Hello, fellow intrepid desert explorers! I have some good news to share - we have found someone who is taking up the position of our newsletter Editor for the Desert Sage! At our last MComm meeting in October, Greg Gerlach agreed to assume the position, which has been filled by our past Chair Bob Wyka for the past ten months or more. Greg will be learning the ropes from Bob and this is the first edition under his control. In exchange for this, Greg is going to have assistance from the rest of the MComm to plan and execute the annual awards banquet. So, it is going to be a group effort and a learning experience. Many kudos to Greg for helping out on this - it was my first order of business in the new year to find an editor! Thanks for this, Greg!

Now, on a related note, we must all consider that this is an age of electronic availability for the newsletter, a trend that is going to continue for the future. The Angeles Chapter has gone this way for the publication of its outings and the Southern Sierran newsletter (see page 7), and the Los Padres Chapter has followed suit with the newsletter called The Condor Call. All three climbing Sections, including ours, are using the electronic format. It’s the green thing to do, saving paper, time, and money (which we are all a little short of today, perhaps?). Of course, with change, there are always problems and reticence to go with the new trend. Our Management Committee fully understands this, and we are respectful of our membership’s wishes - those wanting to receive a hard copy of the Sage can still receive it. However, our goal as conservationists and Sierra Club members is (and should be) to reduce the number of hard copies that we send out, in order to be more aligned with the policies of the Club and to do the right thing! So, if you are one of those who still receive the hard copy version of the newsletter, please consider the advantages of going to the electronic version.

On another note, we need to get all outings leaders and participants to help out in the process of updating the DPS peak guides. The changes that are found by folks doing the trips using these guides should collect the information which is eventually going to be incorporated into the 6th Edition of the Road and Peak Guide. Updating them is an essential, though never-ending process. We need this help and also, someone to assist in the collection of the information and incorporation into the Version 6. If you can help out, contact a member of the Management Committee to let them know!

Let’s have a safe and enjoyable climbing season - see y’all on the mountain, trail or at the next DPS meeting and potluck - Sunday, November 11th, at Ron Bartell & Christine Mitchell’s house in Manhattan Beach.
## Elected Positions

**Chair**  
Jim Fleming  
538 Yarrow Drive  
Simi Valley, CA, 93065-7352  
(805) 578-9408  
jimf333@att.net

**Vice Chair / Outings / Safety**  
Ann Perkins  
19050 Kilfinan Place  
Porter Ranch, CA, 91326-1024  
(818) 366-7578  
ann.perkins@csun.edu

**Secretary**  
Ron Eckelmann  
11811 W. Washington Place #107  
Los Angeles, CA, 90066-4649  
(310) 398-1675  
eckelmannr2@yahoo.com

**Treasurer**  
Pat Arredondo  
13409 Stanbridge Ave  
Bellflower, CA, 90706-2341  
(562) 867-6894  
paarredo@verizon.net

**Programs / Banquet**  
Greg Gerlach  
1857 Oakwood Avenue  
Arcadia, CA, 91006-1724  
(626) 484-2897  
gregrg@verizon.net

## Appointed Positions

**Archives**  
Barbara Reber  
PO Box 1911  
Newport Beach, CA 92659-0911  
(949) 640-7821

**Conservation Chair**  
Virgil Popescu  
9751 Amanita Ave  
Tujunga, CA, 91042-2914  
(818) 951-3251  
gillypope@ca.rr.com

**Guidebook Editor**  
Daryn Dodge  
2618 Kline Ct  
Davis, CA, 95618-7668  
(530) 753-1095  
daryn.dodge@oeoha.ca.gov

**Mailer**  
Elaine Baldwin  
3760 Ruthbar Drive  
Hawthorne, CA, 90250-8473  
(310) 675-4120  
DWBaldwin@aol.com

**Membership Chair**  
Ron Bartell  
1556 21st Street  
Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266  
(310) 546-1977  
ronbartell@yahoo.com

**Merchandising**  
Gloria Miladin  
11946 Downey Ave  
Downey, CA, 90242  
(562) 861-2550  
miladingloria@yahoo.com

**Mountain Records (Registers)**  
Daryn Dodge  
2618 Kline Ct  
Davis, CA, 95618-7668  
(530) 753-1095  
daryn.dodge@oeoha.ca.gov

**Mountaineering Comm. Chair**  
Ann Perkins  
19050 Kilfinan Place  
Porter Ranch, CA, 91326-1024  
(818) 366-7578  
ann.perkins@csun.edu

**Mountaineering Committee**  
Ron Bartell  
ronbartell@yahoo.com  
Tina Bowman  
tina@bowmandesigngroup.com  
Brian Smith  
brian.s.smith@aero.org

**Newsletter Editor (SAGE)**  
Greg Gerlach  
1857 Oakwood Avenue  
Arcadia, CA, 91006-1724  
(626) 484-2897  
gregrg@verizon.net

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

---

**Cover Photo Credit...**

...goes to Asher Waxman...

...from Kelso Dunes toward Providence Mountains. Taken on October 24th, 2010.

---

The Desert Peaks Section explores the desert mountain ranges of California and the Southwest, stimulates the interest of Sierra Club membership in climbing these ranges and aids in the conservation and preservation of desert wilderness areas.
### TRIPS & EVENTS
#### NOVEMBER 2012 — JUNE 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOV 04</td>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>DPS, WTC</td>
<td>Bridge Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 10-11</td>
<td>SAT-SUN</td>
<td>DPS</td>
<td>Kingston Pk., Avawatz Mtn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 11</td>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>DPS</td>
<td>DPS Potluck and Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 17-18</td>
<td>SAT-SUN</td>
<td>DPS, WTC</td>
<td>Castle Dome Pk., Signal Pk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 17-18</td>
<td>SAT-SUN</td>
<td>DPS</td>
<td>Cathedral Pk., Hyko BM, E Pahanagat HP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 30</td>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>DPS</td>
<td>Baboquivari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 01-02</td>
<td>SAT-SUN</td>
<td>DPS</td>
<td>DPS Potluck and Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 09</td>
<td>SUN</td>
<td>DPS</td>
<td>DPR Potluck and Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 05-06</td>
<td>SAT-SUN</td>
<td>DPS</td>
<td>Tin Mtn., Dry Mtn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 12-13</td>
<td>SAT-SUN</td>
<td>DPS</td>
<td>Panamint Butte, Tucki Mtn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 02</td>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>LTC, DPS, SPS</td>
<td>Advanced Snow Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 09</td>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>LTC</td>
<td>Local Baldy Snow Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 23</td>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>DPS</td>
<td>Porter Pk., Sentinel Pk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 04-05</td>
<td>SAT-SUN</td>
<td>LTC, DPS, SPS</td>
<td>Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 18-19</td>
<td>SAT-SUN</td>
<td>LTC, DPS, SPS</td>
<td>Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 15-16</td>
<td>SAT-SUN</td>
<td>DPS</td>
<td>Charleston Pk., Mummy Mt.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Provisional MR: Bridge Mountain (7003′):** Mountaineering outing for Sierra Club members only. Climb interesting desert peak in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area near Las Vegas. Sat night car camp off 4WD road accessed from paved Lovell Canyon Road. Sun climb class 3 Bridge Mountain, 8mi round trip, 2,800′ (including 850’ on the return), then head home. Helmets and recent 3rd class rock climbing experience required. Send an email with recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Leader: Sandy Lara (ssperling1@verizon.net). Co-Leader: Jack Kieffer.

**I: Kingston Pk (7366′), Avawatz Mtn (6154′):** Join us for two day hikes and car camp SE of Death Valley. Sat climb Kingston, class 2, 9 mi, 3800’ gain, some bushwhacking involved. Car camp near Avawatz Sat evening. Sun climb Avawatz, 6 mi, 2500’ gain from 4WD parking. Send e-mail or sase with conditioning/experience to Leader: Daryn Dodge at: daryn.dodge@oehha.ca.gov. Co-Leader: Kathy Rich

**O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck:** Join us at the home of Christine Mitchell & Ron Bartell in Manhattan Beach. Committee meeting at 4:30 pm and potluck at 6:00 pm. Bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Christine at: christinebartell@yahoo.com.

**M/R: Castle Dome Peak (3788′), Signal Peak (4877′):** 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 round trip, 2,100’ and then have happy hour back at car camp. Sun hike to Signal Peak, 4 mi round rip, 2,000’. 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 at: ssmith@platinumequity.com. Assistant Leader: Mike Adams.

(Continued on page 5)
NOV 17-18  SAT-SUN  DPS
MR: Hyko BM (7,950’), E Pahranagat HP (6,368’), Cathedral Peak (5,772’), Point 5,678 (5,678’): Join us for two days in Nevada for some off list seldom visited desert peaks! We’ll start off in the South Pahroc Range climbing the Hyko Benchmark highpoint (4 mi, 1800’) and nearby E Pahranagat HP (5 mi, 2200’) and then proceed to the Meadow Valley Mountains where we’ll enjoy some exposed 3rd class climbing Cathedral Peaks (6 mi, 2500’) and it’s southern neighbor point 5678’ (1 mi, 500’). Comfort and enthusiasm on gloriously loose and hostile desert terrain required. DPS potluck and car camp included at no extra charge. Email or SASE with cond and exp to: Leader: Matthew Hengst (matthew.hengst@gmail.com). Assistant: Rod Kieffer.

NOV 30  FRI  DPS
ER: Baboquivari (7,734’): Join us for a quick jaunt up the Forbes route of the spectacular Baboquivari Peak (9 mi, 4200’) in southern Arizona. Must have previous exp with roped climbing and an active Sierra club membership. Post trip potluck at the Ajo campground near Lukesville for those continuing on with us for two days of private climbs.* Email or SASE with recent exp, particularly with ropes. Leader: Matthew Hengst (matthew.hengst@gmail.com). Assistant: Neal Robbins.

* Cerro del Pinacate, Little Picacho, and if time allows Stud Mtn in Mexico will be climbed as private trips, not sponsored by the Sierra Club.

DEC 01-02  SAT-SUN  DPS
I: Corkscrew Peak (5804’): Ten years ago (has it been that long?) I led members of the DPS up this fine peak in the Grapevine Mountains of Death Valley to complete the DPS "Peaks List". Hike with us this weekend to commemorate this anniversary. Saturday hike Corkscrew to 5804’ at the summit; class 2, 3300’ gain, 7 mi and 7 hrs rt from the trailhead, but we may take a bit longer if there’s a large group. Monstrous DPS-style pot-luck dinner and then breakfast will follow. Sunday hikes include Thimble Pk or other options. Good conditioning and gear for two nights car-camp required. Ldr: Gary Craig (gary.a.craig@att.net). Asst: Ann Perkins.

DEC 09  SAT-SUN  DPS
O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Holiday Potluck: Join us at the home of Tina and Tom Bowman, 283 Argonne Avenue, Long Beach, for our annual Holiday party. Committee Meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. and potluck at 6:00 p.m. Bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Tina Bowman: tina@bowmandesigngroup.com.

JAN 05-06  SAT-SUN  DPS
I: Tin Mountain (8,953’), Dry Mountain (8,674’): Join us for one last hurrah before WTC season steals a good chunk of us away! This time we’re off to Death Valley where we’ll enjoy spectacular views grabbing two peaks over two rugged and strenuous days (Dry Mountain 11 mi, 5200’; Tin Mountain 7 mi, 4200’) with the ever popular DPS car camp / potluck in between! As an added bonus not one Matt but two! Email matthew.hengst@gmail.com with conditioning and exp. Leader: Matthew Hengst, Assistant: Mat Kelliher.

JAN 12-13  SAT-SUN  DPS
I: Panamint Butte (6584’) and Tucki Mountain (6726’): Join us for two Death Valley peaks. Saturday it will be Panamint Butte from Towne Pass, tagging Towne benchmark along the way, on a roller coaster ride along the ridge--significant gain on the way back (16 mi, 5000' gain). On Sunday we'll hike up Tucki (7.5 mi, 2000' gain if we have enough 4WD vehicles; 14 mi, 4300' gain with 2WD). We hope to explore the Journigan cabin and mine if we have the 4WD vehicles, maybe the Martin cabin as well. Send an e-mail with experience and recent conditioning to Ldr: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Asst: Paul Garry.

JAN 19-20  SAT-SUN  DPS
I: Spirit Mtn (5,639’), McCullough Mtn (7,026’): Join us for the Second Annual Mustache Mosey (featuring mustaches!) After our now legendary trip to Manly & Needle last year we’ll spend two days.
wandering around the desert in the southern tip of Nevada climbing listed peaks Spirit (3 mi, 2000’ gain) and McCullough (7 mi, 2000’). But that’s not all! Sausagefest themed potluck Saturday night. Fake mustaches required! Outlandish costumes strongly encouraged! Sign up NOW! Leaders: “Mighty” Matthew Hengst, “Macho” Jack Kieffer, Adrienne “Don’t Call Her A Man or She’ll Kick Your Butt” Benedict.

**FEB 02**  SAT  LTC

**Advanced Snow Travel:** This is an advanced snow travel course which will take place at or around Manker Flats on Mt. Baldy. The workshop is for applicants who are already proficient in the basics of snow travel. It will cover both unprotected and protected rope travel in couloirs and chutes, as well as glacier travel including the use of the Z-pulley. Ldrs: Nile Sorenson and Dan Richter. E-mail Dan Richter with SC#, resume, and phones to (dan@danrichter.com). E, C, Mountaineering

**FEB 09**  SAT  LTC, DPS, SPS

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

**MAR 23**  SAT  DPS

**I: Porter Peak, Sentinel Peak:** Join us for these two peaks in Death Valley on the crest of the Panamints. Climb both peaks via cross-country route from Pleasant Canyon, round trip 12 miles, 4000’ gain. Send recent experience and conditioning, carpool information and e-mail or sase to Leader: Gary Schenk (gary@hbfun.org). Co-Leader: Tina Bowman.

**MAY 04-05**  SAT-SUN  LTC, DPS, SPS

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

**MAY 18-19**  SAT-SUN  LTC, DPS, SPS

**M/E R: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice:** For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W&Cell phones to Ldr: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmanamesigngroup.com). Co-ldr: Tom McDonnell. E, C, Mountaineering

**JUN 15-16**  SAT-SUN  DPS

**I: Charleston Pk (11,915’), Mummy Mtn (11,528’):** Join us for these two fine peaks outside Las Vegas. Sat ascend Charleston via the South Loop trail (18 mi, 4300' gain). Sun we’ll climb Mummy, approaching via the North Loop trail (10 mi, 3750' gain). Send recent conditioning and altitude experience to Ldr: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmanamesigngroup.com). Co-ldr: Gary Schenk.

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.
August 10, 2012
To: Angeles Chapter Leaders
From: Mike Sappingfield, Angeles Chapter Finance Chair
       Susan Heitman, Angeles Chapter Communications Chair
Re: Southern Sierran / Schedule of Activities

As many of you know, the Angeles Chapter has changed the format and distribution of the bi-monthly Southern Sierran newsletter and the tri-yearly Schedule of Activities.

**Southern Sierran**
Beginning with the July-August issue, the print version of the Southern Sierran is no longer being mailed to the entire membership, but only to those who request a mailed copy. An invitation to request the Southern Sierran by mail was enclosed in the May-June 2012 issue; to date approximately 500 people (out of a membership of 40,000) have requested printed copies.

Current plans call for mailing one issue a year to all Chapter members, with an insert containing the leader directory information now included in the Schedule of Activities (see below).

The news and announcements in the Southern Sierran are incorporated into the Chapter web site (http://angeles.sierraclub.org). In addition, a pdf copy of each full, printed issue will be available on the web site.

* To subscribe to Angeles Chapter E-news, send an email with the subject “E-news” to southern.sierran@sierraclub.org

* To opt in to receive print versions of the Southern Sierran, send an email with the subject “Opt-in by print” to southern.sierran@sierraclub.org and include your name and address.

Or, send a request in writing to: Subscriptions, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, 3435 Wilshire Blvd #320, Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904

**Schedule of Activities**
The Schedule of Activities will no longer be produced in its current format. This was announced in the July-October 2012 issue, along with a form to request a printed, mailed list of the outings and activities portion of the Schedule. To date, approximately 300 people (out of a membership of 40,000) have requested this printed version, which will be mailed beginning in October 2012.

The outings and activities formerly printed in the Schedule are now in the online Schedule of Activities (http://angeles.sierraclub.org/find_hike_trip_event). This new system offers much more timely information on outings and activities, as well as useful functions such as maps to trailheads and easy contact with trip leaders.

The leader directory formerly printed in the Schedule will be included in a once-a-year edition of the

(Continued on page 8)
Southern Sierran that will be mailed to the entire membership. This is expected to be in the March-April issue. The remainder of the information now in the Schedule is included in various sections of the chapter web site, [http://angeles.sierraclub.org](http://angeles.sierraclub.org).

* To opt in to receive print versions of the Schedule of Activities Outings, send a request in writing to: Schedule of Activities Outings, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, 3435 Wilshire Blvd #320, Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904

**Why was this done?**
The conversion from print/mail to electronic distribution has been under discussion for some time, primarily driven by four factors: timeliness of information, the need to reach a wider and more diverse audience, cost, and the desire to reduce our environmental footprint.

In preparation, we converted our web site into a new format that is easier to read and much easier to keep current. Working closely with the Outings Management Committee, we installed a new, online, interactive events calendar (built in a system called OARS, Online Activity Registration System, developed and maintained by the national Club and in use by chapters around the country). This events calendar – essentially the Schedule of Activities in online format – avoids the long lead time for posting outings required by a printed version; it currently has between 600 and 700 outings and events listed, with the ability to contact leaders, access maps, sort by type of trip, etc.

**Why was it done so suddenly?**
By April, it had become clear that the Angeles Chapter was faced with an urgent cash flow issue. After consultation with National, the Angeles Chapter Executive Committee concluded that continuing to print and send the publications to all 40,000 members, knowing that not everyone reads them, was not financially responsible.

By dramatically curtailing the circulation of the Southern Sierran and by transferring the information in the Schedule of Activities to the chapter web site – along with an aggressive fundraising push – enough money has been saved (and raised) to keep us in the black throughout this year; and the savings will be even greater in future years.

We appreciate the patience and understanding of our membership during this transition. Change is never easy, but we think that the new web site, online interactive events calendar, and electronic newsletter will help the Angeles Chapter provide better service and information for all its members!
The Desert Sage 9 Sep/Dec 2012

Potential Threat to Summit Registers in Death Valley

The National Park Service has issued a new document called the Death Valley National Park Wilderness and Backcountry Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment (August 2012). This plan presents and analyzes four alternatives to provide future direction for the stewardship, administration, and visitor use of these vast lands. The potential environmental impacts of all alternatives are identified and assessed.

Appendix R of this document contains a short presentation on summit registers in the Park and a list of 50 peaks in which registers may remain on the summit. All other peaks and high points that have registers would be removed by the Park at some point under this plan. I believe this policy is short-sighted, in that there may be other high points in the Park that have old registers that could even pre-date wilderness designation. I will suggest to the Park that other existing summit registers not on their current list should be allowed to remain. I will also suggest that in some cases, replacement of register containers is necessary if they become damaged in some way. For example, the old glass jar register on White Top Mountain was broken when I visited it last year.

Another point that I will make to the Park is that just because a peak has a name does not necessarily mean it will have a register on it. For example, I did not find a register on Coffin Peak last year, but it is on the Park’s list as having one. However, I tend to agree that any new registers, perhaps placed after implementation of the Park’s Stewardship Plan, can be removed by the Park. This should be easy enough to enforce, because register books will have dates of visitation in them.

If anyone would like to send their comments to the Park, you can find their Stewardship Plan at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=47802.

APPENDIX R: SUMMIT REGISTERS (In Part)

Peak summiting is a long-standing pursuit in the park, popularized by the Sierra Club Desert Peaks Section (DPS) list of 99 desert peaks, and climbing books such as Walt Wheelock’s Desert Peak Guides Part 1 and Part 2, and Andy Zdon’s Desert Summits. Nineteen peaks on the DPS list and an additional 31 peaks mentioned in the Zdon book are located within the park.

These 50 peaks currently host peak registers, generally a weather resistant container with a small notebook and writing implement. Such peak registers are a tradition of many mountaineering organizations. The registers within the park were installed prior to the designation of wilderness and many have been in place for decades. These registers also have value to search and rescue operations as well as in documenting visitor use patterns of specific areas.

The existing registers at the 50 peaks listed below will remain. The existing registers can be maintained in their current size and location as a traditional use, but cannot be expanded or “upgraded” to larger containers or other media.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peak</th>
<th>Elevation</th>
<th>Other Peaks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashford Peak</td>
<td>3,546</td>
<td>Nelson Mtn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bald Peak</td>
<td>7,770</td>
<td>Nevares Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennett Peak</td>
<td>9,980</td>
<td>Panamint Butte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Mountain 1</td>
<td>4,947</td>
<td>Pinto Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullfrog Mountain</td>
<td>4,959</td>
<td>Porter Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canyon Point 1</td>
<td>5,890</td>
<td>Pyramid Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffin Peak</td>
<td>5,503</td>
<td>Salsberry Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colville Ridge</td>
<td>7,730</td>
<td>Saline Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corkscrew Peak 1</td>
<td>5,804</td>
<td>Sandy Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Valley Buttes</td>
<td>3,017</td>
<td>Sentinel Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Hound Peak</td>
<td>4,470</td>
<td>Schwaub Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Mountain 1</td>
<td>8,674</td>
<td>Sheephead Mtn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epaulet Peak</td>
<td>4,766</td>
<td>Smith Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral Peak</td>
<td>6,384</td>
<td>Striped Butte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grapevine Peak 1</td>
<td>8,738</td>
<td>Sugarloaf Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Mountain</td>
<td>7,454</td>
<td>Telescope Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibex Peak</td>
<td>4,752</td>
<td>Thimble Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Gunn Peak</td>
<td>5,604</td>
<td>Tin Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jubilee Mountain</td>
<td>2,527</td>
<td>Towne Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Chance Mountain 1</td>
<td>8,456</td>
<td>Tucki Mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manly Peak 1</td>
<td>7,196</td>
<td>Ubeche Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mormon Peak</td>
<td>8,270</td>
<td>Wahguyhe Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Palmer 1</td>
<td>7,579</td>
<td>White Top Mtn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Perry</td>
<td>5,739</td>
<td>Wildrose Peak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needle Peak</td>
<td>5,805</td>
<td>Winters Peak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Peaks listed on Sierra Club's Desert Peak Section list of 99 Desert Peaks
I’ve been making a list of the peaks that have been led or planned over the past two years or so, and about 60 different peaks have been led, some more than once. About 8 were planned but had to be cancelled for various reasons. This is over half the list, which is pretty good for a two year period, and many more have been climbed on private trips. Keep up the good work!

But there are quite a few that haven’t been led in two years or longer. In Nevada there are Potosi, Virgin, Navajo, and Tipton. Further afield in Arizona are Humphreys and Weavers’ Needle. In the Death Valley area there are many choices: Waucoba, Tin, Telescope, Pyramid, Brown, Nopah, and Canyon Point. In the Riverside/San Bernardino counties there are Clark, New York, Mitchell, Stepladder, and Rabbit (a good trip to combine w/ the HPS Villager). San Diego County offers Sombrero, Jacumba, and Picacho Peak. So long-time and new leaders might consider these choices when planning trips – there are peaks on the list which are suitable for all seasons. [This may not be an exact list; I don’t have all my back issues of the Sage with me right now.]

Speaking of private trips, if you would like to do a climb on your own and want company, we will offer a section in the Sage where you can indicate your interest in a trip and provide contact information. It will be made clear that these trips are not sponsored by the Sierra Club, but it will facilitate individuals getting together to climb peaks which are not being led. Email me: ann.perkins@csun.edu if you would like to list a private trip.

The Mexico peaks (again!) – I checked the form for International trips, and the lead time for getting one approved is listed as 6 months – may not be that long in every case, but just a heads up if you want to lead an official trip of the Mexico peaks.

Happy climbing,
Ann

Conservation
by Virgil Popescu

Energy Dilemma

There are painful choices involved in generating electricity these days. While hydroelectric power is cleaner than gas or coal-fired power plants the difference in wattage is significant. Both are destructive to land and life.

Also the new large solar and wind projects will damage our ecological undisturbed deserts and its habitat. The wind project would carve miles of wide roads and endanger local and migratory bird species. Rooftop solar energy is the only alternative that offers the potential for generating thousand of megawatts without the environmental damage as caused by large solar and wind projects in our deserts.

In May the Sierra Club launched a new state-wide clean energy campaign in California called My Generation Campaign. The campaign shows that there is public demand for local clean energy, particularly rooftop solar power, and is calling for 30% of the state electricity needs to be met by local clean energy sources by 2020. “Rooftop solar is better for our kids’ health, better for our wallets and better for jobs. It’s time utilities got out of the way of local clean energy,” said Evan Gillespie, My Generation Campaign Director.

To learn more about climate change please visit Tom Bowman’s new blog at: www.TomBowman.com.
DPS MEMBERSHIP
By Ron Bartell

Membership Summary

Activity Report

Achievements
Emblem
#584 John Ide 12/12/2011
Signal Peak
#585 Matthew Hengst 06/19/2011
Mt. Inyo

Renewed Lapsed Members
Garnet Roehm 1 year

New Subscribers
Bruce Craig 1 year

Renewals
Bob Anderson 1 year
George Barnes 1 year
Beth Epstein 3 years
Mat Kelliher & Tanya Roton 1 year
Karen Leonard 1 year
Edward Stork 1 year

By, Pat Arredondo

DPS Account Summary
January 1st, 2012 to September 30th, 2012

INCOME
Banquet 2,616.50
Merchandise 348.50
Subscriptions 1,890.00
TOTAL INCOME $4,855.00

EXPENSES
Banquet Award 69.60
E-Ballot Expense 24.00
Postage Expense 29.00
Sage Expense 1422.87
Sage Printing 759.01
Check Order 63.50
Merchandise Order 156.00
Sales Tax 35.39
Banquet Payment 2,768.61
TOTAL EXPENSES $5,327.98

OVERALL TOTAL (472.98)
Checking Balance $2,538.31
Savings Balance $501.00
TOTAL $3,039.31
In Memoriam
Betty McCosker

By Janice McCosker Leibowitz, Duncan McCosker, and John McCosker

When you next go climbing in the Panamints or camping in the Mojave, you just might experience the most dramatic sunset of your life, followed by the most mellifluous melody of coyotes you’ve ever heard. Why? Because Betty McCosker brought her colorful palette and joined the chorus last July 20th, and the desert and its peaks will never be the same.

As Mom’s children we would like to share with you some of our memories and thoughts about that remarkable woman that many of you knew through the Desert Peaks Section. Born Betty Eleanor Hoyt in Los Angeles on November 10th, 1918, Mom was raised by pioneer stock who had come West in the late 19th century. They gave her a good education and taught her the value of helping others in need. Her parents ran the Hollywood Auto Court, a modest, albeit ramshackle facility in Studio City that provided log cabin amenities and communal showers and restrooms for a few dollars a day. Remember “It Happened One Night” starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert? That wonderful 1934 romantic comedy was made at the Auto Court and the sheet hanging between the beds gives one an idea of the modesty of the accommodations. Mom wrote and illustrated a book entitled “Tales of the Hollywood Auto Court and Beyond” which described its curious and colorful inhabitants, as well as her parents, her children, and some of the pranks that she had practiced throughout her life. Mom was deeply religious and a teetotaler throughout her life. She was politically conservative and balanced Dad’s independent and progressive politics. Late in his life Dad joked that they were a perfect couple in that he stayed alive so that he could cancel her vote in most elections. She was very affected by the depression, which resulted in a lifetime of frugality, except at those times where and when she could help others in need.

Betty attended UCLA and studied art throughout her life. She painted with Leon Franks, an important Los Angeles portrait artist, and those of you that were given her oil paintings or purchased those that she had donated to the DPS can attest to the quality of her work. Mom met and married Joseph S. McCosker prior to the war. Janice was born on December 10th, 1941, Duncan on July 6th, 1944, and John on November 17th, 1945. We were raised in a very supportive home and Mom had hoped to add culture and manners to our lives; Janice took Spanish dancing lessons and Duncan and John tried and failed miserably to play the piano. Despite that we all took ballroom dancing lessons and ultimately went to college and became a Health Care Professional, a Professor of Photography at USD, and a Marine Biologist. We have all married and Janice gave Mom the pleasure of two loving grandsons and a great grandson.

Dad had served as a Lt. JG during the war and they discovered and moved to what is now Mission Bay, San Diego. They sold that home for a princely $5,000 and moved to Glendale where, as Dad was becoming frustrated with the pace and pressures of an expanding population, they moved out to then remote Big Tujunga Canyon. Mom enjoyed some of that experience, and tolerated the long drives on dirt roads to Sunland for shopping and schooling, but drew the line at the rattlesnakes in the yard and the salamanders that descended from the bath tub faucet. Back to Glendale, then on to the San Fernando Valley, and finally to Point Loma where Mom and Dad spent the rest of their lives. After we left home they ventured out on innumerable hikes and trips so that Dad could climb and finish the Hundred Peaks and the Desert Peaks while Mom painted desert landscapes and did her own explorations. She was legendary for her enthusiasm, skits, pranks, meals, and spunk. Many say that they became the matriarch and patriarch of the DPS through their enthusiastic leadership and participation.

We suggest that if you wish to commemorate them we suggest that you make a gift to the Sierra Club or any other organization that you feel will improve the condition of Life on Earth.
TINA BOWMAN RECEIVES FRANCIS P. FARQUHAR MOUNTAINEERING AWARD

In San Francisco, on August 4th, 2012
Tina Bowman received the Francis Farquhar Mountaineering Award

By Silvia Darie, MD, Member, Outings Management Committee, Outings Chair, Leader

It is easy to equate mountaineer with Tina Bowman. She is the well-rounded mountaineer you are looking for. A brief look at her quests will tell you why. For sure, she’s climbed high places. She is the second of only two mountaineers to have twice completed the three major peak climbing lists of the Angeles Chapter:

- The Sierra Peaks Section list of 248 peaks in the Sierra Nevada
- The Desert Peaks Section list of 99 peaks in the desert Southwest
- The Hundred Peaks Section list of 275 peaks in southern California (all of them over 5,000’)

And, she completed the "triple-double" list finish in her unique style: climbing the final peak of each list on the same day - October 7, 2006. The last summit was Independence Peak, followed by an exuberant celebration at her second home in Independence (formerly the home of noted author Mary Austin).

Tina became the first quadruple list finisher with her completion, in 1998, of the Lower Peaks Committee list of 81 (then 58) peaks under 5,000' in southern California.

Rest assured that Tina continues to be a very popular and prolific mountaineering leader for both the SPS and DPS, leading both comparatively easy and very hard peaks. Earlier this year she was recognized by the DPS for having led more than 50 of their 99 peaks. She has also assisted on two weeklong National trips in the Sierra Nevada as a climbing leader.

Farther afield, Tina Bowman has summited the high points of Africa, Mt Kilimanjaro (19,340), and of South America, Mt Aconcagua (22,841).

Positions held:
Tina excels at educating future mountaineers and making them into leaders. She’s been the Leadership Training Committee Chair (LTC) for the Angeles Chapter since 2002 (and because of LTC, she sits on the Outings Management Committee and Safety Committee). Tina has been a LTC rock and snow examiner since 1998.

Tina has been co-editor, with her husband Tom, of the Leader’s Reference Book (LRB) for three editions (15th through 17th). The LRB is the primary reference and training material for Angeles Chapter leaders, and as such under her tenure, it has helped develop many hundreds of outings leaders as well as countless mountaineers. (http://angeles.sierracclub.org/ltc/transfers/17th_lrb_2009.pdf)

Tina was the chair of the national Mountaineering Oversight Committee (MOC) from 2005 through 2010 (member since 1999); DPS outings chair until last year; SPS Mountain Records Chair 1994-2004 and SPS Keeper of the list; SPS vice-chair/Outings 1989; SPS treasurer 1998 and SPS Chair 1997; and Wilderness Travel Course lecturer on mountain travel and conditioning. She has also served on the Angeles Chapter's Sexual Harassment Committee, 1999-2004.

As presented, Tina’s contributions to mountaineering are clear and extensive. She has definitely enhanced the Club’s prestige in this field.

Previous Recognition:

- The Chester Versteeg Outings Award, 2004 - the Angeles Chapter's highest outings award.
- The Bill T. Russell Mountaineering Award, 2012 - given by the Desert Peaks Section in recognition of her extensive mountaineering accomplishments, as well as her wider service to the Sierra Club.
You are invited to our 80th birthday party...

This year is the 80th anniversary of the founding of the RCS, the Rock Climbing Section of the Sierra Club that became the SCMA. We are having our birthday party

Tuesday November 13th at 7:00pm in the Beckman Institute Auditorium at Caltech in Pasadena

The Southern California Mountaineering Association and The Caltech Alpine Club have put together a celebration of the history of the RCS/SCMA with:

Guest Speaker Royal Robbins

Some RCS old timers...

Royal Robbins, Glen Dawson, Barbara Lilley, Jerry Gallwas, Nick Clinch, Frank Hoover

John Wedburg, LeRoy Russ, Margo Koss, R J Secor, John Ripley, Virgil Shields

Gerry Cox, Ruth Carter, Greg Vernon, Rich Henke, Hans Lehman, Bob Lindgren

Birthday cake, refreshments and good cheer

RSVP dan@danrichter.com
October 2012

Dear Angeles Chapter Members & Supporters,

For over 100 years the Angeles Chapter has been a constant force in the environmental landscape. We have weathered good times and bad, flush times and lean. Despite increasing costs and declining donations, our Executive Committee, in partnership with our tiny, yet crackerjack staff, has been doing all it can to be financially responsible while maintaining the basics needed to run our Chapter. But now we need your help. Please donate: https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Donation2?idb=0&df_id=11340&11340.donation=form1&s_source=WEBPAGE

We understand that even the smallest gift is a struggle for some and we appreciate any and all donations, but we also recognize that for many a more substantial donation is possible. To that end we are establishing a new group of donors known as the "1000 at 100", aimed at enlisting the aid of 1,000 of our members to donate at least $100.00 to ease our funding crunch and allow us to continue our ability to provide local opportunities to enjoy, explore, and protect the environment. If you can't give $100 all at once, please consider making a monthly donation of $10.

A heartfelt thank you.

If you would like to pay by check, please send it to:

Angeles Chapter Sierra Club
3435 Wilshire Blvd #320
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Make your check payable to the Angeles Chapter Sierra Club.
Mount Dubois (13,559’)
July 6-7, 2012
By Greg Gerlach

I wanted to do a west side approach for this peak in order to avoid the long drive to the standard route located in Nevada. In researching the west side approaches on Climber.org and in the DPS archives, I located two trip reports: one by Steve Eckert via Marble Creek and one by Larry Tidball via the ridge north of Queen Dicks Canyon. Of the two choices, Eckert’s seemed slightly better because the route started a little higher in elevation and according to Eckert is less steep than Tidball’s route.

I left Los Angeles early in the morning for the drive to Bishop. From the junction of Highway 395 and Highway 6 in Bishop, I drove about 28.5 miles north on Highway 6, then made a right turn onto a dirt road with a closed but unlocked gate. I traveled up the main road, turned left at a T intersection, crossed Marble Creek, then parked my vehicle at about 6,560’ in elevation just where the road veered left and started downhill. The drive from Highway 6 is about 3.6 miles, took 30 minutes, and the last 1.5 miles probably should be driven in a high clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle.

I put on my boots, hoisted my pack and started hiking up alongside Marble Creek at 2:00 in the afternoon. After about 300’, I made my way down the steep bank of Marble Creek to the water and then up the other side, thrashing through the brush and hoping not to run into a rattlesnake. I started up the ridge right after crossing the creek, which is very steep at first, but it became easier starting at about 7,200’ in elevation. I continued up the ridge, following somewhat of a use trail. At 6:15 p.m. and about 10,080’ in elevation, I stopped and made camp on a bench. The camp was very nice, with a flat spot for my bivy tent and some trees to block the wind.

The next morning, I started hiking up the ridge at 7:00 a.m. At about 10,800’ in elevation, I angled over to Queen Dicks Canyon, then hiked up alongside the top of the canyon until the canyon petered out at about 12,200’ in elevation. I continued up to the summit, arriving at 9:45 a.m. The entire route from the car was mostly class 1 with a little class 2 mixed in and the navigation was easy with the 7 ½ minute Benton and Boundary Peak topographic maps, even without a GPS. Also, the register was placed on August 12, 2005, is about ½ full and 8 other parties had reached the top this year. After signing the register, I descended the peak via my accent route back to camp, packed everything up, and started downhill towards the car, where I arrived at 2:10 in the afternoon.

Trip statistics: 8.6 miles and about 7,000 feet of elevation gain. Also, I got by with 6 quarts of water for this July trip.
TRIP REPORTS - continued...

Sheep Mountain and Martinez Mountain  
March 30 - April 1, 2012  

By Mat Kelliher & Patrick Vaughn

When Mat first contacted me he said that he was originally planning on doing a private leisurely two night trip to Sheep and Martinez to help Winnette Butler towards the pursuit of her list 3 but if I could sign on to lead with him then he could make it an official Sierra Club trip and list it with both DPS and HPS and maybe get some WTC students to sign on for experience trip credit. I had previously done these two peaks as a day hike and an over nighter but had never considered spending two nights out to do them. Additionally I hadn’t done a back pack in several years and the thought of having to carry in all the water for the weekend albeit two miles from Horse Thief Creek to Cactus Spring wouldn’t sit well with my knees. I agreed but my first thought was Oh man what was I about to get myself into? My second thought was I hope that this adventure wouldn’t become one of those HPS stories …. So did you hear about the time they had to carry Pat Vaughn out by helicopter….?

Mat was good about consulting with me the weeks prior to the trip and even though he was the primary coordinator he let me choose the routes. We would take the least steep route to Sheep and the ridge route to Martinez. We met at the trail head parking area at 8:30am on Friday morning and weighed everyone’s packs with the digital fish scale that Winnette provided. The majority of the packs weighed in from the low to mid 30 pounds up to about 41 pounds. Leave it to the leaders to have the heaviest packs (Mat’s weighed over 56 pounds and mine was just over 53 pounds). We still had to load up on water later at horse thief creek for the weekend. I made sure to add at least another 20 pounds on to my pack at the creek. Whew!

We started off from the trail head towards Cactus Spring around 9:08 am. About two miles into the hike we dropped down to Horsethief creek and loaded up on water for the weekend and then proceeded to climb up out of the creek towards Cactus Spring where we would set up camp for the weekend. It was the first back pack for one of the participants and I had noticed about 30 minutes into the hike that he was struggling a bit and decided to keep an eye on him. Once we started to climb out of the creek I noticed that he was a little wobbly and needed to stop often and wasn’t sure he would make the remaining two miles to camp let alone the rest of the weekend.

One of the other participants also started having issues and required frequent rest stops. They were both fine once we made it to Cactus Spring and were able to drop off the heavy loads. We set up camp, ate lunch and started out around 1:30 pm to bag Sheep. The last two times I was there the spring was just a mud hole, but as we started up the wash towards Sheep we were amazed to find water in the spring. It had an earthy fragrance and we all commented on how glad we were not to have to drink that water.

The first half of the hike was going well and I thought we would bag the peak and be back to camp no later than 4:30 pm. We returned two hours later than expected as one of our favorite people struggled with severe leg cramps. First one leg then the other and so on and so on. I think the heat got the best of her. There were many cries of agony and at one point it was bad enough that I thought that she would not be able to continue to the summit but she didn’t give in and toughed it out and got the darn peak. After all isn’t it all about the peak? I have heard several peak baggers say “I can die afterwards, just as long as I get the freaking peak”.

(Continued on page 18)
As a result of removing and replacing my pack several times to provide our good friend with some Emergen-C and care I lost my GPS. It dislodged from the clip somewhere on route to Sheep. We looked for it on the way back to camp but it decided to play hide and seek and remained hidden. I sent an email to Tina Bowman and Rudy Fleck when I got home and asked for them to keep an eye out for it on their April 21st trip. It was time to upgrade anyway. We took a more direct route back to camp and had a wonderfully delicious happy hour with all the trimmings.

The next morning after breakfast we took off to Martinez around 7:15 am. The sun rising up over Martinez was spectacular. As we hiked along I soon found out what it’s like to be a border collie. I was on sweep duty and the group got stretched out a bit several times and I had to round up a few stray hikers every now and then when they got off trail by either going off down the wrong wash or some other path that they thought was the trail. Mat’s wife, Tanya Rotan played a great role as the “middle leader” yelling out to Mat to wait when she noticed that we were getting too stretched out.

We took a short break once we got to the take off point for starting up the ridge. There were ducks that weren’t there the last time I did that ridge and it minimized some of the route finding for the early part of the climb. We bagged the peak signed a register in a double plastic bag that had been left under some rocks below the summit block by Ken Rose who had visited there a few months earlier. I took the register up to the summit block and it was placed in the DPS Ammo register can with the official sign in book. We gave each other the congratulatory high fives and descended down to an open flat area to eat lunch before heading back off to camp for yet another amazing happy hour.

On the way out as we passed the turn off for the gully route we noticed a couple and their dog camped out in the wash. They later came by to visit us at our campsite and asked about the potability of the spring water and for advice on climbing the ridge to Martinez which they were planning to climb the next day. The guy was from Lake Arrowhead a former San Gabriel Chapter Sierra cluber, search and rescue team member and knew a bunch of our old timers from the BMTC days. He said when BMTC was disbanded he got upset and quit the Sierra Club. The lady was a nurse from out of state. I forgot exactly what she did but the guy said she had access to lots of drugs. He then went on to tell me the origin of the name of Bong peak near the Pinnacles which he and his friends gave the name when they were in high school. It’s not what you think it was so named because it resembled a wide piton made out of folded sheet metal used for climbing called a bong. Their dog took a particular liking to Mat and tried to eat him. They hung around visiting and talking with us for about a half hour before heading back to their campsite in the wash never to be seen again. No reports later in the week about lost hikers in the Santa Rosa Wilderness so they must have gotten out okay.

Some of our group wound up drinking that “sweet” spring water after all. Upon returning to camp several folks were either very low or completely out of water and had to filter and boil water from the spring. I can still see their smiling facing. After happy hour we hit the sack. The winds were gusting throughout the night. We could hear the ghostly whistling of the winds as they came up the canyons and then felt the cool breath of wind gusts moments later as they hit our tents all night long and into the early morning. Everyone eagerly got up the next morning ate breakfast, packed up to head back to the cars. We left camp around 8:00 am took a short break back at Horsethief Creek where a few had stored a liter or so for the hike out. We then climbed back up out of the creek marched along the trail and proceeded on past the Dolomite mines and back to our vehicles. We arrived back a little before 11:00 am said our goodbyes and headed off for home. All and all we had a wonderful time with old friends and made some new ones and this will be fondly remembered as another great desert adventure to Sheep and Martinez Mountains.
GLASS MOUNTAIN

I’m shortly leaving on a Wyoming Geological Association field symposium to study the Yellowstone supervolcano, and in June I visited another supervolc in New Mexico (and bagged a peak on its rim). So, for this issue I thought I’d write about our California supervolcano (SV) – the Mammoth Mountain caldera complex - and the DPS summit that’s part of its rim.

First, a definition. An SV is defined as capable of a single eruption capable of producing >1000 cubic km (240 cubic miles) of ejecta. The modern human race has never known such a catastrophe, which makes Mt Saint Helens and the destruction of Pompeii look like cherry bombs and even Krakatoa like maybe a stick of dynamite. While doing research for this article, I found some staggering statistics. Did You Know (borrowing from Mary Mac) that, of the ten largest SV eruptions on the planet (geologically recent enough for us to find quantitative evidence), FIVE were right here in the good ole USA? (Partly, it’s the price you pay for overriding a sea-floor spreading zone. Our beloved Western scenery that has given us so many peak lists may yet prove to have come at a very high cost indeed.) Four of these were blasts from the Yellowstone/Snake River Plain hot spot/caldera from 6 million to 640,000 years ago, generating 6800 cubic km of debris, and the La Garita SV in the San Juan Mountains of Colorado which generated an estimated 5,000 cubic km of ejecta in a very brief period 27.8 million years ago, possibly in one blast! (Aside from the blast nuking and burying a large part of the United States, the amount of fine debris and aerosol loaded into the atmosphere might well destroy human civilization on Earth. We don’t know. What we do know is there is no reason to think the planet has decided to call a moratorium on these events just to be nice to us. “Civilization exists by geological consent, subject to change without notice.”)

In comparison to these monsters, the Long Valley SV is smaller – “only” 600 cubic km in an explosion about 760,000 years ago. By the above definition, it isn’t even an SV, but let’s give it the honor of continuing to use that term. (The Valles Caldera in New Mexico was about the same size, 15 million years ago.) What creates these things? Obviously, we need a tectonically active and unstable region with high heat flow; we don’t expect to find an SV in Ohio or England. Yellowstone is clearly a mantle “hot spot” that has burned its way from the western border of Idaho to its current position in the northwest corner of Wyoming as the continent drifted generally westward over it. Like a monster cutting torch directing its fury at the bottom of the continental plate, it destroyed whatever geology was above it, replacing it with desolate black basalt of the Snake River Plain between the “normal” mountains of central Idaho and the “normal” mountains (Continued on page 20)
(Jarbidge, Raft Rivers, Wasatch, etc.) down by Nevada and Utah. Other SV’s form atop the most aggressive and active continent/ocean plate subduction zones; Indonesia; Katmai, Alaska; the central volcanic part of the Andes, all places known for geologic violence. Finally, SV’s can form in areas of active continental rifting and high heat flow where the upper crust is being pulled apart, allowing deep magmas easy passage to shallow depths. This is the case in New Mexico, where the Valles Caldera is at the intersection of two zones of tension and rifting; the north-south Rio Grande Rift Zone and the northeast-southwest trending tensional lineament which crosses northern New Mexico and is responsible for recent volcanism along its entire length, from the Malpais through Mt. Taylor and all the way into the Great Plains east of Raton, were there are anomalous volcanic mountains over 8,000 feet high that “don’t belong out there”. (SAGE #299, Sept 2005) (It’s perhaps oddly appropriate that Los Alamos, responsible for the biggest human blasts, sits on the flank of an SV.)

Focusing on the Long Valley Caldera, it’s easy to see why it developed where it did. We already know that California is being torn every which way by faults, some compressional but many tensional. (In fact, there’s one line of megathought that the San Andreas, its style cramped by the Big Bend of the Transverse Ranges, may in the future “jump” to the east side of the Sierra.) Recall how the Sierra crest, pretty much north-south all the way from Inyo-kern, begins jogging to the west north of the Palisades region? First, there’s the jog where Bishop Creek goes up, offsetting Humphreys and Tom to the west. Then there’s the huge jog north of Wheeler Crest, past Mt. Morrison and Bloody Mtn, to the Minarets and Ritter WAY off to the west. What results is a gaping hole between the crustal block of the Sierra and the crustal block of the White Mountains – made to order for a big mass of magma to fill the void from below!

Two distinct episodes of volcanism shaped this region – and incidentally, provide a classic example of the “distillation” of lighter silica-rich rocks from primordial black basaltic magma over time. Comparatively less violent volcanic activity began about 3.8 million years ago (Ma) with eruption of basalt over a wide area, including the Devil’s Postpile. Over the next million years, the magma chamber evolved to intermediate, lighter andesite. Movement on the Sierra frontal fault has uplifted some of these old flows up to 3,000 feet on the Sierra side! The magma continued to distill a lighter melt fraction, culminating in eruptions of high-silica rhyolite with obsidian. It is these flows, the “glassy” stuff, that comprise Glass Mountain on the northeast rim of the caldera-to-be. Glass was obviously higher pre-blast, but we have now way of knowing how much.

For some reason, Long Valley turned ugly 760,000 years ago when a cataclysmic explosion blew the existing volcano literally sky-high, ejecting about 600 cubic km of lava and ash. Some of this ash fell nearby and hardened into the Bishop Tuff, which extends from just north of Bishop almost to Mono Lake and comprises the big grade on 395 north of Bishop. As the magma chamber had vomited out its contents, there was nothing to hold up its roof, so the center of the chamber collapsed an estimated 1-1/2 miles down to form the oval Long Valley Caldera. Small eruptions from the dying volcano continued even after the collapse, but were confined to the caldera floor. The final chapter....the folks in Mammoth Lakes devoutly hope.....was the eruption of the Mono Craters along a north-south fissure that formed on the western margin of the caldera. Panum (NOT Panem!) Crater was active 500-600 years ago, and Paoha Island in Mono Lake could have erupted during the Revolutionary War!
A GREAT ARIDNESS: Climate Change and the Future of the American Southwest (2011), William deBuys

After completing his exploration and mapping of the Colorado River drainage, the one-armed explorer, John Wesley Powell—by then head of the U.S. Geological Survey—sounded the first alarm. He declared that the Homestead Act of 1862, which promised settlers a 160 acre farmstead, and which worked just fine east of the 100th meridian—the longitude of the eastern boundary of the Texas Panhandle—would be a disaster in the arid lands west of the line.

Well, wouldn’t John Wesley be surprised to see the network of dams and canals that supply water for the millions living in today’s desert Southwest?

The concepts presented in The Great Aridness, similar to the warning of Powell, may not be fully appreciated during William deBuys’ lifetime. Author of one of the finest desert-themed books published in recent years, Salt Dreams: Land & Water in Low-Down California (1999)—see review, Sept./Oct.2009 Desert Sage—deBuys, in his latest volume, ponders the problems that will occur in the U.S. Southwest as temperatures surely increase, water supplies surely decrease, and the area’s population surely continues to grow.

Beginning with those who attempt to make sense of the complex causes and effects of global warming, deBuys first considers the work of David Keeling, “a thirty-year-old postdoc at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, (who in 1958) began measuring atmospheric CO² from a station atop Mauna Loa, in Hawaii.” Keeling was the first to discover that atmospheric values for CO² were rising year by year, and, although he passed away in 2005, his work lives on. CO² readings at Mauna Loa, corroborated by data from similar stations around the world, have continued to grow, increasing from 315 parts per million (ppm) to 390 ppm in 2009/2010—a 24% boost in fifty-two years. The plotted values, now called the Keeling Curve, produce “an arc of gradual, relentless, and somewhat accelerating increase.”

In 1963, the National Science Foundation concerned that increases in atmospheric CO² would reduce the amount of solar energy re-radiated back into space, and thus Earth would be unable to give off as much heat as it used to, issued its first global warming warning.

So, why should those of us who live in the Southwest be especially concerned about global warming?

Well, in addition to overall temperature increases, consider the Hadley Cell effect, that global circulation pattern in which warm equatorial air rises, cools and precipitates, then, with its moisture squeezed out, spreads poleward, and descends on the subtropic belts of the world—Northern Mexico, the Sahara Desert, and Arabia in the Northern Hemisphere; the Chile’s Atacama Desert and Africa’s Kalahari in the Southern Hemisphere—compressing and adiabatically heating as it sinks.

Most current climatic models predict that as global warming increases the Hadley Cell effect (Continued on page 22)
will enlarge as much as 2 degrees of latitude. That means the areas immediately north of the Mexican border—think Arizona and New Mexico—will become even warmer and drier. More specifically, “the prevailing models... predict higher temperatures for the Southwest by approximately 4°C (7.2°F) over the course of the current century...”

Before scoffing at the notion that models can correctly predict future weather patterns, you might be interested in what Chris Milly, a senior hydrologist working for the U.S. Geological Survey, and his team have discovered. Comparing the simulations of twenty-one weather models, on one hand, with actual observed data from twentieth-century river measurements, on the other, the team found a correspondence between the two to be “just too striking.” Whereas Milly was a “self-described doubter on matters pertaining to climate change,” he now states, “This doesn’t suddenly say, ‘Hey, the models are right,’ but it lends credence. It enhances their believability. It makes you take them more seriously.”

DeBuys further notes that, “More than two-thirds of the model runs agreed that the (Southwest) would become substantially drier, and for some subregions (within the Southwest) ...over 90 percent of the models agreed. The amount of drying predicted for the mid-twenty-first century was generally in the range of 10 to 30 percent, relative to a base line calculated from the period 1900-1970. In fact, the models were suggesting that the region would have available to it about a fifth less water than had been the case during most of the twentieth century...”

Richard Seager, an oceanographer for a research arm of Columbia University, commenting on the fact that there have always been natural

droughts, adds, “The cycle of natural dry periods and wet periods will continue, but they continue around a mean that gets drier. So the depths—the dry parts of the naturally occurring droughts—will be drier than we’re used to, and the wet parts won’t be as wet as we’re used to, because they’re both happening around a mean state that gets drier and drier.”

Furthermore, based on research done by Dave Breshears and Henry Adams of the climate-controlled, glass and steel-ribbed tent, Biosphere II, at Oracle, AZ, and Craig Allen, who heads the Jemez Mountains Field Station of the U.S. Geological Survey, based at Bandelier National Monument, NM, deBuys reviews a concept that seems obvious, but in reality is a bit more complex, i.e., forests die due to drought.

The simplest way for a tree to die because of drought, of course, is by dehydration, which occurs when intake of moisture fails to replace the water evaporating from the tree’s surfaces.

A second major reason that trees die from drought—especially ponderosa and pinyon in the Southwest—is due to bark beetles.

“The beetles bore into a tree, mate, and lay their eggs in the inner bark (the phloem). The larvae, once hatched, feed by tunneling their way through the phloem’s living tissue.” A healthy, well-watered tree can flush out the insects with pitch, but a moisture-stressed tree will fail to produce an adequate flow to do so and die.

And, a third big reason that trees perish in drought-stricken areas is due to forest fires.

On June 18, 2002, after two years “almost bereft of snow,” a fire started near the Cibecue rodeo grounds on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in eastern Arizona. Growing rapidly, by the

(Continued on page 23)
following day it had burned 55,000 acres. Two
days later, a woman who had run out of gas
while driving in the Fort Apache backcountry
built a signal fire to attract the attention of a
helicopter on its way to the Rodeo Fire. “Her
signal attracted plenty of attention. By the end
of the day, the fire she started—the Chedisski
Fire—had burned 10,800 acres.” Soon the two
fires merged and eventually burned 734 square
miles, a record that seemed unsurpassable until
the Wallow Fire of 2011—also
located in eastern Arizona, which
 scorched nearly 841 square miles.

Even as this review is written, a
huge fire is burning out of control
in the Gila National Forest,
directly east of Glenwood, NM. As
of late June 2012, that wildfire has
become the largest fire in New
Mexico history.

In a 2006, Tom Swetnam, a
researcher at the University of
Arizona, and Tony Westerling, a
professor from the Merced campus
of the University of California,
along with two co-authors,
published a paper demonstrating
“that western forest fires were
getting bigger, more frequent, and more
destructive.” And because the forests of the
western United States account for perhaps 20 to
40 percent of total carbon dioxide confiscation in
the U.S., the paper further warned that, “if the
current trends continue, even under a relatively
modest temperature increase scenario...(the
area) may become a source of increased
atmospheric carbon dioxide rather than a sink,’
thereby exacerbating the buildup of green house
gasses and the warming of global climate.”

So, assuming that deBuys and his array of
specialists are correct—i.e., that global warming
is upon us, and that the Southwest will be
especially hard hit—how will this affect the
area’s population?

Pure and simply, for most people living in
Arizona, Nevada, Northern Baja, and, to a lesser
degree, Southern California, the biggest
consideration will be water.

Indeed, although millions of people living in
these areas depend on water from the Colorado
River, even now, prior to the predicted warming
trend, the river’s supply is dangerously over-
allocated.

Before proceeding, however, consider a little history.

In 1922, the Colorado River
Compact divided the river at Lees
Ferry, AZ into two basins, upper
and lower, and apportioned use
between the two to 7.5 million acre
-feet of water per year each on
average. In addition, in 1944, the
United States agreed to deliver 1.5
million acre-feet (maf) per year to
Mexico, or a total of 16.5 million
acre-feet per year.

Unfortunately, those involved in
drawing up the 1922 and 1944
agreements were overly optimistic
due to: (1) lack of sufficient
historic data and; (2) the data they
did possess, that from the early decades of the
early 1900s, “happened to be one of the wettest
pluvial periods in the last fifteen centuries.”

By the mid-1970s, however, “with the century’s
initial wet period long past, the average of the
gauged record had declined to 15 maf.” In 1976,
a reconstruction of the river’s flow, based on tree
-ring analysis going back to 1520, was published
indicating that “the average flow at Lees Ferry
over the past four and a half centuries was about
13.4 maf.” The same tree-ring study also
indicated “that droughts longer and more severe
than any known from the historical period have
occurred repeatedly in the Colorado River
watershed.” “In other words, a state of
sufficiency within the Colorado River system, as

(Continued on page 24)
defined by the sum of today’s legally ordained water entitlements, would be utterly abnormal.”

*The Great Aridness* explores the manner in which the Colorado’s lower than anticipated water supply has been, until recently, successfully finessed: (1) Arizona and Nevada were slow to use their full allotments; (2) the Upper Basin has never used its full allocation; and (3) surplus flows have been stored in reservoirs and aquifers for use during years of drought. Lake Mead, Lake Powell and other reservoirs on the Colorado, in fact, have the capacity to store 60 maf—approximately four years of natural flow.

But those fallback positions are no longer available. Nevada, with Las Vegas’ mushrooming growth, and Arizona, with its 336-mile Central Arizona Project system of canals—substantially completed in 1994—can now use their full allotments. And the notion of storing water for use during drought years was belied in a 2008 paper, published by researchers at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, postulating that “Lake Mead, under the one-two punch of climate change and high rates of water consumption, had a 50-50 chance of going dry by 2021.” The dire prophecy was based on an analysis of the inflows and outflows of Lake Mead and Lake Powell, considering various climate change scenarios, and factoring in “the standard estimates for increased Upper Basin water withdrawals, as water rights in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah are progressively put to use in years ahead.”

So, how are the effected states preparing for the upcoming water shortage?

Well, consider what Patricia Mulroy, general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA), and Chair of Nevada’s Colorado River Commission, has been up to. Anticipating diminished water supply, Mulroy has begun “paying Arizona to pump water owned by Nevada into the ground so that at some future date Las Vegas can pump some of Arizona’s water out of Lake Mead and trade the underground water back to Arizona. She’s building a reservoir in California to capture surpluses the Imperial Valley used to release to Mexico so that she can later swap for Imperial Valley water in Lake Mead. She swung a deal to claim the flow of the Virgin River for Las Vegas, separate from the compact, by threatening to build...a reservoir that no one needed...She paid her customers $110 million to tear up their lawns and replace them with desert vegetation, reducing water demand by 18 percent.”

Facing the problem of a drastically lowered Lake Mead, Mulroy is also planning, at the cost of almost a billion dollars, to build a three-mile long bathtub-like drain at the bottom of the lake to make use of any water left below the current lowest outlet.

Her most controversial idea, however, was to have SNWA claim water rights in “thirty hydraulic basins across northern Nevada...involving inevitable comparisons to William Mulholland’s draining of Owens Valley for Los Angeles in the 1920’s.”

“Mulroy asserts that the groundwater pumping in the valleys of the Great Basin can proceed without drying desert springs or producing other environmental damages...obligatory statements in which almost no one believes.”

Arizona and California also have developed worst case water shortage plans, both relying, primarily, on quenching the thirst of ever-increasing populations by decreasing agricultural usage.

In his chapter, “Sand Canyon: A Vanishing Act,” deBuys, looking into the past, considers the fate of one of the many drought-stricken Southwest communities which, circa 1300 A.D., were suddenly deserted. In the chapter, “Hawikki: Welcome to the Anthropocene,” the author discusses the ancient Zuni settlement in New Mexico which began its decline and eventual desertion on July 7, 1540, the day when Coronado and his men attacked the walled community. Since that day, the capture of the
The Desert Sage 25 Sep/Dec 2012

indigenous people’s upper watershed by Mormon settlers, heavy-handed logging in the nearby Zuni Mountains, and overgrazing have “combined to entrench and dry up the water table where the Zunis made their farms.”

Further man-caused environmental problem are considered in the chapter, “Janos: A Mirror in Time,” where, in the area straddling the Sonora/Chihuahua border, just south of New Mexico, overgrazing has left much the former grass land changed to that of woody shrubs. “Reversal of the brush encroachment,” deBuys adds, “remains doggedly out of reach. For all practical purposes, the shift from desert grass to desert scrub is a one-way flip from one ecosystem to another. No one has figured out how to run the process backward.”

Summing up, deBuys suggests that there are two ways to address the problem of the upcoming climate change: mitigation and adaptation. The former, mitigation, “involves reducing the amount of carbon pollution... and embarking on the difficult journey back to” an atmosphere containing only 350 parts per million CO². “The most reasonable strategy toward this end is for the government to place a price on carbon, essentially to tax it at the point in the production cycle in which it becomes a pollutant.”

Adaptation will involve: (1) the achievement of water security, i.e., eliminating the current overdraft in the lower Colorado Basin; (2) rehabilitating forests by reducing the density of forest stands and the build-up of fuels in key ecosystems, plus prioritizing the protection of “human communities and singular natural areas;” and (3) devising a responsible program for assisting those who will be pushed out of their homes and jobs by the increased heat and drought.

None of the above will be easy. “The colossal dams, reservoirs, and aqueducts that constitute the plumbing of the Colorado and other western rivers” created an abundance of water that seemed inexhaustible. Now, with the continuous economic and population growth of the late twentieth century, plus the prospect of a hotter, drier future in the twenty-first, we face huge problems. “Climate change only accelerates the day of reckoning. It doesn’t wait for the curve to approach the limit: it moves the limit toward and even past the curve, hastening the final mad scramble to reconcile a finite and declining resource with unbounded appetite.”

One hundred and fifty years ago the prescient John Wesley Powell warned that living in the Southwest would be tenuous due to arid conditions. His message remains valid.

A Great Aridness is an important and interesting book. This review, however, does not begin do justice to deBuys’ well-researched and well-presented material. I hope that you will give it a read, and if you do, I recommend keeping a big glass of water handy.
If you haven’t already done so, please consider renewing your Sage subscription. Dues are $10 per year and multiple year subscriptions are encouraged. If you feel even more compelled, the DPS offers a “sustaining” dues option ($20). Send your check made payable to “Desert Peaks Section” to:

Ron Bartell, 1556 21st Street, Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266

Include accurate address information. For your convenience, you may use the order form at the bottom of this page.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Peaks List</td>
<td>$1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road and Peaks Guide (5th Edition) CD ROM version (price includes shipping)</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Year electronic Desert Sage subscription</td>
<td>$10 regular / $20 sustaining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Complete History and Lore CD ROM (price includes shipping)</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Peaks List</td>
<td>$1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road and Peaks Guide (5th Edition) CD ROM version (price includes shipping)</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Year electronic Desert Sage subscription</td>
<td>$10 regular / $20 sustaining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Complete History and Lore CD ROM (price includes shipping)</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mail order form and payment to:
Gloria Miladin, DPS Merchandiser
11946 Downey Ave
Downey, CA, 90242

Grand Total: __________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Patch</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emblem Pin</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>List Finisher Pin</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Desert Explorer Award Pin</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS T-shirt (see item below) Tan w/black and gray print (S, M, L, XL)</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For T-shirt orders, add $3.50/1, $4/2 or more, per order for handling</td>
<td>$3.50 / $4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mail order form and payment to:
Gloria Miladin, DPS Merchandiser
11946 Downey Ave
Downey, CA, 90242

Grand Total: __________
The Desert Sage 28 Sep/Dec 2012

DESSERT 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 DECEMBER 08, 2012.

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 also available. To become a member of the DPS you must (1) belong to the Sierra Club (2) have climbed 6 of the 96 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, or ronbartell@yahoo.com. 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, or ronbartell@yahoo.com.

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.

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

EDITOR - Greg Gerlach, 1857 Oakwood Avenue, Arcadia, CA 91006-1724
Email: desertpeakssage@att.net

The Desert Sage 28 Sep/Dec 2012