Hello, my fellow desert peak lovers! Hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season and doing some climbing in the great desert expanses! We are putting together some trips for the winter and spring season and hope that many of you will be able to join us! See the Outings section for a listing of upcoming trips. Thanks to those leaders who are putting together these trips-they are the backbone of our Section! Also, be sure to mark your calendars for the next DPS Banquet, which will be held next May 19th (Sunday). We will again be enjoying the fine accommodations of the Proud Bird Restaurant in Los Angeles (near LA International Airport). Our speaker is to be determined, but there are many great suggestions. In the next newsletter, we will have a flyer with the details for folks to sign up. 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! Also, I would like to ask leaders of trips to send in write-ups for the Sage. You can always ask someone to do a write-up for the trip if you’re not comfortable in doing so! And, coming up in January, we will begin the process of seeking (through our Nominating Committee) new candidates to run for office on the Management Committee. If you know someone or would like to run yourself, please contact me or another member of the current Management Committee. We have three openings coming up, and we will need folks to fill them! If you’re good at encouraging people, you may consider being on the Nominating Committee yourself.

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, January 13th, 2013 (happy New Years) at Gloria Miladin’s home in Downey.
DESERT PEAKS SECTION LEADERSHIP, 2012 - 2013 SEASON

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
eckelmann2@yahoo.com

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

Programs / Banquet
Greg Gerlach
359 N. Lima Street, Apt. C
Sierra Madre, CA, 91024
(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
Open
Please contact any DPS Management Committee member if you are interested in becoming the next guidebook editor

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
(Directors)
Daryn Dodge
2618 Kline Ct
Davis, CA, 95618-7668
(530) 753-1095
daryn.dodge@oehha.ca.gov

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

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

Newsletter Editor (SAGE)
Greg Gerlach
359 N. Lima Street, Apt. C
Sierra Madre, CA, 91024
(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 Gregory Frux. The photo was taken from the summit of Funeral Mountain in Death Valley on April 7, 2012 and the view is towards the west.

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
JANUARY 2013 — DECEMBER 2013

JANUARY 2013

- **JAN 05-06 SAT-SUN DPS** Tin Mtn., Dry Mtn.
- **JAN 05-06 SAT-SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS** Indian Cove Navigation
- **JAN 12 SAT WTC, DPS** Bridge Mountain
- **JAN 12-13 SAT-SUN DPS** Panamint Butte, Tucki Mtn.
- **JAN 13 SUN DPS** DPS Meeting and Potluck
- **JAN 19-20 SAT-SUN DPS** Spirit Mtn., McCullough Mtn.
- **JAN 27 SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS** Mt. Pinos Navigation Practice
- **FEB 02 SAT LTC** Advanced Snow Travel
- **FEB 09 SAT LTC, DPS, SPS** Local Baldy Snow Practice
- **MAR 09-10 SAT-SUN DPS** DPS Chile Cook-off
- **MAR 23 SAT DPS** Porter Pk., Sentinel Pk.
- **APRIL 20-21 SAT-SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS** Warren Point Navigation
- **APRIL 20-21 SAT-SUN DPS** Jacumba Mtn, Sombrero Peak
- **MAY 04 SAT LTC, WTC, HPS** Beginning Navigation Clinic
- **MAY 04-05 SAT-SUN LTC, DPS, SPS** Sierra Snow Check off/Practice
- **MAY 19 SUN DPS** Desert Peaks Section Annual Banquet
- **JUNE 01 SAT LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS** Heart Bar Peak Navigation
- **JUNE 02 SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS** Grinnell Ridge Navigation
- **JUNE 15-16 SAT-SUN DPS** Charleston Pk., Mummy Mt.
- **AUG 04 SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS** Mt. Pinos Navigation
- **AUG 10 SAT DPS** Boundry Peak, Montgomery Peak
- **SEPT 22 SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS** Grinnell Ridge Navigation
- **TBD SAT LTC, WTC, HPS** Beginning Navigation Clinic
- **NOV 16 SAT LTC, WTC** Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain
- **NOV 16-17 SAT-SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS** Indian Cove Navigation
- **DEC 08 SUN LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS** Warren Point Navigation

**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 experience. Leader: Matthew Hengst, Assistant Leader: Mat Kelliher

**JAN 05-06 SAT-SUN LTC, WTC, DPS, HPS, SPS**

I: **Indian Cove Navigation**: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: Robert Myers. Assistant Leader: Phil Wheeler

(Continued on page 5)
JAN 12 SAT WTC, DPS
MR: Bridge Mountain (6995’). Join us for a fun New Year’s climb on fantastic Red Rock sandstone. We’ll start pre-dawn to hike into and climb Bridge Mountain and get back out to cars by sunset. 12 mile total round trip, 3100’ gain. Must be comfortable on exposed, third-class rock. Helmet and medical form required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Send email with experience and conditioning to Leader: Monica Suua, (mosuua@gmail.com) Assistant Leader: Eric Scheidemantle.

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 Leader: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Assistant Leader: Paul Garry.

JAN 13 SUN DPS
O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Gloria Miladin in Downey. 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 Gloria at: miladingloria@yahoo.com

JAN 19-20 SAT-SUN DPS
I: Spirit Mountain (5,639’), McCullough Mountain (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.

JAN 27 SUN LTC, WTC, DPS, HPS, SPS
I: Mt. Pinos Navigation Practice on Snowshoes: Ever wonder what it is like to navigate in snow? Find out on this navigation practice as we take a cross-country route to Mt. Pinos (8831’). 4 mi route, 700’ gain. Snowshoes required. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: Robert Myers. Co-Leader: Ann Shields.

FEBRUARY 2013

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. Leaders: Nile Sorenson and Dan Richter. E-mail Dan Richter with Sierra Club number, 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 leader candidates. Restricted to Sierra Club members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email Sierra Club number, climbing resume, email address, phone number to Leader: Nile Sorenson (nsorenso@pacbell.net). Co-Leader: Doug Mantle. E, C, Mountaineering

(Continued on page 6)
MAR 9-10 SAT-SUN DPS
Chili Cook-Off: Join us for a day of fun in the desert (location TBA). 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. Sunday peak and climb TBA. 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 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.

APR 20-21 SAT-SUN LTC, WTC, DPS, HPS, 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. Assistant Leader: Phil Wheeler.

APR 20 – 21 SAT – SUN DPS
I: Jacumba Mountain (4,512’), Sombrero Peak (4,229’): Join us on one or both days of this rugged, spring-weekend mission into the southern Anza Borrego Desert to bag two steep, rocky, thorny, and brushy peaks near Ocotillo, CA. Saturday we’ll hike 5 miles round trip with 2,500’ of gain to Jacumba Peak via Mortero Palms, and then drive over to the mouth of Bow Willow Canyon where we’ll enjoy a festive DPS potluck/car camp. Sunday we’ll drive up into the South Fork of Indian Valley, park, and then gain 2100’ over a 1.5 mile (3 miles RT) hike up the northern ridge of Sombrero Peak. High clearance 4WD recommended. Email Mat Kelliher with recent conditioning and experience for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher, Jim Fleming.

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

MAY 04-05 SAT-SUN LTC, DPS, SPS
M/E R: 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 Sierra Club members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send Sierra Club number, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Leader: Nile Sorenson (nsorenso@pacbell.net). Co-leader: Doug Mantle. E, C, Mountaineering.
MAY 18-19 SAT-SUN LTC, DPS, SPS  
M/E R: 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 Sierra Club number, climbing resume, email, home, work and cell phones to Leader: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Co-leader: Tom McDonnell. E, C, Mountaineering

MAY 19 SUN DPS  
Desert Peaks Section, 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 and program (TBD). Evening will be capped off by awards. Come join the fun! For more information, contact Jim Fleming.

JUNE 2013

JUN 1 SAT LTC, WTC, DPS, HPS, SPS  
I: Heart Bear Peak (8332'): Practice navigation for Sunday’s check off on this 7 mile route, 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. Co-leaders: Jane Simpson, Adrienne Benedict, Ann Pedreschi Shields

JUN 2 SUN LTC, WTC, DPS, HPS, 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

JUN 15-16 SAT-SUN DPS  
I: Charleston Peak (11,915'), Mummy Mountain (11,528'): Join us for these two fine peaks outside Las Vegas. Saturday ascend Charleston via the South Loop trail (18 mi, 4300' gain). Sunday we’ll climb Mummy, approaching via the North Loop trail (10 mi, 3750' gain). Send recent conditioning and altitude experience to Leader: Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com). Co-leader: Gary Schenk.

AUGUST 2013

AUG 4 SUN LTC, WTC, DPS, HPS, SPS  
I: Mount. Pinos 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 Leaders: Robert Myers. Assistant Leader: Phil Wheeler.

AUG 10 SAT DPS  
I: Boundary Peak (13,140'), Montgomery Peak (13,441'): Join us on this very strenuous hike to summit a couple of spectacular peaks high up in the White Mountains north of Bishop, CA. The first peak is the high point of Nevada; from there we’ll cross the state line into California along a steep and rocky ridge to a peak high above all other DPS Emblem Peaks. Expect 12 miles round trip and 5,500' gain. Comfort hiking up very steep, loose, and rocky terrain at high elevation is essential. Contact leader with recent conditioning and experience, including high altitude experience and vehicle/rideshare information, for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher, Jim Fleming.

(Continued on page 8)
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.
Dear Desert Peaks Section Management Committee,

I wanted to bring to your attention some problems which a group of us (Greg Gerlach included) encountered last weekend attempting to gain access to the National Park in Sonoyta to climb Cerro Pinacate. Stopping at the Park Office near the entrance, we were told by the Ranger that the road to Red Cone was CLOSED until further notice. Initially the reason given was that there was a research project underway in the area; however, after further discussion we were told that the road was closed due to security concerns. When we pressed the ranger for details, he said that they 'were not at liberty to disclose' any information about the security issues.

Matt Hengst, who was leading the trip, spent some time talking with the Ranger to see if there was any way they could grant us access, explaining that we had driven over 500 miles from Los Angeles specifically to climb Cerro Pinacate. The Ranger was sympathetic, and offered to double check with his boss who was out looking for a group of locals who had entered the park through the closed gate without permission. When the boss returned, the answer was an emphatic “no” By this time, the group had congregated in the Park Office hoping that something might be worked out. The Ranger tried to interest us in going to visit the several craters near the entrance instead of climbing the peak, but as you could imagine, his words fell on deaf ears. At this point, we had no choice but to head back across the border empty-handed.

It's important to get the word out so that others do not similarly waste their time driving out there to try and climb the peak. The MC may even want to consider suspending the peak until if/when the road reopens. The Ranger suggested we could check back via email or phone to see if things had changed. A brochure we were given lists this email address: pinacate@concamp.gob.mx (I think Matt was given a business card as well - not sure what email address was on that). The phone number is listed as 638) 38 49 007 y 008.

We had spent the previous night at the campground at the Organ Pipe National Monument and went back there to climb Ajo after our fruitless trip to Mexico. Greg and I had arrived early Friday afternoon. Border Patrol officers were cruising around the park and stopped us several times to ask questions. The group was also stopped several times along the highway both entering and leaving the area. There seemed to be quite a bit of scrutiny going on, and they even ran the plates on two vehicles which we had left in the Visitor's parking lot while we drove across to Mexico. It did not occur to us to ask the Organ Pipe rangers about access to the 'Parque Natl El Pinacate', but they may have been able to provide some information since apparently there are some links between the two parks. I also read about an "International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA) located in Ajo, AZ.

Please let us know if you'd like an additional information.

Kathy Rich and Greg Gerlach
OUTINGS CHAIR
by Ann Perkins

We have a good number of trips planned for this winter and spring, many by leaders who have recently completed the Sierra Club’s leadership training program. If any of you are interested in becoming an outings leader for the DPS and/or other Sierra Club section, a first step is to attend the next leadership training seminar, to be held on April 13th, 2013 at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena. This all day class covers the basics of leadership, trip planning, and safety. The cost is $25, and there is an application available online at: angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc.

If you are already a leader, it’s important to keep your requirements current. First of all, be sure your Sierra Club membership is current (seems obvious, but it’s easy to let these things slip). Also, every four years the Standard First Aid Course (not just CPR) and the OLT 101 (the leadership training described above) should be renewed. The OLT requirement can be taken care of online in just a few hours. Go to http://angeles.sierraclub.org/omc/refreshing-requirements and look for Policy Update Requirement (PUR). Email your outings chair (that would be me, at this time) when you’ve updated any of these items.

Finally, a Mexico peaks problem arises again! On a recent trip to climb Cerro Pinacate, Matt Hengst (leader) and his group were stopped at the park entrance and told that the road to Red Cone and the area around the peak were closed until further notice. After some discussion on this matter, the officials finally admitted that there were “security concerns.” There were conflicting statements about when this situation might change, but Matt Hengst is going to try again in a few months and report back. The group obtained an email address: pinacate@concamp.gob.mx if anyone is thinking of climbing the peak soon and wants to try to check up on it. If the closure persists, the management committee will discuss suspending the peak.

 conservation
by Virgil Popescu

The Sierra Club’s Action Plan for 2013

This is a summary of our Conservation goals in 2013:

1) Nationally the Beyond Coal campaign helped to retire 125 coal fired plants and prevented the construction of another 168 plants. Now our Club will continue to fight to retire more coal plants in order to reduce by 30 percent the national coal-fired power plants production. At the same time, the Sierra Club will ensure that 2013 is our biggest year for wind, solar and energy efficiency.  

2) We will launch our Green Fleets Campaign to end the use of tar sand oil wherever possible and reduce oil consumption by 25% or more in 5 years.  

3) The Sierra Club will focus on enacting regulation that will end destructive drilling and reckless fracking, reducing natural gas expansion in the electricity sector.

4) Stand up to the development of dirty and fossil fuel on our public lands and offshore areas, specially in the Artic National Wildlife Refuge and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.  

5) Support activists in India, China and Australia to move the world beyond coal.  

6) The Sierra Club will continue to expand our Mission Outdoors programs in order to reach 1 million individuals by 2020.

Happy New Year in 2013!

DESERT SAGE - ELECTRONIC VERSION

You now have the option of receiving your Desert Sage via email. DPS members who have an email address on record have received or are receiving this Sage edition electronically via a link. For all other members/subscribers who do not have an email address, we will continue to send a hard copy Sage as usual. Any member/subscriber who is/has received this edition via a link and desires to continue to receive the Desert Sage in hardcopy format through the US Mail, should send an e-mail to the DPS Membership Chair ronbartell@yahoo.com, or leave a message for Ron at (310) 546-1977 requesting continued mailing of a hard copy. If you take no action, the Desert Sage will only be sent electronically to members/subscribers with an email address on file.
SAVE MAY 19, 2013
FOR THE DESERT PEAKS SECTION ANNUAL BANQUET.
PROGRAM DETAILS AND BANQUET INFORMATION WILL BE IN THE NEXT SAGE AND ON THE SECTION’S WEB SITE

DPS MEMBERSHIP
By Ron Bartell

Membership Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Sustaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriber</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity Report

Sustaining Renewals

James Barlow    1 year
Richard L. Carey 1 year
Steve Corona    2 years
Gregory Frux    1 year
John & Kathleen Lakey 1 year
Virgil Popescu  1 year
Larry & Barbee Tidball 1 year

Renewals

Lisa Barboza    1 year
Daryn Dodge     1 year
Larry Edmonds   1 year
Paul Garry      1 year
Bob Greenawalt  2 years
Matthew Hengst  2 years
Ron & Leora Jones 1 year
Jerry & Nancy Keating 2 years
Gary Murta      3 years
Bill Oliver     3 years
Kathryn Rich    2 years
Daniel B A Richter 2 years
Jennifer & Gerry Roach 1 year
Jim Throgmorton 1 year
Bruce & Terry Turner 1 year
Asher Waxman    1 year
Roger Weingaertner 1 year

Donations

$10 from Gregory Frux
$10 from Roger Weingaertner

For the Desert Peaks Section Annual Banquet, Program Details and Banquet Information will be in the next Sage and on the Section’s Web Site.
MINUTES OF DPS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday, October 14, 2012
Home of Dave and Elaine Baldwin
Attendees: Jim Fleming (Chair), Pat Arredondo (Treasurer), Greg Gerlach (Programs), Ron Eckelmann (Secretary), Ron Bartell (Membership), Elaine Baldwin (Sage Mailer), Kathy Rich (Member Participant and SPS Vice-Chair).

Jim called the meeting to order at 4:42 p.m.

I) Secretary’s Report
   a) The minutes of the DPS banquet were published in the July/August issue of the Sage. No corrections were noted, so the minutes were approved as published.

II) Treasurer’s Report
   a) Pat Pat reported a checking account balance of $2,538.31. Total income year to date is $4,855.00; total expenses are $5,327.98. The $472.98 shortfall is largely due to a loss on the banquet and payments to the temporary Sage editor.
   b) The savings account balance is $501.00.
   c) Future reports will be sent as PDF files which should be easier for everyone to open.

III) Outings and Safety/Mountaineering Committee Chair Report
   a) Ann reported by email from her summer home in Washington. Six trips are scheduled and two more are awaiting approval.
   b) Scheduled trips are now reported on both the DPS and OARS websites.
   c) There has been a request to lead a couple of the Mexican peaks as an official DPS trip. Ann found the form required for international trips on the Angeles Chapter website. But it seemed very convoluted, so she is seeking clarification.
   d) Meeting/potluck dates and hosts have been confirmed as follows:
      Nov 11 Christine Mitchell and Ron Bartell
      Dec 8 Tina and Tom Bowman
      Jan 13 Gloria Miladin
      Feb 10 Francesca Marcus
      Mar 10 Tom Sumner
      Apr 14 Barbee and Larry Tidball

IV) Membership Chair Report
   a) Prior to the meeting Ron emailed a copy of the spreadsheet he uses to track membership status. It shows that all subscription categories have declined except “sustaining subscriber”.
   b) Ron described the communication path whereby the Sage printer is notified of the number of hardcopies to print and electronic subscribers receive an email link to the current issue. (The day after the meeting he emailed this procedure to all members of the management committee.)

V) Conservation Report
   a) Subject tabled.

VI) Programs Chair Report
   a) Greg will contact The Proud Bird Restaurant to learn the availability and cost of the Red Barron and LeMay banquet rooms. The banquet date was set for Sunday, May 19 to avoid conflict with the Chapter banquet, Mothers Day, and the Memorial Day weekend.
   b) Other venues to consider are Coco Palms and the Monrovian Room. The HPS has held its banquets at the latter, which provides a buffet rather than a sit-down dinner.

VII) Old Business
   a) Search for New Sage Editor.
      i) Greg announced that he would volunteer to be editor if he could be relieved of some of his duties as Programs Chair. Everyone agreed that this could be arranged, and we enthusiastically supported Jim’s
b) Number of Sage Hardcopies
   i) Ron currently expects to need 74 hardcopies of the next Sage issue. This is considerably more than the
      50 copies targeted by Bob Wyka last June, but we all agreed that hardcopies should be sent to everyone
      who requested them.

c) Road and Peak Guide Version 6 Editor
   i) Jim reported that Daryn has resigned as editor. He needed help, but no one volunteered.

VIII) New Business
   a) Wilderness Plan for Death Valley
      i) Subject tabled.

IX) Announcements
   a) Elaine has extra back issues of the Sage that she would like to get rid of.
   b) The next meeting and potluck will be
       November 11, 2012
       Home of Christine Mitchell and Ron Bartell
       1556 21st Street
       Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
       310-546-1977
       christinebartell@yahoo.com

X) Adjournment
   a) The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.
IV) Membership Chair Report
   a) Two days prior to the meeting Ron emailed the following update: “Since the October 14 meeting, there have been 16 renewals for a total of $270. Only 4 of those are people that were expired in my October report (most of them were 10/31/12 expirations that renewed in response to my eMail reminder that went out just after the recent Sage).”
   b) Someone commented that young people are used to paying their bills online and might find it troublesome to write a check, address an envelope, stamp it and place it in a mailbox. (Unfortunately, Chapter regulations prevented us from completing an application with PayPal last year.)
   c) It was generally agreed that membership renewal reminders and notices about electronic Sage distribution should be carefully worded so as not to further offend our members.

V) Conservation Report
   a) Virgil’s report on our Energy Dilemma appears in the current issue (Sep/Dec 2012) of the Sage.

VI) Programs Chair Report  (Jim reported for Greg, who was on a DPS trip.)
   a) The banquet will be held in the LeMay Room of The Proud Bird Restaurant (The larger Red Barron Room had already been reserved.) Banquet room and meal prices will be the same as last time if at least 50 people attend. The first of three required deposits has been paid, $394.11.
   b) The previous banquet incurred an extra bar charge because we didn’t meet the sales minimum. We agreed to avoid this charge by using the nearby public bar.
   c) Selection of banquet speaker. Death Valley Ranger Charlie Gallagan and Steve Smith were contacted last time and agreed to speak. Ron Jones suggested the Manager of the CSU Fullerton Desert Research Station at ZZYZX. He also commented that Whitewater and Joshua Tree would be consistent with DPS interests. Anza Borrego was also mentioned.

VII) Old Business
   a) Road and Peak Guide Version 6 Editor
      i) The position still needs to be filled.
      ii) Leaders and participants of both official and private trips should be encouraged to report Guide corrections and additions, as we depend on these to keep the Guide current. This is another one of those tasks which leaders can delegate to trip participants.
   b) Wilderness Plan for Death Valley
      i) Subject Tabled. (But refer to the related Peak Register Report by Daryn Dodge in the Sep/Dec 2012 issue of the Sage.)

VIII New Business
   a) None

IX) Announcements
   a) The next meeting and always popular holiday potluck will be:
      December 9, 2012
      Home of Tina and Tom Bowman
      283 Argonne Ave.
      Long Beach, CA 90803
      562-438-3809
      tina@bowmandesigngroup.com

X) Adjournment
   a) The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.
In Memoriam
Lowell Phillip “Phil” Bruce, Feb. 9, 1928—Oct. 18, 2012
Contributed By Harry Brumer

Unfortunately, I am reporting the passing of Phil Bruce. Below is a letter from his daughter relaying the news and a write-up of his life.

Remembering Phil, who was a leader for the Desert Peaks as well as the Hundred and Sierra Peaks sections. Also, he was a member of the Rock Climbing section and set-up the drop test which was an up-lifting experience for those being tested. As the saying goes “his like will not be soon seen again”.

Lowell was born in the winter in Montana to Helen & Cecil Bruce. The family moved to North Dakota where he grew up. He enlisted in the armed forces at the age of 17. Phil served in a branch of the U.S. Navy known as the CB’s, which undertook major construction projects overseas and within combat zones through the end of WWII. Upon his return home from the war, his life led to a series of jobs which eventually took him to California. Under the G.I. Bill, he attended welding school and worked in that field while studying and training to become an electrician. During this time he met Ione from Iowa. She had moved to Los Angeles to work during the war. They married and had a daughter. For over 35 years they lived in Downey, California where they purchased property and he built a house for the family.

Phil and his family traveled extensively throughout the western half of the U.S. in RV’s. With Ione, they both were very involved with the Sierra Club as hiking guides around Southern California. They also traveled in Europe and visited Ione’s family in Norway.

Work as a union electrician was a very big part of Phil’s life. Over the years he was involved with many major building projects within the greater Los Angeles area. After retiring from the labor intensive electrician trade, he went on to teach adult education for several years to people learning to become electricians. Throughout his life he always had a small “Phil’s-Fix-It” business on the side and dabbled a bit in metal sculpture.

Phil and Ione moved to the big island of Hawaii and lived there for nearly 20 years. He enjoyed the beauty and people of Hawaii while spending time with his grandson while he was growing up. Phil was a member of: Elks, Waikoloa Community Church, Waikoloa Hiking Club, Hawaii County Senior Volunteers and an organizer of the Waikoloa Full Moon Picnics at A-Bay.

The last part of his life included pleasurable time living with Ione at the Regency Senior Living Community in Fallbrook, CA where relatives lived close by. Phil was a unique individual who was interested and involved with people. He has shared much with all of us and will be remembered forever in our hearts.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ione; his daughter, Charlene (Floyd) Lapinid of Waikoloa, HI; sister, Dorothy Jean Traver of Salt Lake City, UT; grandson, Dustin Lapinid of Waikoloa; sister-in-law, Joyce Van Voorst of Fallbrook, CA.
GREAT BASIN PEAK SECTION NEWS

By Sharon Marie Wilcox

On the Trail with the Great Basin Peak Section, Summer 2012

Members of the GBPS have shared many trail memories and checked off numerous peaks from their lists this hiking season. Trips covered the Great Basin from North to South so this short summary only recounts a few of many adventures.

Early season trips explored the Humboldt Range to hike Star Peak, the Pershing County high point, the Churchill County high point and the Toiyabe Range to hike Lander County’s high point, Bunker Hill. Bonanza, Griffith and Charleston Peaks were climbed in the Spring Mountains as we explored the Mount Charleston Wilderness. What a contrast to sit on the summits of a beautiful mountain range and look out to the distant sprawl of Las Vegas.

Rich Wilson planned a number of fine outings. In June, he took us up two GB peaks: Donnelly Peak, the Calico Mountains high point and Division Peak, the Division Range high point. We explored the Calico Mountains Wilderness, plus verified that it was a good year for rattlesnakes.

In July, Rich introduced us to the Pine Forest Range and Blue Lakes Wilderness Study area. Onion Valley Reservoir provided an excellent base camp for hikers to climb Duffer and South Duffer Peak.

August started with an exploration of the Granite Range, where we hiked Granite Peak and enjoyed great views of the Black Rock Desert. Later in August, Rich lead us to Great Basin National Park where everyone scattered to work on their different peak climbing agendas. Quoted from Rich’s trip recap, "Our team put one or more hikers on the summits of Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Pyramid, Washington, Lincoln, Granite & Bald - we surely tamed The Snake - as well as Diamond, Grafton, South Schell, Peak 11,768’ and Peak 11,368’. 26 total ascents!” A productive outing even though challenged by the afternoon rainstorms.

A Big Congratulations to John Ide who completed the Nevada County Highpoints on Mt. Grafton in Lincoln County!

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

A Day in the Desatoyas

By Sharon Marie Wilcox, May 3, 2012

Dave Porter and I left Reno at 7:00am excited about hiking another peak on the Great Basin Peak Section list. Desatoya Peak (9973’) is the high point of Churchill County and the tallest peak in the Desatoya Mountains. A quick caffeine refuel, then we headed to Fallon to meet John Ide at the Churchill County fairgrounds.

Following the driving directions in Bob Sumner’s book, Hiking Nevada County High Points, we drove up the canyon along Edwards Creek. Signs along the road explained that the Edwards Creek Riparian Restoration Project is a joint project between the landowner of Smith Valley Ranch and other organizations. This explained the cattle sauntering along the creek through the restoration area. A herd of wild horses paced us as we continued up the road through notably large Pinyon and Jeffrey Pine Trees. We reached Basque Summit, then continued driving 0.4 miles to park at the fence line that divides Lander and Churchill Counties. The road had a couple of rocky eroded areas prior to the summit that would be difficult without high clearance.

The route follows a road and cattle trails, so this was an easy hike to the peak with no bushwhacking. We encountered a few lingering snow patches after we left the road, but nothing that wasn’t easy to skirt around or cross. The day was windy with a few strong gusts however once we reached the summit we had a pleasant stop to eat, sign the register and absorb the phenomenal 360-degree view. It is difficult to describe the sea...
ranges and peaks viewed from the summit of most Great Basin Peaks, and this was no exception. We descended Desatoya Peak along the ridgeline to walk up North Twin at 9965', then retraced our route back to the car. Another enjoyable day spent in the beauty and solitude of the Great Basin.

The Mt Wilson Trail Crew of Sierra Madre is looking for volunteers to work on the trail this season. A new lower section is now in progress. We work up on the trail a couple times a week and we take a few volunteers each time. We have all the equipment and tools. Volunteers should wear what they would for a climb including a decent pair of boots, sun screen, water, and clothes that you can get dirty in. Hard hats are usually not necessary except under special occasions like a rock fall after a storm. Most of the work is maintenance and expanding the new trail we have built to bypass the dangerous rocky section of the lower trail which has been prone to rock fall. Charlie Bell is our Trail Master and Dan Richter is coordinating volunteers for him. You can work once or on a regular basis; any help we get is greatly appreciated.

If you want to help, please contact Dan Richter at dan@danrichter.com. This is a non-Sierra Club activity.

The Mt. Wilson Trail up Little Santa Anita Canyon is the oldest trail into the San Gabriel Mountains. It was built in 1864 by Benjamin Wilson, who overhauled a Gabriellino Indian path in order to log the stands of incense cedar and sugar pine on the mountain that now bears his name. The first telescope was carried up this trail to Mt. Wilson in 1889. During the Great Hiking Era (1895-1938), thousands of Southern Californians rode the Pacific Electric red cars to Sierra Madre, disembarked and hiked up this path to the popular trail resort at Orchard Camp. Forty thousand hikers and horseback riders passed over the trail in 1911, its peak year (Los Angeles Times).

The trail is also the site of the annual Mount Wilson Trail Race, the second oldest race of its kind in California.
On Saturday March 10, 2012, 26 DPS friends gathered in the Mojave at the foot of the Orocopia Mountains for the 19th DPS Chili Cook-Off. The event had originally been scheduled for Fall 2011, but was postponed for want of cooks. The weekend got off to a dubious start on Friday when the advance party found the intended site (and the nearby backup) occupied by parties of off-roaders. The desert is getting crowded! Or maybe we were just too close to the freeway. After a short search, Jack Wickel located a nice site in a flat gravel wash about a mile away. We posted signs to the new location, left word with the party at the original site to send our people further up the road, and settled in for a nice evening including a beautiful moonrise. Saturday dawned pleasant and clear. As the Friday night arrivals were finishing morning coffee, the rest of the group started to arrive. Kathy Rich and Greg Gerlach led a group for a climb of Orocopia, others enjoyed the display of wildflowers including Blazing Star, Lupine, Chia, and pink Monkeyflower and cooks began to register and set to work on their chili as more people filtered in throughout the day. By early afternoon, the following entries were on the registration board:

A Laura Webb Maui Zowie Chili  
B Dave Baldwin St. Paddy's Pig  
C Peter Christian Fiesta Adobo-A-Go-Go  
D Gloria Miladin North-West Chili  
E Tom Sumner Pavo con Sorpresa  
F Barbee Tidball Chiliritas w/ Chili Joe + Chili Cupcakes  
G Stella Cheung Spring has Sprung Vegetarian Chili  
H Mat Kelliher Hueros Turkey Chili  
I James Barlow South Philly Chili

Tantalizing aromas wafted across the camp as chiles were roasted, meat was browned, and 9 pots of spicy and flavorful chili goodness simmered away on as many stoves. Brian Smith managed the margarita bar as happy hour app-
roached. At 4:30pm, with the sun low in the west, the cooks assembled before the crowd to pitch their various creations. Laura conjured island visions with her sweet pineapple chili; Dave described the ingredients in his chili verde honoring St. Patrick's Day; Peter turned the day into a fiesta – Ole!; Gloria described her exotic red chili of caribou meat; former champion Tom, in poncho and sombrero, promised a turkey surprise; Barbee presented her medley of chili-joes, spicy margaritas, and chile cupcakes; Stella celebrated the season with her spicy lentil chili; Mat introduced the special family recipe; and James reached back to his east coast roots. After the presentations, cooks retreated to their kitchens to get ready to serve, ballots were handed out to the judges, and soon the tasting frenzy was on. It's no easy task to taste and rank 9 chilies, but the judges performed admirably and as the sun slipped below the horizon and people settled in around the campfire, scoring commenced with help from Jack Wickel and a laptop computer. All entries were ranked and the top six were awarded hand-lettered certificates and laser-engraved ladles:

Best Texan and Best Overall – Dave Baldwin
1st Runner-Up Texan – Laura Webb
Best Traditional – Peter Christian
1st Runner-Up Traditional – Gloria Miladin
2nd Runner-Up Traditional – Tom Sumner
Best Vegetarian – Stella Cheung

We’ve had a lot of fun collaborating with leaders Larry and Barbee Tidball (many thanks!) and hosting the DPS Chili Cook-Off since 2008 and are planning for next year. But all good things must come to an end and we intend to retire as hosts after the 20th Cook-Off. If you would be interested in hosting or leading the DPS Chili Cook-Off starting in 2014, please contact us or the DPS Outings Chair.
RED SAND of a BURNT LAND  
Namibia, Sept/Oct 2012

Blame it all on those old National Geographic maps.....Luderitz...Swakopmund...the Skeleton Coast...the Forbidden Diamond Coast...and a PBS “Nature” some years back showing elephants loping against a background of blood-red sand dunes. Namibia, a land stranger than dreams, a must on my bucket list.

First, let’s set the stage. Long story short: Namibia was once known as South-West Africa when Germany briefly ran it as a colony until 1919. Late to the colonial game, they ended up with a sparsely populated desert land that was left over after the more rapacious European powers snapped up the seemingly more choice acreage (although Namibia proved to be a treasure chest of valuable minerals). The Treaty of Versailles stripped Germany of its colonies as punishment for behaving badly in World War I, and the League of Nations gave South Africa trusteeship. Fast forwarding into the mid-twentieth century, the mineral wealth of the country – diamonds, copper, tin, uranium -- had been proven, and South Africa decided to hold on to the place even though the United Nations told them it was time to let go. When South Africa decided to annex the country and institute apartheid, that proved a bit much for some of the native African population, who formed the (unfortunately Marxist-tinted) South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) and commenced a guerilla war, particularly fierce in the north where they had help from Angola. South Africa finally threw in the towel and granted independence in 1990, making it one of the newer countries on the planet. With a population of less than 2 – ½ million in an area bigger than Texas, it is also, along with Mongolia, one of the most thinly populated. The German influence is still surprisingly strong, along with a Afrikaner (South African Dutch) presence from the days when Pretoria ran the show. You’ll be in some little bush town and see a weathered street sign in Gothic lettering – “Kaiser-Wilhelm-Strasse”. Or (in Swakopmund) a Baroque church that belongs in the Tirol. However, the official language is English, which makes it easy for gringos. Europeans are concentrated in Windhoek, the capital and the only big city (population ca. 300,000) and in the few settlements on the coast; they also run big cattle and sheep ranches in the interior uplands. The Germans brew two exquisite nationally-sold beers in two large breweries in Windhoek; “Tafel lager” and “Windhoek lager”.

A stable and peaceful democracy, Namibia is one of the mellowest and safest places for tourists in a continent much of which, sadly, runs the gamut from sketchy to dangerous to hell-hole. Whites and blacks seem to get along pretty well, and I give the Namibian government a lot of credit for trying to do the right thing for their people and – despite lingering problems with poverty and AIDS -- not let the country lapse into another African basket case. The locals are generally very friendly, and often seem quite delighted to meet an American to try out their English and ask about Obama. (There are still a few places where we’re somewhat of a rarity – I only met two other Americans in ten days in country.) They’re big on environment and conservation: the entire coast from Angola to South Africa is preserved in national parks. There’s a fairly well-developed tourist infrastructure, slanted more towards camping than motels and hotels; we found some very nice campgrounds out in the middle of absolute nowhere. While, as anywhere else, you should always be aware of your surroundings, you’re simply not very worried about your personal safety. The ultimate gringo test – except for one place where our guide warned us the water was not good, I drank the water, and lots of it, because it was hot....no problemo. Also, as it’s mostly semiarid to desert, a lot of nasty tropical African diseases don’t exist. This odd stew

(Continued on page 21)

The Desert Sage

Jan/Feb 2013
of peoples and cultures makes for some strange contrasts – “diversity” in spades. Some Namibians live in mud-plastered thatched-roof huts; some tap on iPhones in steel-and-glass office buildings in Windhoek; and some live in a neighborhood in Walvis Bay that looks Exactly like Shoreline Drive in Santa Barbara.

The geology and plant life are utterly alien to a North American. (But not the ornamental plants – California fan palms, Canary Island date palms, eucalyptus, oleanders, bougainvillea, pepper trees – just like Santa Monica!) The geology is of another, immeasurably ancient planet, so unlike California where I can show you folds in Quaternary sediments. Elsewhere, continents have collided and seafloors have subducted, Himalayas and Sierras have crumpled up, but southern Africa has been a “passive continental margin” – without a mountain-building episode – for about half a Billion years, since the end of the Precambrian. So the terrain not only looks older than time— it almost is. Even the Appalachians are youngsters compared to these primeval hills. One of the few events since the Cambrian has been the deposition of red Permian sandstones of the Karroo Group in basins on the west side of the country – rock just like Utah, complete with petroglyphs! Probably not long after Namibia and Brazil parted company in the Cretaceous Period and the South Atlantic opened, the frigid Benguela Current must have begun sweeping up from Antarctica, suppressing rainfall and creating the world’s oldest desert and a fog-bound coast with unswimmably icy water on the Tropic of Capricorn. (Interestingly, the Namib is at exactly the same latitude as the even drier Atacama on the west coast of South America.) It is this combination of harsh conditions and complete isolation from the rest of the planet that has given rise to the freakish plant life such as quiver trees, “cactuses” which aren’t cactuses at all but, rather, poinsettias (euphorbias) and the indescribably weird Welwitschia.

After almost two days on a plane and laying over (Denver-Frankfurt-Johannesburg-Windhoek) I arrived at Windhoek Airport (in the middle of nowhere 40 miles east of the city) to meet my ride to the Roof of Africa Hotel in the hilly southeastern edge of the capital. Next morning I was picked up by Wild Dog Safaris (highly recommended; www.wilddogsafaris.com) and driven to their HQ where I met our safari leader, an irrepressibly jolly fellow from near the Botswana border name of Milner Kandjavera, (“Tomorrow is another day!”) and his quiet sidekick Manfred. I also met my fellow adventurers; a delightful young German couple, two droll married gay Dutch guys, a fiftyish Aussie couple, two older Belgian ladies, and three young Chinese*. (No Americans. I asked Milner if he ever took Americans around, and he answered, “Very few.”) Interestingly, (as was the case when I was on a similarly multinational 4x4 expedition in Bolivia last year) the “lingua franca” was simply assumed to be English. *Many Chinese have money now, and they want to see the deposition of red Permian sandstones of the world just like the Americans and Germans. Last summer in Yellowstone they were everywhere.

We piled into our safari van, a South African body on a Toyota truck chassis which has no exact equivalent in the US, and headed north past the gritty industrial zone on the edge of Windhoek on a few miles of honest-to-God freeway, which soon became the country’s two-lane main north-south road, on which they drive on the wrong side. Near Windhoek, there was fairly heavy traffic, with trucks closing at about a combined 120 mph...best not to think about a head-on....We bought groceries and beer in the prosperous-looking farming town of Okahandja, complete with a new strip mall...
that looked exactly like it had been airlifted from Anytown, USA.

The first night, we camped at a praiseworthy institution called the Africat Foundation, which I had actually seen on PBS’ “Nature”. They save orphaned cheetahs with the goal of releasing them into the wild as functioning adults – and they also work to educate the locals to live with big cats and not harm them. Key is teaching little kids the right way. (I gave them a donation.) Our eventual destination after two days was Etosha National Park in the north-central part of the country. The park is centered on (at the end of the dry season when we were there – our fall, their spring) a huge salt flat with waterholes at its edge. The end of the “dry” makes for a rather dreary and monotonous flat landscape of dormant gray thorn scrub, but this forces the animals to congregate at the few permanent waterholes, some of which are easily accessible in a vehicle. Long protected from hunting in a restricted-access area, the animals have lost their fear of people in cars, (visitors are strongly ordered to remain inside) and the resulting spectacle is every Walt Disney nature movie you’ve ever seen come to life. Elephants, leopards, rhinos, giraffes, wart-hogs, ostriches, kudus, springbok, impalas, zebras, lions, hyenas, ostriches, wildebeest...how exciting and different seeing them on their turf, living wild, rather than in a zoo. We stayed in two different fenced-off campgrounds with all the amenities – showers, plumbing, swimming pools, electric outlets, alcohol bars, restaurants, gift shops! Posh compared to your basic Forest Service campground, and hardly Third World subsistence!

Southwest from the Himba region, we entered Damaraland, steadily losing elevation from the mile-high interior as the country grew hotter and more arid. The hottest campsite was by a wide dry riverbed near Twyfelfontein (Afrikaans for “Doubtful Spring”) in midday heat so intense it was almost painful to walk around in the open and, remember, this was early springtime; I can’t even conceive of what it’s like in early summer before the monsoon hits. Fortunately, because of near-zero humidity, it cooled quickly at sunset, and evenings were always very pleasant. Unlike what we’d seen so far, this country had somewhat of a familiar look; Utah-like cliffs of red Permian sandstone, part of the global desert of Pangaea. In an amazing example of the convergence of the lifestyles of desert peoples, some early people had dallied around the spring and found the flat desert-varnished sandstone slab faces to be perfect canvases for their art – just like Newspaper Rock in Canyonlands, only different animals. We were guided to a number of spectacular petroglyph panels at this UNESCO World Heritage site. (We were warned that this area is also ground zero for the Namibian scorpion community – 13 different species, largest variety in one place anywhere. No regrets that I didn’t experience this particular wildlife.)
From Twyfelfontein we drove on wide but washboarded gravel roads (“African massage” according to Milner) past 8,440’ Brandberg, a huge granite massif which is the country’s high point. There are guide services I found on the Internet who will take you to the top; it’s a several-day backpack. While I’d had thoughts of climbing it – surely one of the ultimate desert peakbags – it didn’t work out, and, considering the heat, I wasn’t too disappointed. The country flattened, kept dropping, and became ever more desolate as we approached the fabled Skeleton Coast, truly one of the ends of the earth. Oddly, the drier it got, the cooler it got until we entered the shredded low gray edge of the marine layer that usually hands over the coast. This foggy coastal desert – almost an identical twin to Chile’s Atacama, on the west coast of a Southern Hemisphere continent at exactly the same latitude – got its ghoulish name in the days before satellite phones and aerial searches, when ships bound for the Cape of Good Hope would wreck on rocks in the fog. Even if the survivors managed to get ashore through the frigid and furious surf, there was no hope – no water, no food, and no habitation – so they would leave their bones in the sand. (In our short drive along the road-accessible part of the Coast, we saw the rusting ruins of three wrecked ships.)

At the south end of the Skeleton Coast is the strange settlement of Swakopmund (German for “Mouth of the Swakop [dry river]”). The place is heavily European, as the native people avoided the coastal desert with no water or forage. We spent two cool and pleasant nights here in a spotlessly clean motel-like hotel. It’s sort of a “beach resort” for people from Windhoek – reportedly the clammy gray marine layer breaks up some in summer, although I can’t imagine the water ever warms much – and the angry churning surf is torn by rip currents. Frozen in time and utterly incongruous in Africa, colonial-era turn-of-the-century German buildings, some with ornate Art Nouveau architecture, survive, as well as a die-hard German-ness; I bought a souvenir picture book at the “Swakopmunder Buchhandlung” (on sale; the Hunger Games trilogy). There’s an aquarium and museum, restaurants, and the small but jaw-dropping Kristallgalerie, simply one of the greatest geological museums on earth. (Globalization note: I was getting low on cash, and Milner suggested I try the ATM at the Standard Bank of Namibia branch. I have a checking account at a little local bank with a few branches in Northern Colorado. Dubiously, I handed it my card and INSTANTLY the screen brightened with “HELLO ROBERT C MICHAEL”! On the Skeleton Coast. At the end of the earth.) The Dutch, Chinese, and Belgians left us here.

There are lots of touristy things to do, from camel rides to paragliding, but the German couple and I chose a desert natural history tour to see the dune life – weird little plants, spiders, beetles, chameleons and the nasty little sidewinding adder. (“I have good news and bad news about the adder”, said our Afrikaner guide. If he bites you, you probably won’t die. The bad news is, you’ll be in such agony you’ll wish you were dead.”) The adder likes to hide in the dunes with only his sand-colored eyes showing. In the afternoon, we penetrated inland into the rocky part of the Namib, four-wheeling up a spectacular canyon in ancient tortured writhing metamorphic rock (reminded me of some of the four-wheeling I’ve done in Anza-Borrego, but more menacing) to visit Welwitschia mirabilis, arguably the world’s weirdest plant, two ground-level leaves that grow from a woody core for a thousand years or more – shredding into a disheveled tangle, crumbling into dust at their ancient ends. The leaves feel like plastic or fiberglass, not like (Continued from page 22)

(Continued on page 24)
anything living. Somehow they reminded me of the plant-thing in “The Little Shop of Horrors”.

Saving the best for last, we drove inland from Swakopmund into the heat, past more bizarre plant life such as quiver trees (tree aloes) and cactuses that aren’t cactuses but cousins of poinsettias (Euphorbia). We stopped at well-named Solitaire, a hundred miles from nowhere, the home of a jolly Afrikaner who bakes famous apple pies. Just beyond the Sesriem campsite at the eastern edge of the Namib-Naukluft National Park stretches one of the emptiest and most inaccessible places on Earth outside the polar ice sheets – the vast red and pink sand sea of the burnt heart of the Namib.

Tired of the crowds at Zuma or Redondo? On the ocean side of this erg – IF you could get there – you’d be the only human for over a hundred miles. Guaranteed. This whole area used to be the Sperrgebiet – the forbidden diamond coast, where diamonds washing down the Orange River from South Africa are carried up the coast by the Benguela Current. (DeBeers hates competition. The forbidden zone still exists, but it’s been reduced to a much smaller area on the southwest corner of the country, nearer the mouth of the Orange River.)

Rising early the next morning, we drove the only road into the dunes, past “Dune 45”; it’s traditional to climb this dune to see the sunrise, and we did so along with some German and South African folks from the campground. The first reddish rays of the sun set aglow a scene such as must exist on Mars – mountainous dunes of every shape, salmon pink to deep red according to the lighting, stretching forever – a landscape both soft and harsh, lovely and lethal.

We drove to the end of the short road and hiked from there in the fading morning cool about three miles west, crossing a few small dunes, along the mostly sand-free dry bed of the Tsauochab River, to one of the most surreal sights on Earth – Deadvlei (vlei=valley in Afrikaans) – under a deep blue sky – like walking into a Salvador Dali painting, but FAR more beautiful. It was getting hot by noon, so we welcomed a 4WD shuttle back to the parking area from Sossusvlei, the sand-dammed end of the river when it flows, an ephemeral waterhole and the best chance to see the rare desert elephants in the wet season. A short but spectacular slot canyon traverse in Sesriem Canyon finished off one of the great desert days of my life.

Next morning it was back to Windhoek and a nights rest at the Roof of Africa before two days in a plane and airports, traversing Zimbabwe, Congo, Libya, the Alps, Holland, the Greenland icecap, Hudson’s Bay and North Dakota enroute to DIA. Already I’m dreaming of going back and seeing the southern part of the country – Fish River Canyon, quiver tree groves, the one permitted road through the Sperrgebiet to Luderitz and the diamond ghost towns slowly being buried beneath the ancient and eternal Namib.
GODS WITHOUT MEN (2011), Hari Kunzru

For a British writer of Indian heritage, Hari Kunzru has a surprisingly good grasp of Mojave Desert history. The author of three previous novels, The Impressionist, Transmission, and My Revolutions, Kunzru is the recipient of several accolades, including the Somerset Maugham Award, and being considered by the British literary magazine Granta as one of twenty best young British authors.

Gods Without Men, Kunzru’s latest work, while set mostly in the present, often returns to earlier Mojave Desert events, with each flashback casting an eerie glow over the high desert landscape. A New York Times reviewer suggests that Kunzru’s theme is “innerconnectivity across time and space…an embodiment of our new world of flattened time and space,” while a Los Angeles Times reviewer prefers to think of Kunzru’s characters as being “adrift in an indifferent universe, looking for symbols and rhymes.” This review, however, while acknowledging Kunzru’s surrealistic intent, is more concerned with the desert itself, a place where one can “contemplate the impassive face of God.”

The first reference to the past is presented in the form of a letter dated August 1778, sent by a subordinate stationed at the Tucson presidio to his Comandante General in regard to Fray Francisco Garcés—the Franciscan Padre credited with making the first non-native crossing of the Mojave Desert. The subordinate writes that Fray Garcés told him that during his solo desert crossing, after being miraculously saved from martyrdom at the hands of the Jamajab Indians, he encountered “a representation of the Trinity, in the form of three vast spires of stone, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, rising up out of the desert floor as a symbol of divine mercy and grace. At this place he encountered an angel in the form of a man, who conversed with him and revealed certain mysteries. He appears troubled yet by this encounter…”

A second flashback occurs in 1871, this one regarding Nephi Parr, a Mormon miner disfellowshipped for his part in the ambush and murder of a man who defiled the corpse of Joseph Smith. Returning to the Three-Finger Rocks area, the scene of the ambush, we find Parr, after breathing quicksilver vapors while purifying his silver ore, in the process of dying. “Leaning low over the horse’s neck, for he could not sit upright,” he sees an airship circling above, one that “came down and the Angel Moroni and the gods of many worlds appeared, calling him up to exaltation.” (In fact, Brigham Young did send prospectors out in search of valuable mineral deposits).

In 1920, a war-damaged ethnologist, Deighton, and his young protégé, Eliza, arrive in the Three-Finger Rocks area to transcribe the local Indian language and folklore. In a Pygmalion/My Fair Lady-like story, long-neglected Eliza has an affair with Willie Prince, an Indian, causing Deighton to become jealous. Soon afterward, because of Deighton’s culpability, a manhunt is begun for Prince who is falsely accused of (Continued on page 26)
kidnapping a small white boy. The pursuit ends when Prince, who manages to elude the posse for several days by rapidly covering long distances on foot—similar to the true Willie Boy incident of 1909—is shot dead while taking refuge in Three-Finger Rocks. Also akin to the Willie Boy story, the posse burns Prince’s corpse on the spot.

In the 1950s, the Pinnacles—nee Three-Finger Rocks—becomes a haven for the Star People, members of the Space Brothers, associates of the Ashtar Galactic Command.

Because latitude of the rocks is 2047.6215 minutes of arc north, the reciprocal value of which is 0.000486, the Pinnacles are deemed “in harmony” with the 486’ tall Great Pyramid of Giza, “an ancient communications device of unsurpassed importance in connecting humankind with the directors of the spiritual program for our planet.” The Galactic Command thus opts to establish Earth headquarters in a cave beneath the Pinnacles and use the surrounding area as a campground for the annual convention of Star People.

Most likely, Kunzru’s fictional Pinnacles are based on Giant Rock, northwest of Landers, CA, where, during the 1950s, the extraterrestrialist George Van Tassle built the Integration, a structure dedicated for research into such subjects as time, anti-gravity, and extending human life.

Kunzru never pins down the exact location of his Pinnacles. What we know is that they are close to an unnamed Marine Reservation—no doubt modeled on the actual Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, near a town—which has to be Twenty Nine Palms, and that the rocks are eventually incorporated into a new unnamed National Park—certainly Joshua Tree National Park,

There are other flashbacks as well, all of which suggest the presence of some kind of cosmic force field around the Pinnacles. The main story line, however, concerns Jaz and Lisa Matharu, a well-to-do young Brooklyn couple. Jaz is a second-generation Punjabi-American with a master’s in mathematics from MIT, who works for an NYC brokerage firm developing an ultra-fast trading program. Lisa, who works in publishing, is an American Jew with a master’s in comparative literature from Brown.

Unfortunately, the couples’ first and only child, a son, Raj, was born severely autistic, a condition which turns the Matharus’ good life upside down. To add to their stress, during a sorry attempt at a vacation in California, Raj, 4 years old at the time, vanishes during a day trip to the Pinnacles.

Since the book’s cover blurb gives it away, it’s safe to mention that months later, during a night training exercise on the Marine Corps base, Raj is found. But there is something is different about the boy on his return. Indeed, he appears to be healed. Why?

As the title that Kunzru borrows from Balzac implies, “In the desert, you see, there is everything and nothing….it is God without men.”

SALT TO SUMMIT: A VAGABOND JOURNEY FROM DEATH VALLEY TO MOUNT WHITNEY (2012), Daniel Arnold

Random Thoughts: 1) If Daniel Arnold isn’t a member of the Desert Peaks Section, he should be. 2) Member or not, if he has or can put together a Salt to Summit program, he would make an excellent speaker at our annual banquet. 3) Personally, I’m envious of Arnold’s sense of adventure and style of writing. Grudgingly, however, I will attempt to make this a fair review.

At the end of March in a recent unspecified
year, Daniel Arnold and the goblin—his huge pack—board a bus at the corner of Torrance Blvd. and Pacific Coast Highway. Much later that day, following rides on another local bus, a commuter train, and two county buses, the author and the goblin are deposited at the junction of Hwys 395 and 136, just south of Lone Pine, where he can see his end goal, Mt. Whitney, “shaggy with ice and snow.”

A hitched ride, a night spent behind the Furnace Creek Ranger Station, and another hitched ride, find Arnold at Death Valley’s Badwater, 262’ below sea level, the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere. And there, on the third day of his seventeen day adventure, the author begins his off-road, off-trail trek which eventually will lead him to the summit of 14,496’ Mt. Whitney, the highest point in the contiguous 48 States.

Arnold’s salt to summit hike takes him first west across the crusty, mucky salt flats—wearing a pair of throw-away boots—to the eastern edge of the Panamints. Continuing north along the base of the range, he climbs Tucki (which a ranger at Furnace Creek once told me was properly pronounced “Tuck-eye), then descends Grotto Canyon where at Stovepipe Wells he retrieves a self-mailed supply package.

As Arnold continues, we discover he is hard core, indeed. In addition to avoiding trails or roads, he also eschews a sleeping pad, uses rocks for toilet paper and employs a bivy sack as a tent. The goblin is cumbersome because it is often filled with 46 pounds of water contained in used two-liter soda bottles.

Hiking north once more, Arnold hangs a left at Cottonwood Canyon, reminisces of prospectors long gone as he passes through the Gold Belt mining area, and spends a freezing night at the Racetrack. He then drops into the Saline Valley via a “plunging limestone canyon with deep walls,” hikes north along the base of the Inyos, and then ascends the range via the steep and wet Beveridge Canyon.

“I pulled myself out of the water, pawing up the clean, white marble, not sure I could trust my mud-logged boots. I seemed to be carrying about a pound of river bottom in each shoe. One stone edge put me just in reach of another and another. The rock felt smooth and solid in my hands. I screwed my feet into the holds, trying to press the water out from between boot rubber and rock.”

Arnold opted not to research his proposed route as he wanted the unfolding country to become a wholly new experience. Furthermore, he enjoys what he calls “The Bullshit: fifth-class climbing with no climbing shoes, a heavy pack, weird route-finding through miles of bad rock, the consequences of a fall unthinkable,” ascents he tends to gravitate toward “like a dung beetle to a road apple.”

Crossing the Inyos just north of New York Butte—“a broad pyramid near eleven thousand feet dusted in a billion new twinkling snow diamonds”—Arnold downclimbs yet another dicey canyon into the Owens Valley, where, in Lone Pine, he picks up his second pre-mailed supply package.

Now equipped with a tent (floorless, of course) and heavier clothing, Arnold then spends the next few days climbing Mt. Whitney, summiting via John Muir’s avalanche-prone Mountaineer’s Route.

Finally on the icy summit, the author looks east, over his route, where,“(y)ellow heat shimmied up from between dark washboard ridges;” where he could hear “salt creaking and rocks moaning;” where he could see his own past: “a little figure in the distance bobbed up and down the purple-brown hills.” Because “(the wind snapped and popped, forcing my back around like a weather vane,” he stays on the top for only a few minutes.

Salt to Summit is one of the best desert adventure stories this reviewer can remember reading—ever. Better yet, Arnold thoughtfully recalls many of the folks who left their imprint on the country through which he passed, including the likes of William Manley, the Bennett/Arcane Party, Frank “Shorty” Harris, John LeMoignon, Mary Austin, Father John Crowley, John Muir, and Norman Clyde.

Arnold’s creative and skillful descriptions, a few of which are included herein, are proof positive that he should continue his adventuring and persist in his writing.

(Continued on page 28)
There. Although green-eyed with envy, a fair, non-biased review.

RICHARD BRECEDA | ACCIDENTAL ARTIST (2012), Diana Lindsay

Writer and historian Diana Lindsay should be well-known to almost any self-respecting desert lover. The co-author, with her husband, Lowell, of The Anza-Borrego Desert Region: A Guide to the State Park and the Adjacent Areas of the Western Colorado Desert, (1st Edition, 1978), and the author of Anza-Borrego A to Z: People, Places and Things (2001), Lindsay is also a long-time board member of the Anza-Borrego Foundation (which purchases land for addition to the State Park), a naturalist with the San Diego Natural History Museum, and, what’s more, she donates 100% of her royalties to additional land purchases.

And because Lindsay has Anza-Borrego State Park so close to her heart, it was only natural that she would meet and become friends with Richard Breceda, the “crazy-loco” artist, whose huge life-size metal sculptures can be found scattered over the desert enclosed by the park. Breceda, as the title of Lindsay’s book suggests, is truly an “accidental” artist. Born in 1961 in the Mexican State of Durango, young Ricardo grew up in a prosperous, close-knit family, where he was notable for “his growing stubbornness and determination.”

Although Ricardo was a constant troublemaker as a youngster, thanks to the strict but loving support from his parents, he finished high school, went on to a Durango teachers’ college, and graduated with honors.

In July 1985, after teaching two years in small Durango towns, Breceda opted to come to California looking for a brighter future. His first jobs included working at Mexican restaurants in Riverside, and as a framer and drywall installer for a large construction company. After suffering a serious injury, however, Breceda decided to go into business for himself selling Mexican-made boots at venues frequented by fellow Mexicans. A keen businessman, Breceda sometimes traded his boots for items that he could later sell at a profit, one of his trades leaving him with a welding machine.

Also, during his first years in California, Breceda married—and divorced—a union which in 1994 produced a daughter, Lianna, who remained in Breceda’s sole custody after the split.

Lianna was a beautiful and bright child, the delight of Ricardo’s life. As a youngster her favorite movies were Jurassic Park and The Lost World: Jurassic Park, and so one Christmas, after teasingly asking her adoring father for a full-size dinosaur, he decided to put his welding machine to use in building her one.

And thus it was that behind his Perris, CA home, with the help of Edgar “Porfirio” Sanchez, a man who had prior experience in building metal sculptures, Breceda fabricated his first work—a seventeen-foot-tall Tyrannosaurus Rex. Accidentally Breceda had discovered his medium.

Today, ten years later, visitors to the Borrego Springs area can view 129 of Breceda’s rust red sculptures—most of which represent animals that inhabited the Anza-Borrego area during the Plio-Pleistocene era, some 3 million to 1.7 million years ago. A majority of these works are located along Borrego Springs Road on land owned by Dennis Avery, Breceda’s most ardent patron. Generously, Avery allows visitors the right to view 129 of Breceda’s rust red sculptures—most of which represent animals that inhabited the Anza-Borrego area during the Plio-Pleistocene era, some 3 million to 1.7 million years ago. A majority of these works are located along Borrego Springs Road on land owned by Dennis Avery, Breceda’s most ardent patron. Generously, Avery allows visitors the right to...
camp free on his property for up to three days. Hiking, picnicking, photography, horseback riding, and bicycling are also permitted.

*Richard Breceda: Accidental Artist* is embellished with Diana Lindsay’s top drawer color photographs and text. The front cover illustration included herein shows Breceda explaining his sculpture of an elephant-like gomphother, an animal which once roamed the ABSP area, to a group of school children.


**WELCOME TO DEATH VALLEY!: A Guided Tour Through California’s Death Valley National Park (2012), Words and Pictures by Janet Morgan**

In her small—29 page—brilliantly self-illustrated volume, artist Janet Morgan, by means of two ravens, Ravenna and Ramone, who spend a day soaring over Death Valley, offers up a cornucopia of natural history that should inspire most any child to appreciate the many wonders of the area.

A frequent visitor to Death Valley, including three stints as Artist in Residence, Morgan is well-versed on the National Park. In addition, her use of water colors is quite remarkable. Even if your child or grandchild isn’t interested in nature, perhaps Morgan’s creative artwork will inspire him or her in the field of painting. Better still, maybe the volume will provide inspiration in both subjects.

*Welcome to Death Valley!* is available at artandadventure.com for $16.95. Might make that perfect holiday gift!
SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

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.

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. 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) subscribe to the SAGE. Non-members who subscribe to the SAGE are not allowed to vote in our elections. The subscription/membership year is for 6 issues, regardless of when payment is received. Only 1 subscription is required per household. When renewing your membership, please list all other DPS members who reside at your address to update their status. Subscriptions and donations are not tax deductible.

DPS Subscriptions/Memberships:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th># of Years</th>
<th>Per Year</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td></td>
<td>$10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining</td>
<td></td>
<td>$20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make Check Payable to Desert Peaks Section
Send to:
Ron Bartell, DPS Membership Chair
1556 21st Street
Manhattan Beach, CA, 90266
(310) 546-1977 (h)
ronbartell@yahoo.com
<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 $10 regular / $20 sustaining</td>
<td></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>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

Questions: (562) 861-2550 (H) or miladingloria@yahoo.com

Grand Total: ________
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 FEBRUARY 09, 2013.

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.

SAGE Submissions: We welcome all articles, photographs and letters pertaining to outdoor activities of interest to Desert Peak Sections members. If you are a participant and know that the leaders are not going to submit a trip report, then feel free to submit one. 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. Please note that digital documents and photographs are required for submissions to the Sage. Trip reports should include trip dates and photos should indicate when and where the photo was taken, what it is of, who is in it, and who took it. Please email SAGE submissions to the editor no later than the second Sunday of even numbered months.

Advertisements: You can advertise in the SAGE to sell items. The cost is $3.00 per line with a maximum of 5 lines per ad.

Editor: Greg Gerlach, 359 N. Lima Street, Apt. C, Sierra Madre, CA 91024 Email: desertpeakssage@att.net