Electronic communication is one area that the DPS Management Committee is looking to expand upon this year for use by our members and subscribers. On a personal level, most of our members use forms of electronic communication now by signing up for electronic mail (email), social networking, news groups, etc. We are looking into using Facebook to share information about upcoming trips, climbs just completed, road closures, and getting people together to go on impromptu climbs or outings. National is looking into rolling out a form of electronic communication by developing an application that you can download onto your smart phone to find out what kinds of activities Sierra Club sections like ours are doing in your local area. We are looking at using a website to allow our members a secure and anonymous way to cast ballots for elections and bylaw changes. Some Angeles Chapter sections are already doing this. Some groups are distributing their newsletter via a website saving the organization on postage and publication printing costs. And we are working with National and the Angeles Chapter to have the ability to renew our subscription/membership and make purchases through our website using credit cards and Paypal.

To make electronic communication work for the DPS we need a membership base that would be able to take advantage of the convenience and time savings afforded by being “connected” to the internet. On my last count I saw that nearly a quarter of our members and subscribers do not have or did not provide valid up-to-date email addresses to the Membership Chair. You know if you are one of them if you did not receive a DPS electronic survey from desertpeakssection@gmail.com during the week of August 10, 2011. If you do have an email address and you did not receive a survey, please let me know. The survey was sent out to solicit feedback on how well we are doing as a Management Committee, what things we could do better or should continue doing, and various desert trip topics to see what is important to our members.

Electronic communication is not for everyone and not for use all the time. For instance, I really enjoy reading the L.A. Times with a cup of coffee and I prefer to receive the Sierra Echo, HPS Lookout, and California Mountaineering Club Newsletter in print form even though I have online access. Similarly, it is important to see what our membership thinks about electronic communication. The tally for the electronic communication related questions will need to be adjusted, however, to remove the bias since only the members who are “connected” will be voting. I’ll report the findings and what we are doing about the results in future editions of The Desert Sage.

There are a lot of great DPS trips coming up this fall including the chili cook-off and please don’t forget to join us at my home in Lake Arrowhead for the September 17, 2011 Management Committee meeting and potluck. With 3 acres there is room to camp or crash at the house if you would like to stay over Saturday night. RSVP to mtnpotluck@ymail.com or if you are not “connected” call me at 310-570-9307.
**TRIPS / EVENTS**

**SEPTEMBER 2011 Through JANUARY 2012**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>SEP 17</td>
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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](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 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

- **SEP 17**
  - **SAT**
  - **DPS**

  **DPS Potluck and Management Meeting**: Come up the hill to the Lake Arrowhead home of Bob Wyka and Peter Christian for a hike on backyard trails and a 6 PM potluck following the 4:30 PM management meeting. Directions and what to bring when RSVP received. Contact Bob Wyka to RSVP: mtnpotluck@ymail.com, 310-570-9307.

- **SEP 17**
  - **SAT**
  - **LTC**

  **Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar**: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC. Register for Oct 1 seminar. Next Seminar: Spring 2012. Contact: Steve Botan (ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org).

- **SEP 25**
  - **SUN**
  - **DPS, LTC, WTC, HPS, SPS**

to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: Robert Myers (rmmyers@ix.netcom.com). Assistant: Phil Wheeler.

◆ SEP 28 WED DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS
M/ER: Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP4) – 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 sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Leader: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Assistant: Pat McKusky.

◆ OCT 1 SAT LTC
O: Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Sep 17. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Spring 2012. Contact: Steve Botan (litcret registrar@hundredpeaks.org).

◆ OCT 1 SAT DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS
M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP4) – 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 sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Leader: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Assistant: Pat McKusky.

◆ OCT 8 SAT DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS
M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP4) – 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 sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Leader: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Assistant: Pat McKusky.

◆ OCT 9 SUN DPS
O: DPS Potluck and Management Meeting: Join us at the home of Dave and Elaine Baldwin for their famous Oktoberfest potluck. Bring an item to share and a beverage of your choice. Meeting starts at 4:30, potluck at 6 pm. Contact Reserv: Elaine Baldwin (DWBaldwin@aol.com).

◆ OCT 15-16 SAT-SUN DPS
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, cl 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: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Co-Leader: Jim Fleming.
**OCT 15-16 SAT-SUN DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS**

M/ER: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP4) – 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.

**OCT 16 SUN DPS, LTC, WTC, SPS**

I: Indian Cove Navigation: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: Robert Myers (rmmyers@ix.netcom.com). Assistant: Phil Wheeler.

**OCT 22 SAT DPS**

O: 19th Annual DPS Chili Cookoff and Pumpkin Carving Challenge: Join us for a day of fun in the desert at the foot of the Orocopia Mountains. Whether you like your chili traditional, Texas-style (no beans), or vegetarian, bring your favorite recipe or just hearty taste buds to this DPS classic. Cooks prepare chili from scratch at the site, then all enjoy happy hour followed by chili tasting and judging. Prizes will be awarded by category, with special recognition for the spiciest chili, best presentation, most original recipe, and the coveted Best Overall Chili. Cook for free or taste for $10. Pumpkin artisans bring your favorite gourd and carve your best design for a prize. Optional short hiking activity in the area before the Cookoff. Send ESASE with choice of Cook or Taster to Hosts: Dave & Elaine Baldwin (DWBaldwin@aol.com) and Leaders: Larry and Barbee Tidball (lbtidball@verizon.net).

**OCT 22-23 SAT-SUN DPS, WTC**

MR: Castle Dome Peak, (3,788’), Signal Peak (4,877’): Mountaineering outing for Sierra Club members only. Climb two sought-after desert peaks in the Kofa Wilderness of SW Arizona. Sat climb class 3 Castle Dome Peak, 6 mi rt, 2100’ and then have happy hour back at car camp. Sun hike to Signal Peak, 4 mi rt, 2000’. Helmets and recent 3rd class rock climbing experience required. Send an e-mail with medical form, recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Leader: Stephanie Smith (ssmith@platinumequity.com.) Co-Ldr: Mike Adams.

**OCT 28-30 SAT-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 $210 (full refund through Sept 23). For application contact Leader: Steve Schuster (steve.n.wfac2@sbcglobal.net).

**NOV 5-6 SAT-SUN DPS, HPS, SPS**

O: A Celebration of Charlie Knapke's Life: Join all of Charlie's climbing friends as we make one last journey with him to his beloved Mojave Desert. We will commemorate our friend who generously gave so much to DPS, HPS and SPS as well as the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. We'll remember Charlie with a celebration of his life at the Kelso Sand Dunes in an area accessible to all vehicles. The activities will include a huge potluck and car camp on Saturday night. E-mail leader Sue Holloway at sueholloway@yahoo.com to sign-up. Leaders: Gary Craig, Sue Holloway and Mary McMannes.

**NOV 5-6 SAT-SUN DPS, WTC**

MR: Castle Dome Peak (3788’), Signal Peak (4877’) (Provisional): Join us for a mountaineering adventure with two peak climbs within the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in SW Arizona. Saturday climb 3rd class Castle Dome Peak, 6 mi round trip, 2100’ gain, before returning to our car camp and dinner under the desert stars. Sunday climb Signal Peak, 3.5 mi round-trip, 2100 gain. Helmets and experience with exposed 3rd class rock required, Medical Form required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send email with Sierra Club #, medical form, climbing resume, experience with 3rd class rock, conditioning, and contact information to Leader: Joe Harvey (jharvy@hotmail.com), Assistant Leader: Ron Campbell.

**NOV 12-13 SAT-SUN DPS**

I: Smith Mountain (5913’), Brown Peak (4947’): Join us for two peaks in southeastern Death Valley. Sat climb Smith (5.5 mi, 2300’ gain) and enjoy great views of the valley, Telescope Peak, and more. After car camping, then Sunday it’s Brown (6.5 mi, 2000’ gain). Sign up with Leader: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Co-Leader: Mary McMannes.
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR / ACTIVITY REPORT, August 12, 2011

### Membership Summary

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<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>241</td>
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### Activity Report

#### New Members
- Mat Kelliher (Mount Stirling)

#### New Subscribers
- Matthew Haynes
- Randy Kirkpatrick
- Andy Sywak

#### Sustaining Renewals
- Dave & Ann Perkins 1 year
- Jim Throgmorton 1 year

#### Membership Renewals
- Kevin & Lisa Heapy 1 year
- J. Owen Maloy 1 year
- Sharon L. Moore 4 years
- Bill Sampson 1 year
- Edward Stork 1 year

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<td>Totals:</td>
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### Activity Report

#### NOV 13 SUN DPS, WTC
**MR: Bridge Mountain (7,003'):** Mountaineering outing for Sierra Club members only. Climb sought-after desert peak in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area near Las Vegas. Sat night car camp off the paved Lovell Canyon Road. Sun climb class 3 Bridge Mtn, 6.5 mi rt, 2700’ (incl 850’ on the return) and then head home. Helmets and recent 3rd class rock climbing experience required. Send an e-mail with recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Leader: Stephanie Smith (ssmith@platinumequity.com.). Co-Ldr: Neal Robbins.

#### NOV 19-20 SAT-SUN DPS
**I: Edgar Peak (7162’), Granite Mountains # 1 (6762’):** Join us in this beautiful area of the Mojave Desert for a Saturday climb of Edgar, 2900’ gain, 5 miles, trail begins in paved parking lot. Potluck Saturday night, Sunday climb Granite, 2900’ gain, 6.5 miles, 2 miles dirt road driving. 2WD vehicles can easily do this trip. If time permits either Saturday or Sunday, participants may want to visit Mitchell Caverns nearby. Leader: Dave Perkins. Contact Assistant Leader Ann Perkins (ann.perkins@csun.edu) with recent climbing experience and for more details.

#### NOV 19-20 SAT-SUN DPS, LTC, WTC, HPS, SPS
**I: Indian Cove Navigation:** Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: Robert Myers (rmmyers@ix.netcom.com). Assistant: Phil Wheeler.

#### DEC 3-4 SAT-SUN DPS
**I: Old Dad Mtn (4252’), East Ord Mtn (6168’):** Join us for two of the easier DPS peaks. Saturday it’s Old Dad (4 miles, 1800’ gain) and possibly an excursion to the nearby lava tube. We’ll car camp near East Ord and climb that peak Sunday (3 mi, 2200’ gain). Some excellent to fair dirt roads, 2WD ok. Send sase or e-mail to Leader: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Assistants: Mary McMannes, Tom Bowman.

#### DEC 10 SAT DPS, HPS
**I: Pinto Mountain (3983’):** For HPSers who have "cleaned out" Joshua Tree one or more times, come join the HPS Joshua Tree Holiday party and tackle a DPS peak. Pinto is 2400’ gain, 9 miles. Leaders: Ted Lubeshkoff, Wayne Vollaire. Contact Wayne (avollaire1@verizon.net) to sign up for trip.

#### DEC 10-11 SAT-SUN HPS, DPS, WTC, Lower Peaks
**I: HPS Holiday Party 2010:** Welcome in the holidays with old and new HPS friends. Join this festive hiking and partying weekend in Joshua Tree National Park. Sign up for some outstanding HPS, DPS and Lower Peaks outings in the park. We have reserved group campsites for Friday and Saturday nights at the Sheep Pass Campground, sites 3 and 4. Join us for Holiday Potluck on Saturday night. There is a Park entrance fee, but no charge for the campground. No reservations needed, but sign up for individual outings listed on the HPS Website and in the HPS Lookout newsletter. For info, contact Wayne Vollaire, avollaire1@verizon.net.

#### DEC 11 SUN DPS
**O: DPS Potluck, Holiday Party, and Management Meeting:** Come to the home of Ann and Dave Perkins for the annual holiday party and management committee meeting. Meeting starts at 4:30; potluck at 6 pm. Bring a beverage
Bad News: Wilderness is Under Fire

Since 1964, when the Wilderness Act became law, 110 million acres of the lands have been made part of the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). These landscapes will be protected forever! In addition there are more areas in our National Forests and other federal land that are law-protected and have the potential to become wilderness areas. Now, there are two radical bills (H.R.1581 and S1087) which will affect at least 60 million acres of wilderness and cut off the temporary protection allowing oil drilling, logging, road building, and mining to take over these places. In opposition, the real Wilderness Bills started to move in Congress. For us, we hope that our California/Nevada bills will pass and more than 387,000 acres of wilderness will be added to NWPS. The bills call for expanding Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks, and Mojave National Preserve. Also for enlarging five existing wilderness areas: Beauty Mtn and Agua Tibia in San Diego County, Sheep Mtn and Cucamonga in the San Gabriel Mtns, and Pinnacles National Monument is proposed to be upgraded to a National Park.

- Virgil Popescu
DID YOU KNOW?

It's pretty wonderful to blow out 100 candles when you are the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club or our very own climbing legend, Glen Dawson. Despite the predicted horrors of Carmageddon, our brave and living-green local Sierra Clubbers jumped into their vehicles and drove traffic-empty roads to this stupendous gathering (perhaps it was Armageddon and all the good people went to Heaven!) The rest of us appeared at the Malibu Nature Center for the Centennial Party honoring John Muir, ourselves, and Glen Dawson (age 99 running towards 100) and Royal Robbins. Even Doug Mantle was heard to say, "Mary, you never reminded me." Rich Gnagy gnashed his teeth, because he missed seeing an old friend, Royal Robbins, and would have loved a photo with him. Lo siento!

What a lavish estate is this Malibu Nature Center, generously donated from the accompanying land holdings of Barbara Streisand. The thrill of the day, other than eating an incredible lip-smacking barbecue dinner, was hanging out with John Robinson, Glen, Royal, and a couple of other authors, Dan Arnold and Andy Selters. Even R.J. Secor showed up, thanks to chauffeur and friend Dan Richter. It was a pleasure seeing SPS founder, Roger Gaefcke, wearing a Sierra sky blue shirt matching his eyes and looking great. Keith Dawson made sure Glen got there, and his famous father walked sprightly to the podium to accept his Walter Starr Mountaineering Award for his exceptional life. I still get goose bumps when I see the black & white photo of this slip of a lad leaping from one pinnacle to the other. What a voice and what a speech. Surely this man doesn't look a day over 65. I was happy to meet Muir Dawson's widow along with Rosie Balsam, Lloyd Balsam's wife. Wish I had time to interview those two and hear the stories they'd tell of their own adventures with both Muir and Lloyd. You had to be there seeing Royal Robbins and Glen thrilled to meet each other. Visit the SPS archives to read all about Glen. Of course, you know about Royal and all of his first ascents on Half Dome and El Capitan and being the first person to solo El Cap. I think it was around 1957 that Royal hooked up with our local L.A. rock climbers, and the rest is history. You might want to pick up his little autobiography which he was signing. Some of us dragged in our original books for him to sign, too. What a gracious and friendly man he is. Royal will be honored in September by the national Sierra Club as he is overdue in receiving the Francis Farquhar Award and will be in the good company of past recipients Norman Clyde (1970), Galen Rowell, Jules Eichorn, Glen Dawson, Barbara Lilley, Gregie Boy, Dougie, and many others. Congratulations to both Royal Robbins and Glen Dawson.

Later on, I emailed my photos to Royal and Glen, and they actually wrote me back - can you believe lowly and roving girl reporter hears from Royal Robbins and Glen Dawson all on the same day? Gnarly Bill Oliver who helped me with email addresses exclaimed, "Well, Mary, I'm sure R.R. was equally excited to hear from Mary McMannes." Oh hyperbole, I doth love you. And DYK Glen Dawson has a Facebook account, too?

Thanks to Bob Cates for swaggering around in vintage clothing and carrying an impressive climbing rack. DYK Bob, that we girls in our youthful climbing days swooned at the guys who carried the heaviest climbing rack clanking down the trail? Bob and Maureen Cates plus Peter Ireland and Liz Pomeroy put all of this together, and a joyous time was had by all. Joy Goebel, a special thanks to you for making sure our honored guests got their dinners without

Royal Robbins, Mary McMannes, Glen Dawson.
R.J. Secor and SPS founder Roger Gaefcke. Photos provided by Mary Mac.
standing in long lines AND giving your own dinner to honoree Glen.

DYK, Ron Bartell emailed me a great photo of a gentleman sitting by a campfire, and he asked me to identify this fellow? No problem in identifying the pack with legs known as the Great and Wondrous Norman Clyde. It seems Ron as a youngster accompanied a packer named Wampler to the Sierra Nevada for three summers, and there was our favorite Membership Guy sitting around a campfire with Norman Clyde. We've got to get Bartelli to write up his packing stories which are pretty entertaining as Ron dug toilets, wrestled surly burros, and entertained the clients. He didn't even get a salary but received his pay in meals and tips. AND, oh yeah, a chance to sit around a campfire with Norman Clyde. Oh Ron, you never told us about this before! And a packer's secret, what was that about breaking some of the client's booze bottles on the way in or was that just another story explaining the missing bottles?

Oh bring out the party hats and blow the horns for something always good happening to DPSers. Congrats to Chris Libby who dodged the lightning bolt (and probably many) to finish the grand-daddy of lists, the SPS List. Your mom Priscilla would be so proud. And Doug Mantle keeps on, keeps on climbing those Classic Climbs - this time, hanging out in Estes Park on Lumpy Ridge to finally conquer Trough Spearhead. And them wedding bells are breaking up that old gang of mine. Jim Hinkley proposed and got a Yes from Michelle Saykally, and they exchanged vows in July. Betty McRuer, now a resident of Prescott, actually traveled to Bob Hick's house and brought the $500 bottle of 1969 Mondavi cabernet. Bob turned 86, and he's looking pretty fine, too. The tale of the Mondavi wine is not over yet.

DYK, Bill Banks had the best time at the May DPS banquet in reconnecting with old buddies such as Frank Dobos, Steve Smith, Barbara Lilley, Ron Jones, and Gordon McLeod? I was the happy recipient of a great letter as Bill shared some of his life stories. That guy has been everywhere, and he was a phenomenon back in the 1980s all over the Sierra, and the desert too. He was scary strong and herculean in what he could climb in one day. Bill requested his photo be taken with Gordon who was his advocate in those early climbing days when more conservative people thought Bill was over the line. People come and go, and people fall from cliffs. But Bill is still around and is a testament that risk takers can survive. I liked the story that Bill told about Erick Schumacher who carried in a frozen turkey one Thanksgiving on a Big Picacho trip. The turkey was packed in dry ice, and even when Erick tried to thaw it, it was almost impossible. Bill had regrets that Erick would not share his turkey. Erick, on the other hand, said it was a chicken, and after all, he had...
carried it all the way in for his own dinner. Do we remember the heroics of our friends or Erick scaling an impossible rock wall or plunge-stepping down North Pal's U Notch? No, we will sit around the fire and tell about Erick and his Thanksgiving turkey-chicken that everyone wished they could sample.

Congrats again to one of my favorite guys, Virgil Popescu who not only finished the DPS List (see page 18) but who is newly retired at age 70 and probably getting into all kinds of trouble with Brian Smith and Gloria Miladin in Colorado, even as I write. Virgil, a charming fellow indeed, began his climbing career in Romania working up to a 5.10 climbing level with friends from the University of Budapest. He's done Kilimanjaro, Elbrus, Chimborazo, Ixta (the Mexican volcano), Hood and Rainier. And he's been known to climb final DPS peaks well into the wee hours of the morning much to Eddie Herrman's distress. You may not know, but DYK, he found a Sierra Club schedule on a bus (1988) and walked to the rideshare point of one HPS trip near Tujunga. And Charlie Knapke was the leader on Virgil's first outing. It was our good luck whoever left his S.C. schedule on that bus. Virgil, you're the Man!

We're glad to hear Devra Wasserman is continuing to heal from her severely broken ankle on Baldy, and it was good news to hear the helicopter evacuees never sent Devra a bill. Maybe it was her great smile even in adversity. Devra is asking friends to make a donation to the volunteer Search and Rescue in her name, and she will be happy to share details with you. You can send in a donation to honor Devra or even a memorial contribution for Devra's best friend, Charlie Knapke. Make checks out to Service Search and Rescue, Tax ID 97-933677. Then mail to Emergency Operations Division (Aviation), 1776 Miro Way, Rialto, CA, 92376. Who knows when any of us will need a necessary ride off of Baldy?

Well, it's been a year of losing things (our DPS flag) and even people as they move on. It is with the greatest of sadness and regret that I say farewell to The Bobster, Cold Horn Bob, Hot Horn Bob, guidebook writer Bob, and Sage editor Bob Sumner as he walks off into the horizon leaving the Sage to anyone who'd attempt to fill these unfillable shoes. Bob and I teamed up after I was drummed into the corps as DPS chairperson, and it was a relationship that grew by leaps and bounds, even as successful as Mutt and Jeff, Burns and Allen, Gable and Lombard. A good king and a great editor stages an arena where his people belong to him in loyalty whether it's fighting battles or meeting deadlines. In other words, he knows our strengths and weaknesses and brings out the strengths in all of us. I never knew (Did I Know) I wanted to write a column called DYK. When I ranted and went into extravagant hyperbole, Bob calmed me down. When I crossed the lines or recommended certain photos, Bob gently reminded me that we are not only entertaining writers, but we are good and kind and sensitive. I was his Girl Friday, and I beat the bushes for articles, so he'd always have plenty in the queue for the present Sage and future editions. There was the daily laugh when Bob emailed some of the most creative expletives I've ever read or when he got his dander up. We (DPS) honored him with a plaque, but we owed him much much more than words can even say. The Sage has grown into a class #1 publication, thanks to you, Bob. In my book, you are the genius of newsletter editors and it was my great fortune to call you Best Friend. You were the magic, and you were our joy. Be strong and full of courage as you venture Sageless into the Land of Little Rain. It was a ride and a romp together, and I won't forget it.

- Mary McMannes, Roving Girl Reporter, “an equal opportunity gatherer of all scoops fit to be printed”

HELP WANTED—TWO OPENINGS

The DPS is looking for a new Sage editor. Must have solid technical skills in a variety of software.

Also, we are looking for someone to fill the position of History CD editor. Some technical skills are also required for this position.

Please contact Bob Wyka or Ann Perkins if you are interested in either position and would like more information.
All Good Things…

The last time an Editor’s Last Chance column ran was in Sage 294, my first issue as editor of this publication. Back then, in late 2004, departing editor Mark Adrian shared his thoughts on his time as Sage editor. Now, 42 Desert Sages and 7 years later, it’s my turn.

It was a pleasure working with the previous DPS management committees. There were a lot of good folks on these committees who put in uncounted hours keeping the section running. Like many volunteer positions, the effort and work is often thankless, so these people deserve some kudos.

No less trivial were the contributions from the leaders and the members. Without people leading hikes and writing trip reports, there would be no Sage. It’s not always easy to sit down and write something after a desert outing – sometimes the details fade or a person would rather just relax. Yet time after time, a love of the outdoors and a desire to help the section drove us to our computers to churn out the accounts we so enjoy reading. So I’d like to give a heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who sent in trip reports over the past seven years.

If there are two contributors who deserve special praise, they are Burt Falk and Mary McMannes. Burt has been creating high quality essays for his Book Reviews column for longer than I can remember. He’s like an energizer bunny hopped up on steroids, and he just never quits. So thank you, Burt, on a job well done.

Mary Mac is our most recent recipient of the DPS Lifetime Achievement Award. And what a work horse she has been. Back in the summer of 2007, she pitched a column to me and I accepted it. Since the first appearance of her beloved Did You Know column in Sage 310, she’s missed a scant two issues. And let’s also acknowledge her other contributions – numerous potluck and trip reports, as well as back to back seasons as DPS Chair. I personally believe she has done more to revitalize the Desert Peaks Section than anyone I’ve known since I joined in 1987. If Chester Versteeg was still around, he would say “Thank you, Mary, you’re the bomb!”

If there’s one thing that’s remained a constant in our lives over the years, it’s the desert itself. When I imagine “a gift that keeps on giving”, it’s the desert. I’ve lost count of how many times I’ve watched a crimson fire sunset, felt soothed by a cool breeze on an unending ridge, or dozed off to the distant howls of coyotes. The desert is special to each of us in our own way, and I think that’s why we keep going back.

A significant accomplishment that occurred during my tenure as Sage editor was the writing and publication of my book, Hiking Nevada’s County High Points. If there was one subset of the purchasing public that was overwhelmingly supportive of this endeavor, it was the DPS. Thanks again to everyone who purchased it, and hopefully there are some more books in my future.

As I move on to many new challenges and adventures, I do so with an abundance of great memories, and gratitude. Long live the Desert Peaks Section, and long live The Desert Sage.

-Bob Sumner

Mary McMannes accepting her award at the 2011 banquet. Photo by Ron Bartell.

COVER PHOTO: Pleasant Point from Cerro Gordo Peak. Photo by Debbie Bulger.
A group of 12 people joined up for a three day trip to drive the scenic and historic loop road which goes through two westside Panamint Mountains canyons and across a portion of the Panamint Crest. This 27 mile loop drive requires 4WD vehicles since there are some difficult, rocky road segments in both canyons. South Park Canyon has much rougher road conditions than Pleasant so we started our trip by going up Pleasant Canyon, then south along the Panamint Crest and then descending South Park Canyon. There are 3 old miner’s cabins along the way which are maintained by Friends of Public Land Cabins where we stayed each night.

Our group met at the old Panamint Valley mining supply town of Ballarat where resident Rocky Novak sold us some cold drinks and provided information about the road conditions. Rocky has been living there for several years ever since he and his dad George had their longtime camp at Chris Wicht in Surprise Canyon burn down.

Departing Ballarat in six 4WD vehicles, we drove up Pleasant Canyon through the narrows which has several challenging 4WD sections. As we left the narrows, we encountered a currently maintained dirt road coming in from the north side of the canyon. That is an alternate route along the north side of the narrows which is presently being maintained part way up the canyon. The maintained portion of road continued up as far as the old mining area of Clair Camp at 4,300’ and we passed a couple of parked road maintenance vehicles along the way. Clair Camp is an area of private land where there was some evidence of current mining activity, including work that is underway to renovate one of the old cabins.

A short distance above Clair Camp is the old World Beater miner’s cabin which has been maintained by the Friends of Public Land Cabins. We stayed at the cabin the first night and enjoyed having Rich Abele show us a PowerPoint program of his January 2011 trip to the South Pole. Rich is an ardent traveler and has now visited both the South and North Poles.

After camping out at the World Beater cabin, we continued on up Pleasant Canyon and crossed over the Death Valley National Park boundary at about 5,900’. Proceeding on up to the Panamint Crest at 7,600 feet, it is a splendid view looking down into Death Valley to the east. From this saddle on the crest, most of our group took an hour long hike northward along the crest to reach Mormon benchmark at 8,627’. There is a 30 foot high telephone communications relay tower at the top which provides phone service for the Death Valley area. From here, Porter Peak is prominent to the north, Butte Valley and the Stripped Butte below Mengel Pass along with Manly and Needle Peaks were to the southeast, and our vehicle route southward across Middle Park Canyon to South Park Canyon could also be seen.

After driving about two miles southward along the crest, we dropped down and crossed the wide and flat upper part of Middle Park. Crossing over a small ridge, we then reached the upper end of South Park Canyon. There are several interesting old mines in this area along with a short aerial tram extending up to a mine tunnel perched on a high mountainside. The road descending South Park Canyon has a lot of rough places, and while easier to drive down than up is still a challenge for us casual 4WD users. It was slow going as our six vehicles worked their way down the scenic, narrow canyon and a
flat tire took some extra time. Terry Flood spotted a Red Diamondback Panamint rattlesnake which unfortunately did not stay around long enough for everyone to enjoy.

It was getting late into the evening as we crossed out of Death Valley National Park at 6,200’ and descended down to 4,800’ where we reached the old Briggs and Stone miner’s cabins which are also maintained by the Friends of Public Land Cabins. Spending our second night at these cabins, it was a beautiful evening with a colorful sunset light highlighting the canyon walls.

Our third day was spent going through the narrow lower portion of the canyon and then coming out at a panoramic vista overlook of Panamint Valley at 3,500’. It’s a steep road on down to the valley floor from the vista point and then a short drive back northward to Ballarat along the South Panamint Valley county road. Rocky was there to greet our group and sell us a few more cold drinks before we all headed for home.

Later in April, the Ridgecrest Office of the BLM put out a public notice that a short segment of the South Park Canyon road has been closed to full sized vehicles. At about the 5,500 foot elevation on the South Park road, there is a particularly narrow point and a user built bridge which are both pretty hazardous. Its reported that three vehicles have recently gotten off the road in this area. Due to the safety issues, the BLM has currently closed that one-quarter mile of road to full sized vehicles although it is still open to motorcycles and ATVs.

There are reports on the web that several vehicle user groups are working with the BLM to see if it’s possible to reduce the hazards in order to reopen the road to full sized vehicles. The 27 mile Pleasant-South Park 4WD loop road provides a very scenic and enjoyable route through the Panamint Mountains which I have driven several times. It is a popular route which cabin logbooks at several points along the road indicate that it gets quite a bit of use which even includes foreign visitors. I’m hopeful that it will be possible to mitigate the road hazards enough to allow BLM to reopen the closed 1/4 mile section of South Park road for all 4WD vehicles.

Gray skies and a slight drizzle couldn’t convince us to cancel this re-scheduled trip to Kumiva Peak. Five hikers headed for the mountain in uncertain weather conditions accepting the fact that after a drive to the Selenite Range a downpour might greet us. Still, we agreed there was the possibility of missing the storm.

Heading north on NV Highway 447, we spotted a Golden Eagle and an antelope. When the Selenite Range came into view, Mount Limbo and Purgatory Peak were visible on the south end of the range. However, Kumiva,
to the north was hidden by clouds. Kumiva Peak is the high point of the Selenite Range. This range was named in reference to deposits of crystallized gypsum or selenite that outcrop along its western border.

We parked 3.1 miles from the highway turnoff and hiked along Jenny Creek following the path of least resistance around rock outcrops, brush, aspen and snow banks as we ascended.

Our gray day started without precipitation, but added a light spitting snow after we crossed Jenny Creek. The clouds thickened and dropped more snow as we neared the summit. On the summit (8237’), we quickly ate lunch, snapped photos, and signed the register.

As we descended, the snow stopped, but a light rain drizzled the remainder of the hike. In the end, we enjoyed another interesting day of variable weather and hiking in the Great Basin. The only things we missed on this trip were sun and great summit views!

despite a somewhat inauspicious start (the check engine light came on north of Visalia) resulting in an unplanned trip to the Ford dealer combined with an overnight stay in a hotel, we made it to the east side of the Sierra only a little behind schedule. The privately-owned ghost town of Cerro Gordo is very well preserved and worth exploring. We heard that both owners Jody Stewart and Michael Patterson had passed away and that their son was trying to sell the property to either state or national parks.

We parked in a pullout north of the saddle on the road dropping to Lee Flat. For the next two days and three nights Richard Stover and I stepped back into history poking around buildings and mines from the 1870s to the 1920s.

With mountains all around, the sun didn’t hit the truck until 8:15 am. At 9 we walked up the north side of Cerro Gordo Peak. As we ascended, we discovered the source of the lumber used to build the town. Scattered on the slope were the stumps of huge pinyon pines, some over three feet in diameter. In the intervening 100+ years a few larger pines have populated the slope, but it will take at least 100 more years for the logged area to resemble pre-mining days.

As on previous trips we found an errant balloon. The summit offered a great view of Pleasant Point, the snow-capped Sierra, and even The Racetrack. We descended on the south side, eventually meeting the road to the radio facility on nearby Buena Vista Peak.

The climb and exploration of Pleasant Point the next day proved much more difficult. It started easily enough with a walk up the upper road, but we got suckered into partially ascending the false summit. Then we had to grapple with the tottering shale.

We celebrated attaining the summit with cheddar bunnies, but I knocked over the box! Not to worry, we picked them up and ate every one. As we descended, the scent of sage was so strong at times, I was looking around for the bottle of solvent.

We headed cross-country for the old cabins. I calculated they were due south. Presently we hit the old trail/jeep road which turned out to be rather precarious in spots. At one point we had to go down and around a dangerous, slippery slide.

One of the cabins was a gem. Build in the 1920s judging by the style of the doors, it sported ceilings, paneled walls, and finished trim around the windows and doors. Best of all was the million dollar view. But part of the metal roof had just come off, so next winter will reek havoc on this beauty.

Then we tackled at least 1000 feet of rubble before we intersected the road coming from the Burgess Mine which we took back to Cerro Gordo. We finished with a few quiet moments in Boot Hill where Jody Stewart’s memorial looks out over Owens Lake nearly 5000 feet below.

The next day as we neared Keeler, we found Lilac sunbonnet (Langloisia setosissima), a delicately beautiful flower we had never seen before.
As a serious dust storm hid the Sierra from view across Owens Lake, Richard Stover and I headed for Phinney Canyon to climb Grapevine and Wahguyhe Peaks. Tourists were leaving Stovepipe Wells in droves as we passed through. The wind-whipped dust filled the air making it unpleasant to even be outside.

At the Grapevine trailhead we camped at 6900' and enjoyed a chilly evening. We were not really prepared for the cold weather. After all it was almost May. We set off for Grapevine at 6:30 the next morning in our lightweight zip-off hiking pants. Burrrrr. It was a little like climbing Shasta in pajamas.

Grapevine should be called “Roller Coaster Peak.” Up and down all day along the ridge. Gorgeous Pinyon pines; Limber pines near the summit. And a new flower for us: the Western Peony. Exquisite.

The summit afforded good views of Thimble and Corkscrew as well as a great view of the southeast ridge of Wahguyhe, our route for the next day.

Wahguyhe, although not on the DPS list, was by far the better peak in my opinion. On May 1 we proceeded to the saddle east of the peak and walked up the long southeast ridge. No ups and downs, just up to the steep summit, then down. On the way we passed the Von Schmidt survey marker described by Bob Michael and clearly indicated on the topo map.

The Von Schmidt survey from 1873 delineated the boundary between California and Nevada. It is still recognized as the state line from Lake Tahoe to the Oregon border, but was replaced as the boundary from Lake Tahoe to the Colorado River by an 1893-99 USC&GS survey. It was such a thrill to see this still intact, still legible marker, 139 years after it was erected. Seeing it has piqued my curiosity and led me to more research about the colorful history of the California/Nevada boundary. Von Schmidt erected both wood and cast iron markers. Some are noted on various topo maps. I believe other ones are still standing. I’ll let you know what I find.

Tucked away in those verdant Pasadena hills is the Brookside Country Club, and it was the place to be on the first weekend in May. Sierra Club members of all entities joined in the family gathering to honor the best and most worthy of leaders at the annual Angeles Chapter Awards banquet. It is not only great to arrive knowing there’s an award with your name on it, but if not, one enjoys the camaraderie of seeing all the old and new friends gathered and imbibing on the patio. There was lots of whooping it up prior to the formal ceremonies. Bob and Maureen Cates plus Peter Ireland walked around in their 1920s hiking garb, and many of us popped into the vintage High Sierra Camp tent which Peter had set up.
Happy Hour and complimentary wine time was over, and folks scurried inside hoping to sit next to their favorite hiking friends. The Memorial Slide Show (shown at the end of the banquet) was introduced by Doug Mantle and yours truly as we sang a few bars from, “I’ll Be Seeing You.” You do know that Doug sang with the Young Americans prior to his mountaineering career? The Sierra Club bid a fond farewell to fifteen fallen and most noble leaders. Past members of the HPS, DPS, and SPS were: George Toby, Lou Brecheen, Paul Kenworthy, Harry Freimanis, Lloyd Balsam, Chuck Kopenec, and Bill Gray.

Following our keynote speakers, the main program moved into great fun and even hilarity as the awardees stepped into the spotlight. Ron Silverman, forever our charming emcee, was sporting new hair and Silvia Darie added glamour in a gorgeous red formal. The pace was moved to fast and faster so banquet goers could leave at a reasonable hour. Thanks, Ron and Mary Morales!

HPS, DPS, and SPS peak-baggers were well represented in getting their just desserts and well deserved accolades. Navigation Man and Outstanding in the Field (literally and figuratively) was Robert (Bob) Myers joined by multi-faceted trip leader Edd Ruskowitz, both happy with their outings awards. Our favorite friend and Echo editor Sara Danta looked lovely and had a big smile as she accepted her Special Service Award. Darrick Danta, an accomplished mountaineer and leader in his own right, looked on with pride and approval. Nile Sorenson rose to the podium to receive the coveted Chester Versteeg Award for his mountaineering expertise and prowess. Nile was in good company with other Chester awardees: Ron Hudson, Tina Bowman, Doug Mantle, and Dan Richter. Dressed to the nines, Nile gave an impressive and moving acceptance speech about the joys of training new young leaders. Other friends worthy of mention and receiving recognition were HPSer Southern Courtney and Craig Deutsch (editor of the Desert Report.)

The banquet was rolling along with great gusto when emcee Ron paused briefly to announce the successful killing of Osama bin Laden. The word Celebration took on a new meaning, and it became a banquet of historical significance.

Newlyweds Wynne Benti (Spotted Dog Press) and husband Scot Marburger sat at a far table with Bobcat Thompson, Marlen Mertz, Wayne Vollaire, awardee Edd, and other HPSers. Thanks, Wynne for generously donating the book, Ruth Mendenhall’s “Woman on the Rocks,” to each banquet attendee. Notables and those receiving their own past awards were here and there: Kathy Rich, Melody Anderson, Joe Young, Frank Dobos, Tom Bowman, Alexander Smirnoff, Virgil and Ann Shields, Al Sattler, Paul Cooley, and David Eisenberg.

Finally, the star-studded evening came to an end, and everyone admitted to having attended another great banquet thanks to all those behind the production. And most of all, thanks to Ron Silverman who gave us many laughs with his sped up program and still posed for dozens of photo ops while displaying the same genuine smile for each awardee.

Do yourself a favor and show up at next year’s banquet, because the hikers and climbers are the soul of the Sierra Club (as first said by founder John Muir.) And I hope many of you will come and win awards, too. It’s a good feeling to finally sing about our unsung heroes. And better yet, when the song is about you!
Climbing this peak in the Sweetwater Mountains was revenge time for brush. A chance to get back at humans for conducting centuries of clearing. Richard Stover and I wore old shirts. A good thing, since mine was practically torn to shreds by the time we returned to our vehicle. It was the last time I wore that shirt. We could have used machetes. As it was, all we had were trekking poles. Richard whacked so hard, part of one of his poles went flying, setting off a search for the missing section. It has since been glued back together.

There was an abundance of Mountain Mahogany, Pinyon Pine, Juniper, and Gooseberries (ouch!). There were deer trails through the brush, but unfortunately, deer are shorter than humans. We were wishing for taller deer.

We climbed from O'Banion Canyon hiking south then west to gain the south ridge and follow it to the summit. We returned via the east slope. In all the climb was about 6 miles and 2700' elevation gain.

We spent about an hour on the summit. The snowcapped Three Sisters stood tall to the south. The register was a trip down memory lane having been placed in the early 1980s by my friends Boris and Camille and signed by lots of friends from my Peak and Gorge days. Desert Creek Peak is on the Tahoe Ogul list which I have been working on since 1979.

The weekend of May 7th was predicted to be hot, and indeed as several of us gathered Friday evening at the Tuttle Creek Campground we were comfortable without jackets and with no desire to build a fire. The next morning at 9:00 am, Virgil Popescu (ready for his list finish), Ed Herrman, Mary McMannes, Ann and Dave Perkins, Gary Bowen, Ron Bartell, and Christine Mitchell set off for the meeting place near Keeler, while Edna Ersparmer stayed back in camp. At Keeler we met Anne Rolls and her dog Banner (a lively and gregarious Brittany Spaniel), Brian Smith, Bill and Corrine Livingston, and Stephanie Glyden and combined into four cars for the drive to the Cerro Gordo mine. Fortunately, at the trailhead the temperatures were moderate with a slight breeze. Brian decided to climb the peak by a different route – going along a level road for a couple of miles and then heading more or less straight up, so the rest of us said farewell and headed up the higher road to the ridge. This road is now gated at the beginning, which makes the hike 6 miles and 1500' of gain. We enjoyed conversation and a moderate pace, as Christine and Dave were recovering from colds, and Ann and Mary hadn’t done much climbing recently. Virgil, however, was in fine shape and good spirits, and of course Banner was always in the lead, looking back occasionally to see what was keeping us.

After several ups and downs on the ridge we made the final push to the summit and the celebration began! Brian joined us after about 20 minutes, and conceded that his route was a bit tougher than ours. We had been giving Gloria a hard time for not coming (she was at a
rock climbing class in Joshua Tree) but when Brian arrived he pulled out the list finish pin she had bought for Virgil, so we forgave her. We enjoyed several bottles of champagne, hummus and crackers, cookies, and the good views of the Sierras and the Panamint Valley for about 45 minutes before heading down. Mary made sure we had lots of good photos, some of which appear with this article. As we started down the ridge I was in the lead, and every time I paused to make sure of the best trail (there are many on this peak) Banner came running back to show me the way. Maybe we should certify dogs as assistant leaders! We were back to the cars in about 5 hours round trip, including our time on the summit – a “Pleasant” climb to celebrate Virgil’s list finish.

Back at Tuttle Creek, we were joined by Daryn Dodge, Tina Bowman, and Kathy Rich who had been on a Sierra snow checkoff. DPSers, never ones to hang back, started on the appetizers right away, in spite of a blazing sun that made us huddle under the trees. There were plenty of dips and chips and wine, and Virgil had brought a tray of sushi. The sun finally dipped behind the Sierras at about six, and we started on the main courses – Mary and Ann had brought chili, Edna a salad with shrimp, Anne a fruit salad, and Christine another salad. As it began to get dark, we still had no desire for a fire, so we broke out the desserts and more champagne. There was pie, and a delicious chocolate cake, and many other goodies. Chocolate and champagne (or red wine) are a great combination!

We retired about 10 pm, and Brian left sometime in the night to drive over to Mahogany Flats for a climb of Telescope the next day. (He reports that it went well, but there was enough snow that minus ice ax or pole, he had to find a stick to use for support). The next morning some left early for other commitments at home, Ed and Edna cooked their breakfast in the campground, and Ann, Dave, Anne and Gary enjoyed the breakfast delights of the Mt. Whitney café. Congratulations, Virgil – and keep climbing. Maybe you can join Dave and Brian on their quest for the second time list finish!
With a 2:45 am start, I drove down from Walnut Creek to Doug Mantle’s house in Sylmar. Doug had invited me to do El Picacho del Diablo (Big P) May 12-16, one of my last DPS peaks. I had always wanted to go with someone who had done the peak. I figured Doug qualifies as he has climbed this mountain seven times! He is on the verge of finishing this list for the eighth time. Pretty amazing. Paul Garry and Keith Christensen were going to meet us at the trail head to round out our group.

We had a smooth drive down into Mexico, but missed the immediate right turn which takes you to the toll highway (a must!) to Ensenada. Eventually, we found our road which parallels the border before heading south. After three $2.35 tolls, we stopped to buy our tourist cards in Ensenada. Even though we later passed through two military checkpoints, we were never asked for these tourist cards, so it seemed a waste of $29, five dollars more in Ensenada than at the border. By coincidence, we met Paul and Keith who were also buying their seemingly useless tourist cards. No one asked to see their cards, either. South of here, towns are scarce and it was a scenic drive to our turn off for Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park. I know years ago this was a dirt road, but now, because of the observatory, it is paved the entire way. It’s hard to imagine doing these 60 miles on over a washboard. We stopped at the park offices and paid our $5 each per night and signed a waiver which said the park is not responsible for us as Big P is, surprisingly, not within the boundary of the national park. The rangers said the government is working to rectify that.

From here is it was a short drive to our signed dirt road turn-off which led us to the trail head. You can no longer drive to the shack as there is a chain across the road after a quarter mile. There is also a sign that says in Spanish ‘hiking only.’ So we four car camped at the tee-pee structure and fire ring. There is also a pit toilet nearby making this a convenient and beautiful area. As Paul was getting ready for a Denali attempt, Doug told us about his successful trip over a fire. After a peaceful night’s sleep, we hoisted the packs and made our way to Blue Bottle Saddle in about three hours. Paul, Keith and I wanted to do Blue Bottle Peak which is a short walk from the saddle. Doug had already done this and had no interest, so he continued on solo to Campo Noche. After bagging the 2nd tallest peak in Baja, we also began to make our way down to Diablo Canyon and Campo Noche. We followed what looked like ducks and footprints. Of course they were Doug’s and we were pretty confident it was the right way. Shouldn’t we pull out our maps to double check? Weren’t we supposed to go further across the headwall of the canyon before heading down? We should have asked these questions, but were lulled by the fresh footprints.

Although our route went fairly well, we were not making good time. After 3 1/2 hours, a realization began to sink in: we were in the wrong canyon! In fact, we had wondered down into Gorin’s Gully and were now facing one of the class 5 waterfalls. We were almost out of water and carrying full packs, so going back up seemed impossible. Somehow, we had to find a way down. Doug brought a short rope, but it was already at Campo Noche. Trouble. On our left the canyon wall rose steeply one to two thousand feet, so our only hope was the wall on our right. Perhaps we could climb over and into Diablo Canyon or at least bypass the class 5 sections. We crossed our fingers as Paul climbed up to search. He came up empty. I grew fearful as I thought of what might happen if we could not find a way out of here. Keith and I climbed up to meet Paul, but we continued further up the steep and brushy ridge and over toward Diablo Canyon. Then Keith chose to down climb and Paul and I anxiously waited for good news.

“Yes it go?” I yelled.
“Looks 75% good,” Keith yelled back.
I was not optimistic because of the steep walls and Paul’s earlier cliff out. But, in a minute, he yelled for us to climb down. “Ninety percent chance it goes,” he said. Paul and I carefully climbed down and, thankfully, I saw Keith sitting on the canyon floor. We looked back at the class 5 section; no way we could have done that! Sometimes you get lucky. Soon after we hit a stream, and we all felt a sigh of relief. Unfortunately, we also hit a large area of stinging nettles. Too bad Keith was leading as he was in shorts. Ouch! He had some large rashes which stung the rest of the evening. We thankfully encountered no more class 5 spots and soon we were in Diablo Canyon. At one point, Paul, who was looking at his GPS, said we should be at Campo Noche, so I called out for Doug and he called back. I felt so relieved to hear his voice and know that we had made it. For Doug’s part, he was also relieved. We had decided to share a stove and I was carrying the fuel. After waiting over two hours for us, Doug was beginning to think about cold lasagna! No worries though, we had all hot meals, a fire and a wash in the stream.

The following day, our climb up Night Wash, Slot Canyon and Wall Street went smoothly except for one spot which I thought could have been class 4. Doug had a long sling to help, so no problems and after five hours, we were on top. We could see far in every direction including the Sea of Cortez. After signing the register, we began our climb down and began to feel the heat. The only water we came across was a very small pool with insects skating over its surface. No choice! Doug, Paul and I filled up here while Keith felt he had enough to get down. Sadly, I forgot my Aqua Mira in camp. Some sort of water purification would have been nice for the summit day. After reaching Campo Noche, I realized that the biggest strain on our bodies was not climbing up, but down. In two days, we had down climbed over 7500 ft. All our thighs were sore to the touch.

Back at camp, we washed off again in the big pool. The cold water felt incredibly refreshing and being clean makes for a more comfortable sleep. About this time, I began to notice just how much toilet paper, piles of feces and trash littered the area. That is my only complaint for the trip. Many people who hike up here have not been educated about burying their waste away the stream and keeping this beautiful camp clean. In America, we are constantly reminded with every permit to bury our waste, where we should camp and the pack it in/pack it out philosophy.

For day three, we climbed up Diablo Canyon (the correct route!) and slowly made our way back to Blue Bottle Saddle, then the cars. Much to our surprise, there was an attractive, young couple making sandwiches on the tailgate of their truck. They gave us each a pb & J sandwich -was I dreaming? Turns out, they were working for the rangers to help improve the park. We discussed education, permits and possible new trails they might help build. They said many people come up here with an old backpack and tennis shoes thinking they’re going to climb Big P. Search and rescue missions are not uncommon and it’s mainly because people are not prepared. After finishing this remote and grueling peak, I can see why.
On a warm spring evening, we held our annual soiree at The Proud Bird facility located near Los Angeles International Airport. This was our choice once again, after a smashing success last year at the same venue. As members and guests arrived and socialized, they were greeted by an automated slide show organized by Chair Christine Mitchell in memoriam of members who had passed on this last year. These comrades of climbing included many great folks, including Lloyd Balsam (DPS Chair in 1953), Lou Brecheen, Bill Gray, Paul Kenworthy, Charlie Knapke, and George Toby. All will be missed by their friends in the DPS and other Sections and Groups.

After all were seated (which always takes a little doing—I brought my cow bells to assist in this!), outgoing Chair Christine Mitchell welcomed the attendees. People traveled from many places, but of special note was Sue Holloway—she flew all the way from her new home in Cape Cod! I wonder, did she have the fish entree?? Christine also recognized the considerable number of Past Chairs of the Section who were present—at least 16, and thanked those who had hosted potluck dinners during the past climbing season. Next, the obligatory tradition of standing and sitting in recognition of climbing accomplishments was performed to laud emblem holders, list finishers, and multiple list finishers. I hope to join the list finishers on this one day!

A fine dinner was served, with guests choosing from the three entrees-Marinated Sirloin Steak, Baked Fresh Salmon (Um, sorry that Randy Bernard and maybe another person didn’t get theirs—a couple might have been caught at the last minute!), and Vegetarian Wellington. Complimentary red and white wines were also provided.

Coffee was served with dessert, which was a yummy strawberry cheesecake. All in all, almost everyone seemed satisfied with the food and service.

After dinner, the Chair and Vice-Chair made a special presentation of the new Leader Emblem Award—given in recognition of our leaders who have led at least 50 desert peaks. The first recipients were Ron Jones (who has a long career and includes many trips to Big Picacho), Larry & Barbee Tidball, Gary Craig, Sue Holloway, Steve Smith, Charlie Knapke (posthumously), and Doug Mantle. Ron Jones was also awarded a handsome plaque honoring him for Outstanding and Distinguished Leadership in all that he has done for the DPS over a period of many years. What a fine group of individuals! Lastly, but certainly not least, the lovely Mary ("DYK") McMannes was honored with the DPS Lifetime Achievement Award. In accepting this award Mary expressed her love for the Section and its wonderful members, and included a heart-felt eulogy for Charlie Knapke.
Now, the infamous raffle was conducted by yours truly, ably assisted by new members Matt Keliher and his lovely bride Tanya Roton (who drew the winning numbers). The lucky winners, their prizes, and donors were:

Ron Bartell, Serigraph by Edna Erspamer
Yvonne Jamison, Framed Watercolor Print by Elaine Baldwin
Gerry Holleman, Quilted Wall Hanging by Ann Perkins
Jorge Estrada, Hiking Nevada’s County High Points, authored by Bob Sumner
Ron Jones, Desert Summits, authored by Andy Zdon
Jan Brahms (Reneric), Woman on the Rocks, journals of Ruth Mendenhall
(All books were donated by Wynne Benti-thanks, Wynne!)
Leora Jones, North Face jacket (found unclaimed, in good condition)

Next, the outgoing Chair thanked the 2010-2011 Management Committee and those who supported them by serving in the many appointed positions. She then introduced the incoming Committee for the next year:

Chair: Bob Wyka
Vice Chair/Outings: Ann Perkins
Programs/Banquet Chair: Jim Fleming
Secretary: Ron Eckelmann
Treasurer: Pat Arredondo

After having a break, we were pleased to have the evening’s speaker introduced by our Angeles Chapter Historian, the eminent Bob Cates. He gave a fine lead in to noted author, historian and 1962 DPS Chair John W. Robinson. John’s program was entitled “Desert Rats and Mega Crowds on Mexico’s Big Picacho: DPS the Early Years”. The presentation of a comprehensive history of the Section focused on its origins, early leaders, climbs and participants. It included many old photographs from the Chapter Archives (courtesy of Bob Cates). What a rich, fantastic history we have! Of special interest were the early explorations and climbs of DPS Emblem Peak Picacho del Diablo (including a trip in which Henry Heusinkveld carried an injured participant on his back!!), any in attendance had been led up Big Picacho on one of John’s four leads, or on one of Ron Jones’ 14 leads! It was a thoroughly enjoyable presentation and we were quite blessed to have such a great duo as Bob Cates and John Robinson giving it.

John and Bob’s program concluded one of the most successful banquets, with over 110 attendees (sorry, folks, I lost the exact total!) My grateful appreciation to all those who helped me to organize and carry it out - including Gloria Miladin, Christine Mitchell, Ron Bartell, Bob Wyka, Tina Bowman, Elaine Baldwin and Y’all! Looking forward to another great year with the Desert Peaks Section.
We had a group of fourteen ready to go for the hike to Hayford Peak (9912’) as requested at 6:30 Saturday morning by leader Jim Fleming. From Nevada we had Ute Dietrich, Karin Edwards (whose home is in Colorado), Larry Grant, John Ide, Sharon Marie Wilcox, and Rich Wilson. Besides Jim we had James Barlow, Dan Baxter, Daniel Bleiberg, Gary Bowen, Mathew Kelliher, Dave Perkins (assistant), and me, Tina Bowman, also assisting. Though a large group, we never were too spread out thanks to Jim’s good pace and conditioning of the participants. Aside from some wind, the weather was pleasant.

Hayford is on the Desert Wildlife Refuge, largest in the United States outside of Alaska. We admired the wildflowers and changing plant zones as we hiked up lovely Deadman Canyon to the cabin, built around 1910 and now restored with a new roof, foundation work, and lots of TLC. Although it’s now a mystery who built the cabin, information there shows the restoration and tells what is known about its history. A double picnic table and hammock outside were quite inviting.

On we went the short distance to Wiregrass Spring and continued on use trail up the ridge just west of the routes given in the DPS guide. This route went quite well. To escape the wind, we dropped down a few feet below the summit on the north side, enjoying lunch and views for roughly an hour before starting down the way we came up at about 12:40. We enjoyed the picnic tables at the cabin and watched three western tanagers flitting about as well as hummingbirds and other birds. We were all back to the cars by 4:30.

Jim’s original plan was to camp at the trailhead for Hayford and drive to Stirling Sunday morning. Since the drive to Hayford’s trailhead went slowly for some of those in passenger cars, especially the last rocky 3.6 miles, Jim suggested we drive to or near the trailhead for Stirling Saturday afternoon. Inertia, however, had set in, and so we stuck with the original plan, which allowed us to enjoy a fine potluck dinner at a reasonable time.

Sunday morning we headed off for Mount Stirling (8218’) with those in passenger cars starting earlier than the rest of us. Dave and Gary, carpooling, went off to Indian Springs for gas; the rest of us regrouped at highway 95 before caravanning to Indian Springs, where there was no sign of Dave and Gary. They weren’t at the turnoff for Stirling either, so assuming that they had gone to the parking spot, we consolidated into high clearance vehicles and made our way to the 2WD parking spot. As it turned out, 4WD was handy but not cru-
cial to avoid tearing up several spots in the road, and the dirt road after the first 5.85 miles definitely required high clearance. Good thing we left the passenger cars near the highway! The 4WD portion of road, according to the guide, actually seemed better than some of what we had driven, but we parked at the 2WD parking spot. Still no sign of Dave and Gary.

We took a bit of a different route for Stirling, starting about 9:15 and hiking to the end of the road rather than turning off it earlier. From here we followed burro trails up the ridge to one bump and then the 2311m bump, continuing on that ridge to meet the standard route. We took a break a short ways from joining the main route, and I saw a square tin there, embossed on one end “Lipton Tea Planter Ceylon.” Since I was sweeping, I told some people about it later. Reaching the top about 11:40, we spent about an hour on the summit, celebrating Mat’s and Larry’s becoming eligible for DPS membership since Stirling was their six DPS peak. Karin, Sharon-Marie, and I hunted all around for the petroglyphs, Sharon-Marie finding two on one rock. While we were lounging on top and enjoying the views, who should appear but Dave and Gary, who had done some extra dirt road driving and then parked below our parking spot. Since they had come up the guide’s standard route, Dave led us back down that route with Jim sweeping, and we saw many more petroglyphs as we started down from the summit. We were back to the trucks about 2:20 and made our way back to highway 95 and home.

Montgomery was a grudge peak for Kathy Rich and me because I turned the group around last year on the summit of Boundary Peak because of steep snow on Montgomery. We also hooked Gary Schenk into leading and listed Tom Bowman, but he was on the east coast at the time of our outing.

We had participants signed up from Nevada, Colorado, and California. No matter where they came from, no matter how they approached our meeting place, the weather looked very grim on Friday with thunderstorms over the Sierra, Owens Valley, Inyo-White Range, and the desert. People were watching the lightning display over the Whitney area at the visitor’s center in Lone Pine; I’d been keeping my eye primarily on all the strikes to the east. It was raining in the land of little rain, and when I had last checked it Friday morning, the forecast had gone from 30% to 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms for Saturday on Boundary Peak. I wasn’t feeling very hopeful about the outing but stuck with a wait-and-see plan.

We had planned to climb the peaks by Route C from the Boundary guide. I knew some people were planning to meet us at the mine site at the end of the 2WD portion of the road Saturday morning; the rest would meet at highway 6 and the dirt road junction 2.5 miles north of the Nevada border. Since it had been some years since I’d driven to the 4WD parking spot at the saddle, I drove in Friday evening to check it out—it went fine. I also saw our four from Nevada: Sharon Marie Wilcox, Larry Grant, John Ide, and Rich Wilson, all camped at the mine. We talked about the weather, and they thought they might leave early and just do a private hike of the peaks. I told them that James Barlow was planning to camp in their area.

I drove most of the way back to the highway, seeing one truck tucked into a nice spot on a spur road. I took another spur road onto a little rise to camp there. I was pleased to see stars in the night, very pleased by the clear
morning. Still, to the east was a thin band of clouds on the horizon; to the west, some clouds over the Sierra.

The rest of the group was signed in, ready to go at 6:00 am at the highway. Besides leaders Kathy and Gary we had Mary Jo Dungfelder, Charlie Berglund and John Bregar from Colorado, Jay Dolan, Greg Gerlach, and Pieter Kaufman. We waited just a few minutes for two no shows and then drove on in. Rich was still at the mine, the other Nevadans and James having left at 5:10. Rich joined us as we caravanned in the 4WD vehicles to the saddle.

We were hiking up the clear trail at 6:45. Having warned everyone about the latest forecast I’d seen, I kept an eye on the weather, as did everyone else. We tried to keep the breaks short in the hope that we could beat the weather, taking our first real break at Trail Canyon Saddle. We next regrouped after the grunt up the big scree slope, which is crisscrossed with all sorts of use trails. We pushed on to the summit of Boundary, spying the first clouds coming from the south as we did and arriving on top about 11:00. From the summit we saw others over on Montgomery. Soon we were on our way to Montgomery ourselves. Rich signed out and headed back, and we said hello to the others as they made their way back over Boundary. One little patch of snow along the ridge to Montgomery was easily avoided, and soon we were on Montgomery about noon. Hooray! I knew Kathy would have been very unhappy with me had I turned the group around on Boundary again, so I avoided that. I was praying that our luck with the weather would hold. People were good sports about not lounging about on either summit, but that was a factor of the gathering clouds, not my leadership.

Back we went over Boundary. Gary, who had been sweeping, was a bit behind, but not far below the summit of Montgomery when we crossed paths. I didn’t try to turn him around, and he went for it. We could see him near the saddle between the peaks as we left Boundary, Kathy in the lead (and sometimes John and Charlie). The clouds were darkening, thickening. I swept now, aside from Gary being the sweep’s sweep, leaving the summit a bit later with one participant who was feeling the altitude a bit, the scant breaks, and the very little bit of food we’d been eating all day. The hail started as we were coming down the use trails on the “grunt” slope or making our way from Trail Canyon Saddle. By the time I was down to the saddle, the hail increased and was mixed with rain and wind. On we trudged. I kept looking back to try to spy Gary, last seen coming down from the summit of Boundary. After perhaps twenty minutes of heavy weather with lots of thunder and electrical activity within the clouds to the north and not strikes—aside from one loud bang coming more from Boundary—the sun came out and the weather calmed.

Most of the group was back to the cars at the saddle about 3:30; I arrived with the one person about 3:50. An area near Kennedy Point above the saddle had an amazing amount of hail on it as though it had just snowed in that one spot. Though the sun was out when we got back, the clouds started building over us again with rain beginning again just as Gary joined us. Excellent conclusion. Most of the group stayed for a potluck several miles from the highway. Though I missed out on that fun, I did see some lovely rainbows as I drove south of Dubois and then from Independence nearly to Lone Pine. And it rained from north of Bishop all the way to Olancha.

Many thanks to Kathy and Gary for sharing leadership of this outing and to a fine group of participants—not one whine despite our pushing ourselves virtually relentlessly all day—and doing it well under the DPS guide’s estimated time of ten hours (under nine for most). Now that’s motivation to get the peaks and beat the weather!
Randall Henderson (1888-1970) was the co-founder and long-time editor of Desert Magazine. Launched during the Great Depression and extolling the desert’s “health-giving sunshine; a sky that after the sun goes down is studded with diamonds; a breeze that bears no poison; a landscape of pastel colors such as no artist can reproduce...,” the monthly publication resonated with many seeking a bit of solace in an unfriendly world.

Thanks to Henderson’s editorials and articles; essays by Marshal South—the man who, with his wife, raised a family in a primitive home on a lonely desert mountain top; stories based on the wanderings of Everett Ruess—the poet, artist and adventurer, who mysteriously disappeared while exploring the desert wilderness near Escalante, Utah; portrayals of miners and ghost camps by Nell Murbarger; descriptions of his field trips by rockhound and biologist John Hilton; excellent maps by Norton Allen; plus a host of material from many other desert aficionados, the magazine eventually became a commercial success.

Because of Randall Henderson and his publication, the deserts of the Southwest gained many a new friend. Indeed, this reviewer, as a teen-ager, was one of those who fell under the spell of Desert Magazine.

DESERT EDITOR...The Story of Randall Henderson and Palm Desert (1972), J. Wilson McKenney

Wilson McKenney met Randall Henderson in the early 1930s when Henderson was editor of the Calexico Chronicle and McKenney was his newly-hired office apprentice.

Although McKenney was twenty years younger than Henderson, the editor recognized that the young man had potential, and in 1936, having by then established a near father-son relationship, the two decided to launch Desert Magazine.

For various reasons, McKenney left the partnership two years later, however he and Henderson remained close friends until Henderson’s death in 1970 at the age of 81.

Although Henderson sold his interest in Desert Magazine in 1958, he continued to contribute articles to the publication and to write the books reviewed below. In addition, prior to his death in 1970, he had assembled material and had written two chapters for a volume he intended to title Palm Desert, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

Henderson’s widow, Cyria; his daughter, Evonne, and his first wife, Vera, asked McKenney to complete the book, and, with some trepidation, he agreed to do so. When finished, the resulting volume contained so much information on Henderson that a new title—Desert Editor—was deemed appropriate.

Curriculum Vitae, Randall Henderson


In regard to the city of Palm Desert, it turns out that Henderson became somewhat instrumental—unwittingly so, perhaps—in its founding. Indeed, one of
the conditions he insisted upon before moving *Desert Magazine* from El Centro to a new publishing plant located at the then barren southeast corner of Highway 111 and El Paseo Drive (in a building now occupied by LG’s Steakhouse), was that a post office be built in the as yet unincorporated city. Randall’s brothers, Clifford and Phil Henderson, meanwhile, had also become interested in the Palm Desert locale, and proposed to build a master-planned resort community in its sheltered cove area. As an inducement to buyers, Clifford and Phil built the Shadow Mountain Club, which, combined with the new post office, helped ensure the success of the fledgling community.

Randall, however, was not overly interested in his brothers’ development plans. His focus was desert-related, including his curious obsession for finding all the California Fan Palm groves in Southern California and Northern Baja California. *Desert Editor* describes seven such groves located near the base of Hwy. 74—the Palms to the Pines Highway—where the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitors Center is now located, including Henderson’s difficult descent of Deep Canyon, downstream from where the Cactus Springs Trail crosses Horsethief Creek, on the standard approach to Martinez Mountain, searching for more palms.

Today, appropriately, a trail beginning at the National Monument Visitors Center has been named in Henderson’s honor. It’s a good short hike, especially in the spring during the wildflower season.

Randall Henderson was a major force in both popularizing and preserving the deserts of the Southwest U.S. The Sierra Club made him an honorary vice-president, its highest honor, and the Death Valley ’49ers elected him an honorary director. McKenney ends memorializing Palm Desert’s most famous editor thusly:

“(He) was introverted, self-contained, self-reliant, and not always an easy man to know…In his relationships with people he was often uncompromising and severe, or he could be courteous and friendly, but never gregarious…

“In business matters he was usually hard-headed and rigidly conventional, always the slave of his promise and the conscience of his debt…

“Awed by the wonders of the natural world…he had no tolerance for the looters and despoilers. He loved the open spaces and solitude; he could tolerate the teeming cities only with dogged determination…

“He didn’t remake the society of men, but he informed, inspired, and encouraged thousands of readers who gave him their loyalty and respect.”

**ON DESERT TRAILS (1961), Randall Henderson**

*On Desert Trails* examines a wide range of subjects, including the taming of the Colorado River; the story of Death Valley Scotty and his namesake castle; an exploration of the Cerro Pinacate area; the brief life of Everett Ruess; a look at the ruins of the Anasazi; a peek at those who came after the Anasazi—the Navajo and the Hopi; the Golding family of Monument Valley; gemstone bed locations, and tales of lost gold mines. In each of these and many other essays, Henderson breathed life into an area that many people found to be worthless and frightening.

In regard to his passion for locating every palm grove in the Southern California/Northern Baja California area, Henderson ponders:

“Why does a person, presumably in his right mind, spend his weekends for many years hunting for palm trees? To active-minded human beings life would be meaningless without goals…(We) cannot all set out as did Christopher Columbus in quest of a new world, or Admiral Byrd in search of the South Pole. Most of us have to be content with more modest projects. But in nearly every member of the human species there is the built-in urge for conquest—for exploration.”

Once while searching for palm oases in the east-side canyons of the Sierra Juarez (site of *Pico Risco*), Henderson and his companions came across a group of Indians who called themselves the Pai-Pai (others named them the Catarina Yumas). After assuring the somewhat suspicious natives that they were merely looking for palms reported to be growing in the canyon, a friendship ensued.

Knowing that the small band (numbering only 100 or so at the time) lived primarily off the land, Henderson became intrigued with the idea of having them roast the heart of a mescal plant—an important food source for the desert inhabitants of yore. Well, a pit was dug, lined so at the time) lived primarily off the land, Henderson became intrigued with the idea of having them roast the heart of a mescal plant—an important food source for the desert inhabitants of yore. Well, a pit was dug, lined...
DPSer surely knows, the only reasonable passion is to climb every desert peak in the same area.

To his credit, however, Henderson did manage to bag at least one significant desert summit. In 1936, on his third attempt, this time accompanied by famed Sierra Nevada mountaineer, Norman Clyde, Henderson, via Providencia Canyon on the eastside of the Sierra San Pedro Martir, climbed El Picacho del Diablo.

“…(W)e reached the top late in the afternoon of the third day, and stood on the one point on the peninsula where it is possible to view both the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean, where the sun was setting in the west.

“In a cairn at the top…we found records of two previous ascents of the peak from the Pacific side by members of the Sierra Club of California. There was no record of a previous ascent from the desert, but several mountaineers have made the climb since then, and have found a more feasible route than that followed by Clyde and myself.”

On Desert Trails is a fine read and a worthwhile addition to any desert library. The only negative I can think of is that now, 50 years after its publication, it is somewhat dated.

SUN, SAND AND SOLITUDE (1968), Randall Henderson

Sun, Sand and Solitude is subtitled “vignettes from the notebook of a veteran desert reporter.” Composed of a series of short essays, Henderson muses on the wonders of the desert, complains about the accelerating loss of desert wilderness areas, rails against the political situation of the time (think Cold War), and proposes rather pie-in-the-sky notions on how to make the world a better place.

As an example of the latter, he suggests that at some time in the future the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance might well be replaced by an international version similar to the following:

“As a member of the human family without distinction as to race, color, religion or nationality, I pledge fidelity to Truth, to Charity in word and deed, to the ideals of Freedom and Justice for all mankind, and for each individual all around the world, a continuing quest for ever higher goals of Beauty and Understanding.”

Although not stated, I assume that much of Sun, Sand and Solitude is made up of material Henderson composed for his monthly Desert Magazine editorial, “Just Between You and Me”.

Interesting from the standpoint of assessing what was going through Henderson’s mind, this is not a volume I can highly recommend.

PALM CANYONS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA (1971), Randall Henderson

This small book (71 pages), published by La Siesta Press, and including a forward and a biography by Walt Wheelock, Palm Canyons of Baja California makes for a nostalgic read.

In eight short chapters, Henderson describes his explorations, during the late 1940s and early 1950s, of eight canyons— all draining the eastern slopes of Baja’s Sierra Juarez; and all containing palms, mostly Washintonia filifera (the California Fan Palm), but also Erythea armata, the blue palm, which grows wild south of the border only.

The essays are evocative as they recall the days when crossing the border was a breeze, when there was no danger from drug traffickers, and when driving “jalopies” as far up a canyon as possible, car camping, broiling steaks on an open fire, and sleeping on the ground under bright stars was possible.

By the way, Walt Wheelock, well-remembered as the author of Desert Peaks Guide, Parts I & II, also published by La Siesta Press, does a much more inclusive job than McKenney in describing Randall Henderson, desert editor par excellence.

Randall Henderson
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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 OCTOBER 8, 2011.

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. Sustaining Membership ($20) is available and includes first class postage for the SAGE. 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 (or $20 for Sustaining). 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 Chair 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 for one year. To work on the list you will probably want to buy from the Merchandiser (Gloria Miladin, 11946 Downey Ave, Downey, CA, 90242) the Desert Peaks Road and Peak Guide 5th Edition CDROM - $15. If you like to explore without much direction just purchase the DPS PEAKS LIST - $1 (enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope). Send completed peak and emblem lists to Membership Records Chair Ron Bartell, 1556 21st Street, Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE - We welcome all articles and letters pertaining to outdoor activities of interest to DPS members. Some submittals may be too long and space limitations and other considerations are factors in the decision to publish a submission. The editor may modify submittals in an attempt to increase clarity, decrease length, or correct typos 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 one. 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. Only one web link (url) is permitted within each article submitted. Email material to the Editor by the published deadline (above). When submitting digital photos, please indicate when and where it was taken, what it is of, who is in it, and who took it. Email works best for submitting content and minimizes editing complexity. Email the Editor for more details on submitting attachments and/or digital photos.

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