to study, first in Trent, then in Innsbruck, Austria. In 1663, while pursuing courses in science and letters, the eighteen-year old contracted an unidentified illness that brought him close to death. Vowing to join the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) if he recovered, he subsequently spent several years in religious training and
our Black Robe proved capable of great endurance as Kino was reputed to have a “powerful frame.” Indeed, he would ride up to 40 miles per day for 20 to 30 days in a row.

In May 1681, following several frustrating months spent in Spain waiting to embark for the New World, Kino finally arrived in Mexico City, where, after further delays, he signed on as Rector and Royal Cartographer for Admiral Isidro y Atondo’s upcoming expedition to Baja California.

For two difficult years, 1683-1685, Kino and his fellow expeditionaries attempted to establish a colony, Misión San Bruno, on Baja’s east coast, just south of Bahía Conception. Unfortunately, a prolonged drought eventually forced the venture to be abandoned and the members of the expedition to return to mainland Mexico.

Kino’s missionary zeal, however, was not to be discouraged. Exerting his, by then, much vaunted diplomacy and personal persuasiveness on the powers of New Spain, by 1687 he was once again on his way northwest, where he planned to establish two missions among the Seri Indians on the coast near Guaymas.

But once again his plans were foiled.

In 1680, during the revolt of the Pueblo Indians in New Mexico, the Spanish settlers then living in New Spain’s northern frontier were forced to pull up stakes and depart the area. Chihuahua and Sonora, however, were rich in mineral resources and needed to be protected at all costs. Miners, settlers and fellow missionaries appealed for a special missionary to be sent to the Pimería Alta in the hopes of offsetting any Pima Indian involvement that might close the frontier. As the Jesuit historian Charles W. Polzer, S.J. notes in his volume, Kino: A Legacy, “Unsuspecting, Kino would arrive (in Sonora) to report to Padre Manuel González, the visitor (regional leader) of the northwest missions, (upon whose) desk lay a request from the Alcalde Mayor of Sonora...that the next missionary to come to the north ought to be immediately assigned to the Pimería Alta. Kino was next.”

But before we follow the 41-year-old Kino into the ‘Rim of Christendom,’ or, as Polzer more eloquently describes it, “to the sprawling deserts and stubby mountains, to blue skies and stark saguaros, to frustration and fame,” it would be useful to consider both his physical and personal qualities.

In spite of his life-threatening illness as a teen-ager, Kino was reputed to have a “powerful frame.” Indeed, our Black Robe proved capable of great endurance as evidenced by his usual mission circuit on which he would ride up to 40 miles per day for 20 to 30 days in a row.

As to his looks, the only known portrait of Kino was lost during the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906. In 1961, when the State of Arizona proposed a statue in his honor, a likeness of his face was devised from photos of his family descendants. If Kino’s features were captured with reasonable accuracy, he would have had a strong chin and jaw, high cheekbones, a Roman nose, and a set of piercing eyes. It would have been a countenance to command respect.

Regarding personality, Bolton described Kino as “an individualist, restive of restraint, fitted best to flourish outside the range of stereotyped society. He was most himself on the frontier. The Jesuit precept of obedience he always acknowledged, but with him obedience was never divorced from responsibility.”

But most of all, Kino was fearless. For example, during the Pima uprising of 1695, after one of the missionaries working under Kino’s auspices was slain and several nearby missions were destroyed, Kino’s own home mission appeared to be in harm’s way. After all others had fled the scene, Kino and one Army officer coolly hid away the church treasures and awaited an expected onslaught by 300 warriors. The officer later attributed the fact that the attack never materialized to Kino’s profound influence among the Indians, and “to his virtue and continuous and fervent prayers.”

Kino’s first act in Pimería Alta, on March 13, 1687, was to establish what was to become his home mission, Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, at the village of Cosari, some 50 miles south of present day Nogales. The next day, with his typical vigor, he rode across an intervening mountain to the village of Caburica, where he established a second mission, this one dedicated to Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit Order.

And in the twenty-four years between his arrival in Pimería Alta and his sudden death in 1711, the indefatigable Kino accomplished so much with so few resources that he should be considered nothing short of a miracle worker.

Because Kino’s first and foremost ambition was to save souls, his greatest personal success was that he himself baptized more than four thousand Indians. In addition, either directly or under his supervision, some twenty-odd missions were founded on both sides of the current Sonora/Arizona border, including San Xavier del Bac, just south of present day Tucson, AZ, the foundations for which were laid in 1700.*

Kino was also the first to map Pimería Alta and the Colorado Delta area. Setting out from his home, Mission Dolores, he made more than fifty journeys through the expansive territory, an average of two per year. As Bolton writes, “These tours varied from a hundred to nearly a thousand miles in length. They were all made on horseback. In the course of them he crossed
and recrossed repeatedly and at varying angles all of the
two hundred miles of country between the San Ignacio
and the Gila and the two hundred and fifty miles
between the San Pedro and the Colorado.” In the fall of
1698, for example, after leaving the Gila and heading
south across what is now the Tohono O’odham Indian
Reservation, Kino became the first European to climb
the DPS peak Cerro Pinacate, a mountain he christened
Cerro Santa Clara. A few months later, in February
1699, Kino and a large group consisting of ninety pack
animals, eighty horses, thirty-six head of cattle, eight
loads of provisions and several Indian vaqueros, crossed
the foot of the Baboquivari Range, heading west to
establish a mission at Sonoita. Subsequently the party
continued west on El Camino del Diablo (along which
our Black Robe probably came the closest he ever would
to the mountain later named in his honor, Kino Peak), a
four-day, 123-mile trek during which, after missing their
first water hole, they were fortunate to find pools of the
precious liquid at what Kino called Moon Tank (now
known as Tinaja del Tule) and Tinajas Altas.

On that same 1699 trip, the Yuma Indians living along
the Gila River presented Kino with a gift of blue abalone
shells. Since he had seen similar shells, taken from the
Pacific during his two years in Baja fifteen years earlier,
he surmised correctly that California was a peninsula,
not an island (actually this had already been noted by
Alarcón way back in 1540). After a failed attempt the
following year, Kino finally crossed the Colorado in
1701, confirming that there was a land route to the
missions then being established in Baja. Redrawing his
carrier map, Paso por Tierra, Kino effectively put an end
to the peninsula/island debate once and for all.

Bolton notes also that “(t)he work which Father Kino
did as ranchman would alone stamp him as an unusual
business man...He was easily the cattle king of his day
and region...It must not be supposed that Kino did this
work for private gain, for he did not own a single animal.
It was to furnish a food supply for the neophytes of the
missions established, give them economic independence,
and train the Indians in the rudiments of civilized life.”

The end came for Father Kino on March 15, 1711,
when he became weak during a mass of dedication at
Magdalena, Sonora. Assisted to small room near the
chapel, Kino laid down on his saddle blankets and
passed away. “His earthly explorations were over,”
Polzer writes. “His heavenly ones, just begun.”

Considering Kino’s huge impact on the desert
Southwest, it’s not surprising that so much has been
published about the man. This review considers the
three volumes that I deem to be the most significant, i.e.,
Kino’s Historical Memoir of Pimeria Alta, a collection
of Kino’s own writings as resurrected, translated, edited
and annotated by Herbert Eugene Bolton, published in
1919; and Rim of Christendom, a biography of Kino,
also by Bolton, published in 1936. Bolton (1870-1953),
a professor at U.C. Berkeley, was—and arguably still
is—the most renowned researcher to delve into the
history of the Spanish in the Southwest. His volumes on
Coronado, Kino and de Anza remain the gold standard
by which all others are measured.

The third volume, Kino: A Legacy, is by the Jesuit
Father, Charles W. Polzer (1931-2003), an
ethnologist and a curator at the Arizona State
Museum. Polzer first published A Kino Guide in 1968,
followed by the revision reviewed here, published in
1998.

* Due to a lack of missionaries, however, the mission
building sat empty and falling into disrepair during the
next six decades. In 1767, after King Charles III
suddenly and with no explanation expelled the Jesuits
from the missions of the Spanish Empire, the succeeding
Franciscans—the Brown Robes—rebuilt San Xavier del
Bac into the shining example of baroque architecture
that is known today as “The White Dove of the Desert.”
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DESSERT PEAKS SECTION

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