

THE LOOKOUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HUNDRED PEAKS SECTION
V52 N1- January – February 2015



Hikers joined Mars Bonfire on Twin Peaks to celebrate his 25th List Finish

Rare Triple List Finish on Iron Mountain #3:

George Christiansen 2nd List Finish

Zobeida Arauz 8th List Finish

William Simpson 3rd Lead the List



The **Hundred Peaks Section** is an Activity Section of the Sierra Club - Angeles Chapter.

Our newsletter, **The Lookout**, is published six times a year.

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The Lookout is the property of the **Hundred Peaks Section**.

If you send photos or CD's, please write your name on the back of each. Please identify the location and each subject in all photographs, whether digital or film. When taking photos, please ask participants to remove their sunglasses. If you want the film photograph returned, please state so, and include a SASE.

Submit material for **The Lookout** to:

Chris Spisak, P.O. Box 27645, Los Angeles, CA 90027, or email to cjsarch@gmail.com

Articles for **The Lookout** may be edited for length or appropriateness.

Wolf and Karen Leverich maintain **The Hundred Peaks Section Website**.

It can be accessed at: <http://www.hundredpeaks.org/>



Executive Editor: Lilly Fukui
Managing Editor: Chris Spisak

From the Editor's Desk:

A tremendous opportunity presented itself to me recently when Mars, Kathy and Lilly helped me get Jepson. It was true winter hiking with snow and ice patches throughout the route, and the wind howling near the summit. It was stimulation overload to all the senses, and incredibly enjoyable! Mars had been there twenty five times before. He went back for a 26th, to help me, as he has helped so many others over the years.

As I approach my own end of the HPS List, I think back over how many times they had helped me find the right bump that was the peak, or urging me to keep going a little further. Too many times to count. Mars has completed all of his HPS goals and has set records that undoubtedly will stand for some time. We wish him and Kathy good luck in their future pursuits and thank them for all that they have contributed to the Hundred Peaks Section.

In this issue:

- Lilly writes about accompanying Mars on his 25th list finish.
- Ignacia writes about staying sexy, even in old age, or something like that. You decide.
- Robert Myers has a suggestion for your New Year's Resolutions.
- Scheduled outings
- **NOTE that the Banquet location has changed. It will be at Taix this time. Contact Christine Soskins for information.**

MARS BONFIRE HIKER EXTRAORDINAIRE, AND HIS HISTORIC HPS LIST FINISH 25x

By: Lilly Y. Fukui

On a perfect fall day on Saturday, November 15th, 2014, many well wishers hiked to Twin Peaks to celebrate Mars' list finish of the HPS peaks for an incredible 25 times. That's multiplying the total HPS peaks x 25!! No way? Yes, way! And add to that there were "25" hikers that day – a serendipity! It was a beautiful event, exciting, and joyous.

I would like to go back to December of 2006 when Chris and I interviewed Mars and Kathy for the first "Meet Your Leaders" article in The Lookout. Mars said that he was working on his way to number 13 of the HPS List. He expressed a "possibility" that he might do the List 25 times as he saw himself continuing to hike into his eighties! Well, he's done it and long before his eighties... so what's the new possibility???

Back at the peak - after many photographs were taken, I asked Mars about how he felt after completing the list 25 times. He said, "WONDERFUL." Below are Mars' thoughts on his fantastic accomplishment:

"Hiking with Hundred Peaks has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. It's a captivating collection of peaks and a wonderful opportunity to meet and hike with a group of interesting people.

Kathy and I will be moving to Reno in about a year. We will be hiking, mountain biking, and snowshoeing, but we know we're going to miss Hundred Peaks.

We look forward to returning for special events to reconnect."

Best wishes,

Mars



Participants gather on a chilly November afternoon to celebrate Mars' 25th HPS List Finish



NOT Saving SEX for Old Age

Aneurysms, Challenges & BW2T

By Ignacia Doggett

Peter was dying when a ranger found him on June 29, 2012. He had suffered a devastating cerebral aneurysm as he hiked up Griffith Park's Grunt 1; and, drifting in and out of consciousness, he had pulled himself up to Vista del Valle Road, where he lay unconscious for hours. He survived several surgeries, and overcame complication over complication, but his entire body atrophied as he spent weeks lying still in a hospital bed. After a month, he was encouraged to sit up. Each time he did was 30 seconds of torture for him, even with me and his nurse supporting him on either side. He had no strength, could not even hold his head up, and dizziness and nausea would overcome him. He was starting from zero again, just as he had 29 years before when his body lay broken, in a coma for 14 days, after being hit by a drunk driver. We practiced and he relearned everything again: moving fingers, holding things, raising an arm, reflex, reaction, throwing, catching, sitting, sitting up, standing, standing and turning his head or raising an arm without losing his balance and falling, and so much more.

Eight and nine months later, March and April 2013, he was climbing the summit chimney of Five Fingers and the summit block on Beartrap Bluff with Asher Waxman, other friends, and me. At 13 months, he climbed Zion's Angels Landing, first time for Peter, second for me -- this time, it felt mythological, as if we had journeyed up a challenging, but dazzling Mt Olympus to its celestial views of a beautiful Earth below. Fourteen months later he was summiting Whitney with Jim Kidder, Mary Varalyay, Marit & Nate Lauterbach, Squirrel Man John, Shawn Rushby, and me (a big thank you to Jim for organizing the trip and inviting us).

I was witness to a genuine courage, as Peter daily battled to regain strengths and skills and made a miraculous recovery. His determination and zeal reinforced my own steadfast aim to grow and to explore new shores. Often bracing my choices is a maxim referenced by Warren Buffet at an Ivy League seminar. When asked by a student whether she should stay with the norm and the known, delaying a new endeavor until after she was more established and comfortable, his reply was essentially "*No. The time to do it is now. Otherwise, it would be like saving sex for old age.*"

Steadied by oars of wisdom and moral grounding, the time for new endeavors, new challenges, and new ideas is now. The time for volunteerism or philanthropy is now, not waiting 'til we're 60 or done drowning in self-absorption. The time for reading, dancing, singing and music (classical, rock, country, jazz, blues,) is now. Dust off the guitar, palette, journal, camera lenses & filters, or foreign language. Experience the fulfillment that comes from dedicating real time to older and younger family members, rather than leaving it to siblings or to birthdays and holidays. And travel. John Muir didn't just explore the mountains in his backyard; he traveled the far reaches of the North American continent, even if it meant doing a thousand miles on foot; all the while, he was also a scientist, rancher, spokesman, and writer. One need not an abundance of finances to expand the scope of exploration and one certainly need not relegate the fullness of life to old age.

Peter took on new endeavors and challenges, deepening his recovery. Motivated by Asher's confidence and encouragement, he handled the different tasks involved in bringing Beartrap Bluff and Mt. Minerva Hoyt to HPS. Also, as Joe Young and other dedicated volunteers led first graders and high schoolers on ICO trips, we were given the opportunity to volunteer and assist. Peter's characteristic selflessness is ever his signature, but working with children had been long in his past.

The body, brain, and spirit thrive only when facing new challenges. Bolstered by Peter's spirit and valor, I decided that we would continue to get better if we did something different, and not only the norm. I planned a year of different endeavors, and hiking with a BIG theme, including: Big Bunny Pentathlon; East Fork Traverse; BW2T & C2C back to back; Gorgonio Greats; San Jacinto Six; July 4 Jamboree (10+ peaks); Crest Quintet; Forest Crest Corner Traverse (our adventurous and scenic hike of the BarleyFlats-Lawlor- Strawberry-Josephine ridge); Baldy Grand Tour

(Etiwanda to Sugarloaf); Big Bear Bonanza; Big 4; Big 3; and Big Iron (the tame route, no boomerang or traverse this year). There was a possibility of failure in our endeavors, especially in the first three, as they had not been led in my decade with HPS. Better to dare and fail, than simply settle for the ordinary.

We were rewarded with wonderful memories, among the best being the graciousness conveyed by participants. It was impressive to see that so many participants with such high levels of strength, skill, and experience could be assembled for these hikes. They also exhibited knowledge of, and sincere appreciation for, their surroundings; and, too, marvelous generosity and patience, as group size or car shuttles were sometimes significant -- 23 joined us on the San Jacinto Six, 18 on the Crest Quintet.

Fine memories abound, too many to be recounted in one article. A few follow.

Big Bunny Pentathlon Big Rabbit is no ordinary hike, and doing five Rabbits from November to March is certainly not common. The December and January journeys were special, partly for reasons particular to those months. Participants entrusted us with their safety, and gutsily surpassed their known limits. The morning moonsets, framed by Coyote Peak and our yucca/ocotillo studded ridge, were marvelous. Most magnificent were the moonrises, ascending as we climbed up to Villager on return from Rabbit, the soft blue sky darkening into night. In December, we were treated to the surreal sight of a double full moon; as the immense silver disk scaled the night sky, it looked down upon its perfect twin reflection shimmering large in the center of the Salton Sea. In January, the moon was intent on surpassing itself as its sparkling reflection raced in our direction across the surface of the water, leaving a wide and gleaming streak, a silver ribbon long and lustrous, a brilliant bridge traversing the expanse of the Salton Sea. To witness this phenomenon, one must be prepared for what would then follow -- an almost complete darkness that blanketed the area of initial descent from Villager, for the moon was not high enough to provide sufficient illumination to that area. One must study and know the characteristics of the area to be competent in navigating the first half hour of descent from Villager in a virtual blackout.

East Fork Traverses Hiking from Vincent Gap to Heaton Flat is a rare event, especially when done as a one day in less than 11 hours. In June, we did it with a private group of 5; then, in September, we led a group of 12 with Ted Lubeshkoff. Water flow was greater in June and a friendly melodious creek serenaded the journey down the pretty Vincent Gap trail; and, the verdantly shaded Fish Fork confluence was more robust and boisterous. On both trips, we crisscrossed the river frequently and navigated our way through the Narrows with rock hopping, energetic strides, and dynamic moves, a ballet upon the waters. In September, as we emerged from this deepest of gorges, we were surprised and awed by the sight of 13 bighorn, nimbly moving and balancing as they foraged and grazed high up on the steep eastern wall. We then headed for the Bridge to Nowhere, cognizant of one thing: We had certainly been Somewhere.

BW2T “I: Panamint Traverse [Badwater to Telescope Peak (11,049')]: ‘The problem many of us face is not that we aim high and miss, but that we aim low and hit the mark.’ From Telescope Peak, the high point of Death Valley National Park, you can gaze upon the highest point in the contiguous United States, Mt. Whitney (14,505'). Turn around and gaze upon Badwater, the low point of DVNP and the lowest point in North America (-280 feet). Aim high with us. Climb the crown of the Panamint Mountains as a one day BW2T . . . from Shorty’s Well (-250 feet). . . this is one of the hardest (if not the hardest), day hikes in the contiguous United States. Pair this weekend’s BW2T with next weekend’s C2C . . .” Thus I wrote and on October 11, 2014, eight did [Gary Rice, Marit Lauterbach, Miriam Khamis, Yasuhide Iemori, Ban Uong, Rune Nicklasson, Nicolai Haydn (math professor), and I (math teacher, retired) -- Yey, math!] . More would have, but did not because their work schedules did not allow it; or, the unseasonably warm weather combined with new restrictions barring camping near Shorty’s Well led some to think that heat and lack of sleep would impair their progress and affect the group’s chance of success.

Jury duty had interfered with Peter’s ability to help with scouting and preparations. Accounting for overall group strength and changes in topography along the way, I predicted cumulative distance and feet gained hour by hour and created a matrix of elevations points and temperature forecasts for those points. Thus I determined that 4:00 AM would be the optimal start time.

We met most of the group at the McDonald's in Ridgecrest at 2:15 PM on Friday, October 10. We caravanned from there to Mahogany Flats, our campground for two nights. As the group made final preparations Friday night, Peter was having doubts as to whether he would be able to get enough sleep and do the hike, so we decided that the hike would be led as a private hike. We went to sleep around 7:00 PM. Rising at 1:00 AM, we drove out from Mahogany Flats at 1:15, stopped at the Wildrose Kilns to pick up Rune, and drove the 2.5 hours to Shorty's Well.

None of us had done BW2T before. Through research, planning and scouting I had calmed some personal anxiety; but, like others, I was filled with excitement and anticipation. Marit generously volunteering to sweep, I led off at 3:55 AM. The 89% moon had passed its meridian only minutes before; its illumination was so bright and complete, we looked like astronauts setting foot on the brightly lit surface of a distant moon or planet.

October 11 being the optimal weekend for BW2T, I thought we might encounter a pair or small group of hikers intent on a similar goal. But, once again, I was surprised with the unexpected [I am amazed at the incredible coincidences that have accompanied our other extreme hikes. In 2011, unbeknown to us, several groups decided to rendezvous with us as we led our Baldy-Iron-Baldy Boomerang. Then, in 2013, there was our fantastic encounter with Seuk Doo Kim when we did a private Baldy-Iron Traverse. This year, we were unaware that our Big 4 bike-n-hike to the Pines would coincide with an extreme bike race, Lake Piru-Cuyama-Buckthorn Road-Santa Barbara. The racer we met, in 2nd place, had the same daunting task we encountered, having to frequently lift and carry his bike over the large trunks of once standing tall pines felled by a winter storm]. This day, around 6:30 AM we came upon a group of veterans and non-veterans who were doing The Veteran Low to High Challenge, raising funds for charities that serve veterans and the children of fallen veterans. They were hiking from the lowest point in North America to the highest point in the contiguous 48 states, Mt. Whitney. They had a support team with a Hummer, or Wrangler, that was picking up their sleeping bags and would then meet them at the end of day at Mahogany Flats. Our paths would cross several times, the rest of the day.

Making the hard right into the South Fork of Hanupah Canyon is one of my all-time favorite memories. It was like a Star Trek moment. Walking through this high-walled narrow passage in the canyon was like watching Kirk and Spock step through a towering portal. Not knowing what awaits them, they emerge and are struck by the magnificently pristine scenery of another time or planet. Standing small on the canyon floor, my eyes followed the massive rocky ridges and broad green canyons, fantastically revealed, as they climbed up to Telescope Peak, still 9 miles away.

At 7:47 AM, we reached the creek that descends from Hanupah Springs. We took a break to fill water bottles, and around 8:10 we crossed the creek and headed for the ridge spur we would use to gain the crest of the main east-west ridge [In mid-September, Gary and I had scouted up to this point, which is opposite Shorty's mine. For \$265, I had rented and driven my first 4X4 Jeep. I had driven it all the way to the Road Closed sign, 2.5 miles farther than the Jeep owner had gone in previous attempts (With some physics figuring and muscle, Gary and I had been able to move a heavy boulder that was blocking our way.)]. We had already done about 4000' gain and were facing a long steep climb up the spur. But most of our group gained the crest of the main ridge within 45 to 50 minutes. The steep climb was beginning to separate the veterans group into 2 groups; some of their participants were not as experienced as the rest.

In our group, Gary had been slower than usual all morning. When he and Marit gained the crest, I found out that he was suffering from back spasms; sleeping in a rented SUV had not worked well for him. I knew that Gary would summit, no matter what. He had been the one who had first asked if we would be interested in doing Badwater to Telescope. Gary has an explorer's spirit like Peter; and, he has climbed 18k's and 20k's in South America, and many 14'ers in Colorado and California.

I had our group visually survey what lay ahead of us. I pointed to and related what they saw to what was on the maps that some of them carried. I explained the optimal route I had in mind; deviating from it would put one in even steeper and more unstable terrain. Assured that they understood the route (several had good map skills; three had brought a gps; and they were strong and experienced), I told them that Marit and I were going to switch places. Gary's condition necessitated a more moderate pace, and I was going to stay with him.

Around 4 hours later, the front group met Peter about 500 feet below the main Telescope Trail. After climbing the last of the unrelentingly long, steep and slippery stretches, they were met by Leo Logacho and Rana Parker, Ban's girlfriend. Together, they continued up the main trail and reached the summit of Telescope around 3:45 PM. Some could have summited an hour or more earlier, but I had asked the front group to stay together. At 3:50 PM, Gary and I reached the main Telescope Trail and the landmark limber pine tree. The front of the veterans group also arrived. But they were low on water. They feared that the rest of the group would be low, or completely out of water, as they were just ascending the unyielding vertical slope we had just finished climbing. Though an hour before, I had made Gary dump a liter of water, he still had 1 liter to give them. I gave them 2. Gary and I made our way to the summit, and I alerted anyone I met to the veterans need for water. That included Peter and the rest of the group, as we met them on their high-spirited descent from Telescope. Gary and I summited at 5:05 PM. I looked around at the prodigious variety of terrain and scenery surrounding us. I looked down on Badwater, where we had been 13 hours before; and, then at Whitney, awaiting the veterans. It was getting cold. Gary called his wife in Texas, and then I led us back to Mahogany Flats, a happy heart marking my steps.

When I listed the outing, I wrote 11500' gain and 21 miles, using the conservative figures of a DPS report. Marit's gps totals showed that it was more like the 11700'+ gain and 24 miles as described in other reports. A week later, Gary and Yasu did another 11000' gain and 20 miles, with me and Peter as we led our C2C (Cactus to the Clouds) and summited San Jacinto. Interestingly, on our way we met Doreen, famous for numerous Skyline ascents. She was completing her 297th 8000' gain Skyline hike.

I loved BW2T and want to do it again. While there are plenty who succeed, I am aware that others have tried and failed, for a variety of reasons, including terribly cold weather. In 2013, rain washed out a road and, with it, our plans for BW2T then. But, then, we would not have had the group that ultimately joined us --skilled and strong; generous, modest and humble. And we would not have had the privilege of meeting the courageous group of veterans and sponsors, who did successfully achieve their quest on October 17 and 18 (<http://www.veteranlowtohighchallenge.com/blog/>).

Peter and I will continue to explore new mountains and places in California and other states; and, hopefully, with luck in good health, other countries and continents. All the while, we pursue other interests; we volunteer; and, we dedicate time to family and friends.

Someone once said, "I want to find the guy who invented sex and ask him what he is working on now." What new invention or endeavor are you working on now?



**THE NAVIGATION CORNER:
A NEW YEAR OF NAVIGATION**

By Bob Myers, LTC Navigation Chair

2015 Navigation Events		
January 10, 2015	Practice	Indian Cove, JTNP
January 11, 2015	Practice/Checkoff	Indian Cove, JTNP
February 8, 2015	Practice	Navigation on Snowshoes
April 11 - 12, 2015	Practice	Mojave National Preserve
April 25, 2015	Practice	Warren Point, JTNP
April 26, 2015	P/C	Warren Point, JTNP
May 9, 2015	Practice	Beginning Nav. Clinic
June 13, 2015	Practice	Heart Bar Peak, SBNF
June 14, 2015	Practice/Checkoff	Grinnell Ridge, SBNF
August 2, 2015	Practice/Checkoff	Mt. Pinos, LPNF
September 20, 2015	Practice/Checkoff	Grinnell Ridge, SBNF
Fall	Practice	Beginning Nav. Clinic
November 14, 2015	Practice	Indian Cove, JTNP
November 14, 2015	Practice	Navigation Workshop on Third Class Terrain, JTNP
November 15, 2015	Practice/Checkoff	Indian Cove, JTNP
December 6, 2015	Practice/Checkoff	Warren Point, JTNP

As we start the New Year, I want to encourage everyone who enjoys the outdoors to improve their navigation skills. The Leadership Training Committee offers numerous opportunities for Chapter members to develop sound navigation skills. The principal mission of our navigation program is help prospective I, M, and E leaders develop and demonstrate the skills necessary to pass the navigation checkoff. However, our navigation program is not limited to prospective leaders. We provide opportunities for beginners to learn basic navigation skills and for experienced leaders to refresh their skills. In other words, ***our navigation program is for everyone.***

Basic knowledge of navigation is important to everyone who enjoys the outdoors.

- The ability to read a map is necessary not only to get to the trailhead but also to help plan and stay on the correct route.
- The ability to use a compass can help you determine if you are heading in the right direction while on a trail, even if you are in fact on the correct trail. A compass also helps you make the correct choice when a trail forks.
- Skill at using a compass in conjunction with a map allows you to identify features on the landscape.
- The ability to navigate becomes essential whenever you leave the trail and begin cross-country travel. Under these circumstances, you must be able to identify your location at all times, correlate the observed terrain with the map, plot and follow a route and avoid hazards.
- Navigation is also essential in emergencies. If an injury occurs, even on a trail, you must be able to accurately identify the location for rescuers. You might also need to navigate cross-country to notify the authorities.
- The ability to navigate becomes critical after nightfall, during severe storms, white-outs or when the trail disappears for some reason. Being able to determine where you are and how to quickly and safely get to a destination may mean the difference between a little inconvenience and becoming a statistic.

With these skills, you will develop the confidence to leave established trails and go to seldom visited places that are only accessible by cross-country travel. As noted in *Freedom of the Hills*:

In medieval times, the greatest honor a visitor could receive was the rights of a citizen and the freedom of the city, sometimes even today symbolized by presenting a guest with the “keys to the city.” For the modern alpine traveler, navigation is the key to wandering at will through valleys and meadows, up cliffs and over glaciers, earning the rights of a citizen in a magical land, a mountaineer with the freedom of the hills. *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*, p. 110 (8th ed. 2010).

We encourage you to attend one of our navigation events in 2015. Our noodles are held in scenic areas and all are free. We will work with you to accomplish your navigation objectives and you will receive a variety of helpful navigation materials. And if you are a prospective leader, we will help you pass the checkoff. Many pass on the first attempt while others require more practice.

I welcome your navigation questions. Contact me at rmmyers@ix.netcom.com.

Advance Schedule of Hundred Peaks Section Activities

January – May 2015

by Mat Kelliher, HPS Outings Chair

The following is a listing of all HPS Outings submitted and posted to the Angeles Chapter online Schedule of Activities (OARS) as of December 15, 2014. These outings cover the period ranging from January 1 through May 31, 2015. Note that **new HPS outings are added to the online schedule of activities (OARS) all the time**, often only a few days prior to when a trip is scheduled, so if you haven't found what you're looking for in this edition of The Lookout, be sure to check for newly added outings on the HPS online Schedule of Activities (OARS) frequently for last minute additions. The HPS OARS site is located here: <http://www.hundredpeaks.org/outings.htm>

And if you're still looking for something other than what's being offered on any given day on HPS OARS, check out the Angeles Chapter online Schedule of Activities (OARS) for a staggering selection of outings options offered by all of the various Groups, Sections, and Committees of the Angeles Chapter. The Angeles Chapter OARS site is located here: <http://tioga.sierraclub.org/oars-activity/pages/activity.jsf?activity=32355>.

HPS outings are open to everyone; you don't need to be a member of either the HPS or Sierra Club to participate! However, to participate in an outing, you will be expected to sign a liability waiver, which you can preview here:

<https://angeles2.sierraclub.org/sites/angeles.sierraclub.org/files/docs/SignInWaiver.pdf>

Unless otherwise indicated, contact the leader of the outing(s) you'd like to join for trip status and details. Leader contact information is included in this edition of The Lookout, as are directions to the rideshare points (if any) referenced herein.

Jan 3 – 4 Sat – Sun Desert Peaks Section, Hundred Peaks

I: Pahrump Point (5,740'), Stewart Point (5,265') - Start out the New Year with a fun weekend of rocky peakbagging near Death Valley NP high above the Chicago Valley north-northeast of Shoshone, CA. We'll move at a slow pace each day; however, each peak will require a strenuous effort, and although the routes will be restricted to Class 2 scrambling, comfort on steep and loose, rocky and thorny cross-country terrain is required. Saturday morning we'll get an early start and head into the "Nopah Range" Wilderness Area located along the eastern range bordering Chicago Valley; first we'll warm up by trudging across a broad alluvial fan, then we'll make our way up through a sometimes tight and rocky canyon before getting up onto a steep and loose, rocky and thorny ridgeline that will bring us up onto the narrow and rocky summit ridge, which we'll ascend to the summit of Pahrump Point. After thoroughly enjoying the reportedly exquisite views up there, we'll return the way we came in for a day's total of 8 RT mi with 3,400' gain. We'll make camp where we're parked and will celebrate the weekend under a nearly full moon sky with a traditional DPS Potluck Happy Hour. Sunday we'll head over to the nearby "Resting Spring Range" Wilderness Area located along the western range bordering Chicago Valley, and will once again venture out across the alluvium, up into a tight and rocky canyon before ascending steep and loose, rocky ridgelines to the summit of Stewart Point. We'll return the way we came for a day's total of 6.5 RT miles with 2,600' of gain. Feel free to join us for one or both days. This is a DPS Outing co-sponsored by HPS. Email Mat Kelliher at mkelliher746@gmail.com with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience for trip status and details. Leaders: MAT

KELLIHER, BILL SIMPSON

Jan 6 Tue Lower Peaks Committee, Hundred Peaks

I: Pine (4,539'), Silver (3385') - Join us for a day in the Angeles National Forest, 7 miles north of Azusa. The Rincon Road is finally open. This makes these two peaks a lot easier. Pine is 2 miles up a ridge with about 500' gain. Silver is 4 miles round trip, with 1620' gain on trail. We will also pick up a couple of other peaks. Bump 3812 is right off the Rincon Road. We will go over Bump 3430 on the way to Silver. Space is limited. Slow to moderate pace. Bring food, water and 10 essentials. This is an LPC Outing co-sponsored by HPS. Contact leaders for details: DAVE COMERZAN, PAT ARREDONDO

Jan 6 Tue Hundred Peaks

HPS Management Committee Meeting – All are welcome to attend our bi-monthly management committee meeting to discuss the business side of the section and upcoming activities. All are welcome to us and opportunities to become involved are available. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm via conference call. To receive access information to join in on the conference call, to have items added to the agenda, or to volunteer, please contact the HPS Chair – Bill Simpson.

Jan 8 Thu Lower Peaks Committee, Hundred Peaks

I: Mendenhall (4630') - Join us for a day in the Angeles National Forest, NE of San Fernando. 12 miles round trip, 2050' of gain, est. 5-6 hours of hiking on road. Slow to moderate pace. Bring food, water and 10 essentials. This is an LPC Outing co-sponsored by HPS. Contact Leaders for details: DAVE COMERZAN, PAT ARREDONDO

Jan 10 Sat Hundred Peaks

HPS Awards Banquet - REVISED LOCATION!! - Join HPS for its annual awards banquet at the Taix French Restaurant in Los Angeles, CA, as we celebrate our accomplishments and visit with friends new and old. This year's speakers will be Craig Carey and Bryan Conant; their presentation will be on the "Highlights and High Peaks of the Southern Los Padres." Contact CHRISTINE SOSKINS for details.

Jan 31 – Feb 1 Sat – Sun Desert Peaks, WTC, Hundred Peaks

I: Whipple Mountains HP (4,130'), Chemehuevi Peak (3,694) – Join us for a fun weekend of desert peak bagging out near Lake Havasu in eastern California. Both peaks require a moderately strenuous effort, which we'll exert at a slow pace, and require comfort on rocky, thorny, steep, and loose class 2 terrain. We'll start out on Saturday by making our way south across the Whipple Mountains Wilderness Area on a variation of DPS Routes B and C and then gain the northwestern ridge of the Whipple Mtns. We'll follow this ridge up and over the enticingly named Peak 3292 as we make our way up onto the summit ridge, once there we'll head up to the NE to summit the high point of the Range. From the high point we'll return to our cars to enjoy a festive and traditional DPS Happy Hour Potluck around a roaring fire, and camp out for the night where we're parked. Totals for the day will be about 9 miles RT with 2,700' of gain. Sunday we'll break camp and drive over to the Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness Area. Once at our trailhead we'll head off to the northeast and ascend a classic desert gully up onto the summit ridge and then work our way south up onto the summit, where spectacular views are sure to be had! We'll return the way we came in for a day's total of about 7.5 RT miles with 2,000' of gain. Feel free to join us for one or both days. This is a DPS Outing co-sponsored by WTC and HPS. Email Mat Kelliher at mkelliher746@gmail.com with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience for trip status and details. *Leaders: MAT KELLIHER, BILL SIMPSON*

Feb 6 – 8 Fri – Sun Hundred Peaks

I: Rabbit (6640'), Villager (5756') - These peaks are normally done in a 2 day backpack or even as a very strenuous day hike. You usually start in the dark and often come out in the dark. We will be doing this as a 3 day backpack. All hiking should be done in daylight. Friday we will hike Villager, 7 miles, 4900' gain, and spend the first night there. Saturday, hike Rabbit using a summit pack, 7.5 miles, 3100', round trip from Villager. We will spend Saturday night on Villager then hike out on Sunday. If time and energy permit, we may add Mile High peak, a peak on the San Diego list. This would add about 2 miles round trip, 1600' gain. Space is limited. Slow to moderate pace. Bring food, water, 10 essentials. You will have to bring water for three days. Contact leaders for status and details. Leaders: DAVE COMERZAN, PAT ARREDONDO, PAT VAUGHN

May 3 Sun Hundred Peaks

I: "Cactus to Clouds" San Jacinto Peak (10,804'): Join us for the classic "Cactus to Clouds," an "extreme" hike that can convey bragging rights (assuming you are able to survive)! According to Wikipedia, the Cactus to Clouds Trail from Palm Springs, California, to San Jacinto Peak is a hiking trail with the greatest elevation gain of any trail in the United States. We will begin early Sunday morning from downtown Palm Springs, and we'll climb past cacti, cholla, ferns and pines. The views are phenomenal. We'll return to the desert floor via a ride on the rotating Palm Springs Aerial Tramway. At about 11,000' gain and around 22 miles of total distance, this strenuous day hike is only for the fit and experienced hiker. Please bring \$\$ for tram as well as lugsoles, layers, beverages, lunch, snacks, sunblock and hat. For trip details contact Leader: BILL SIMPSON Co-Leaders: JIMMY QUAN

May 16 – 17 Sat – Sun Hundred Peaks

I: THE BIG THREE - McKinley Mountain (6200'), San Rafael Mountain (6593'), Santa Cruz Peak (5570'): Very strenuous, moderately paced backpack in central Santa Barbara County. Two-day totals: 34 miles, 8600' gain. These "exciting and fun" outings follows roads and potentially overgrown trails and use trails. This event is sponsored by HPS and co-sponsored by WTC; it satisfies WTC experience trip requirements. Email leader with recent conditioning, experience, city, and phone. Leader: BILL SIMPSON Co-leaders: JIMMY QUAN, BRUCE CRAIG

May 31 Sun Hundred Peaks

I: Ross Mountain (7,402'), Throop Peak (9,138'), Mount Burnham (8,997'), Mount Baden-Powell (9,399'): Join us on this very strenuous, moderate-paced hike through the heart of the San Gabriel Mountains for a total of 15 roundtrip miles and 4,900' of gain, 2,700' of which we'll get on our way out. We'll start from Dawson Saddle and get our first three peaks as we travel northeast along the Pacific Crest Trail to the summit of Mt. Baden-Powell. From there we'll travel cross-country along Baden-Powell's southern ridgeline and descend 2,300' over steep, loose, and brushy terrain to the summit of Ross Mountain far below us. From Ross we'll have to re-gain the 2,300' we lost coming in by climbing back up to the summit of Baden-Powell. From there we'll return along the PCT back to our cars at Dawson Saddle. Expect a long, full day of hiking. Not suitable for beginners or the faint of heart. Please bring lugsoles, layers, beverages, lunch, snacks, sunblock and hat. For trip details contact Leader: BILL SIMPSON, Co-Leaders: JIMMY QUAN, BRUCE CRAIG

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Rideshare Points

There are no Rideshare Points mentioned in the Outings in this issue of The Lookout.

Note that new HPS outings are added to the online schedule of activities (OARS) all the time, often only a few days prior to when the trip is scheduled to occur. Rideshare Points that may be mentioned in those Outings posted on OARS, as well as most of the Angeles Chapter rideshare points (complete with directions and maps), can be found here:

https://angeles2.sierraclub.org/ltc_ridesharing

Several roads that we frequently use to travel to the trailheads have warnings that headlights must be turned on for daylight use. These include, but are not limited to, sections of the Angeles Crest Highway, Highway 138 near Wrightwood, and highways between Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear. Penalties for failure to observe this requirement are very expensive. Be Safe!! Don't get a ticket! Turn on your headlights where required!



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Access Report

By George Christiansen

POWERHOUSE FIRE

In May of 2013, the Powerhouse Fire destroyed 30,275 acres in the Angeles National Forest south of Elizabeth Lake Road and north of Santa Clarita. This fire prevented access to some HPS and LPC peaks, which are now open. If you visit this area, please note that Forest Road 7N08 may still be posted as a "Fire Closure Area" and marked as closed to entry. The District Ranger indicates that HPS Route 1 to Sawtooth Peak is open, and that the closed fire area is farther down the road. HPS Hiking Route 2 is closed due to the Fire Closure Area.

Forest Closure Order 01-14-07 reduced the area of closure, and Liebre Mountain, Burnt Peak, and Sawtooth Mountain are now outside of the closure area. The HPS Management Committee has removed these peaks, previously "suspended" on the HPS list, from suspended status.

On the Lower Peaks Committee list, Jupiter Mountain and Red Rock Mountain are now outside the closure area.

MOUNT BALDY TRAIL

The Mount Baldy Trail (7W12), also known as the Bear Canyon Trail, from Mount Baldy Village to Mount Baldy, is currently closed due to a recent thunderstorm that washed out the trail (effective Aug 21, 2014). This could be a short-term closure, depending on trail repair resources. Check the Angeles Forest web-site for the current status -- <http://www.fs.usda.gov/Angeles/>

The status is also easily accessed from our HPS web-site home page where all of the local National Forest links are available.

UPPER EATON CANYON

The area of the upper and lower falls below Mt Lowe is closed due to safety concerns (i.e., novice hikers falling off the cliffs). Look at the Angeles Forest web site for a map of the precise area.

DESERT DIVIDE

Eight peaks in this area, from Sam Fink Peak to Cone Point, remain on "suspended" status. This appears to be a long-term closure, due to fire damage and storm damage to the trails.

GENERAL ALERTS AND NOTICES

With winter here, road closures will follow after rain and snow. Again, access the "Alerts and Notices" link on National Forest web sites. Go to the HPS web site and scroll to the bottom of the Home page (Forest and Highway Links). Select the National Forest (or Highway) where you plan to hike. On the Forest home page, select "Alerts and Notices" at upper left and check out the current conditions. Remember that these notices are continually changing.

The Los Padres web site lists seasonal road closures to many of our peaks (listed by District) -- including the road to Frazier Mountain, Grade Valley Road, and Santa Barbara Canyon Road. There are many others, too many to list all of them here, and they continually change (some are closed immediately after rain, and reopened when the roads dry out), so check them immediately prior to your visit.

2014 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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What do you do when the gate is closed on the road to a couple of peaks you want to do?



photo by Chris Spisak_

...You go and do another peak.
Group on Fox Mountain #1

Hundred Peaks Section: **The Lookout**
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TO: