I recently returned from Mexico on a private trip to Pico Risco and Cerro Pescadores. I have to say that we had a great time without any problems other than the usual aggressive nature of the salesman at the border crossing. I know there are also plans underway for two private climbs of Big Picacho, one climb from each side. Ann has also included Mexico in her Outings column in this issue. It is great to see that we are venturing back into this part of the world.

Daryn is making progress on Version 6 of our DPS Road & Peak Guide but there is a lot to do. If you are doing any private trips to our peaks please contact Daryn to see if he needs any help with field checking. Better yet, if you could acknowledge the accuracy of our current Guide by dropping Daryn a line, or bring to his attention any needed changes.

We made a donation this past month to the China Lake Search and Rescue Team. It is just a small gesture for what they provide to us in return in the way of support and, heaven forbid, needed rescue.

Plans are well underway toward our May 20th banquet at the Proud Bird. Daria Malin, a prolific climber who loves desert canyoneering and has a love for the Inyo’s in particular, will be the featured speaker. She will be sharing her recent double traverse of two of its canyons and will open us up to a world that we seldom see when we are looking up and focused on climbing to the mountain tops. By the way, we needed to raise the price of our banquet by $2.00. I hope this isn’t going to be a make it or break it for you and your attendance. If it is a problem let me know. The DPS has been subsidizing the cost of the banquet for the last few years and we are trying to reign in some of that negative cash flow.

Congratulations to Greg Gerlach. He got his DPS Emblem last July on Montgomery Peak.

Although we have over 200 members, it has been a challenge to get candidates to run for the management committee. I also see many of the same members volunteering to lead trips and run for office over and over again. It has also been five months since we first started recruiting for a permanent Desert Sage editor. I hate to say it but unless someone steps up there may not be a July/August edition! What I am saying here is that this is a strictly volunteer organization. Please, if you have any spare time to give back to our Section, please step up. Thank you in advance for your consideration to help.

By the way, thank you to our 2012/2013 management committee candidates Jim Fleming (who has against better judgment volunteered to run yet again for DPS office) and to Greg Gerlach and new member John Fisanotti both of whom finally acquiesced to my constant badgering.
Elected Positions

**Chair**  
Bob Wyka  
P.O. Box 50, PMB 202  
Lake Arrowhead, CA, 92352  
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Vic Henney  
wyhenn@msn.com

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OPEN

**Webmaster**  
Larry Hoak  
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Los Angeles, CA, 90036-4912  
larryhoak@ca.rr.com

Cover Photo Credit...  
...goes to Daria Malin, our  
guest speaker at the upcoming  
banquet... “A remote corner of  
the White Mountain range,  
Birch Creek provides a rare  
water source before Mt. Hogue  
on a full range traverse on  
September 29th, 2011. The  
innocence of the white clouds  
foreshadows a 24 hour storm  
cycle to come.”

The Desert Sage  
March/April 2012
## TRIPS & EVENTS

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**FEB 25-26**

- **I: Palen (3,848’), Big Maria Mountain (3,381’):** Join us for winter climbs of these two low elevation peaks in Riverside County. Saturday climb Palen (2,600’ gain, 5 miles roundtrip.) We will camp and enjoy a potluck near the starting point of Big Maria Saturday night. Sunday climb Big Maria (2,300’ gain, 4.5 miles roundtrip), and we should be able to start for home by early afternoon. Several miles of the approach to each road head require 4WD. Leader Dave Perkins; email with experience and conditioning to assistant leader Ann Perkins: ann.perkins@csun.edu.

**MAR 3**

- **I: Rosa Point (5,083’):** Join us in the Anza Borrego Desert State Park for a strenuous day hike at a slow – moderate, but steady pace to this remote HPS and DPS listed peak in the Santa Rosa Mountains near Borrego Springs, CA. This ridge hike is all cross country for 12 miles roundtrip and 4,800’ of gain across steep, rocky, sometimes loose, always thorny desert terrain. Bring lots of water (5 liters recommended), food, a hat, and the rest of your 10 essentials. Consider car camping at the trailhead (or a nearby motel) to ease the impact of our ‘first light’ start. Email leader at mkeillifer746@gmail.com with recent experience and conditioning for trip details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher, Jim Fleming.

*(Continued on page 5)*
MAR 10  SAT  DPS
Chili Cook-Off: Join us for a day of fun in the desert at the foot of the Oroopia 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. With luck we should be able to enjoy some great desert spring wildflowers. Optional short hiking activity in the area before the Cook-off. Send SASE with choice of Cook or Taster to Hosts: Dave & Elaine Baldwin (DWBaldwin@aol.com) and Leaders: Larry and Barbee Tidball (lbtidball@verizon.net).

MAR 11  SUN  HPS, DPS
I Provisional: Black Butte (4,504′), and Chuckwalla Mountain (3,446′): Need to work off the Chili Cook-off? Join us for two relaxed paced hikes up these two Sonora Desert peaks. First is Black Butte with 1,600′ gain over 3 miles, then a drive on the historic Bradshaw Trail to Chuckwalla Mountain, with 1,500′ of gain and 2.5 miles. We will also keep our eyes peeled for spring flowers. Email with rideshare information to Leader: Pieter Kaufman (kafin8d@earthlink.net). Co-Leader: Kathy Rich.

MAR 11  SUN  DPS
Potluck and Management Committee Meeting: Join us at the home of Tom Sumner, 14060 Bermax Ave., Sylmar, CA, for our monthly potluck. Management committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. and potluck at 6:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share. RSVP to Tom, 818 364-6628 or locomnr@aol.com.

MAR 24-25  SAT-SUN  DPS
MR: Muddy Peak (5,387′), Moapa Peak (6,471′): Two third-class peaks in Southern Nevada. Saturday climb Muddy, 8.5 miles round trip, 2,500′ of gain. Sunday climb Moapa with 6 miles roundtrip and 3,400′ of gain. Carcamp and potluck Saturday night. Must be comfortable and experienced on exposed third-class rock. Restricted to SC members. Medical form, helmet and harness required. Send recent experience and conditioning, carpool info, SC#, and e-mail or SASE to Leader: Gary Schenk: gary@hbfun.org. Co-Leader: Tina Bowman. Icons: C, E, Mountaineering.

MAR 24-25  SAT-SUN  DPS
I: Pinto Mountain (3,983′), Eagle Mountain (5,350′): Join us for two easy peaks close to Los Angeles in beautiful Joshua Tree National Park. Saturday, we will meet at 9 am so folks can drive up early Saturday morning and miss the LA traffic. We will climb Pinto Saturday, 2,400′ gain, 9 miles roundtrip. Saturday night we will have beverages of the world happy hour and then Sunday we will climb Eagle, 2,400′ gain, 9 miles roundtrip. Send SASE or e-mail to John. Leaders: John Cheslick: jcheslick@earthlink.net, Daryn Dodge.

MAR 30-APR 1  FRI-SUN  DPS, HPS
I: Sheep Mountain (5,141′), Martinez Mountain (6,560′): Join us on a slow-paced three day backpacking trip to these classic peaks in the Santa Rosa Wilderness south of Palm Springs. Friday we’ll backpack to our water supply at Cactus Spring, set up camp, and then climb Sheep Mountain (8 miles, 2,100′ of gain). Friday evening we’ll enjoy a hearty Happy Hour in camp before drifting off to sleep under desert night skies. Saturday we’ll set off early for Martinez Mountain and then return to camp (6.5 miles, 2,400′ of gain) for yet another fun-filled Happy Hour. Sunday we’ll sleep in a little and then leisurely pack out (4.5 miles, 750′ of gain & 950′ of loss). Email leader at mkelliher746@gmail.com with recent experience and conditioning for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher, Pat Vaughn.

MAR 31-APR 1  SAT-SUN  SCPDHHC
Coachella Valley Hiking Weekend: See Page 8 for trip description.

MAR 31-APR 1  SAT-SUN  LTC, WTC, DPS, Desert Committee
I: Places We’ve Saved Navigation Noodle in Mojave National Preserve: Join us for our tenth 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: rmmyers@ix.netcom.com. Co-Leaders: Virgil Shields, Ann Shields, Adrienne Benedict

(Continued from page 4)

(Continued on page 6)
APR 13-15  FRI-SUN  LTC, DPS

O/I: Desert Ecology Workshop: Explore important waterways on the borders of Mojave and Colorado Desert during spring wildflower season. Observe birds and other wildlife, flora, and human impact on the desert. Car camp at Whitewater Preserve near Palm Springs, late hike Fri, various canyon hikes Sat/Sun, potluck & program Sat eve. LTC credit available. Those working on an “I” rating or higher can use this workshop as Environmental Awareness credit. $30 to SC Natural Science Section. Details via e-mail (preferred) or SASE. Send payment, conditioning, contact, and carpool information to Reservationist Judy Anderson: Anderson-Judith@att.net. Leader: Sharon Moore. Asst Leaders/Naturalists: Sherry Ross, Ginny Heringer. Assistant Leaders: Mei Kwan, Margot Lowe, Judy Anderson. Naturalist: Kathy Keane. Icons: E, C, Hiking, Bird Watching, Camp, Flowers, Program.

APR 14-15  SAT-SUN  LTC, SPS, DPS

M/E: Sierra Snow Check Off/Practice: For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Leader: Nile Sorenson: nsorenso@pacbell.net, Co-leader. Doug Mantle. E, C, Mountaineering.

APR 14  SAT  LTC

Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Outdoor leadership training will be offered at Costa Mesa Community Center. The all-day seminar costs $25. The application is online at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Mar 31. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2012. Mail the application and check, payable to Sierra Club, to Steve Botan, LTC Registrar, 18816 Thornwood Circle, Huntington Beach 92646.

APR 15  SUN  DPS

Potluck and Management Committee Meeting: Join us at the home of Barbee and Larry Tidball, 3826 Weston Place, Long Beach, CA, for our monthly potluck. Management Committee meeting at 4:30, potluck at 6:00. Bring a dish to share. RSVP to Barbee, 562-424-1556 or lbtidball@verizon.net.

APR 21  SAT  HPS, DPS

I: Goat Canyon Railroad Trestle: Join us for this special hike in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park as part of the HPS Spring Fling. The 600 foot railroad trestle, completed in 1933, is the longest curved railroad trestle and one of the highest wooden trestles in the world. We will hike through Mortero Palm Grove, one of the densest palm groves in the park. This strenuous hike will be about 6 miles round trip with 3000' gain. Lots of boulder scrambling. We will leave early from Foster Lodge. Consider staying at Foster Lodge on Friday night. Email leader for info jeannstar@sbcglobal.net. Leader: Ted Lubeshkoff. Co-Leader: Wayne Vollaire.

APR 21-22  SAT-SUN  LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I: Warren Point 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 Leader: Phil Wheeler.

APR 21-22  SAT-SUN  DPS, HPS, WTC


APR 27 - 29  FRI-SUN  LTC, Harwood Lodge, WTC

C: Wilderness First Aid Course: Runs from 7:30 am Fri to 5:00 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 23). For application contact (e-mail preferred) to Leader: Steve Schuster: steve.n.wfac2@sbcglobal.net.

APR 28-29  SAT-SUN  LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks

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#,

♦ APR 28-29 SAT-SUN WTC, DPS
I Provisional: Pinto Mtn (3,983’): Enjoy panoramic views of desert scenery and spot wildflowers as you backpack in the Mojave Desert near Twentynine Palms. Saturday late-morning start and ~3 mile backpack to camp. Sunday climb a wash to the summit where you tower over Pinto Basin. Descend a ridge back to camp and then to the cars. All cross-country routes with some steep, rugged, and rocky sections, but at a steady, reasonable pace. 13 miles round trip, 2,400’ of gain. Send e-mail with contact info and recent experience to Leader: Sarah Schuh, Co-Leader: Misha Askren.

♦ MAY 5-6 SAT-SUN OCSS, WTC, HPS, DPS
I Provisional: Quail Mtn (5,813’): Enjoy the views of San Jacinto and San Gorgonio on this easy backpack from Boy Scout Trailhead to our campsite (4 miles, 630’ of gain) on the way to Quail Mountain in Joshua Tree National Park where we will set up camp, have lunch, bag the peak and then return to camp for happy hour Sat. Return to cars Sunday. Total of 12 miles round trip, 1,800’ of gain for the weekend. Bring backpacking equipment, 10 essentials, 6-8 quarts of water for entire weekend, all meals and potluck dinner contribution. Interested participants contact leader to submit recent backpacking experience and for more information. Fire or heavy rain cancels. Leader: Fran Penn (fpenn@rutan.com). Assistant: Bob Beach.

♦ MAY 20 SUN DPS
O: Annual DPS Banquet: Mark your calendars now for our annual soiree! Join your fellow desert explorers and friends for a wonderful evening. This year we will again enjoy the fine accommodations at The Proud Bird Restaurant in Los Angeles (near LAX). Social Hour and No Host Bar start at 5:30 pm, followed at 7:00 pm by dinner. This year we are pleased to have Daria Malin, a 24 year-old climber and adventurer, present the program entitled “A Love Affair with the Inyos: A Double Traverse and other Solo Explorations.” Contact Jim Fleming at: jimf333@att.net.

♦ MAY 26 SAT LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks
I: Beginning Navigation Clinic: Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learn/practice map & compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many “I”-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 miles, 500’ gain. Send SASE, phones, $25 deposit (Sierra Club, refunded at trailhead) to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman

♦ JUN 2 SAT LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Heart Bar Peak (8332’): Practice navigation for Sunday’s check off on this 7 mile roundtrip, 1400’ gain hike. We will take a cross-country route to Heart Bar Peak and practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email (preferred) or SASE, with contact info & recent conditioning to Leader: Robert Myers: rmmyers@ix.netcom.com. Co-Leaders: Jane Simpson, Adrienne Benedict, Ann Pedreschi Shields

♦ JUN 3 SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Grinnell Ridge Navigation: Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice 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 Leader: Phil Wheeler.

♦ AUG 5 SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Mt. Pinos Navigation: Navigation noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice 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 Ldr: Robert Myers: rmmyers@ix.netcom.com. Asst Leader: Kim Homan.

♦ SEP 23 SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS
I: Grinnell Ridge Navigation: Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice 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. Assistant Leader: Phil Wheeler.

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club’s outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see http://sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or call 415-977-5528. In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants.

Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.
COACHELLA VALLEY HIKING WEEKEND

The Sun City Palm Desert Hiking Club (SCPDHC) invites all Desert Peaks Section members to join our hiking group in a weekend of moderate hiking, plus a BBQ in one of the most beautiful garden back yards in the Coachella Valley.

10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 31st, meet at the parking lot of the Coachella Valley Preserve Visitors Center on Thousand Palms Canyon Road., Thousand Palms, CA. Take a 6 mile, 3-1/2 hour hike, including a climb of 1,308’ Herman Mountain and a visit to the Willis Palm grove. Afterward, drive to nearby Sun City for a BBQ at the home of Ken (a DPS member) & Dotty Linville. BYOB, bathing suits and towels, and be ready to immerse in the Linville’s Jacuzzi and/or swimming pool. Dinner and overnight lodging on your own. For those who enjoy camping, we suggest either Pinyon Pines Campground on Hwy. 74, above Palm Desert, or Box Canyon in the Mecca Hills.

9:00 a.m., Sunday, April 1st, meet at front entrance of the Living Desert Museum, 47900 Portola Ave., Palm Desert. Using the life membership of Nina Thomas, a SCPDHC past-president, we’ll gain free admission to this excellent desert park and zoo. Once inside, we’ll hike the Eisenhower Peak loop, including an optional off-trail scramble to the peak’s 1,952’ summit—6 miles, 1,000’ gain—after which you’re on your own to enjoy the park’s many amenities, including the zoo, the butterfly house and the excellent miniature train exposition.

Because DPS rules require two I-rated leaders on section climbs, and because only Sun City Palm Desert residents can join the SCPD Hiking Club, this will be an independent, non-DPS sponsored event, i.e., there will be no Sierra Club liability insurance in force. $10 to cover the cost of BBQ. Reservations required: The Sierra Club makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, or supervision of this activity. Call Ken Linville (760) 772-7690, hikerlinville@aol.com or Burt Falk (760)772-4051, burtfalk@aol.com.

OUTINGS CHAIR
by Ann Perkins

We have a good opportunity to list trips for July 5th – Oct. 31st in the Angeles Chapter Schedule; the deadline is March 10th.

This time period would be particularly good for some of the higher peaks in Nevada (Ruby Dome, Arc Dome, Jefferson, Wheeler, Charleston) or for Dubois, White Mountain, or Telescope in California. And we can list trips for May and June in the Sage – these months are still not too hot for mid-altitude peaks (Kingston and Avawatz come to mind as a good combination).

Finally, although it’s too late to list new March and April trips in the Sage, we can publicize them on the website – this is an increasingly successful way to get the word out. Not too many trips are planned for April yet, and the weather and spring flowers are usually good at this time of year.

One of our leaders had a question about whether the Mexico peaks could still be led as official DPS trips. The answer is yes; they are classified as “international outings” so some additional paperwork needs to be completed, and there is also a $10 per person per day fee to be paid to National to defray the cost of international liability insurance. If anyone is interested in leading one of these peaks, let me know and I will give you the details.

Please let me know if you have questions or would like other suggestions.

Happy climbing,
Ann
Most of us have heard of the Sierra Club’s 2012 Action Plan. The important goals of this plan are:

1. The Sierra Club will continue to stand up to anti-environmental Congressional attempts to pass the Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act, which would free approximately 50 million acres of wilderness from governmental protection.

2. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Sierra Club will push to protect the coastal plain of this refuge.

3. Nationally more than 150 coal plants have been prevented. The Sierra Club will continue the fight to retire existing coal plants and replace them with clean energy, including wind and solar.

4. Generally, the Sierra Club will seek to ensure that the Congressional budget cuts are directed towards harmful subsidies to Big Oil, Big Coal and other polluters instead of affecting environmental protection plans.

Virgil Popescu,
Conservation Chair

DPS HOLIDAY PARTY 2011
By Ann Perkins

On December 11th, about 30 DPS members gathered at the home of Ann and Dave Perkins for the annual holiday potluck. As usual, the management committee meeting exceeded its allotted time, but the sounds of laughter and talk and the crunch of chips finally drew them to join the crowd. There was an abundance of appetizers, so it took a while to get around to the main courses and desserts, but by the end, almost every crumb was devoured. In attendance were Mary and Rayne Motheral, Bob Wyka, Ron Eckelmann, Doris Gilbert, Pat Arredondo, Anne Rolls, Bob Hoeven, Walton Kabler and two friends, Jan Brahms, David Reneric, Pat and Gerry Holleman, Gloria Miladin, Brian Smith, Vic and Sue Henney, Edna Ersmaper, Ed Herrman, Jim Fleming, Barbara and Dave Scholle, Ron Hudson, Kathy Rich, Myrna and Greg Roach, Virgil Popescu, Sherry Harsch, and the hosts, Dave and Ann Perkins. This time, Bob and Anne won the award for having come the farthest (from Tom’s Place). Special thanks to Mary Motheral, who threw herself into dishwashing and cleaning up with great gusto, so that by the time everyone left there was very little to do. Now there’s a great party guest!
Membership Summary

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Activity Report

New Member
John Fisanotti 1 year

Renewed Lapsed Members
Gerry & Pat Holleman 1 year
George & Carol Hubbard 1 year

New Subscribers
Gregory Frux 1 year
Joe Harvey 1 year
Ted Lubeshkoff 1 year
Daria Malin 1 year

Sustaining Renewals
Darrick & Sara Danta 1 year
Burton A. Falk 1 year
Vicky Hoover 1 year
Gordon MacLeod 1 year
David Beymer & Maura Raffensperger 1 year
Brian Smith 1 year

Renewals
Eric & Lori N. Beck 1 year
Gary Bowen 2 years
Fred & Marianna Camphausen 1 year
Jim Conley 1 year
Gary Craig 1 year
Guy Dahms 1 year
Mike Daugherty 1 year
Frank Dobos 1 year
Steven Eckert 1 year
Robert Emerick 1 year
Jim Fleming 1 year
Terry Flood 1 year
Bruno Geiger 1 year
Ron & Ellen Grau 1 year

Edward Herrman 1 year
Robert Hicks 1 year
Scot & Yvonne Jamison 2 years
Frederick O. Johnson 1 year
Patty Kline 2 years
John Levy 1 year
Barbara Lilley 1 year
Tom McDonnell 2 years
Carlton McKinney 2 years
Frank Meyers 2 years
Robert Michael 1 year
Paul & Pat Nelson 1 year
Wayne Norman 1 year
Ken D. Olson 2 years
Martha Piepgras 10 years
George Quinn 1 year
John Ripley 1 year
Gregory & Mirna Roach 2 years
Jennifer & Gerry Roach 1 year
Shelley Rogers 1 year
Le Roy Russ 1 year
Carleton Shay 1 year
Barbara & David Sholle 1 year
Joan & Ed Steiner 1 year
Pamela Stones 1 year
Tracey Thomerson & Peter Kudlinski 1 year
Devra Wasserman 1 year
Roger Weingaertner 1 year
Robert Young 1 year

Donations
$5 from Gary Bowen
$80 from Gordon MacLeod
DESSERT PEAKS ANNUAL BANQUET

When: Sunday, May 20, 2012
5:30 pm Social Hour/No Host bar
7:00 pm dinner
(Includes complimentary wine at each table)

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

Program: Daria Malin presents:
“A love Affair with the Inyos: A Double Traverse &
Other Solo Explorations”

Craig Canyon in the Inyo Range

Daria is a 24 year-old adventurer who, in February, is planning to do a solo trek into the Inyos for a seven day “experiment”, exploring inhospitable, rugged terrain in one of the most beautiful ranges we climb, including descending four canyons. One of these will be a first descent. Last summer, she accomplished a double traverse of the Inyo Range. Along with her new adventure this year, her presentation will provide more in-depth insight of the Inyos. Daria will also display an extensive array of the equipment required for solo canyoneering.

Silent Auction
This year we will conduct a silent auction of donated items instead of the traditional raffle. Please contact Jim Fleming (Banquet Chair) for more information.

Classic Wilderness and Climbers Cheap Book Sale
(Be sure to bring books to donate to the Sale)

Name(s): ___________________________________________ phone or e-mail ______________________

Dinner selection: ______ Sirloin Steak ______ Salmon ______ Vegetarian Wellington
indicate number of each

Number of reservations: _____ $37 by May 10 _____ $42 after May 10

Total enclosed $____

Please reserve by May10. Mail a check payable to DPS and completed form to DPS treasurer: Pat Arredondo, 13409 Stanbridge Ave., Bellflower, CA. 90706-2341. Tickets will be held at the door. For Questions e-mail: Jim Fleming at jimf333@att.net or Pat at paarredo@verizon.net
Each year the DPS membership elects members of the Management Committee to serve two-year terms. The current Committee includes two members with terms expiring this year. Members of the Management Committee are elected at-large then select amongst themselves who will hold the offices of chair, vice-chair, treasurer, secretary, and banquet chair. We have three excellent candidates this year. A ballot will be sent under separate cover. When the ballot arrives, please vote for two of these three members before the April 15, 2012, Management Committee meeting.

**John Fisanotti**

I have been active in the outdoors for forty years, and a member of the Sierra Club since 1990. Over the years I have accumulated 8 DPS peaks, 31 SPS peaks and an uncounted number of HPS peaks. This year, I am enrolled in WTC in the San Gabriel Valley to brush up on my skills.

At various times in the past I have served on other volunteer boards as either Treasurer or Secretary. I have also served on a Homeowner's Association Board. This experience in working with Boards can carry over to service on the DPS Management Committee. I look forward to the opportunity to help every member get the most out of their DPS membership.

**Jim Fleming**

Howdy, fellow Desert Rats! Some of you may know who I am, others not. I am a member of the Section, having first joined back in the late 1970's. I earned my DPS Emblem on Boundary Mountain ca. 1985 and completed the desert rat test then (holding an ice axe aloft while dancing around the campfire). But, seriously, I do want to help continue the fine tradition of desert exploration that this august organization embodies. I have had much experience on the Hundred Peaks Section MComm which should serve me well on DPS MComm. I look forward to serving the Section to the best of my abilities. Thanks in advance for your confidence in me!

**Greg Gerlach**

I first joined the Desert Peaks Section in January of 1996 after climbing the requisite 6 peaks. I only climbed a few peaks here and there over the subsequent 13 or so years, mostly because I could not bear the thought of driving many miles in the dark to and from the peaks. I participated in a few DPS trips a couple of years ago and found out that the camaraderie, the DPS pot lucks, and the climbs to the various desert peaks made the drive in the dark worth it; in addition, I found out that the desert has a lot to offer in terms of flora, fauna, remoteness, great scenery and scary dirt roads. I am running for the Desert Peak Section Management Committee in an effort to contribute more to the Section in the DPS’s 71st year.
I have many memories of trips with Rich. He was always one of my favorite participants to sign-up when Scot Jamison or Larry and I were leading trips in the desert or Sierra. As Scot wrote “I treasure the trips I took with Rich, and will really miss not seeing him. Barbee and I first got to know him in the early ’90s on trips like Potosi, Mummy, Charleston, Tin and Dry.”

The first trip to Mummy and Potosi in June 1993 was memorable. Rich was new to our group and when we decided to stop at a picnic area and BBQ our chicken dinner before driving down to the Potosi trail head, he hesitated, but went along with us. While getting the coals ready and cooking the chicken, Scot or I would pull out a bottle of Scotch – after all, it was cocktail hour. We were rewarded with that classic Rich’s smile. He became a regular on many of our trips for the drink, food and climbs.

Rich was an enthusiast climber with strong goals to climb a peak or finish the list. He was also always ready to encourage and celebrate others climbing accomplishments. Campfires on DPS trips are always a special time. Anyone who cooks knew that Rich would be your best friend, even the bartender got second place.

Desert trips always have memories. On that first trip to Potosi Rich was driving a huge Lincoln, Chevrolet or some big town car – not the best desert roads car and sure enough it got stuck.

Then there was the cactus trip, I can’t find the photo, but I spent a long time pulling spines out of Rich’s back after he somehow backed into a cactus.

Rich’s skills as a rock climber and hiker remained strong throughout his climbing career. He always had excellent judgment on the trail. Later when he began to slow down that judgment continued to make him a perfect participant, he signed up for trips that fit his abilities and never expected others to cater to him...unless of course we were cooking dinner.

I will miss his smile and hugs at the trailhead. I know we will all miss his companionship on the trail.

“...A former chair of the Ski Mountaineers Rich’s leadership role in that group and in the SPS and the RCS was curtailed when he moved from Angeles Chapter to the Sacramento area. That distance however didn’t deter him from continuing to participate in SPS climbs and to complete the SPS and DPS lists. In May 2000 Rich became the 1,000th person to earn an HPS emblem showing that he remains committed to long drives.”

— Jerry Keating
Manly and Needle Moustache Mosey
November 5-6, 2011
By Matthew Hengst

Once upon a time three leaders set out to lead two rather nondescript peaks out near Death Valley. Fortunately for everyone involved one of the peaks was named Manly and the Manly & Needle Moustache Mosey was born. Because what’s more manly than a good mustache...

Apparently the answer is complications. Adrienne Benedict, Jack Keiffer, and myself had planned to bring our 15-ish participants in via the shorter western approach only to have the first vehicle out (a jeep no less) find it to be impassable requiring us to shift gears and head in from the east near Shoshone.

20 miles and two+ hours of rather nasty dirt road driving later my Rav4 arrived at a slightly later than reasonable 3:30 am to find two vehicles pulled up short of the planned camp at the Geologists Cabin. Turns out that after changing an initial flat amid a snow flurry the jeep had suffered a second flat and was now dead in the water.

It was decided that after a few short hours of sleep Jack would head out to get new tires while Adrienne and myself led the group up Needle leaving the namesake peak for Sunday.

Reluctant to put the vehicles (and their tires) through more risk we decided to hike Needle from where we were adding a few nondescript miles of up and down across the desert punctuated by the occasional antisocial wild donkey.

Two people checked out and climbed Needle via the ridge starting at point 1,353’ while the main group hooked up with the standard DPS route. For future reference the 1,353’ route looked to be the better approach.

After some steep loose sections we topped out and returned to our makeshift camp in the middle of nowhere well after dark. Turns out Jack’s expedition out to Pahrump to secure tires for the jeep had gone without a hitch except for the fact he had shredded one of his own tires on his way back in leaving him without a spare.

In the meantime a BLM ranger had helpfully wandered by and left us a note warning us that campfires were verboten so we proceeded to have a cold happy hour huddled around lanterns with some convenient firewood bundle chairs.

The theme of our happy hour was appropriately “Sausage Fest” but the highpoint was the Irish car bomb cupcakes contributed by our faithful Mustache Enforcement Officer Anne Kircher.

(Continued on page 15)
complete with mustache and muscled arm cutout toppers.

As it was quite cold everyone was quick to head for the warmth of their sleeping bags.

We woke up to another bitterly cold morning with low hanging clouds and brief glimpses of fresh snow on Manly. With the jeep planning to make a beeline out of there at first light we decided to do our mustache pictures at camp. And so once things warmed up enough that we could reliably use our fingers we pasted on our fake mustaches and struck a pose.

Randomly enough while we were getting ready a truck pulled up with an old guy in a bathrobe. Proper attire for the middle of nowhere indeed.

After saying our goodbyes the remaining vehicles relocated a few miles down the road and we set out again. Manly proved to be a much more straightforward hike than Needle. We grabbed a ridge behind Russell Camp and after marching by a large group of rather surprised jeepers we headed up some sandy slopes into the clouds.

The weather actually improved while we climbed and while we had snow on the ground we didn’t completely freeze our butts off. I reluctantly abandoned any hope for dramatic frost covered mustache summit pictures. At least for this trip.

The summit block was iced up so we settled for signing in and headed down the mountain. After several tense hours of driving everyone made it back to the pavement without further complication except the jeep which had suffered another sidewall rip but had made it out.

Final tally: 2 peaks, 2 days, 3.5 busted tires, and a whole lot of mustaches.

Additional pictures, maps, and a more detailed trip report can be found at [http://www.firstchurchofthesoachist.com](http://www.firstchurchofthesoachist.com)

**Granite #1 and Old Woman Mountains**

**November 5-6, 2011**

*By Kathy Rich & Daryn Dodge*

Our group of 10 assembled at the TH near the mouth of the Cottonwood Basin in the Mojave Desert for Granite #1 at 7.30am on Saturday morning for our meeting with Dr Jim Andre, director of the UC Granite Mountains Desert Research Center (GMDRC). The DPS route for climbing Granite Mtn via Cottonwood Basin is
currently restricted as it lies in the heart of the GMDRC, including UC-owned property, where numerous sensitive research projects (soils and vegetation plots) are located. They agreed to permit our group to access the property along this route if we would meet before the hike for an orientation about GMDRC rules and regulations. Jim gave us a very informative and inspiring talk of the importance, and sensitivity, of the research taking place on desert flora and soils in Cottonwood Basin. Afterwards, we all agreed that if folks could learn more about their program and the value of the research findings it would help tremendously with compliance.

Alternates routes to climb Granite Mountain are via Bighorn Basin, Bull Canyon or Willow Springs Basin which avoid the GMDRC and its onsite research projects. Jim indicated that his office would be glad to assist in directing DPSers to these alternative hikes. The GMDRC website can be accessed here: [http://granites.ucnrs.org/](http://granites.ucnrs.org/)

The morning air was brisk and there was a layer of frost on the cars of those that had spent the night there. Several others who planned to join the celebration for Charlie Knapke had also camped there Friday night. The Granite TH was a good camping spot with plenty of room for our large group and the Charlie Knapke memorial that happened later in the evening. Those who had arrived the previous afternoon were welcomed with heavy showers and biting cold winds which fortunately abated sometime after dark. Back in Los Angeles, it had been raining cats and dogs and several wondered what was in store for the weekend and whether they should go at all! But hey, it’s the desert, and rainfall is usually short and sweet so we figured that our chances were fairly good for clear skies …and we were indeed rewarded for our optimism!

We had a most enjoyable hike – the snow in the gullies and icicles on the trees adding to the desert scenery, and we were rewarded with great views on the summit. Sarah Ma, a 14-yr old from San Jose, who had climbed Kilimanjaro with Daryn and I last December, also joined us on this, her first desert peak. Terry Flood and John Strauch set out with us, but soon broke off to climb nearby Silver Peak. For our ascent, we chose the NE ridge of Granite Mtn. After following the dirt road from our camp for almost 2.5 miles, we started up the ridge. The first half of the climb went well, but became more challenging with rocky outcroppings and heavier brush during the second half. But the views were exceptional and we could watch the progress of Terry and John Strauch as they climbed Silver Peak.

For our descent we chose the NE gully described in the DPS Guidebook, staying mostly in the gully for the upper half, then above the gully for the lower half due to heavier brush and rockier terrain. At one point on the way down, Dave surprised us by breaking into song and entertained the group while waiting for the tail end to catch up. We were back at the cars at 5pm where festivities had already begun with tables...
TRIP REPORTS - continued...

For today’s climb, Sandra Hao and her 9-year old son, Bradley, joined us. (Sarah decided to stay back in the car to do homework). Also joining us today were Ed Herrman, Ann Perkins and Shelley Rogers, while Gail Hanna decided to do some sightseeing in Mojave NM with other desert climbers. We chose route C on the ascent, which took us up through an enjoyable desert wash perfect for desert rats such as ourselves. The only hitch was a significant junction one mile up the wash not mentioned in the DPS Guidebook, in which the right fork was the correct way (Kathy gets a gold star for picking the correct fork, Daryn gets a lump of coal for picking the wrong fork). We took Route D on the way back down, which was also a wonderfully classic desert wash. Route D has a little less loose rock then Route C, but has a short class 3 waterfall pitch to deal with halfway down. Since our trip was scheduled as a class 2 climb, we found a loose class 2 route around the waterfall pitch to the left (east).

On Sunday morning the skies were fairly clear, with some clouds on the horizon. Since it was daylight savings time, we were lucky to get an extra hour of sleep that night. Nonetheless, we tried to hustle everyone to get going as we wanted to make an early start on the peak as another storm was expected later in the day. We left the 2WD vehicles by the railway line south of Chambless where the pavement ended – it was a good 1 hour drive from there to the TH near Carbonate Gulch (drive route for DPS climbs C and D). Although we had all piled into 4WD vehicles with high clearance, the road was in just good enough shape to use only 2WD and not have to engage 4WD.

Overall, the climb went smoothly and we were back at the cars by ~3pm. Nine-yr old Bradley did very well indeed, seeming to enjoy hiking most of the way tucked in behind the leader. For his reward, standard DPS protocol was overlooked and Bradley got to be the first one to sign the register on the summit. The weather was sunny at first, and then mostly overcast with just a few drops of light rain on the way down. Back at the 2WD meeting spot we were treated to a magnificent double rainbow – a fitting climax to another enjoyable weekend in the desert!
December Desert Peakbagging

By James Barlow, John Ide, Jenn Blackie, Keith Christensen, & Paul Garry

Our five day excursion in the eastern Mojave and western Arizona started at the crack of dawn on a Saturday morning as we headed east out of 29 Palms into the pre-dawn light. Our first trip objective was Whipple on the California side of the Colorado River. John, Jenn, and I met Paul and Keith along the power line road on the way to War Eagle Mine. We left John’s Subaru Legacy here and piled into the 4 Runner for the final drive to War Eagle Mine. Standard passenger cars should be able to make it to the turnoff from the power line road. Beyond here, clearance may be needed, but no 4wd. We made our way across the broad washes to the narrow canyon that is due north of Peak 3,292. The canyon is pleasant walking. There is a fork in the canyon where we missed a left turn and ended up continuing straight into a slot canyon that quickly gets narrow and steep. Reluctant to retrace our steps, we headed straight up the north ridge of Peak 3,292, heading just to the east of the summit cliffs to the south side of the summit. Since this sub-peak looked pretty cool, we headed up it for a quick look around. From Peak 3,292, we made our way SSW up the standard DPS route to the northeast side of sub-peak 4,092 and on to the summit along the SW ridge. The usual assortment of wire and wood adorns the summit, as well as the summit register with all of the familiar names. After lunch on top, we headed down the canyon due north of the saddle between Whipple and Peak 4,092 and made our way into the main canyon to the east of Peak 3,292 and back to the car. Overall, Whipple was a pretty standard DPS peak and a good start to the trip.

After a gas and food stop in Parker, we continued east into Arizona for our next objective, Harquahala Mountain. Harquahala you say? That’s not on the DPS list. Why hike it? Well, all of us are working on a lot of peak lists thanks to peakbagger.com and Harquahala is both a county high point and P2k (P2k = Peak with a prominence of 2,000 ft or greater. AZ has 73, CA has 164.). So, it gets us further along on a few lists besides the DPS list while we are in the area. Harquahala would make a great peak if there wasn’t a dirt road on the south side leading to the usual radio tower blight on the summit. The trash on top really detracts from what would be a great summit. Despite the junk on top, Harquahala has an outstanding trail leading up to the summit from the north. There is a trailhead parking lot and toilet. The trail is a former horse trail to the summit which was used to bring equipment up to the summit. We made camp just below the trailhead along the side of the dirt road. John’s Subaru Legacy made it to the horse trailer parking area, 0.4 mi from the trailhead, so this hike can be done with any passenger vehicle. We got our information from Scott Surgent’s Arizona County High Point book as well as some peakbagger.com trip reports. The road to the trailhead begins off US 60 between mile marker 70 and 71 across from...
a lone palm tree on the north side of the road. Turn south and follow the dirt road about 2.2 miles to the trailhead. The old topo map shows the trail ending about halfway up the mountain, but it goes all the way to the summit.

Following our successful ascent of Harquahala, we had enough daylight to snag another peak for the day. We drove west to Quartzite and then south on US-95 to virtual milepost 96.2 (per Dennis Poulin's trip report on peakbagger) and followed a decent dirt road west towards Cunningham Mountain, yet another non-DPS peak in the desert. Cunningham is a 2P2k, and not far from I-10, making it a nice side trip if you have 2 hours to kill on the way home from Phoenix. The dirt road is followed 7.0 miles to a gravel road between two “Caution High Pressure Gas Line” signs. Head up this road to the locked gate and begin your hike.

Cunningham is a fine desert gem: dirt/partially paved road leading to an array of microwave and radio towers. Well, it’s checked off the list and we never need to go up it again... At least it didn’t have any brush thanks to the road! At this point, Paul and Keith split ways with Jenn, John, and I as they headed back to L.A. and we continued onward to Signal Peak.

We arrived at the Palm Canyon trailhead on Signal Peak around sunset and set a quick bivy. Standard passenger cards can reach this trailhead without any problems. Our initial plan was to go straight up Palm Canyon on the 4th class route with our rope and gear. Since the weather was threatening, we discussed options. When we woke up in the morning, we had a light sprinkle hitting our faces. We quickly stowed our gear in the back of John’s vehicle. As we prepared breakfast, the light drizzle turned into a downpour. This solidified our decision of routes to take up the mountain, as the 4th class route would be unsafe when wet. The rain let up just as we finished eating and discussing the route, so we headed around the west side of the mountain to head for Four Palms Canyon.

When you look at the map, Four Palms Canyon seems so obvious due to its size. We ended up in the first canyon to the south of Four Palms Canyon, but we didn’t realize it for quite a while. We made our way up this canyon to around 3,200 ft. Thinking we were making really great time due to the canyon ending on a ridge just like the main route and the summit being shrouded in clouds, we continued due south towards Peak 4,032. We made our way around the east side of this sub-peak to a saddle which had a bivy spot built on it. We sat down for a snack on this saddle and began to discuss whether we were off-route. Out came the maps, compass, and GPS. Naturally, I only have maps for California and Nevada loaded on the GPS and I rarely turn it on anyway, so it was pretty much useless except for giving us our elevation.

After orienting the map, we identified some distant bumps and triangulated our location with the compass. Luckily the clouds were hovering around 4,200 ft, so we had visibility from our location at 3,600 ft. At this point, we had two options: continue across the top of Palm Canyon and try to get on the DPS route there; or head back down to Four Palms Canyon and get back on the route we intended to take. The headwall surrounding Palm Canyon from where we were shot out to our left in an arc of un-climbable rock. After some discussion we headed north then northeast into Four Palms Canyon, losing 1,000 ft of hard-earned elevation gain. From here, we kept a constant eye on the map and compass, checking where we were often to ensure that we stayed on track. We found our way up the brushy canyon to the northeast ridge.

(Continued from page 18)
of Signal. The canyon was really crappy travel with the brush, but the ridge opens up nicely for a (normally) pleasant walk to the summit. Naturally, this was the time that the weather decided to rain on us again and we slogged to the summit from the top of Four Palms Canyon in the downpour. Had we not spent a lot of time off -route, we likely would have topped out before the rain. We signed into the register as quickly as possible so as not to get it wet, took a few summit pictures of us in clouds, and beat a hasty retreat. We found our way back to the saddle pretty easily and made the long, brushy slog down Four Palms Canyon. The rain let up during the descent, and by the time we hit the bottom of the canyon we saw a rainbow and were in the sun. Instead of cooking at the car, we determined that we had earned a hot meal and stopped at a diner in Yuma on the way to Little Picacho.

Due to our food stop in Yuma, we arrived at the Little Picacho start point after dark and quickly set up tents & tossed sleeping bags next to the road for the night. It was a damp morning when we awoke, probably a rare occurrence in the Picacho Peak area. We tossed our gear in the Subaru and made our way up the wash to the west towards Picacho. The road is easily passable to passenger vehicles to the beginning of the standard route from the east. The hike portion took very little time and we soon found ourselves at the top of the notch, ready to begin the fun part of the climb. We donned helmets and made our way up to the first ladder. The guide refers to a 4th class pitch, but there is a ladder there now, so we climbed up without any delay. We then encountered the dreaded hop-across and were easily able to climb deep into it and back out the other side. We didn't need a belay for this section. We then followed the path as it zigzagged up the peak, over a brand new-looking aluminum ladder towards the false summit. We arrived at the base of the false summit and broke out the harnesses. Jenn tied in and led up the 4th class pitch to the first anchor point, while John followed and I brought up the rear. We then moved the rope a few feet over to the rappel point and rapped down to the rock leading to the summit. We tied the rope into the anchor here so we could re-ascend it on
TRIP REPORTS - continued...

our way back. Unfortunately for us, we only had my 60 meter climbing rope along, which is certainly more rope than would ever be needed on Picacho. We then strolled over to the summit, signed in, ate food, and took the obligatory photos. We used our prussics to climb back up to the false summit – tiring work for such a short distance. From there, Jenn and John rapped off the other side. I pulled the anchor, threaded the rope through the bolt and followed them down. We then packed up the rope and gear and headed back down the mountain. The descent was easy, and the jump-across was easier on the way down. We made it almost all the way to the car when the rain started. We were less than a quarter of a mile from the road when it began pouring. We just kept going to the car and started to drive out as quickly as possible so as to avoid flash flood risk. We beat it out of the area to the pavement, thinking we were safe from flash floods. Wrong. After getting through a few wet road crossings on some county road, we hit a massive flash flood on CA-78 north of El Centro that had traffic stopped in both directions. We waited about an hour, enjoying watching the semis driving through and watching the other drivers think about it, then back off. Good thing – they would have been swept away. Eventually the water receded and we were back on our way to 29 Palms. We arrived later in the evening and thoroughly enjoyed hot showers, a dry kitchen, a washing machine and dryer for our clothes, and a garage to dry tents and larger gear. Initially, we thought we couldn’t take another day of desert rain hiking, but since we were now able to use the internet, we saw that the forecast for Wednesday was clear skies and 60s. It was perfect desert hiking weather.

We were up before dawn and drove east towards the trailhead for Spectre Peak along Hwy 62. The DPS guide describes a sandy road heading south. It is long-closed, so just park along the pavement on CA-62 and start hiking along the old road south towards the Coxcomb Mountains. It had rained for two straight days, so the road was nice and solid, making for fast travel. The road sweeps west before entering the canyon that heads south into the heart of the Coxcombs. We would stay on the old road to save time vice crossing the open desert. The sun was rising as we made our way towards the canyon and we were in and out of the sun as the high mountains to our left blocked the sun at times. We ascended DPS route B which was a lot of fun and easy to follow. We stopped at Aqua BM for a snack and quick break. Spectre looks quite daunting from this angle and distances can be deceiving. It looks miles from Aqua with tons of gain, but it is ~350 ft of gain in under half a mile. We then headed to our primary objective, climbing up the northeast face quite easily. Spectre really feels like the top of the world out there as the Pinto Basin stretches beneath your feet to the west and the lower crags in the Coxcomb Mountains fall away to the south. After a long lunch and lounge on the summit we made our way down DPS Route A to the saddle around 3,000 ft and then followed the wide wash back to the car. We made it back to 29 Palms before sunset. This was the only peak that I left my GPS on for to track stats. We logged ~3k gain and 13.8 miles with a moving average of 2.4 mph for a moving time of 5 hrs 40 min. With 30 min on Aqua, and 1 hr on Spectre, and very brief/few breaks, we were done in a little over 8 hours. Spectre was a perfect finish to 5 days in the desert: clear skies and the best wilderness experience of the trip!
Waking up in the Jumbo Rocks Campground to the complex song of a California Thrasher was the perfect start to Richard Stover’s and my holiday trip to Joshua Tree. We scarfed our oatmeal and tea and drove down the dirt Geology Tour Road to climb “Lela,” a small peak with a million dollar view. On the way we climbed Peak 4629, startling jackrabbits and cottontails as we hiked. From Lela’s summit we could see the Little San Bernardino Mountains, Pinto Peak, and Fried Liver Wash.

We returned down a steeper route which was not too difficult except for one spot where we took our packs off and I shinnied down a split boulder. Richard handed down the packs and followed.

We then headed for Malapais Hill about a mile and a half away. Malapais was made of very different rock—volcanic and difficult to walk on. It earned its name.

We completed the circle back to our truck by 4:30 p.m. having climbed two and a half peaks (I rated Malapais a half), discovered a woodrat skull, and picked up 6 spent balloons.

Our exploration of the incomparable Pushawalla Canyon and Plateau proved to be the best hike of the trip. The hike took 6 hours, 4 going and 2 returning. On the way in we examined mine ruins, an old well and watering trough complete with water, and historic artifacts including a beer bottle from the late 1800s. Most interesting were the remains of a bighorn skull.

A kestrel flew by more than once, or perhaps there were two. On the upper part of the Plateau there were no human footprints other than our own and lots of animal tracks: coyote, deer, tiny mouse or vole prints, possible bighorn, and lizard tracks with dragging tails. Lovely pink granite and unfamiliar species of manzanita and scrub oak decorated the wash. There were juniper trees, yucca, and nolina. It is truly a beautiful place. As we reached our truck, the setting sun set the sky ablaze.

We moved camp the next day to the Black Rock CG and finally got to climb Chaparrosa Peak. Chaparrosa is located in an area with running water known as “The Pipes” just north of the national park. In July 2006 the surrounding area burned in a very hot fire, and the area was closed until last year. It is now owned by the Wildlands Conservancy and open on weekends. The trail to the top of Chaparrosa Peak winds through a recovering landscape littered with the dead trunks of oaks and Joshua Trees and the elephantine stumps of yucca plants.

We took the traditional route which leaves trail and follows a ridge. In the spring it must be spectacular since in winter the entire ridge was covered with dried desert sunflower stalks and flowers.

Before driving home the next day we climbed South Park Peak, an easy mile roundtrip to a bench instead of a benchmark.
A Weekend in Anza Borrego -
San Ysidro Mtn (6,147’) & Indianhead (3,960+)

Jan 7-8, 2012
By Mat Kelliher

On New Year’s Day 2011 Tanya and I, along with Winnette Butler and Jim Fleming, took our first shot at Indianhead (3,960+’). After spending a festive New Years Eve in Los Angeles the night before, we met up at the trailhead outside of Borrego Springs, CA at the crisp hour of 11:00 am and began our ascent. After getting about ¼ of the way up the DPS Route A we realized that at the pace we were traveling we just might get to the summit in time to see the sun set, and that rather than try to get off that peak and struggle our way down its steep, rugged, rocky, and thorny slopes in the dark we should instead just turn around and go hang out at the Palm Oasis with the tourists.

Happy with our new plan we headed down, and as we did so we resolved to give Indianhead another shot next year in 2012; this time though we’d come out to Anza Borrego on a Saturday and get an HPS peak, then spend the night under the stars near the trailhead and get an early start on it in the morning.

As is the way with nature, winter 2011 soon turned to spring, and then spring to summer, and before we knew it the first crisp cool days of autumn were upon us. Colorful falling leaves reminded us that we had paths to travel in the desert this winter, and we began to make our plans. We decided that San Ysidro Mountain (6,147’) would be a perfect short hike to do the day before giving Indianhead another shot because the two peaks are so close to one another, and that the Borrego Palm Canyon Campground would be a great place to camp since the trailhead for Indianhead begins at its western edge. Throughout the fall Tanya and I continued hiking the HPS peaks, and as winter descended we realized that at the rate we were going it was likely that San Ysidro would be our 200th HPS peak!

On Saturday January 7, 2012 eleven of us met up in Temecula for the drive out to the San Ysidro trailhead. Our group included Winnette Butler, Stella Cheung, Chris Spisak, Lilly Fukui, Laura Franciosi; Cindy, Lou, and their 9-year old daughter; Bob Stuard, Tanya Roton, and myself. James Barlow was waiting for us in his Yaris out there somewhere along State Route 79S near S2; he joined our caravan as we passed, and a few minutes after we arrived at the parking area for the trailhead our co-leader, Jim Fleming arrived. Our group of 13 thus complete and all in one place, we readied ourselves for our adventure, noting as we did so that it was looking like we were in store for some ideal weather; sunny and clear, with temps in the mid-50’s and forecast to rise to no more than the upper 60’s.

We took an unpublished route (5.1 mi RT, 1,600’ gain) along dirt and 4x4 roads north up through Cherry Canyon and over a saddle just north of bump 5296. Ascending, we’d pause every now and then for a moment to look behind us and note the terrain opening up below us as our elevation increased.

(Continued on page 24)
Such rugged, rocky terrain out there to the south, southeast, southwest; filled by undulating hills containing numberless rounded granitic boulders surrounded by the muted green of chaparral. It seemed so vast and open out there.

Beyond the saddle we veered a little east and then headed north up a prominent canyon immediately west and adjacent to a very tempting and powerful hunk of granite dubbed “The Thimble” on the USGS 7.5’ Quad. We continued north from The Thimble to the southern flank of San Ysidro, and then gained that peak by traveling north up a steep and brushy, but well-used trail. Once on the summit we celebrated with tasty snacks and plenty of free-flowing champagne; everyone got up on the rocky summit block and enjoyed the vast and breezy views. Tanya and I silently reflected that our 200th HPS Peak had turned out to be an exceptionally good one; here we were surrounded by our friends, on a beautiful day, and in an amazing place.

Lots of photos were taken and the register was signed by all before we headed back down via the route we came up. As we descended, “The Thimble” beckoned strongly to our group; its allure was too much for some to ignore. James and Bob couldn’t resist it, so they signed out and hurried off to scramble up its granitic flank and gaze out at the view into the desert from its summit. They rejoined our main group as we continued our way out. Back at the cars Tanya and I thanked everyone for coming out to enjoy this special peak with us, and then after sending our wishes for safe travels home to those who were heading back, Winnette, Stella, Jim, Bob, James, Tanya and I made our way to the Borrego Palm Canyon Campground outside Borrego Springs, CA where we intended to party it up late into the night.

Borrego Palm Canyon campground proved to be a good choice. It’s easy to find and close to the Indianhead trailhead. The campground is equipped with water, flushing facilities, and even showers; some of the campsites have little sun/wind shelters constructed of local materials covering the picnic tables, the shelters are equipped with fireplaces and chimneys. The seven of us proceeded to celebrate as soon as we got set up in camp. All contributed to an excellent pot-luck feast that included a couple different pasta dishes, chili, salad, chips, Stella’s world famous roast pork, and Winn’s even more famous fresh guacamole. We ate and drank well; more champagne and other spirits were imbibed in abundance as we sat satiated around a cheerful campfire telling tales and watching the full-moon arc across the warm desert night sky.

Sunday morning, January 8 2012, James, Bob, Jim and I met Guido Eibl in the day-use parking lot at the western edge of the campground near the trailhead for Indianhead. Guido had driven out from LA the night before; he had left town at 2:30 am and arrived early enough to take a little nap while the rest of us got ready to start hiking.

We started on DPS Route B for Indianhead by heading northwest up Borrego Palm Canyon about an hour later than we had hoped. The first 1.5 mile is on a good trail up to the Borrego Palm Oasis. The Oasis is a popular destination for tourists to the area, and can get quite crowded, but at this early hour we only saw a couple of other people and pretty much had the place to ourselves. Plenty of water was flowing through the streambed at the bottom of the steep shady
canyon. Once past the Oasis the trail vanishes and the route from here goes strictly cross country as we worked our way up canyon in, across and adjacent to the flowing stream. Big floods came through this canyon a few years back that took out many of the large palm stands, but plenty were still seen standing in isolated groups here and there as we traveled upstream. The streambed and canyon above the Oasis are quite rocky and rugged; although the first 1.5 mi of the hike to the Oasis only took us about 30 minutes; the next 0.8 miles took us another 90 minutes.

About 2.3 miles up canyon, we came across the northeast trending ridge that would take us up out of the canyon and onto the summit ridge; we turned right and began our steep ascent up its rocky spine. The ridge quickly brought us high above our surroundings as it relentlessly led us up one rocky bump, then another, then another. This was the most difficult portion of the hike as most of the gain is achieved along this ridgeline; each bump we came upon required us to get rather aggressively up its steep class 2 apex, and once on that apex we’d be treated to the site of the next bump we’d need to get up. But the weather we encountered as we climbed up along the ridge was ideal for the conditions. It seemed that every time we’d move up over a particularly steep section and would just start to feel a touch overheated a little breeze would start blowing down the ridgeline and cool us off; likewise, just as the wind would begin to feel a touch too cool, our efforts to get up over the steepness of the terrain would warm us enough to feel comfortable.

After climbing up and over the seemingly endless bumps, the northeast ridge intersects the southeast trending summit ridge at a saddle. From the saddle magnificent views open up to the northeast into the Borrego Valley and to the Santa Rosa Mountains further out. Turning right at the summit ridge we ascended steeply up through high class 2 granitic boulders until we found ourselves on the summit exactly 4.5 hours after we started. On the summit we stopped to have a little lunch, enjoyed the fantastic 360 degree views, and signed the register.

We descended via the route we came up, but the terrain is so rugged out there that it took us about as long to get out – 4.0 hours from the summit to cars, as it took to get up.

It was a great trip down though; once we’d gotten off the northeast ridge and down into Borrego Palm Canyon the temperature cooled off nicely, and the shadows and light played nicely against each other on the walls of the canyon as we descended down through it. We came out onto the alluvial fan at the mouth of the canyon right about dusk, and as we did so we were treated to an incredible view of the swollen full moon rising up above the Santa Rosa Mountains to our northeast.
Black Warrior Peak

February 4, 2012
by Sharon Marie Wilcox

This year’s continued lack of winter weather has provided good desert hiking conditions and snow-free peaks. Consequently, another clear blue-sky winter day beckoned us to hike another desert peak.

Even though Black Warrior Peak isn’t a listed Great Basin or Desert Peaks Section Peak, it has been a peak of interest. We’ve admired a nice view of this prominent black summit knob from the south end of Winnemucca Dry Lake each trip driving north towards Gerlach. From the west side of Pyramid Lake, the mountain silhouettes a reclining figure.

Ready to explore this peak, Larry Grant, Niki Houghton, & Sharon Marie Wilcox headed off to the Truckee Range to hike Black Warrior Peak (6338’).

From Reno we drove east on I-80 to Wadsworth, then headed north on NV SR 447 to Nixon. At the Nixon post office (left side of the highway), we took a hard right onto S. Hollywood Rd. In 1.1 miles we turned left on the dirt road. At this point we drove another 14.1 miles on numerous dirt roads that braided through the area before pulling off of the road just beyond the capped well.

We hiked up to the saddle then contoured the ridgeline to the summit. Most of our hiking terrain consisted of rocky slopes camouflaged by dry golden cheat grass. We found an easy route weaving our way through the final rocks towards the summit. We signed the peak register and had a quick lunch, but an icy breeze didn’t make it comfortable to linger for the superb 360-degree views. Great surrounding views included Pyramid Lake, Anaho Island (a National Wildlife Refuge and nesting site for American white pelicans) plus the surrounding Great Basin Ranges.

We kept our eyes peeled all day for area pronghorn antelope though failed to spot them. A Golden Eagle did soar overhead on our return. An interesting feature on the upper slopes of the surrounding hillsides are dark vertical rows of rock known as “stone stripes”. Thought to result from the freeze thaw cycle, they add a visual contrast between the dried vegetation.

Passing the time as we bounced around on the rocky dirt road, we created tales about the Black Warrior and savoried the memory of another beautiful day spent in the Great Basin.

Letters to the Editor: Not giving the choice of a printed copy of the Desert Sage to new members is not only unfair but may be inappropriate. The $10 subscription fee paid by members is intended to cover the cost of publishing AND mailing the Sage. If new (or any) members paying that fee want a printed copy mailed to them, they should be entitled (Continued on page 27)
Treasurer’s Report

By, Pat Arredondo

DPS Account Summary
December 31, 2011 to February 7, 2012

INCOME
Merchandise 75.00
Subscriptions 560.00
TOTAL INCOME 635.00

EXPENSES
China Lake S&R 100.00
Postage Expense 29.00
Sage Expense 250.00
Sage Printing 197.38
Sales Tax 12.97
TOTAL EXPENSES 589.35

OVERALL TOTAL 45.65

CASH ON HAND 11/30/2011 2/7/2012
Checking 2,593.29 3,156.94
Savings 500.60 500.62

GREAT BASIN PEAK SECTION NEWS

By Sharon Marie Wilcox

Who will be the first to achieve Gold with all 116 peaks? Bob, Sue, and Vic are all at Silver with over half of the peaks under their boots, so one of them could be first. However, a couple of hikers say they will apply to all levels at once with their completed list of all 116 Great Basin Peaks. The race to the first GBPS list completion is on!

One glitch in email communications concerning the Great Basin Peak Section is that the email address on the website is not working. For a number of months, anything sent has not been received. If you have not had your emails answered, please try again at kaweah7@gmail.com until we get the original email working.

Join us! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peak Section at: http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/GreatBasinPeaks.html

SAGE EDITOR WANTED

The Desert Sage position is still open.

We need someone with creative skills to continue on with the high quality newsletter our members deserve.

The Desert Sage has been produced since the 1940’s and needs its legend to continue.

Please volunteer your time to the Desert Peaks Section and help shape how we all keep in touch.

If interested, please contact Bob Wyka at r.wyka@att.net.

(Continued from page 26) Letters to the Editor

to receive one. The question may arise as to whether those receiving their newsletter by email should be paying the same fee as those receiving a printed copy.

Editor: On November 13th, 2011 the DPS MComm voted that new members and subscribers from that day forward would only have the option of electronic Sage delivery.
NAVAJO MOUNTAIN, UTAH

From a great distance across the Colorado Plateau can be seen a huge anomalous landform in a country of flat skylines and angular cliffs, a great rounded black turtle-shell lurks on the horizon. Navajo is the one laccolithic peak on our List, a representative of a geologic process that is very unusual on the planet but fairly common on the Colorado Plateau. It’s unquestionably an igneous mountain, but nowhere on the peak is igneous rock to be seen!

Laccoliths are bizarre non-explosive igneous intrusions which rise up from great depth and, for unknown reasons, form a magma-filled “blister” at comparatively shallow depths. Under just the right unusual conditions, it encounters a sedimentary rock sequence with a weak bedding plane it can pry open. Newly arriving magma is then accommodated by spreading out laterally and piling up above the entry conduit, creating space by lifting the rocks in the center (imagine the power required to lift billions of tons of rock!). Eventually, when the intrusion stops and the magma slowly “freezes,” it results in a broad subterranean dome-shaped body of igneous rock, expressed on the surface as a domed mountain where the overlying rocks have been lifted skyward. In this sense, Navajo is the most perfect of all laccolithic mountains, as it has preserved its domed shape, whereas erosion has ripped apart the original topography of the higher La Sal, Henry, and Abajo Mountains to the north.

The igneous cores are exposed in the above ranges; in the La Sals and Henrys, I know from personal experience that it’s a fine-grained light-colored rock. The fine grain implies fairly rapid cooling not too far (geologically speaking) from the surface, as one would expect – classic granites such as in the Sierra, Pikes Peak, and the Wind Rivers cooled extremely slowly at great depths, allowing nice crystals to grow. This laccolithic rock – sort of a low-grade “granite” – makes very nasty terrain to climb on. It seems to weather into loose fractured plates which slide like roofing slates when you put your weight on them. It makes it a good place to easily get hurt.

No exposed igneous rock has been found on Navajo. We assume it is laccolithic because of its round dome shape which otherwise makes no sense on the Plateau, and because of the extensive igneous activity to the north, south, and east. Navajo is Tertiary in age, younger than the Rockies but older than Humphreys, and is completely different geologically. The San Francisco Peaks are almost certainly formed by an explosive mantle plume. A slightly smoking gun has been found in the form of some mild contact metamorphism in some of Navajo’s sedimentary rocks; bleaching and silicification from underlying heat. The flattish summit is capped by the lowermost Cretaceous Dakota sandstone, a widespread formation in the Plateau/southern Rockies region which is characteristically tough and resistant to erosion. It makes up the “Dakota hogbacks” which are a landscape feature at the base of the Rockies west of Denver. Circling the base of the mountain can be seen many of the older Plateau formations, especially the glorious Navajo Sandstone, bent upwards on the flanks of the dome, and host rock for the iconic Rainbow Bridge, carved in a canyon draining off the mountain.

Thank you, intrusion, for giving us this jewel!

(Looking across Lake Powell to Navajo Mountain)
By the mid 1770s, Mexico had been a Spanish possession for 250 years. Towns along the northern frontier—the so-called Rim of Christendom—such as Altar, Caborca, Tubutama, had been long established.

The king of Spain, Carlos III, however, faced big problems in North America. The Indians to the north (think Apaches) were hostile. In order to hold off the English, occupation and fortification were necessary in what is now Louisiana. And to prevent a possible Russian incursion into Alta California, in 1769 Gaspar de Portolá and Father Junipero Serra established outposts at San Diego and Monterey Bays.

As historian Herbert E. Bolton writes: “It was the needs of this Pacific Coast frontier that called forth from comparative obscurity Juan Bautista de Anza. The posts established in New California were symbols of possession, but they were little more. Isolated, and ill supported from a distant sea base, the new province needed overland communication with the settled mainland of Mexico, and a stronger colony to hold the threatened land. Anza responded to the call.”

Juan Bautista de Anza, the grandson of a Spanish immigrant and the son of a soldier who lost his life fighting Apaches, was born in Fronteras, Sonora in 1736. Educated by the Franciscans in Mexico City, Anza returned to Sonora in 1752, where he enlisted in the army at the Presidio of Fronteras.

Twenty years later, in 1772, Anza, by then commander of the Fronteras Presidio, offered to Antonio Bucareli, the Viceroy of Mexico, a plan to lead an overland expedition from Mexico to Alta California. His proposal—which was relayed to King Carlos in Spain via the slow trans-Atlantic communications of the time—was approved, and a year and a half later, on January 8, 1774, with two padres, 20 veteran soldiers, a native guide, 11 servants and mule drivers, 35 mules, 65 cattle, and 140 horses, Juan Bautista de Anza, beginning in Tubac south of present day Tucson, Arizona, set off for California.

And this is where it becomes interesting for desert history buffs. Indeed, to reach the Pacific Coast from southern Arizona, it was necessary for Anza and his expedition to cross a section of desert which had never been set foot upon by a non-native.

Before we launch the historic trek, however, we need to describe three important individuals also involved with the expedition:

1. Father Francisco Garcés. A long-time Franciscan priest, Garcés spoke several dialects, was proficient in sign language, and had traveled over vast areas of the frontier using only local guides. Two years earlier he had visited the Indians living on the Colorado River, and thus he possessed an even more extensive knowledge of the area to be crossed than Anza. Bold, fearless and strong-willed, Garcés and Anza were so similar

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that they often found themselves at loggerheads.

2. Sebastián Tarabal.
An Indian from Baja California, Tarabal had recently bolted from Mission San Gabriel where he had been assisting the friars civilize the local “heathen.” In Bolton’s words: “Becoming weary of the routine there, (Tarabal) decided to run away. With his wife and another relative he fled southeastward, ascended San Jacinto Valley, crossed the mountains, descended Coyote Canyon, threaded Borrego Valley, and continued straight across the desert for the Yumas.” Tarabal’s wife and companion died after becoming lost in the Algodones Sand Dunes, while Tarabal himself barely managed to reach the river settlements. After recuperating with the Yumas, he set off for Sonora, where, instead of being punished by the Spanish for being a runaway, he was welcomed by Anza as a guide, interpreter, advisor, and diplomat.

3. Yuma Chief Salvador Palma.
The Yuma Indians, numbering about three thousand at the time, were permanently settled on the lands around the junction of the Colorado and the Gila Rivers. As author Vladimir Guerrero notes, “Palma had been born into his leadership position, but the respect and affection he commanded were earned.” As bibliographer Lawrence Clark Powell adds, “Though he was called by the Spaniards Salvador Palma, the asthmatic chief’s Yuman name was Olleyquotequebe, which translates roughly as Old Wheezy. Like Anza, Captain Palma was a natural leader and administrator. He liked Anza and the Spaniards....”

THE EXPLORATORY EXPEDITION,
JANUARY TO MAY 1774
Despite a recent Apache raid during which several of the expedition’s horses were stolen, Anza’s group got under way from Tubac on January 8, 1774. Rather than heading northwest up the Santa Cruz River as originally planned, the group set off traveling south, hoping to replenish their supply of mounts in the settlements along the way, e.g., Saric, Oquitoa, Altar, and Caborca.

Although only a few sub-standard horses were found, the expedition continued west along what we now know as El Camino del Diablo (The Devil’s Highway), reaching the Gila River near its junction with the Colorado on February 7. On their arrival, the Yuma Indians greeted the men “shouting, laughing, throwing fistfuls of dirt in the air, and otherwise displaying signs of simplicity and friendship.”

On February 8th and 9th, the Yumas, under the leadership of friendly Chief Palma, helped carry the expedition’s supplies across both the Gila and the Colorado. To avoid the sand dunes to the west, Anza and his men moved south along the Colorado, reaching on February 13 a large pasture and pond formed by the Colorado’s seasonal flood, forty miles east-southeast of what is now Mexicali. In honor of the saint of the day, Anza named the area Santa Olaya.

Between February 14 and February 19, days 38 to 43 of the expedition, Anza and his group struggled unsuccessfully to trek west across an area described by Guerrero thusly: “What is today a fertile basin southeast from the Salton Sea across the Mexican border to the Colorado River delta was, in the eighteenth century, a barren and formidable barrier....The oval-shaped area, one hundred miles long and fifty wide, partly crisscrossed with sand dunes, had little vegetation and only a few meager sources of water.”

Indeed, with his livestock dying due to lack of water and forage, Anza turned his party back for Santa Olaya.

February 20 to March 1, 1774, days 44 to 53 of the expedition, were spent resting, recovering at Santa Olaya.

(Continued on page 31)
Realizing that he needed to reorganize, Anza decided to leave most of his supplies, his cattle, a few of his horses and nine of his men at Santa Olaya under the protection of Palma—an indication of how much trust he had in the Yuma chief. And on March 2, 1774, Anza and twenty-four men on their best horses and strongest mules started off once more across the unknown territory.

March 3 and 4, found the smaller group proceeding west-northwest, just below today’s Mexican border, with the Sierra Cucapa, site of Cerro Pescadores, looming on their left, and an endless expanse of sand dunes on their right.

The following day, continuing west through a pass in the Sierra Cucapa, the expedition came to a large salt lake (Laguna Salada), the shore line of which was scattered with large quantities of dead fish. Crossing the dry northern end of the lakebed, the group camped that night at a fresh water well which they named San Eusebio.

March 6 brought Anza and his men, via a circuitous seven league (20 mile) route, further west to a pond they named Santo Tomás, and on the following day, March 7, a dry camp was made just north of the present California border. On March 8, thanks to information gleaned from local natives, the expedition camped at an area with water and forage which they named Santa Rosa de las Lajas, a site now known as Yuha Well.

And it was at Yuha Well that Sebastián Tarabal recognized landmarks that he had passed on his earlier flight from Mission San Gabriel. The laconic Anza recorded that “this promises us that our expedition will not be frustrated.” After traveling almost due north for another two days, the men reached a marshy area, previously visited by Tarabal, which they named San Sebastián.

Resting for a day at the marsh, between March 11 and March 15, Anza and his men traveled northwest through what is now Anza Borrego State Park, entering Coyote Canyon and continuing to a pass on the crest of the Peninsular Range which Anza named, in honor of his king, El Puerto Real de San Carlos.

Leaving the desert at that point, the party proceeded through the present-day Terwilliger and San Jacinto Valleys, crossed the Santa Ana River and reached the Mission San Gabriel on March 22. An overland route had been established between mainland Mexico and coastal California. Anza had accomplished his

(Continued on page 32)
Adding new settlers as they proceeded north, the expedition numbered 240 by the time it reached Tubac on October 21. Two days later the now ponderous assemblage began moving once more, this time following the Santa Cruz River north. Sadly, on the first night out of Tubac, a woman died during childbirth, the only fatality during the entire 6 month trip. Indeed, that child and two others born en route survived to become permanent California residents.

Arriving in Yuma territory on November 27, Anza’s group, once again with the help of the locals, successfully forded both rivers. On December 4, after continuing south along the thickly vegetated west bank of the Colorado, the aggregation reached Puerto de la Concepción, a site described by Font as “a narrow passage between two small hills through which flows the Colorado...” Font noted that from there he could see several landmarks, i.e., “about ten leagues northeast, Giant’s Head (now Castle Dome Peak), which the Indians call the Bauquiburi, a large spherical mound on a rugged sierra between the Colorado and the Gila; three to four leagues north, the Bell (now Picacho Peak), towering above another equally rugged chain; and (directly west) the Cerro de Dan Pablo (now Pilot Knob), below which flows the river.”

On December 6, back at his former Santa Olaya campsite, Anza decided—in order to allow water to accumulate in springs and wells along the upcoming dry section—to split the expedition into four groups, with each group leaving Santa Olaya at 24 hour intervals. Anza’s party, the first to depart, left on Saturday morning, December 9, heading straight across the desert, north of Signal Mountain, for the Yuhu Wells.

(Continued on page 33)
Unfortunately, however, the weather became bitterly cold and it started to snow.

After a frigid desert crossing and a regrouping at a camp at the mouth of Coyote Canyon—a site christened Santa Catharina during the 1774 expedition—on December 24, Anza and his expedition pushed off again, surrounded by snow-covered mountains, reaching Mission San Gabriel on January 5, 1776.

An unplanned 45-day delay occurred at San Gabriel, as Anza and a few of his men, acting in a military role, were called upon to help quell an Indian uprising in San Diego. On February 21, with the Indians pacified and Anza returned to San Gabriel, the settlers, once more, began moving toward northern California.

The expedition arrived in Monterey in early March, and on March 29, 1776, a small party including Anza, Lieutenant José Joaquín Moraga, and Father Font, set out to locate a favorable spot for a new settlement on the San Francisco Peninsula. The site finally selected was described by Font as “surrounded by chamomile, lavender and other aromatic herbs... (an area) we named Arroyo de los Dolores.”

And there, three months later, on June 29, 1776, a new mission—San Francisco de Asis (also known as Mission Dolores)—was established. San Francisco had been founded and settlers had begun moving in. Mission (pun intended) accomplished.

Following a scorchingly hot but otherwise uneventful return to Sonora, Anza once again traveled to Mexico City, where Viceroy Bucareli appointed his ever-faithful point man as the Governor of the Province of Nuevo México. During the following eleven years, Governor Anza not only led successful campaigns against the Comanches, but he also established new trade routes in the area, thus paving the way for future development of present day New Mexico.

In 1788, Anza was appointed as commander of the Presidio of Tucson, however for once in his life he was unable to fulfill his commission. Indeed, on December 19, 1788, before he could leave for Tucson, Juan Bautista de Anza, leaving a wife and no children, died in Arizpe, Sonora.

Epilogue: “He represented all that was best in Spain’s New World empire—a man cultured, brave, strong yet compassionate, far-seeing, and of incorruptible character...a pathfinder and leader matched in the American expansion only by Lewis and Clark”—Lawrence Clark Powell.

The sources:

THE OUTPOST OF EMPIRE (1930), Herbert E. Bolton

Herbert E. Bolton, a long-time history professor at U.C. Berkeley, spent twenty-two years (1908-1930) researching and writing his five-volume Anza’s California Expeditions. The extensive (and expensive) publication included Anza’s and Font’s diaries, the correspondence between the principals, several fold-out maps, photographs taken by Bolton as he retraced Anza’s routes, and the author’s own narrative of the saga. In 1939, Alfred A. Knopf issued Outpost of Empire, the first volume of Anza’s California Expeditions, which includes Bolton’s narrative, his photos and his fold-out maps.


Guerrero, a professor of Spanish language and literature, has taught at U.C. Davis, University of Pennsylvania, Michigan State University, and the University of Oslo in Norway. For some unknown reason, The Anza Trail and the Settling of California, Guerrero’s first book, makes no mention of Bolton’s herculean research. Guerrero does provide a more readable account of the Anza expeditions than Bolton, however.
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