

# THE LOOKOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HUNDRED PEAKS SECTION  
V59 N1 January-February 2022



## HOLIDAY HOOPLA 2021



# HPS Lookout Newsletter

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The Hundred Peaks Section is an Activity Section of the Sierra Club - Angeles Chapter  
Our newsletter, The Lookout, is published six times a year.  
Final dates for receipt of material have changed to accommodate our membership: They are January 2nd for the January-February issue, March 2nd, for the March-April issue, May 2nd, for the May-June issue, July 2nd, for the July-August issue, September 2nd, for September-October issue, and November 2nd for the November-December issue.  
The Lookout Newsletter is the property of the Hundred Peaks Section.  
If you send photos or CD's, please include 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 hats and sunglasses.  
Please include SASE if you want material returned. Submit material for the Lookout Newsletter to Mark S. Allen, Editor at:  
Lookout-  
editor@http://www.hundredpeaks.org or Mark S. Allen, 11321 Foster Road, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Wolf and Karen Leverich maintain The Hundred Peaks Website. It can be accessed at: <http://www.hundredpeaks.org>

### Hundred Peaks Section (HPS) Lookout Subscription Form

(There are no prerequisites to become a subscriber)

Name (or names if household)					
Street Address					
City		State		Zip	
Phone		Email			
Sierra Club Membership No. (required for new members)					

**IF YOU WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER, PLEASE SEND A LIST OF 25 PEAKS YOU HAVE HIKE**  
**THAT ARE ON THE HPS LIST**, with the month and year of the peak completion. (See the HPS Website,  
for a list of the 275 or so HPS peaks.)

All rates are for 6 issues/year, delivered electronically.

Basic Subscription: \$9 for 1 year, \$17 for 2 years, \$24 for 3 years

Sustaining Subscription (helps to cover other section expenses): \$20 for 1 year, \$39 for 2 years, \$57 for 3 years Lifetime

Subscription: \$500

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

HPS Subscription email address: [lookout\\_membership@hundredpeaks.org](mailto:lookout_membership@hundredpeaks.org)

## Letter From The Chair

**I cannot state more strongly the gratitude everyone on Management Committee is feeling to Coby King for his leadership on the Committee these past years. He has done a marvelous job of keeping the section focused and on track during difficult period. I hope to continue that strong tradition going forward. Those on MCOMM are looking forward to working with the new members Larry Pond and Sharon Moore, veteran leaders who will add their fresh perspective.**

**The reopening of official HPS outings is going remarkably well, in fact better than expected! We are now back up to nearly the same number of official outings as we had pre-pandemic. Thank you to all the leaders who have stepped up to do the extra work of making their outings official ones in spite of the additional burdens that have been placed on them.**

**The pandemic has been full of twists and turns, and the latest omicron surge is the newest wrinkle. This requires us to follow our safety measures more closely than ever. Once again, our leaders have remained diligent about ensuring participant's safety and participants are adapting to using the medical forms. Hiking with HPS remains one of the safest healthiest and most fun activities one can do, and we are committed to keeping it that way. The camaraderie of our outings has helped me maintain my own sanity during these past two years (yes it has-been two years!), and I am sure the same is also true for most of us.**

**We have also resumed the usual camping events, which we are confident can be done safely. I sorely miss having the banquet, which will have to wait until things settle down more, but we will revisit the issue soon.**

**Wishing everyone a happy and less turbulent new year and hope everyone keeps getting out there!**

Jim Hagar

## 2022 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Elected Members:

**James Hagar - Chair (12/2021)**

1621 Marion Drive, Glendale, CA 91205  
jhagar1@gmail.com

**Sharon Moore-Vice Chair (12/20/22)**

**Mark S. Allen- Secretary, (12/2022)**

**Lookout Newsletter Editor**

**HPS Merchandise Chair**

11321 Foster Road

Los Alamitos, CA 90720

mallen4341@outlook.com

**George Christensen (12/2021)**

**Mountain Records, Access**

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Garden Grove, CA 92840

H:714-636--0918

g.m.christiansen@me.com

**Sunny Yi, Programs, Outreach (12/2022)**

sunnyil125@gmail.com

**Larry Pond - Member At Large**

**Ryan B. Lynch- Member At Large**

(12/20/22)

### Appointed Members:

**Laura Newman, Treasurer** hpstreas@gmail.com

**Mat Kelliher- Outings & Safety Chair**

mkelliher746@gmail.com

**Steve Russell - Membership, Appointed**

**Ignacia Doggett, Elections Chair**

peterdoggett@aol.com

**Tanya Roton, Nominations Committee**

tanya.roton@gmail.com

**Wayne Vollaire, The Lookout Mailer**

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91789-4009 Home: 909 327-6825

email: avollairel@gmail.com

**Coby King - Face book Administrator**

310-489-3280

cobyk@cobyking.com

### Appointed Members:

**Jim Fleming, Co-Chair, Safety**

**Adopt-a-Highway**

538 Yarrow Drive

Simi Valley, CA 93065-7352

Jimf333@att.net

**Joe Young, Historian**

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Los Angeles, CA

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Jason Park



# UPCOMING HIKES: FIFTH ANNUAL RABBIT RAMP-UP

by Bill Simpson



Initiated in 2018 by Bill Simpson, the Rabbit Ramp-Up is a series of five every-other-Saturday hikes that culminate with a hike to Villager Peak and Rabbit Peak #2, which is the toughest hike on the HPS list of 280 peaks. The first four hikes are designed to build the strength, stamina and terrain experience necessary to make it to the "BIG Bunny" and back in a single day for final hike of the series. To whet your appetite for this special adventure, consider the two photos taken during previous hikes to Rabbit Peak #2.

Due to the pandemic the Fourth Annual Rabbit Ramp-Up was done in 2021 as a series of private hikes. In 2020 the Third Annual Rabbit Ramp-Up was done via four posted "official" hikes and one private hike (to Rabbit Peak #2 and Villager Peak). The Governor shut down the State of California two days before the last hike of the series, and the Sierra Club shut down all outings the day before the hike. Due to the significant uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 virus, only 13 hikers showed up for the private hike to Rabbit and Villager (down from 26 hikers expected only two days earlier).

During January, February and March of 2022 many HPS leaders will be conducting the Fifth Annual Rabbit Ramp-Up. The HPS leaders involved this year in one or more of the hikes are Larry Pond, Jerry Grenard, Reddy Yetur, Sharon Moore, Sunny Yi, Jason Park, Shana Rapoport and Bill Simpson. Please mark your calendars and let the Primary Leader for each hike know if you wish to participate in any of the five hikes, below:

## **Saturday, January 22**

**RABBIT RAMP-UP HIKE #1: Whale Peak (5,349 ft) -** Join us for the first in a series of five every-other-Saturday hikes. The Rabbit Ramp-Up hike series will culminate with a hike to Rabbit Peak #2 in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. With around 23 miles and about 8300 feet of elevation gain round trip, Rabbit Peak is the toughest day hike among the Hundred Peaks Section's 280 peaks. The Rabbit Ramp-up series is designed to provide the desert hiking experience and conditioning necessary to handle the "BIG Bunny." Magnificent Whale Peak, an HPS Star Peak, is in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. We will encounter and marvel at ancient pictographs before hiking cross-country along the desert floor to ascend a scenic canyon. We'll pass through a grassy meadow on a use trail and then pick our way up to the rocky peak for sweeping views. This will be a moderately paced hike with some Class 2 scrambling on the way to the summit plateau. Total distance should be around 8 miles, and total gain should be about 2,300 feet. Bring food, beverage, hiking footwear, layers, headlamp, hat and sunblock. This back country outing requires the completed paper Local Outing Medical Form to be reviewed by the Primary Leader at the trailhead prior to the hike. Contact Primary Leader for status and details. Primary Leader: BILL SIMPSON ([email:simphome@yahoo.com](mailto:simphome@yahoo.com)) Co-Leaders: JERRY GRENARD, REDDY YETUR, SHARON MOORE, SUNNY YI, JASON PARK, SHANA RAPOPORT



### **Saturday, February 5**

**RABBIT RAMP-UP HIKE #2: Granite Mountain #2 (5,633 ft)** - Join us for the second in a series of five every-other-Saturday hikes. The Rabbit Ramp-Up hike series will culminate with a hike to Rabbit Peak #2 in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. With around 23 miles and about 8300 feet of elevation gain round trip, Rabbit Peak is the toughest day hike among the Hundred Peaks Section's 280 peaks. The Rabbit Ramp-Up series is designed to provide the desert hiking experience and conditioning necessary to handle the "BIG Bunny." Granite Mountain #2 is a unique peak in the west side of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park located in San Diego County. We may enjoy and admire the desert cacti as we cautiously avoid punctures from needles and other sharp points. This will be a moderately paced hike with some Class 2 scrambling on the way to the summit. Total distance should be around 8 miles, and total gain should be about 3,000 feet. Bring food, beverage, hiking footwear, layers, headlamp, hat and sunblock. This back country outing requires the completed paper Local Outing Medical Form to be reviewed by the Primary Leader at the trailhead prior to the hike. Contact Primary Leader for status and details. Primary Leader: SHARON MOORE Co-Leaders: BILL SIMPSON, LARRY POND, JERRY GRENARD, REDDY YETUR, SHANA RAPOPORT

### **Saturday, February 19**

**RABBIT RAMP-UP HIKE #3: Rosa Point (5,083 ft)** - Join us for the third in a series of five every-other-Saturday hikes. The Rabbit Ramp-Up hike series will culminate with a hike to Rabbit Peak #2 in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. With around 23 miles and about 8300 feet of elevation gain round trip, Rabbit Peak is the toughest day hike among the Hundred Peaks Section's 280 peaks. The Rabbit Ramp-Up series is designed to provide the desert hiking experience and conditioning necessary to handle the "BIG Bunny." Rosa Point is an HPS Star Peak, and it has the best views of the Salton Sea basin. We will hike at a moderate pace cross-country on desert terrain. Some sections of the route will be very steep and infested with hazardous cholla cacti. Be especially careful around the Teddy Bear cholla (having needle nose pliers at the ready isn't a bad idea). The hike will be about 12 miles round trip with around 5,500 feet of gain. Bring food, beverage, hiking footwear, layers, headlamp, hat and sunblock. This back country outing requires the completed paper Local Outing Medical Form to be reviewed by the Primary Leader at the trailhead prior to the hike. Contact Primary Leader for status and details. Primary Leader: BILL SIMPSON ([email: simphome@yahoo.com](mailto:simphome@yahoo.com)) Co-Leaders: JERRY GRENARD, REDDY YETUR, SHARON MOORE, SUNNY YI, JASON PARK, SHANA RAPOPORT



**Saturday, March 5**

**RABBIT RAMP-UP HIKE #4:** Martinez Mountain (6,560+ ft) and Sheep Mountain (5,141 ft) - Join us for the fourth in a series of five every-other-Saturday hikes. The Rabbit Ramp-Up hike series will culminate with a hike to Rabbit Peak #2 in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. With around 23 miles and about 8300 feet of elevation gain round trip, Rabbit Peak is the toughest day hike among the Hundred Peaks Section's 280 peaks. The Rabbit Ramp-Up series is designed to provide the desert hiking experience and conditioning necessary to handle the "BIG Bunny." Martinez Mountain, an HPS Star Peak, and Sheep Mountain -- beautiful and demanding peaks -- are in the 72,259-acre Santa Rosa Wilderness in the Santa Rosa Mountains of Riverside and San Diego Counties. Stunning views will include those of the surrounding mountains, Palm Desert and the Coachella Valley. We will hike at a moderate pace. Total distance should be around 20 miles, and total gain should be about 6,000 feet. Bring food, beverage, hiking footwear, layers, headlamp, hat and sunblock. This back country outing requires the completed paper Local Outing Medical Form to be reviewed by the Primary Leader at the trailhead prior to the hike. Contact Primary Leader for status and details. Primary Leader: REDDY YETUR Co-Leaders: BILL SIMPSON, JERRY GRENARD, SHARON MOORE, SHANA RAPOPORT

**Saturday, March 19**

**RABBIT RAMP-UP HIKE #5:** Rabbit Peak #2 (6,640+ ft) and Villager Peak (5,756 ft) - Join us for the fourth in a series of five every-other-Saturday hikes. The Rabbit Ramp-Up hike series will culminate with a hike to Rabbit Peak #2 in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. With around 23 miles and about 8300 feet of elevation gain round trip, Rabbit Peak is the toughest day hike among the Hundred Peaks Section's 280 peaks. The Rabbit Ramp-Up series is designed to provide the desert hiking experience and conditioning necessary to handle the "BIG Bunny." Spend a special day in Anza Borrego Desert State Park while hiking to Rabbit Peak #2, an HPS Star Peak, and Villager Peak at a moderate pace. Very strenuous. Hike will start in the dark and end in the dark. Enjoy magnificent desert views throughout the day. Total distance should be around 23 miles, and total gain should be about 8,300 feet. Bring food, beverage, hiking footwear, layers, headlamp, hat and sunblock. This back country outing requires the completed paper Local Outing Medical Form to be reviewed by the Primary Leader at the trailhead prior to the hike. Contact Primary Leader for status and details. Primary Leader: BILL SIMPSON ([email: simphome@yahoo.com](mailto:simphome@yahoo.com)) Co-Leaders: JERRY GRENARD, REDDY YETUR, SHARON MOORE, SHANA RAPOPORT



Nahid Shirazi



Nahid Shirazi

Photos of Villager - Rabbit hike 3.27.2021



Backus Peak, 1-5-22. Richard Passmore achieves his 50th peak on trip with Bill Simpson co-leading.



Teresa Blackmon Spohr on Cobblestone



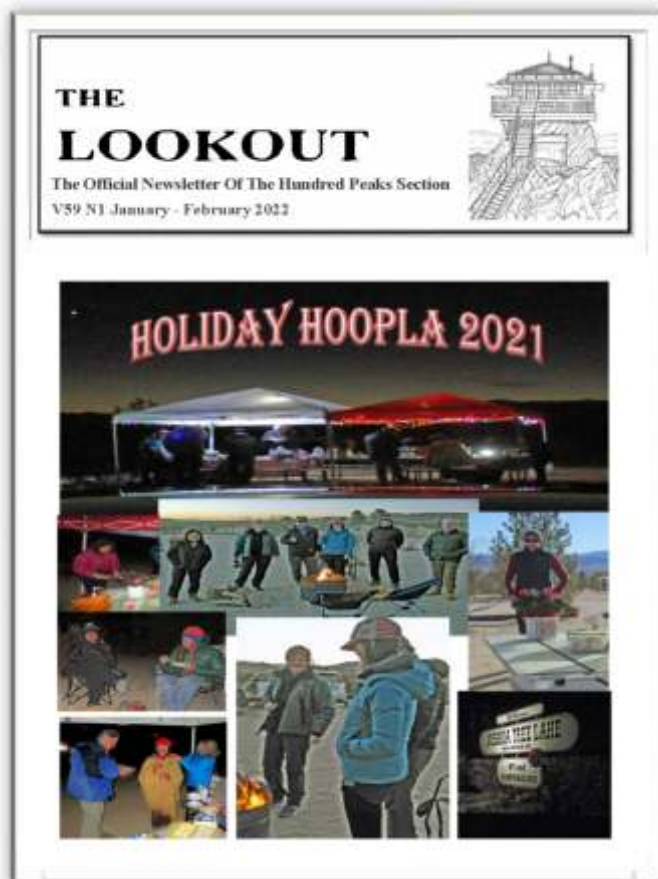
Mary Varalyay Aqua Tibia Easgle Crag hike



Steve NY on Los Pinos Peak



George White atop Simi Peak



Cover Photo: 2021 Holiday Hoopla, Joshua Tree, CA. Coordinated by Sunny Yi and Mat Kelliher



Lilly Fukui at Forest Falls



Michael Sallwasser and friend on Mount Emma, Old Mount Emma



## **THE NAVIGATION CORNER: 2020 Mapping Highlights**

By Bob Myers, LTC Navigation Chair

When we started 2020, none of realized what an eventful year we would be living through. With the release of several vaccines, 2021 has the potential of being a better year. My first article of the new year will provide a brief review of some mapping highlights from 2020.

### **Leadership Training Committee Navigation Program**

Our 2020 navigation calendar contemplated 13 days of navigation training. We were able to hold our January Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and our February Navigation on Snowshoes. All other outings were cancelled because of the global pandemic. As a substitute, online navigation trainings were offered in both April and November.

No navigation events have been scheduled for 2021. The current plan is to schedule online navigation events for Spring, Summer, and Fall. The Summer online training will focus on the use of GPS. The schedule will be announced in my next article.

It may be possible to hold in person navigation events by the end of the year. The Mission Creek Preserve has been reserved for November in the event outings are permitted.

### **Delayed Release of National Spatial Reference System**

As indicated in previous articles, new datums were planned to be released in 2022. However, the National Geodetic Survey announced in mid-2020 that the release of the new datums is being delayed. The NGS notes that “We don’t know and are currently undergoing a comprehensive review of all the projects and plans associated with NSRS Modernization to come up with a more specific timeline and understanding of the requirements for a successful rollout of the new NSRS. . . . Therefore it is not out of the question to consider a complete roll-out of the modernized NSRS to be somewhere in the 2024–2025 timeframe.” (NGA, Delayed Release of the Modernized NSRS, <https://tinyurl.com/y2avflwl>.) Although the rollout will be delayed, the datums will still bear 2022 (e.g., North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022 (NATRF2022)).

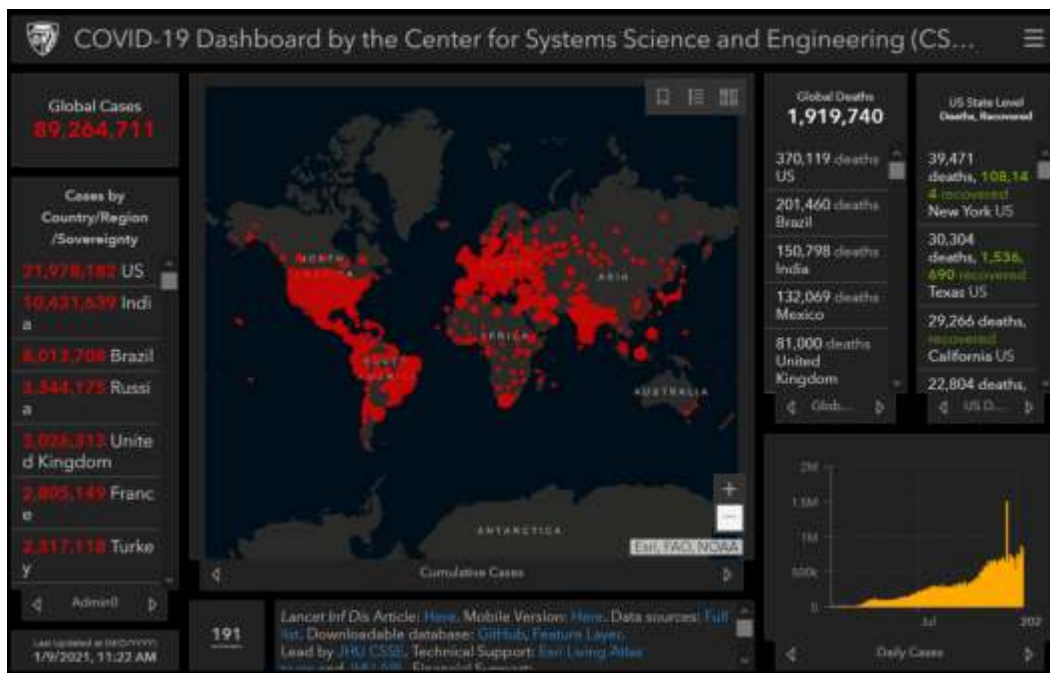
### **Pandemic Mapping**

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Numerous maps have been developed to provide information on the global pandemic. A global map gallery curated by Esri has 944 maps as of the writing of this article. They can be viewed at: <https://tinyurl.com/y52uodxq>.

One of the best maps with billions of views has been deployed by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at John Hopkins University (<https://tinyurl.com/uwns6z5>). This map tracks data from 191 countries and provides links to download the supporting data. It is the source for data used by many news organizations.

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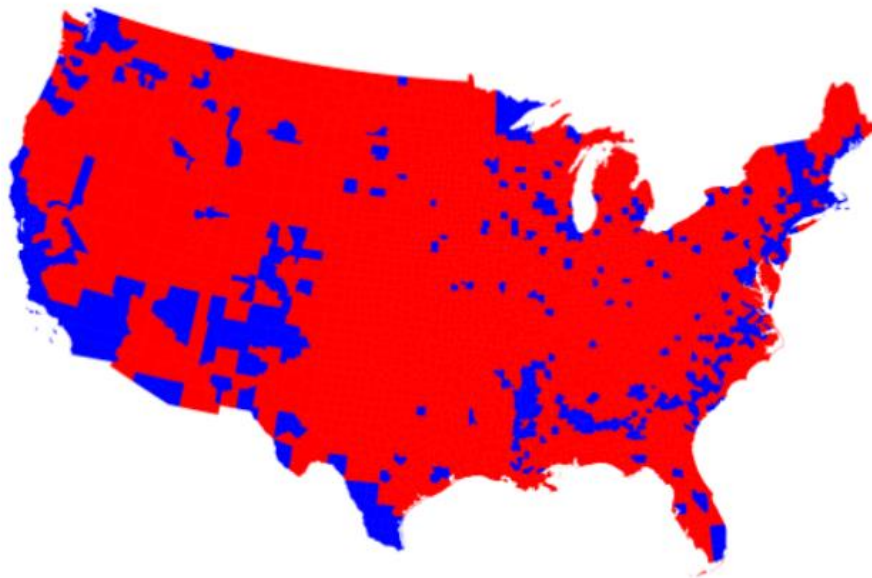
Another noteworthy map is the Esri CovidPulse Map (<https://tinyurl.com/y27emust>). It provides state-by-state rankings and shows a variety of data for each state.



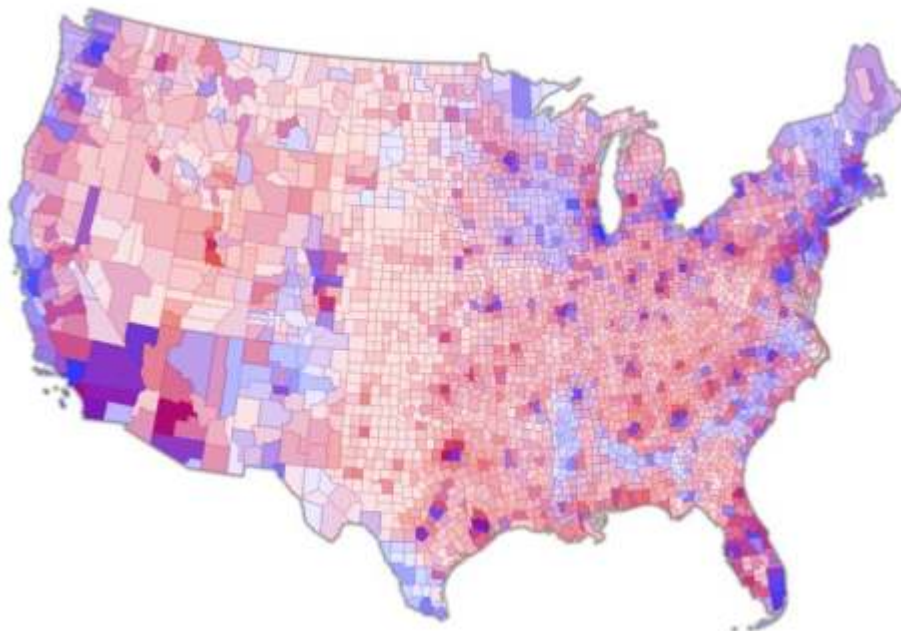
Among major newspapers, the New York Times has an impressive pandemic mapping project. It provides excellent data analysis and has a variety of maps, charts, and graphs. It makes its data freely available on GitHub, which is online platform for developers and researchers.

## Election Maps

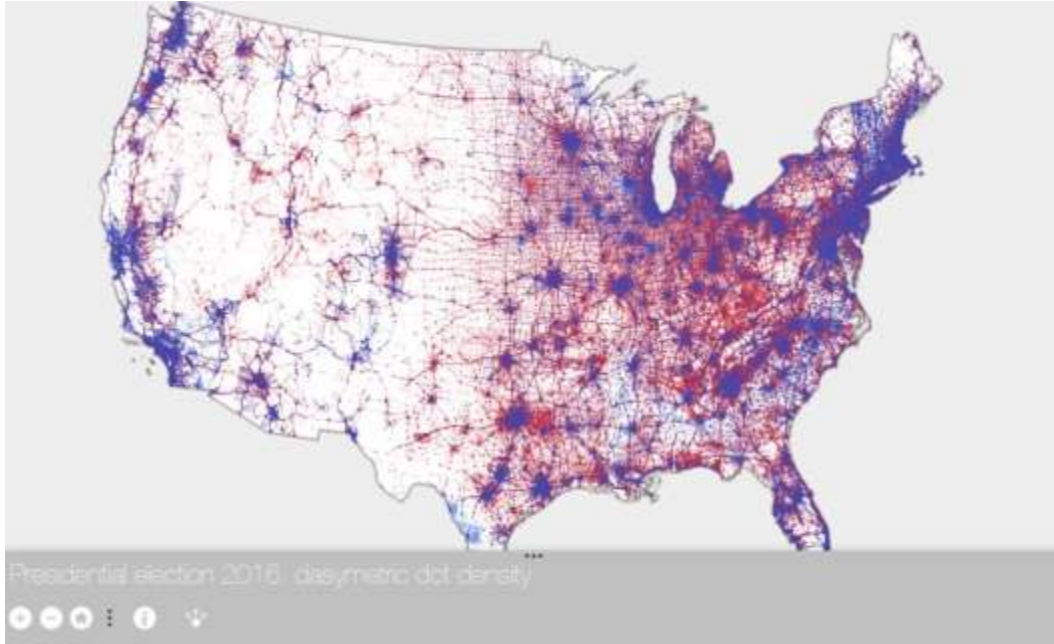
As a presidential election year, 2020 also saw numerous election maps. National election mapping is notoriously bad in its symbolization of data. This has been a pet peeve of mine for many years. In 1974, I authored a law review article entitled “Public Officials Represent Acres, Not People” taking a critical look at voting in special districts in which results were based on the amount of property owned rather than individual votes. Ever since, I have been critical of election maps that emphasize land over people. For example, the following map from 2016 presidential election showing county results has been commonly used to suggest the predominance of “Red” voters. However, this map fails to take into account population.



By contrast the two maps below do a better job of presenting vote distribution by taking population into account.







When looking at maps, one must always understand what data is being represented. Raw counts are often not a good basis for many comparisons. For example, if there are 1,000 crimes in a city of 20,000 people and 2,000 crimes in a city of 60,000 people, what city has bigger crime problem? A map that showed only raw counts would give a misleading picture.

In his book *How to Lie with Maps*, Mark Monmonier notes that one should have a “healthy skepticism about maps,” stating that “map authors can experiment freely with features, measurements, area of coverage, and symbols and can pick the map that best presents their case or supports their unconscious bias.” A map is no different from other information that flows in our society – it must be critically evaluated.

I welcome your navigation and mapping questions. Contact me at [rmmyers@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rmmyers@ix.netcom.com).



# **Lizard Head And Cuyama**

## **Lookout By Louie Rodriquez**

On November 3, 2021 a private hike occurred that climbed Lizard Head and Cuyama Lookout led by Jim Hager. In attendance was Sharon, May, Miriam, Tao and Louie. The long drive got us to the trail head around 9am.

The weather was pretty nice and cool as we started down the trail toward the abandoned Upper Tinta Campground. After a little scramble through the trees, we found the right ridge following a firebreak and started climbing up.



The ridge was a bit steep here and there, but nothing this small hardy bunch hadn't seen before. After several bumps, we hit the main ridge at the top and had a first view of Lizard Head to the south. From here, the route describes 6 bumps along another ridge to get to the peak. As we got closer, the rock shape on the peak started to truly take the shape of a reptile. The six of us enjoyed lunch on the rock slab and basked in the sun a little bit, just like a lizard does. After the summit photo, we packed up and headed back.



The return has more gain on the main ridge. And the six bumps turned into more than a dozen as the group started seriously counting the bumps. Returning now on the main ridge, the heat was on and we started to bake a little bit on the open ridge until the trail was shaded. Once back at the campground we scouted for the trail to the cars.

We then drove up the dirt road a short way to the Cuyama Lookout. The main metal frame structure was standing with stairs to the top, but the wooden watch building had been torn down with debris at the base on the ground. At any rate, we took some nice photos from the top with a 360-degree view.

A chill was creeping into the air as the sun was going down, so we jumped into the cars to drive out on the rough dirt road with some daylight. The debate was wide open as to how many "real bumps" were on approach to the peak compared to the trip report. All in all, it was a worthwhile trip



**Photographs by Sharon Moore**



# Summits

Photo by Eric Chu

Photographs submitted by Nahid Shirazi





# Milestones



< Cates 0217

Description: John Backus leading Hundred Peaks Section climb of Chuckwalla Mountain, October 14, 1972.

Photographer: Bob Cates

Donor: Bob Cates

Original: 35 mm slide in holdings of Angeles Chapter Archive

Credit: Bob Cates Collection, Sierra Club-Angeles Chapter Archives

Image ID (File Name): Cates 0217

Fink 018a >

Galena Peak at eastern end of Yucaipa Ridge, 11/26/1933. Party included John Hunt, Opal \_\_\_\_\_, Mary Rogers Brackius, Don Kelly, Art Johnson, Jim Hunt, and R.S. "Sam" Fink. Fink is 4th from left.

Photographer: Unknown

Donor: R.S. "Sam" Fink

Original: 35mm slide of donor print made by Bob Cates

Credit: R.S. "Sam" Fink Collection, Sierra Club-Angeles Chapter Archives

Image ID (file name): Fink 018a



< Cates 0384

Description: Hundred Peaks Section outing to San Diego peaks, June 11-12, 1977. Group celebrating on peak. Jack Goldberg sitting left, possibly Frank Zancanaro sitting right. Tom Armbruster is standing at center in white tee-shirt. Frank Goodykoontz is at far right.

Photographer: Bob Cates

Donor: Bob Cates

Original: 35 mm slide in holdings of Angeles Chapter Archive

Credit: Bob Cates Collection, Sierra Club-Angeles Chapter Archives

Image ID (File Name): Cates 0384

# Bagging The Big Bunny

By Sharon Moore



There's more than one way to bag HPS Peak 30F, Rabbit #2. Most commonly, people choose Route 1 as a 22 mile, 8300 ft. gain day hike and get Villager along the way. But on the weekend of December 18-19, 2021, Jim Hagar and I led a group of backpackers on an overnight trip, in the hopes of helping Sonia Arancibia achieve her third list finish. At the age of 80, she does not hike as fast as she used to, but she is still a remarkably tough lady. Going overnight allows more time to do the hike, although it does not actually make it easier.



So at dawn on Saturday Jim led Sonia, Ella Pennington, Lidia Barbosa, Kat Jankaew, Heesook Kim, Jae Kim, and me as sweep across the desert floor and up the ridge that eventually leads to Rabbit. Our goal for the day was to haul our camping gear and 7 liters of water to the broad summit of Villager Peak, a mere 7 miles and 5000 ft. gain hike through beautiful but rocky and rather shabby desert terrain. We achieved this more or less by lunch time, but by the time we set up camp and gathered on the summit to sign the register and take the requisite group shot, the sun was dropping low in the sky. Due to the time of year, the sun set

very early and it got very cold, but we got to watch the full moon rise over the Salton Sea before burrowing into sleeping bags for the night.

Sunday we made another dawn start. We were able to watch the sun rise and the moon set as we hiked up and down the undulating ridge. We had completed about two miles when Sonia suddenly halted and confessed she could not continue. She had slept badly and been cold all night, and it turns out she also aggravated an old knee injury while in camp. She settled in to rest and wait and the rest of the group sadly continued on. It is another 8 miles and 3000 ft of gain round trip to do Rabbit from Villager, and we would have to pack up camp and hike out afterwards, so she made the right call. Onward we went, pausing at the 5700 ft. saddle before the final push. We made it to the summit just after 10am, where I broke out my surprise reward for everyone. We had earned our bunny ears! After signing the register, we took a very fun summit photo, and proudly sported our bunny ears all the way back to Sonia and camp.



The hike out was long, slow, and steady. It must have been very difficult and painful for Sonia, but she made it. Another remarkable participant was Lidia Barbosa, who is a strong and enthusiastic hiker but had never backpacked before in her life. She has enrolled in WTC this year and it will probably seem like a piece of cake after this trip. I took advantage of the mellower pace to photograph the desert beauty all around us, as the afternoon and sunset backlit the cholla with a golden glow.

**Photographs by Sharon Moore**



**Granite Mountain**  
**November 29th 2021**  
**By Larry Edmonds**

On Monday morning, November 29<sup>th</sup>, I met the Monday Maniacs at the intersection of highway S2 and Mason Valley Truck Trail. From here we drove up the truck trail taking a left onto Rodriguez Spur Trail for a short ways to where we could park off the truck trail. The drive in is rough requiring at a minimum some clearance and at least one 4WD vehicle to extract anyone who gets stuck. After parking, putting on boots and packs, we started hiking north to where we picked up on old mining road heading east and then north that would take us to the lower end of a ridge that heads NW to the main ridge of Granite Mountain. The hikers were me, Mike Smolik, Withold Martynowicz, Hersch Kagan, Kerry Banke, Martha Woodworth, and Chuck Ramm. Along the way we stopped to check out the mine shafts and Martha came nose to nose with a nice red diamond rattler. Fortunately he/she chose not to strike her, though both were a bit shaken up. The climb up the NW ridge was a fairly easy climb except for a short class 2 to 3, depending on the route you take, climb up a rock band. After gaining the main ridge the going is fairly easy until you reach the final climb to the summit which consists of very large rocks. Here again the climbing is class 2 to 3 depending on your route up. After lunch on the peak we headed back down the main ridge but when we reached the junction with the NW ridge we had climbed up on we traversed heading SW across the upper end of a canyon to the next ridge heading down towards our vehicles. Crossing the upper end of the canyon was in very steep terrain with many small mini ridges to go up and down over. I think a better way to have done this would be to remain on the main ridge until reaching this second ridge and then following it down. Once on that ridge it turned out to be a nice more direct way down. Total for the day was 7 miles and 3250 feet of elevation gain. This was my fourth time up Granite and I think it was the first time the wind was not howling. A beautiful day sharing a peak I love with good friends.



Our group on the peak

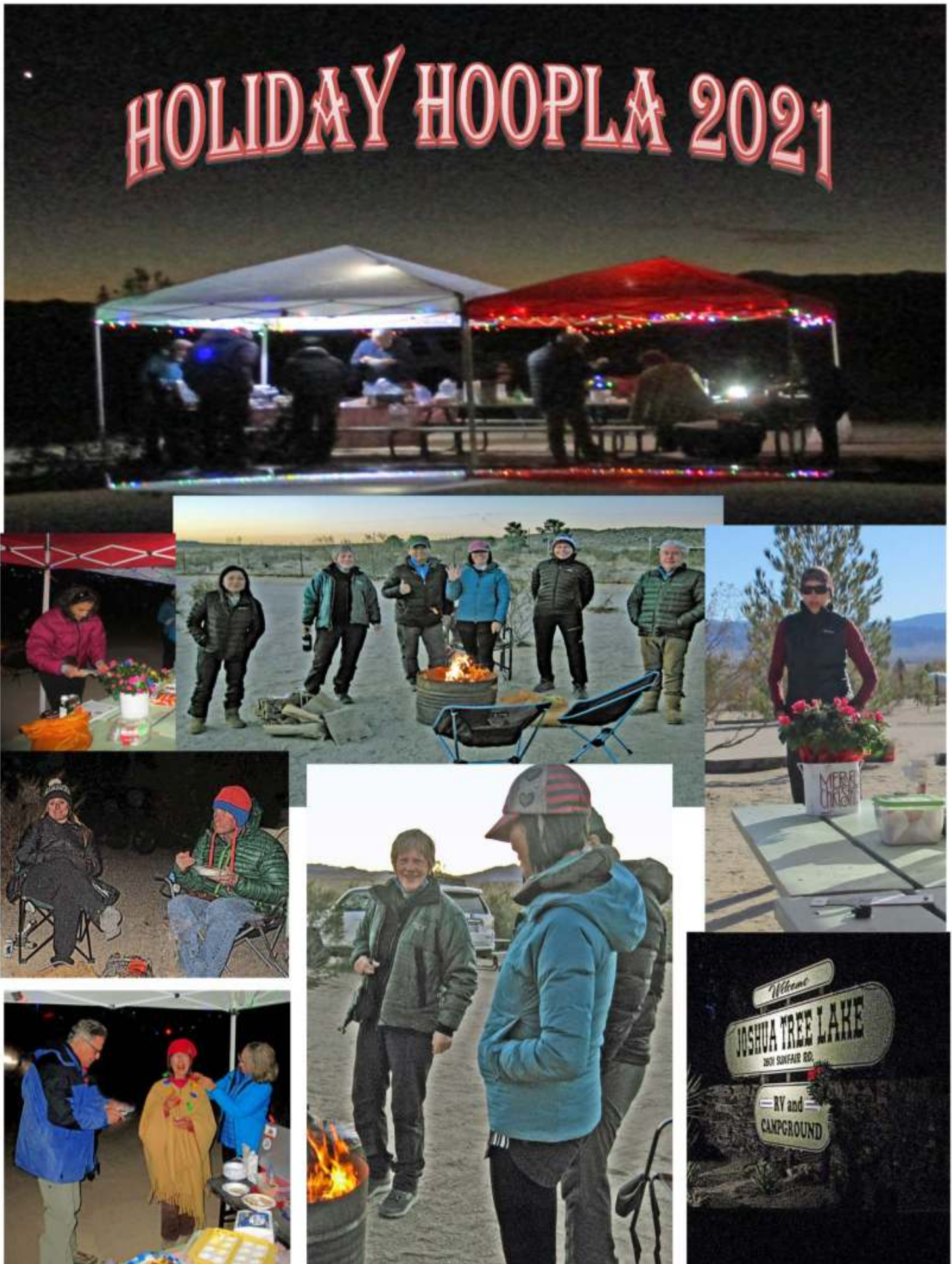


The steep traverse



My track in yellow









## Santa Ana Mountains Task Force

12-10-19





## Iron Mountain (8007')

By Mike Maki

This was the last peak we needed to complete our personal list of Los Angeles County 8K+ Peaks. Being it is also an HPS peak and considered one of the toughest, it was a good challenge to complete the list. Weather forecast was good, in the 50s on the summit with little to no wind in mid November. Early in the year we had been up to Bonita Peak. I remember looking up at Iron Mountain and thinking if we had started earlier it would have been tempting to continue on. Iron is a very picturesque and prominent peak reaching out to you along that southern ridge to head on up!

We parked at the East Fork Station parking area, and headed out about 6:30am. After a short walk down the road to the campground at Heaton Flat, the trail is a steady climb on a well used and maintained trail. Shortly after we arrived at the 3042 saddle, the trail soon enters the Sheep Mountain Wilderness. I cached a half liter bottle of water here and another about two miles further. They came in handy later! All along this section of trail we encountered fresh bear and mountain lion tracks. The trail here passes from one side of the ridge to the other passing over Bonita Peak, one of the Lower Peaks.



From here on, Iron Mountain is almost always in view. The trail now primarily climbs along the ridge, occasionally dropping some between the ridge bumps. The route is still easy to follow with some small sections a little overgrown. There are a few short sections that are quite steep and eroded but they don't last too long and easy enough to get up. Hiking poles were very helpful, especially on the way down.

I enjoyed having the mountain in view most of the time as it gave me a sense of progress. As we continued to climb we encountered nice stands of conifers and manzanita, not to mention plenty of yucca as well. Nearing the summit the trail was still easy to follow and with the grade of the climb flattening out and we were soon on top with the familiar steel post and W15 triangle sign. We arrived at about noon, well Mary did, I'm usually not too far behind. We spent close to an hour on the summit. The views from Iron are fantastic. Very much a middle of the San Gabriels peak. The trip down was a little faster than going up, but we still finished the last half hour or so using headlamps.

Having the reputation as one of the harder hikes in the San Gabriels with its 6000 feet of elevation gain and 14 miles round trip, Iron Mountain is a great hike. If the weather is good and you prepare it is one of the best hikes in the San Gabriels. After hiking Baldy a couple of weeks before it was a pleasure to be the only ones on the mountain!



Photos by Mike Maki



# Hiking Photography

By Jin Oak Chung



- Coby King – Chair, Facebook Administrator
  - Jim Hagar - Vice Chair
  - Mark S. Allen - Secretary, Lookout Editor, Merchandise
  - George Christiansen - Access and Mountain Records
  - Sunny Yi – Programs Chair
  - Mat Kelliher - Outings and Safety, Asst. Programs Chair
  - Ron Campbell - Angeles Chapter Safety Chair
  - Bill Simpson
  - Meeting Call to Order: 6:08pm
  - Chair's Report:
    - Discussed Sierra Club National Outings Protocols. National seems dug in and apposed to organized outings. Ron Campbell creating a proposal to National Sierra Club. Ron stated that resuming outings is vital to the Sierra Club. National asked for recommendations from Angeles Chapter as to how outings can resume.
    - Participants would carry a medical card listing medications, perhaps health conditions.
- 7-13-21 MCOMM Minutes, by Mark S. Allen, approved and filed
- Treasures Report, by Laura Newman, approved and filed

## **MOUNTAIN RECORDS REPORT September 21, 2021**

### **George Christiansen**

- Southern California Forests remain closed due to fire conditions. This includes the Angeles, San Bernardino, Los Padres and Cleveland National Forests (plus the El Dorado in Northern California)

### • **FRENCH FIRE**

The French Fire near Lake Isabella has closed access to Sunday, Split, Black and Bohna. Ref: Closure Order 0513-21-25. This is currently a “short term” order (thru Nov 30), of less than three months, so I do not recommend “suspension” unless the closure is extended. Not however they are CLOSED PER FOREST ORDER>

### **SUMMARY OF FOREST CLOSURES**

The Bobcat Closure) is in effect thru April 1, 2022

The El Dorado Fire Closure (05-12-00-21-06) opened part of the forest and included the previous Apple Fire Closure, expires on October 8, 2021.

The Holy Fire, although not closing any HPS Peaks, does affect some access routes. This Closure is scheduled to expire on October 9, 2021.

### • **UPPER SANTA YNEZ RIVER ACCESS—**

Hildreth Peak (6M) access via Route 1 in Santa Barbara County has been impacted by a major road washout between Romero Saddle and the Santa Ynez River (and the Caliente Springs Trailhead). Projected completion date is not available, but the Los Padres NF website appears to be current. Check the Santa Barbara District, “Trails, Roads and Campground Information”. The upper Santa Ynez River is closed to hiking, biking, and vehicular traffic due to the current closure of Southern California Forests.



- 9-21-2021 Hundred Peaks MCOMM Bi-Monthly Meeting, continued:
- Programs Sunny Yi, reported progress on a restaurant for possible HPS Awards Banquet.
- Discussion of HPS events below are carried to next meeting :
- Spring Fling 2022 -
- 2021 Holiday Hoopla - Posted in Sept-Oct Lookout, Location to be Determined
- 2022 - HPS Awards Banquet - Under Review
- Outreach Report, No Report
- Merchandising Report, by Mark S. Allen, Merchandising Chair.
- Meeting Adjourned 8:01pm

