Another New Year is upon us. I hope that it is a good one for us, and for the world. Here’s to successful winter and spring trips.

As usual, we encourage leaders to charter trips to round out our schedule. Perhaps our deserts got some benefit from the December rainfall. I guess the next month or so will tell, and perhaps we will get some more rain before spring.

I remember taking my kids to the desert when they were young - and now that they are grown they have told me that they, too, recall those times with pleasure. Joshua Tree National Park, which was then a National Monument, has long been a favorite place of mine. On one of my first trips there a knowledgeable friend pointed out the fuzzy spot in the clear night sky that was the nebula in Andromeda, Messier 31 (or NGC 224). I was mesmerized: a distant galaxy thought to be similar to ours, visible to the naked eye and even more so with an ordinary spotting scope or even a binocular. Many times since then I have shared that view, and of course views of whatever of our neighboring planets were available, with others. It is always a treat for people to see the Galilean moons of Jupiter or the rings of Saturn, both visible with a small telescope under the right conditions.

All of my kids scrambled around the rocks at Indian Cove and admired desert birds and flowers with me. Although none became peak baggers it was clearly an important part of their lives. And more recently the group of people I run with, the Santa Monica Mountain Goats, has several times done the Boy Scout Trail from Indian Cove to Hidden Valley and back. It's a great run through the back country.

I wonder how many of today's children in our metropolitan area know of the wonders and pleasures of the desert in winter and spring. I know that many inner city children don't know about much outside of their own neighborhoods. Lee and I have been to Topanga Canyon for the closing ceremony of a week-long experience with horseback riding and the attendant duties given to inner city children by Horses in the Hood, which is chaired by a friend from my running group, Kathy Kusner. The kids there were amazing but one of the things that struck us was that these kids had not even seen the ocean until the bus ride that took them to the horse ranch. I hope that the Sierra Club, perhaps even our Desert Peaks Section, might be able to provide a similar introduction for kids to the desert we all love. Just a thought.
The Desert Sage 3 January-February 2015

Desert Peaks Section Leadership, 2014 - 2015 Season

Elected Positions

Chair
Paul Cooley
4061 Van Buren Place
Culver City, CA 90232
(310) 837-4022
prc.calif@gmail.com

Vice Chair / Outings / Safety
Brian Smith
2306 Walnut Avenue
Venice, CA 90291
(818) 898-2844
brian.s.smith133@gmail.com

Secretary
Jim Fleming
538 Yarrow Drive
Simi Valley, CA 93065-7352
(805) 405-1726
jimf333@att.net

Program / Banquet
Gloria Miladin
11946 Downey Avenue
Downey, CA 90242
(562) 879-5426
miladingloria@yahoo.com

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

Cover Photo Credit

The photo is of the Sierra Nevada Mountains from Waucobia Mountain, a DPS listed peak, which was taken by John Fisanotti on June 6, 2011.

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
Jim Morehouse
3272 River Glorious Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89135-2123
(702) 528-3712
desertpeakssection@gmail.com

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

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

Merchandising
Gloria Miladin
11946 Downey Avenue
Downey, CA 90242
(562) 879-5426
miladingloria@yahoo.com

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

Mountaineering Committee Chair
Brian Smith
2306 Walnut Avenue
Venice, CA 90291
(818) 898-2844
brian.s.smith133@gmail.com

Mountaineering Committee
Ron Bartell
ronbartell@yahoo.com
Tina Bowman
tina@bowmandesigngroup.com

Newsletter Editor (SAGE)
Greg Gerlach
23933 Via Astuto
Murrieta, CA 92562
(626) 484-2897
gregq1955@verizon.net

Webmaster
Kathy Rich
2043 Berkshire Avenue
South Pasadena, CA 91030
Kathrynarich@gmail.com

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 2015 — May 2015

A group of climbers descending the ridge of Moapa Peak (photo taken by Matthew Hengst)

JAN 3-4 SAT-SUN DPS, HPS
Pahrump Point and Stewart Point

JAN 11 SUN DPS
DPS Meeting and potluck

FEB 8 SUN DPS
DPS Meeting and potluck

FEB 14-15 SAT-SUN DPS, CMC
Mount Manchester and Homer Mountain

FEB 21-22 SAT-SUN DPS
Shoreline Butte and Cinder Cone

MARCH 8 SUN DPS
DPS Meeting and Potluck

MARCH 21 SAT DPS
DPS Chili Cook-off

APRIL 12 SUN DPS
DPS Meeting and potluck

MAY 17 SUN DPS
Desert Peaks Section Annual Banquet

♦ JANUARY 3-4 SAT-SUN DPS, HPS
P: Pahrump Point (5,740’) and Stewart Point (5,265’). Start out the New Year with a fun weekend of peakbagging near Death Valley National Park and Shoshone, California. Saturday morning we’ll get an early start and head into the "Nopah Range" Wilderness Area by trudging across a broad alluvial fan, then we'll make our way up through a canyon before getting up onto the ridgeline that will bring us up onto the summit ridge, which we'll ascend to the summit of Pahrump Point. Afterwards, we'll return the way we came for a day's total of 8 round trip miles with 3,400' gain. We'll make camp where we're parked and will celebrate the weekend with a traditional DPS Potluck Happy Hour. Sunday we'll head over to the nearby "Resting Spring Range" Wilderness Area, and will once again venture out across the alluvium, up into a canyon before ascending the ridgelines to the summit of Stewart Point. We'll return the way we came for a day's total of 6.5 roundtrip miles with 2,600' of gain. Feel free to join us for one or both days. Email Mat Kelliher at mkelliher746@gmail.com with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher and Bill Simpson.

♦ JANUARY 11 SUN DPS
O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Gloria Miladin in Downey for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 pm and potluck at 6:00 pm. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Gloria Miladin at miladingloria@yahoo.com

♦ FEBRUARY 8 SUN DPS
O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Tom and Tina Bowman in Long Beach for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 pm and potluck at 6:00 pm. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Tina Bowman at tina@bowmandesigngroup.com.

♦ FEBRUARY 14-15 SAT-SUN DPS, CMC
P: Mount Manchester (3,602') and Homer Mountain (3,740): Saturday - join us for an exploratory climb of Mount Manchester, just east of the Mojave National Preserve. This peak is the high point of the Dead Mountains Wilderness, so-named because it was a sacred burial site for local Native Americans. This will be an

(Continued on page 5)
exploratory climb for potential consideration on the DPS list. We will approach from the west, 5 to 9 miles round trip and 1,500-1,800' gain, depending how far we can drive a dirt road into the Dead Mountains Wilderness. The nearby highpoint of the Sacramento Mountains is also a possibility afterwards if there's sufficient time and interest. Sunday - climb nearby Homer Mountain (3,740'), approximately 5 miles round trip. Contact daryn.dodge@oehha.ca.gov for trip status and details. Leaders: Daryn Dodge and Kathy Rich.

♦ FEBRUARY 21-22 SAT-SUN DPS
1: Shoreline Butte (662') and Cinder Hill (-75'): Join us as Christine Mitchell and Ron Bartell finish their version of the "Death Valley National Park Peaks List" - 94 named peaks and benchmarks within the boundary of DVNP. We'll do these peaks on Saturday (4 miles, 800' gain), followed by a potluck celebration at a campsite near Shoshone. We'll choose another nearby peak to climb on Sunday. Leaders: Dave & Ann Perkins. Send email (preferred) or SASE to (ann.perkins@csun.edu).

♦ MARCH 8 SUN DPS
O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Tom Sumner in Sylmar for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 pm and potluck at 6:00 pm. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Tom Sumner at locornnr@aol.com

♦ MARCH 21 SAT DPS
O: 21st DPS Chili Cook-off: Join us for a day of fun in Anza Borrego State Park. 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 the recent rains, we hope to enjoy some spring wildflowers. Optional hiking activity in the area before the Cook-off. Send ESASE with choice of Cook or Taster to Hosts: Jan Brahms (janbee@reneric.com) and Julie Rush (julierush11@gmail.com).

♦ APRIL 12 SUN DPS
O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Larry and Barbee Tidball in Long Beach for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 pm and potluck at 6:00 pm. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Larry and Barbee Tidball at lbtidball@verizon.net

♦ MAY 17 SUN DPS
O: Desert Peaks Section Annual Banquet: Mark your calendar now for the DPS annual banquet, which will be held at the Luminarias Restaurant in Monterey Park. Program details and additional information will be in a future issue of the Sage and on the Section’s website.

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.
**Membership Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Sustaining</th>
<th>Donations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscriber</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Activity Report**

**Achievements**

**List Finish**

#169 Paul Garry 11/1/14 Corkscrew Pk

**Renewed Lapsed Members**

Howard Steidtmann & Tobi Tyler 2 years

**Sustaining Renewals**

Richard L. Carey 1 year
Gregory Frux 1 year
Jerry & Nancy Keating 1 year
Larry & Barbee Tidball 1 year

**Renewals**

Benjamin Bowes 1 year
Jim Conley 1 year
Larry Edmonds 1 year
Bob Greenawalt 2 years
Ron & Leora Jones 1 year
Kathryn Rich 2 years
Gerry & Jennifer Roach 1 year
Shelley Rogers 1 year
Le Roy Russ 1 year
Jim Scott 1 year
Elena Sherman & Scott Sullivan 1 year
John Strauch 3 years

$5 from Gregory Frux

DPS List Finishers on Corkscrew Peak at Paul Garry’s List Finish, bottom row from left to right, Greg Gerlach, Paul Garry and Tina Bowman, upper row from left to right, Kathy Rich, Steve Eckert, Daryn Dodge and Ron Bartell (photo taken by Kathy Rich on November 1, 2014).
Greetings!

Here's hoping you all enjoyed yourselves over Thanksgiving, perhaps with a trip to the desert? It was still warm in some areas, but at least the mornings are cool now. I enjoyed turkey leftovers in Saguaro National Park, adding the highpoint of the Tucson Mountains - Wasson Peak - to my personal desert list. The temperature was 81°F - 13°F above the average high for late November, according to park records. As you can see from our trip list, the Chili Cook Off has been rescheduled for the vernal equinox next year, just a day after the most significant celestial event of 2015 - a total solar eclipse, visible only above the Arctic Circle. Perhaps there’ll be photos of the eclipsed sun and an aurora borealis at the same time? Try and ponder on that as you taste the many and varied chili offerings in the Anza-Borrego Desert. Our trip list has trips added this month, but, as I always say, there’s always room for more. Please support the published trips and, leaders, let’s get more adventures out in the deserts next year for our members to enjoy.

Finally, a plug for our next two social evenings with Gloria Miladin in January and Tina and Tom Bowman in February.

See you out there!

Outings Chair

by Brian Smith

INCOME
Banquet Book Sales $54.00
Banquet Silent Auction $172.00
Banquet Ticket Sales $2,305.00
Merchandise $237.00
Subscriptions $1,725.00
TOTAL INCOME $4,493.00

EXPENSES
Banquet Award $16.35
Banquet Deposit for 2015 $600.00
Banquet Payment $2,233.13
Donation to Angeles Chapter $200.00
Andy Zdon $250.00
Office Supplies $42.49
Sage Mailing $616.44
Sage Printing $755.22
Sales Tax $44.51
TOTAL EXPENSES $4,758.14

CHECKING BALANCE $3,058.86
SAVINGS BALANCE $501.18
TOTAL BALANCE $3,560.04

UPDATES ARE NEEDED TO THE CURRENT DPS ROAD AND PEAK GUIDE!!

Please send road and climbing route updates to the DPS Road and Peak Guide Editor, Jim Morehouse, at desertpeakssection@gmail.com. Jim is working on a new Version 6 of the guide, so be sure and send him a quick email after climbing a peak with suggested updates to the Guide while the information is still fresh in your mind. The DPS and Jim also welcomes volunteers to join the DPS Road and Peak Guide Committee to assist with updating the current Guide. Please contact Jim via email for further information.
This was our third scheduled Desert Wilderness High Points trip – in part to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act. This time we planned to climb the highpoint of the Funeral Mountains Wilderness, located just east of Death Valley National Monument. The Funeral Mountains are composed of colorful and rugged bands of course limestone rock. The only named peak is Bat Mountain (4,958’), but the highpoint of the range is another peak at the northwest end (Peak 5,320’). This peak is the official Wilderness Highpoint and was thus our main objective.

The previous day was Paul Garry's DPS list finish on Corkscrew Peak and we had all spent the night at the campground in Furnace Creek. Next morning, a small group of us (Paul Garry, Keith Christensen and the two leaders), headed south towards Pyramid Peak, parking along Highway 190 at a spot known as 'Slabby Acres' for the start of our climb to the Funeral Mountains Wilderness Highpoint. Ron Bartell had climbed the peak last year and gave us some valuable beta on climbing the peak. We estimated approximately 7 miles round trip with 2,300’ gain.

After taking a bearing, we headed across the desert floor towards a major drainage southwest of the peak. Once in the drainage, it was an enjoyable 2nd class scramble with occasional short waterfall pitches. We took the second gully up to the right to bypass some cliffs and gendarmes before coming to a ridgeline where we saw our objective close-up for the first time. The summit was still a half-mile away but side-hilling below a connecting knife-edge ridge went easily and we were soon at a saddle just below the summit. Some 300’ gain later, we reached the true highpoint. We found a register on the summit with only a few names since it was placed by John Vitz in 2007 - Matthew Holliman, Bob Sumner and the Bartells. The views of the surrounding desert from the summit were excellent. At Ron's recommendation, we descended a scree slope on the east side of the summit and then followed a large wash back to the cars. All agreed it was an enjoyable climb!
The day after the scheduled official DPS trip, the leaders planned to climb Bat Mountain, which is located in a very rugged section of the Funeral Mountains at its southern end. This peak is only a few miles north of Hwy 190 and its impressive profile is easily recognized from the Highway. Bob Burd used this approach, but Richard Carey had described access from an old mining area off Hwy 127 to the northwest of the peak. Stats were 6.6 miles, 2,500' and about 3 hours each way. Topo maps show a spot elevation of 4,950' for the southern summit of Bat Mountain, but Richard Carey found the north summit to be the true highpoint at 4,958'. The two summits are 0.7 miles apart, separated by a rugged ridge. Of the two, the north summit is the one with the more impressive profile, so we were glad to make this our primary peak, staying to the east of a clifty area. At the saddle, we went up a small rise to a second saddle and then up limestone slabs to the summit. Although it looked steep, the limestone was very 'grippy' and it was a most enjoyable climb. On the summit there was a cairn along with a register with lots of familiar names in it. We would definitely agree with the comment in Zdon's book that "Bat Mountain is worthy of the attention of the desert mountaineer"!

After parking at the gate to the mining area, some miners drove up to check on us. We told them we were only interested in climbing the peak, and that we didn't plan to go through their mining area (which had numerous “No Trespassing” signs).
Great Basin Peaks Section News

Ruby Dome Backpack
October 18-19, 2014
By Sharon Marie Wilcox

Great Basin Peaks Section members joined the Las Vegas Mountaineering Club to climb Ruby Dome, the highest point in Elko County (11,387’). The glaciated Ruby Mountains were misnamed when a garnet discovery was mistaken for rubies. Regardless of this mistake, the Rubys are a gem that offers wonderful hiking opportunities.

We met our trip leader, Eric Kassen, at the locked gate on Pleasant Valley Road off Nevada state route 227. He had the gate key so we drove to the signed trailhead saving 2 miles of hiking and 500’ of elevation (The key is available from the Spring Creek Homeowners Association).

The trail began through a colorful display of aspen paralleling Butterfield Creek in Hennen Canyon. We arrived at Griswold Lake (9,220’), a scenic glacial tarn in time to leisurely set-up camp and watch sunset. Eric and Kay demonstrated the matchless campfire while Jeff, the Backcountry Brew Master, prepared beer using an interesting kit he had purchased online. It was hard to leave the fire and conversation, however after a last gaze at the starry sky, we retired to our tents planning an early morning departure to Ruby Dome.

In the morning, we followed a use trail to the ridge above the lake. From this point, we scrambled up the rocky slope to the saddle and then the summit. The shaded rocks still had a thin layer of frost requiring care since they were quite slippery. (Our route was similar to Route B in the Desert Peak Section Guide or Bob Sumner’s route in, Hiking Nevada’s County High Points.) Eric surprised us with champagne and cookies on the summit celebrating my finish of the 17 Nevada county high points. I could have sat and soaked in the phenomenal view for hours; however, we needed to head to Ruby Pyramid and then back down to Griswold Lake to break camp and head home.

This was our first trip with the Las Vegas Mountaineering Club, and we’ll definitely hike with them again in the future. Check out their upcoming trips at:

http://www.meetup.com/LasVegasMountaineersClub

From left to right, Eric Kassan, Bob Ralston, Mary Brooks, Jeff Casey, Al Sandorff, Ken Miller, Kay Komuro and Sharon Marie Wilcox on top of Ruby Dome.
More Great Basin Peaks Section News

By Sharon Marie Wilcox

In November, we officially celebrated the newest Great Basin Peaks Section List Finishers, Sue Wyman and Vic Henney. They finished the 116-peak list on their climb up Mount Gilbert in the Ruby Mountains. Their celebration included the regular yummy feeding frenzy potluck plus a delicious and fun cake created by Mary Brooks. It even had real-looking candy coated chocolate rocks, made by local Kimmie Candy Company.

In addition to autumn hikes up Mount Patterson, Snow Valley Peak, Ruby Dome, and Quartzite Mountain, we enjoyed a new series of wilderness hikes. Larry Dwyer has started a variety of explorations to great basin peaks in Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas. These interesting trips are joint Sierra Club and Friends of Nevada Wilderness trips.

The first trip took us to Bald Mountain in the proposed Wovoka Wilderness area. Larry presented information on both the wilderness designation process and status of this area. After a day of experiencing Wovoka’s solitude and beauty, we hope it is designated wilderness by year’s end.

His second trip took us to Burro Mountain in the Twin Peaks Wilderness Study Area near the Smoke Creek Desert. I called this the “Day of the Rainbows” since we’ve never seen so many rainbows. The entire trip was a continual rainbow display. We missed the local burros, but did observe a herd of 30+ pronghorns.

Stay tuned for Larry’s next trips that will be listed in both the Great Basin Outings schedule and the Friends of Nevada Wilderness event calendar.

Join the Great Basin Peaks Section! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peaks Section at:

http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/GreatBasinPeaks.html
WHITE MOUNTAIN PEAK, MOUNT DUBOIS, BOUNDARY PEAK, MONTGOMERY PEAK – from the lowest to the highest!

And now for something completely different – from the absurdly low (but technical) Little Picacho, with a summit in the range of the highest manmade structures, to the rarefied (but walk-up) height of the fourteener White Mountain Peak. Aside from the highest Desert Peak, White Mountain Peak is the only fourteener in the lower 48 not associated with one of the major mountain systems – the Sierra, the Cascades, the Colorado Rockies.

Let’s start by looking at the rocks which make up the enormous block of the White-Inyo Range, which extends 120 miles from Montgomery Pass on the north to Malpais Mesa east of Owens Lake on the south. The dividing line between the two subranges is arbitrarily set at Westgard Pass, the only highway crossing. Looking at the southern and central Whites, we find a continuation of the remarkably thick Precambrian section exposed in the Panamints (see my Telescope Peak write-up, SAGE #353). In the Telescope area, the uppermost formation exposed is the lower Cambrian Wood Canyon formation, which shows the first fossils of hard-bodied creatures from the “Cambrian explosion” of the ancestors of modern animal life. In the Whites, the lowest rocks are from this momentous time in the history of life. The lower Cambrian “Waucoban Series” (yes, named for the List peak) contains the oldest trilobite fauna in the Western Hemisphere and in fact is the North American type section for rocks of this age. As with the other limestone-dominant peaks (Charleston, Muddy, Clark, etc.) in the southwestern Basin and Range, quiet deposition of mostly limestone with some shale and fine sandstone continued for about 200 million years, in a geologically tranquil environment maybe a bit like the Bahama Banks. At times, the tropical doldrums were very shallow, as shown by ripple marks and mud cracks in the shales and sands; one paper suggested that a time-traveling human could have walked at times across this seabed in chest-deep water (watching out for spiny trilobites and the nightmarish eurypterids, or “sea scorpions”!).

In Mississippian times, beginning about 325 million years ago (MYA) coarser sands and conglomerates were deposited, reflecting what is called the “Antler Orogeny” to the north, which has left its mark in northern Nevada; while Southern Nevada (Charleston) drowsed through this time, there was tectonism and mountain-building to the north caused, it is believed, by the collision with and accretion to North America of an island arc or continental fragment drifting in from the proto-Pacific. Things then quieted down for a mere 100 million years with more limestone deposition until the end of the Permian period – a nasty and scary time on Earth, the time of the “Great Extinction” when life just squeaked through – when a far more serious geologic revolution, the “Sonoman Orogeny” convulsed the central and northern Great Basin at 230-220 MYA, at the time when the proto-Atlantic began to crack open. However, it is thought that this orogeny was the result of a sizable landmass from out in the Pacific crashing into the Northwest; we see it today in the menacing rotten black crags of western Idaho’s well-named Seven Devils Mountains and the grim dense gray and black rock of adjoining Hell’s Canyon (which I ran a few years back with O.A.R.S.). This orogeny in the White-Inyo area began with marine volcanism; the region was then lifted (forever) above sea level, compressed and folded, and some terrestrial sedimentary rocks were deposited. The structural geology of the Whites south of Montgomery Peak dates from this period; it’s essentially a south-plunging, asymmetrical anticlinorium with its eastern limb nearly vertical. (“Anticlinorium” is a grand majestic Latin-esque word geologists use to describe a humungous mountain-range-sized anticline, or uplift; the “Sawatch Anticlinorium” of central Colorado has given us a garden of 14’ers.) This is the internal structure of the mountain block; its topographic form is the result of much more recent upfaulting.

The Sonoma Orogeny more or less segues into the daddy of ‘em all, the mostly Jurassic into Cretaceous Nevadan Orogeny caused by the overriding of the East Pacific Plate by central North America and the resulting mass crumpling of the western third of the...
United States, (which I’ve discussed in previous articles), finally exhausting itself in the late Cretaceous Laramide Orogeny and the birth of the Rockies. As I’ve also discussed, the Nevadan gave birth to massive granite intrusions in the Far West; as the nearest desert range to the granite ocean of the Sierra, one would expect the White-Inyos to be shot full of Sierran granite, and this is the case. These granites range in age from 160 to 75 MY; one paper described them as so pervasive in the White-Inyos that the older (metamorphosed) sedimentary rocks are literally “swimming in a sea of granites”. Boundary and Montgomery is each its own distinctive pluton, or granite intrusion; the deep col (“The Jumpoff”) between Montgomery and Pellissier Flats (Dubois) is most likely the result of eroding-out of a weakened metamorphosed contact zone, at the margin of the Montgomery pluton; this is where the intruded country rock (Pellissier) is physically shattered and cooked by the intrusion, and chemically degraded by the super-hot and reactive fluids from the intrusion. (Margins can be rough on the intruding mass, too.) We can tell that the anticlinorium (got to use that word again) is older than the Nevadan granite and thus probably Sonoman because the granites cut across the structure.

After the Nevadan had spent itself, we have no geologic record for 50 million years, from about 65 MYA to the Miocene period, 15 MYA. We know that there had to be regional uplift and enormous erosion, as the Nevadan granites were “unroofed” and exposed, and based on their crystalline structure they must have cooled and solidified not less than SIX MILES below the surface…another glimpse into “deep time”. A low-relief erosional surface was beveled across where the range is now (more on that later).

The range achieved more or less its current height during the Miocene, mostly the result of massive upfaulting on its western side – a mirror image of the Sierra block across the valley. We can determine this by the abrupt rise on the Bishop side, and also from some pre-uplift volcanics on the broader eastern side which dip about 25 degrees towards Nevada. The Miocene was when the Basin and Range extension and block-faulting really got going, and it was a very lively time in California – the crust broke and split in many places. The Vasquez Rocks and the badlands of Rainbow Basin north of Barstow are sediments that washed into two of the split-open Miocene basins. Late Miocene (10 MYA) volcanism, such as Malpais Mesa at the southern end of the Inyos, pretty much completed the rocks we see today.

I don’t think anyone has explained the remarkable and anomalous height of the Whites. Mega thinking -- could it have something to do with the fact that they are east of where the Sierra block veers away to the west, leaving in its place a major volcanic “hot spot”? (See my article on Glass Mountain). It’s also interesting to speculate that the subdued terrain south of White Mountain Peak and especially the extraordinary feature of Pellissier Flats – some of the most isolated and inaccessible terrain in California -- a vast expanse of flattish terrain north of White Mountain Peak at extremely high altitude, much of it over 13,000 feet – (on which Dubois is just a minor rock pile) – may well be an ancient surviving “fossil” remnant of the pre-Miocene erosion surface, lifted intact to great heights by upfaulting. Is it in some way analogous to tiny remnant flat surfaces in the Sierra, such as the tops of Langley and Whitney and Table Mountain?

Pleistocene glaciers put the finishing touch on the landscape we see today. For a 14’er, White Mountain Peak doesn’t have a whole lot of glacial sculpting. There are two nice cirques on its eastern flank, but no sign of glaciation whatsoever on its western side. This, of course, is due to its location in the severest part of the Sierra rain (and snow) shadow. Actually, the finest cirques in the range are on the eastern side of Pellissier Flats, and it’s easy to see why – there’s nothing to hold the snow falling on that featureless expanse, so it would almost all blow off in the westerly winds and dump on the eastern lee side. The resulting arcuate bites out of the eastern margin of the Flats make for a kind of “cookie-cutter” pattern on the topo. I can find no obvious sign of glaciation on Boundary on the topo, which is pretty amazing for a 13’er! Compare that with Wheeler, the other Nevada 13’er.
CLOSING THE LINK: JEDEDIAH SMITH

In 1774, Captain Juan Baptista DeAnza crossed the Colorado Desert west of present-day Yuma, establishing the first overland route between Sonora and Southern California. Two years later, Father Francisco Garces, in his missionary zeal, crossed the Mojave Desert from the Colorado River to the San Gabriel Mission and back again. The need, however, was for a trade route between New Mexico and California, and so in July 1776, in Santa Fe, two Franciscan friars, Francisco Atanasio Domínguez and Silvestre Vélez de Escalante, set out on an expedition, the intent of which was to open such a route.

Six months later, in January, 1777, the friars returned to Santa Fe, unsuccessful in their effort. The furthest west they had reached was the Virgin River in southwestern Utah.

In the meantime, America's development continued. Between 1804 and 1806, Lewis and Clark, with undaunted courage, trekked from Missouri to the Oregon coast and back. The War of 1812 started and ended, the Cumberland Road opened in 1818, and the Monroe Doctrine was signed in 1823. By 1825, the year the Erie Canal was completed, scores of settlers were breaking ground in what is now America's heartland.

But access to sleepy California, a Mexican Province, remained available only by sea or via DeAnza's hazardous route across the arid Sonoran and Colorado Deserts.

In September 1826--nearly a half a century after the Dominguez/Escalante Expedition--Jedediah Smith and a small band of trappers finally closed the link between Southwestern Utah and the Colorado River, the first non-natives to do so. Four years later, in 1829, a similar trail, but on the north side of the Colorado, was used commercially for the first time. It was the route that would become known as the Spanish Trail.

So who was Jedediah Smith? While many references to the man can be found in Western U. S. histories, the only complete biography of the Smith with which I'm familiar is Dale Morgan's 1953 volume, Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West. Another source, The Song of Jed Smith, an epic poem by John G. Neihardt, although not a history per se, provides a personal glimpse of the heroic figure and his men. Unless otherwise noted all quotes below are either from Morgan or from Smith's personal letters and journals, while all italicized passages are from Neihardt.

Jedediah Smith was born in what is now Bainbridge, New York on January 6, 1799. Educated by Methodist circuit preachers as a boy, he and his family moved west to Erie County, Pennsylvania around 1811, and then relocated even further west to what is now Ashland County in north-central Ohio in 1817. (Continued on page 15)
In early 1822, when he was 23, Jedediah traveled to St. Louis in response to a newspaper advertisement placed by General William H. Ashley of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, seeking "Enterprising Young Men" to explore the Missouri River and engage in the fur trade business in the Rocky Mountains. Jedediah, "a lean young fellow, brown of hair and blue of eye...who talked with a self-possession the belied his twenty-three years," so impressed General Ashley that he was hired on the spot.

Jedediah's first glimpse of the frontier came that May as he and a company of trappers traveled up the Missouri River by keelboat. Four months later, the group reached Fort Henry near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers, where, after a month or two of trapping, Jedediah and his fellow mountain men settled in for the winter.

In the spring of 1823, General Ashley ordered Jedediah to report to him at the Arikara villages, back down the Missouri near the present day North/South Dakota border. Soon after Jedediah's arrival, the Arikara (also known as the Rees) attacked and massacred 13 of Ashley's men. Jedediah fought bravely, and the survivors, including General Ashley, took note of his leadership during the battle. Soon after the incident, young Smith was appointed a company captain.

Morgan describes Smith at the time as "(a) mild man and a Christian. But the mildness of his manner and his troubled sense of unworthiness in the sight of God only brought out in stronger relief his other qualities. Jedediah had intelligence he was able to apply under pressure, toughness of spirit, a capacity for endurance beyond that of most men, and above all, the courage and grace in the face of adversity that men call gallantry."

Later that same year, Jedediah and a group of trappers explored to the south of the Yellowstone River, then spent the winter in the Wind River Valley. In the spring of 1824, based on information gathered from the Crow Indians, Smith launched a successful effort to find a passage between the Central Rocky Mountains and the Southern Rocky Mountains. The breach in the range, now known as South Pass, was to become the route for emigrants on the Oregon, California, and Mormon trails during the mid-1800s.

From 1824 to 1825, Jedediah and his men explored and trapped along the Green, the Bear, the Snake, and the Clark Fork Rivers. It was during this period that Jedediah was attacked by a large grizzly bear. As his men looked on, the animal threw him to the ground, slashed his side, and took his head in its mouth, tearing his scalp and nearly ripping off one ear. Thankfully, the bear then retreated and Jedediah's men ran to help him. Fetching water, his companions bound up his broken ribs, cleaned his wounds, and sewed his ear back on. After recuperating, Jedediah wore his hair long to cover the large scar from his eyebrow to his ear.
In July of 1825, Smith became a partner in Ashley's Rocky Mountain Fur Company, and the same month he joined trappers from all over the Rocky Mountain west at a pre-determined site just north of McKinnon, Wyoming, along the Henrys Fork river. It was the first of many such gatherings during which trappers and mountain men sold their furs and hides and replenished their supplies.

The yearly summer meetings, which came to be known as rendezvous, were important social event for the rough and tumble mountain men. As the gatherings evolved, virtually anyone was allowed to attend--free trappers, Indians, native trapper wives and children, travelers, and, later on, even tourists. James Beckwourth, an early trapper of note, described rendezvous as, "Mirth, songs, dancing, shouting, trading, running, jumping, singing, racing, target-shooting, yarns, frolic, with all sorts of extravagances that white men or Indians could invent."

[Continued from page 15]

In early October 1825, for the first time in three years, Smith returned to Saint Louis to buy supplies and to enlist a new group of "enterprising young men" as trappers.

And the next year, 1826, following the rendezvous held near Cache Valley, Utah, Smith and a group of trappers set out to explore the west side of the Great Salt Lake, attempting to locate a prospective trapping area on a yet undiscovered river--already named the Buenaventura--that drained that vast body of water. Their mission failed, however, because no such outlet existed. Perhaps they had heard of a river (the Humboldt), which arises in Nevada's nearby Ruby Mountains and runs west.

Neihardt portrays the Jedediah Smith of 1826 in this manner:

The lean six feet of man-stuff, shouldered wide, too busy with a dream that grew inside for laughter. He was seeing all the white map westward as a page on which to write, for men to read, the story of a land still lying empty as the Maker's hand.

Heading further south, retracing much of the Dominguez and Escalante route along the Sevier River, Smith and his group of sixteen trappers, ostensibly looking for beaver, were probably just plain exploring. In late September, the men came to the Virgin River--which Smith named the Adams in compliment to his President--and entered territory previously unexplored by Americans.

The other side of ranges west and south, a dim world ran uphill to where eternity began and time died of monotony at last. And when that rim of nothing had been passed, why surely 'twould be California then; but would we all be long-gray-whiskered men before we got there? No one seemed to mind. God only knew what wonders we might find.

Continuing down the Virgin River, the trappers reached the Colorado River on October 3, where, although Smith could have certainly found a route along the Colorado's right bank, he chose to cross the river and continue down its left (east) bank.

Morgan writes "the journey down the Virgin and the Colorado was a genuine labor of exploration," through a country "remarkably barren, rocky, and mountainous." In his journal, Smith noted that by the time they reached the Mojave Villages, north of present day Needles, he "had lost so many Horses that we were all on foot--my men & the reminder of my Horses were worn out with fatigue & hardships & emaciated with hunger."

Fortunately, the Mojave Indians were
friendly, and, as Smith noted in his journal, "it was not far to some of the Missions of California & I determined (as this was the only case) to go to that place as soon as my men & horses should be able to travel, (we) remained fifteen days along the Colorado."

Well, it was mighty good to be alive among those gardens yellowing with plenty and see our critters, dwindled now to twenty, contented in the meadows, making fat.

On November 10, 1826, guided by two runaways from the missions, Jedediah set out on the last stage of his long journey overland to the Pacific. The trail he and his men took across the Mojave Desert and up the Mojave River was an age-old trade route used by the Mojave Indians to bring iridescent sea shells from the seacoast. It was the same trail by which Father Garcés had crossed the Mojave fifty years earlier.

On November 27, seventeen days after leaving the Colorado, Smith arrived at the San Gabriel Mission, surrendered his arms to the officer in charge, and then sat down to write a letter to the Governor of Alta California, José María Echeandía, who was at San Diego at the time. First explaining why he and his men were in Mexican territory, Smith then asked for permission to continue north through California to the Bay of San Francisco. His dream of the Buenaventura had not died. He hoped "to follow up one of the largest Riv(ers) that emptied into the (San Francisco)Bay cross the Mou(ntains)...and thence to...the waters of Salt Lake."

Echeandia was suspicious of Smith's motives, however. Beaver hunters were a species unknown in the Spanish language; the most apt description Echeandia could find was pescador, fisherman. To the Governor it made better sense that the Americans had come on a military mission, rather than in the unlikely pursuit of large semi-aquatic rodents.

Indeed, Echeandia may have feared that the Mexican hegemony in California was threatened. He would have preferred for an official of higher status in Mexico City to make any decision for detaining Smith could cause trouble with the Americans while letting him continue could spell trouble from his superiors.

Echeandia ordered that Smith meet him in San Diego, an appointment at which Jedediah presented the Governor with several choice beaver pelts. Soon afterward, Echeandia granted the Americans permission to leave, specifying, however, that the men could not continue north through California, and, furthermore, that they must leave the territory by the same way in which they had entered.

And so it was that at the end of 1826, Jedediah Smith and his men were in Southern California. They had closed the link on the route that Dominguez and Escalante had dreamed of 50 years earlier--a route that became the precursor to the Spanish Trail.

But Jedediah wasn't through exploring quite yet: "He was seeing all the white map...as a page on which to write."

In the next issue of Desert Sage, we'll follow Smith's adventures in 1827, during which, ignoring Echeandia's orders, he and his men continued north in California, crossed the Sierra Nevada, and then blazed a route east across the Great Basin in time to join the rendezvous of 1827 held near Bear Lake, Utah. We'll also explore Smith's close call during a second crossing of the Spanish Trail in the fall of 1827, his trip to the northwest in 1828 and 1829, and, finally, his tragic death in May 1837.
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.
# Desert Peaks Section Merchandise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORDERED BY:</th>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STREET:</td>
<td>DPS Peaks List</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY/ZIP:</td>
<td>Road and Peaks Guide (5th Edition) CD ROM version (price includes shipping)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE:</td>
<td>1 Year electronic Desert Sage subscription</td>
<td>$10.00 regular / $20.00 sustaining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHONE:</td>
<td>DPS Complete History and Lore CD ROM (price includes shipping)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS Patch</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emblem Pin</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>List Finisher Pin</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Desert Explorer Award Pin</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DPS T-shirt (see below for shipping and handling), tan with black and gray print (S, M, L, XL)</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For T-shirt orders, add $3.50 for 1 shirt and $4.00 for 2 or more shirts per order for shipping and handling | $3.50 / $4.00 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAKE order form and payment to:</th>
<th>Mail order form and payment to:</th>
<th>Grand Total:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gloria Miladin, DPS Merchandiser</td>
<td>Gloria Miladin, DPS Merchandiser</td>
<td>Grand Total:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11946 Downey Ave</td>
<td>11946 Downey Ave</td>
<td>90242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downey, CA, 90242</td>
<td>Downey, CA, 90242</td>
<td>90242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions: (562) 879-5426 (C) or <a href="mailto:miladingloria@yahoo.com">miladingloria@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>Grand Total:</td>
<td>90242</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DESKTOP PEAKS SECTION

**DPS NEWSLETTER** - The Desert Sage is published six times a year by the Desert Peaks Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. Please note that the submission deadline for the next SAGE is February 08, 2015.

**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 Chair. Please note that a Sustaining membership/subscriptions is also available for $20. 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 Chair for a SAGE subscription ($20 for Sustaining). Non-members who subscribe to the SAGE are not allowed to vote in the DPS 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 identify trip participants 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 private trips that are of interest to DPS members in the SAGE for free. Also, you can advertise in the SAGE to sell items; the cost is $3.00 per line.

**EDITOR:** Greg Gerlach, 23933 Via Astuto, Murrieta, CA 92562
Email: gregrg1955@verizon.net