

# THE LOOKOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HUNDRED PEAKS SECTION

V58 N1 January-February 2021



Jason Park

HPS Lookout Newsletter  
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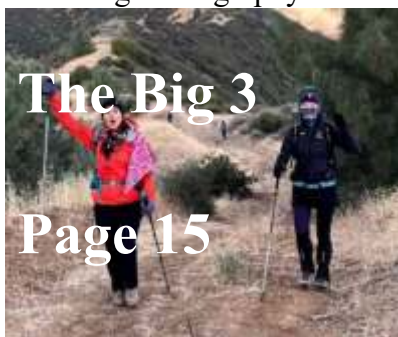
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Hi HPS'ers!

The year 2020 is finally done.

Thank goodness. Hopefully 2021 will be a lot better!

No change from my last Lookout article. Sierra Club hikes and in person events are still shutdown. There have been some virtual events. There is still no indication when National Sierra Club will allow official hikes to start again. My thinking is that with the upsurge of COVID 19, the restart will be delayed even further. Fortunately there are several approved COVID vaccines now. When COVID is under control, National Sierra Club will allow official hikes to start again.

HPS just completed our annual elections. Mark Allen, Sunny Yi and Ryan Lynch were all elected. Congratulations to them. They join the returning Board members – Coby King, William Chen, George Christiansen and Jim Hagar. At the January Board Meeting, the actual offices that each will have will be determined and the HPS Membership will be notified.

During the election, the Star Emblem was also approved. This will be a list of 50 peaks that represent the best of our peaks. The HPS Board has already been voting for the 50 peaks. The list will be firmed up at the January 12th MCOMM meeting. More details will be out in late January.

I chose not to run for the HPS Board again. I have been very active during the last four years, the last two of which I have been the HPS Chair. I felt it was time for me to move on and let others step up and contribute. Thanks to the other HPS Board Members and the HPS Membership for your contributions and your support during my tenure.

In the meantime, stay focused on staying safe and well. If you are lucky enough to get out hiking, social distance and wear masks when social distancing isn't possible. Also, limit carpooling to household members. Don't become a Covid-19 statistic.

Michael Dillenback  
HPS Chair

## **MOUNTAIN RECORDS REPORT**

**January 12, 2021**

**George Christiansen**

### **• RECENT FIRES —**

The Bobcat Closure (05-01-20-11) has been re-issued and is in effect through April 1, 2022.

The Lake Fire Closure (05-01-20-09), also re-issued and in effect through June 1, 2021.

Both new closures reduced the size of the closure but did not affect our peak suspensions.

**Peak closures listed below:**

**BOBCAT FIRE (CLOSURE ORDER 05-01-20-08)**

Effective Oct 9, 2020 thru April 1, 2022 (Angeles NF)  
(22 Peaks)

10D Bare Mountain

11D Barley Flats

11E Mt Sally

11F Vetter LO

11G Mt Mooney

12G Mt Wilson

12F Occidental Peak - see footnote \*

13A Winston Peak

13B Mt Akawie

13C Pleasant View Ridge

13D Will Thrall Peak

13E Pallet Mtn

13F Mt Williamson

13G Mt Lewis

13I Winston Ridge

13K Goodykoontz Peak

14A Waterman Mtn

14B Twin Peaks

14C Mount Islip

14K Kratka Ridge

15A Monrovia Peak

15B Smith Mountain

\* Occidental Peak is outside the "Closure" area, but only accessible if the Mount Wilson Road is open. The status of SR 2 is uncertain between Angeles Forest Hwy and Big Pines.

## **EL DORADO FIRE, SAN GABRIEL WILDERNESS, APPLE FIRE**

El Dorado Closure Order 05-12-00-20-17

Effective Oct 10, 2020 thru Oct 8, 2021

San Gorgonio Wilderness Area Closure

defined by paragraph 4 of the El Dorado Closure

Effective thru Oct 8, 2021 or the "first significant rain" ???

As of Oct 25, fires were still burning in the SGWA. The extent of closure is expected to decrease after significant rainfall.

Apple Fire Closure Order

Closure Order 05-12-53-20-05

Effective Aug 29, 2020 thru Aug 28, 2021

(20 Peaks)

- 24B San Bernardino Peak
- 24C San Bernardino East Peak
- 24D Anderson Peak
- 24E Shields Peak
- 24F Charlton Peak
- 24G Jepson Peak
- 24H Dobbs Peak
- 24I San Gorgonio Mtn
- 24J Ten Thousand Foot Ridge
- 24K Lake Peak
- 24L Grinnell Mountain
- 24M Dragons Head
- 24N Bighorn Mountain
  
- 25A Allen Peak
- 25B Birch Mountain
- 25C Cedar Mountain
- 25D Wilshire Peak

- 25E Wilshire Mountain
- 25F Little San Gorgonio Peak
- 25G Galena Peak

Depending on the expiration date of the San Gorgonio Wilderness Area Closure, the HPS San Gorgonio Area (all or part of Area 24, A thru G), could drop from the list.

**LAKE FIRE**

(Closure Order 05-01-20-06)  
 Effective through December 31, 2020 (Angeles NF)

- 8A Liebre Mountain
- 8B Burnt Peak
- 8C Sawtooth Mountain

These three peaks are currently closed, but since the Closure is projected to expire on December 31, 2020, they should not be considered for "suspension" (unless the Closure is extended).

**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.)

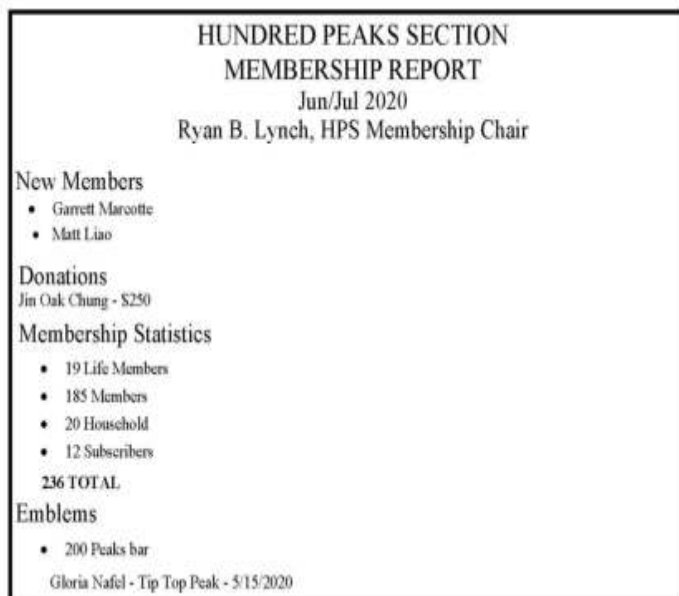
All rates are for 6 issues/year, delivered electronically.  
 Basic Subscription: \$9 for 1 year, \$17 for 2 years, \$24 for 3 years  
 Sustaining Subscription (helps to cover other section expenses): \$20 for 1 year, \$39 for 2 years, \$57 for 3 years  
 Lifetime Subscription: \$500  
 Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Hundred Peaks Section**  
**Bi-Monthly MCOMM Meeting**

**9-8-2020**

- Michael Dillenback - Chair
- Coby King – Vice Chair
- Mark S. Allen - Secretary
- George Christiansen - Access and Mountain Records
- Mike Dilllenback – Programs Chair
- Sheedhar "Reddy" Yetur, Asst Programs Chair
- William Chen, Outreach, Asst. Programs Chair
- Mat Kelliher, Outings and Safety Chair
- Ryan B. Lynch - Membership Chair
- Jim Hagar - Member At Large
- Laura Newman- Treasurer
- Zoom Meeting Call to order: 6:41
- Chair Report, Michael Dillenback:
- Confidential Discussion on Lookout Political Issue. Resolved and Filed
- Confidential Discussion on HPS Policy, Apvd and Filed
- Angeles Chapter Banquet Nov 8th - MOVED to May 2, 2021
- Elections-
  - Three incumbent MCOMM Candidates for 2020. One HPS Member interested in running for MCOMM.
  - Elections Committee has already contacted the Candidates; Statements must be ready for next Lookout Newsletter.
  - Elections to managed by Coby King. William Chen and Ryan Lynch to help form balloting system for Coby King.
  - Membership Role update by Ryan Lynch. Discussed bank access with Laura to make deposits in club acct. Also contacting Wedmasters Karen and Brian Leverich to update [www.hundredpeaks.org](http://www.hundredpeaks.org) Membership Form.
- HPS Star Emblem Award, by Coby King. Emblem to be for hiking 50 peaks. Comprised of a peak from each HPS Section plus +18 others. Coby proposed Hundred Peaks Emblem to be on this years ballot. M/V/Apvd
- Outings and Safety Report, Mat Kelliher- No Outings Scheduled (Indefinitely)
- Treasurers Report, Laura Newman Apvd and Filed
- Secretary's Report, by Mark S. Allen. Amendments made to 7-14-20 Minutes, (Apvd and Filed). Minutes sent to Karen Leverich for posting on [www.hundredpeaks.org](http://www.hundredpeaks.org) Website.
- Membership Report, by Ryan J. Lynch



- Mountain Records, by George Christiansen

September 8, 2020

- **GENERAL ACCESS ISSUES –**

Due to the Coronavirus, ALL peaks are closed (but not suspended) relative to HPS scheduled hikes). If members are involved in private hikes, access to the desired peaks must be researched individually relative to trail and area closures.

- **SUSPENSIONS –**

Modjeska Peak (18B) is currently the only officially suspended HPS Peak, and confirmed as still inside the Holy Fire Closure Area. That Closure is scheduled to be in effect until “September, 2020”. I will continue to monitor, as the Closure could be cancelled or extended.

- **RECENT FIRES –**

Many recent fires have affected our hiking areas:

APPLE FIRE in the San Bernardino NF. Wilshire Mountain (but not Wilshire Peak), Little San Geronio, Galena Peak, Bighorn, and possibly Dragons Head, are currently in the burn area. The area is closed, but the “Closure Order” has not yet been published.

LAKE FIRE in the Angeles NF. Burnt, Sawtooth, and Liebre (at the west end of the burn scar) are all affected and now closed. 90% contained on Aug 31.

EL DORADO AND BOBCAT FIRES – 7 percent containment as of Sept 7, and affecting the Yucaipa Ridge.

COMPLETE FOREST CLOSURES – Due to the heat, fire danger, wind, and current active fires, all local forests were closed effective 5:00PM. Sept 7, 2020.

Official long term “Forest Closure Orders” will follow, so standby for suspension recommendations.

,

- **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). I have been advised by the Los Padres NF that a contract to repair the road has been awarded, and that they have 60 days to complete the repair.

Not to be negative, but that might be just in time to overlap the winter road closures.

- **Programs, by Michael Dillenback, William Chen, Reddy Yetur. All**

**HPS events below are canceled:**

- 2020 Oktoberfest - Canceled
- 2020 Holiday Hoopla - Canceled
- 2021 HPS Banquet - Canceled

- **Outreach Report, by William Chen, no report**

- **Merchandising Report by Michael Dillenback.**

- **Sold two Bandannas:**

- September 8th Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm (V58 N1 Page 8)

# 2021 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## Elected Members:

**Coby King - Chair (12/2021)**

**Facebook Administrator**

310-489-3280

cobyk@cobyking.com

**James Hagar, Vice Chair (12/20/21)**

1621 Marion Drive, Glendale, CA 91205

Jhagar1@gmail.com

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

**Lookout Newsletter Editor**

11321 Foster Road

Los Alamitos, CA 90720

mallen4341@outlook.com

**Ryan B. Lynch-Membership  
(12/2022)**

Phone: 213-534-7357

lookout\_membership@hundredpeaks.org

**George Christensen (12/2021)**

**MountainRecords,Access**

12702 Groveview Street

Garden Grove, CA 92840

H:714-636-0918

g.m.christensen@me.com

**William Chen, Outreach (12/2022)**

Santa Clarita, CA

(805) 931-6586

william101.chen@gmail.com

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

sunnyyi1125@gmail.com

## Appointed Members:

**Laura Newman, Treasurer**

hpstreas@gmail.com

**Mat Kelliher- Outings & Safety Chair**

mkelliher746@gmail.com

**Ignacia Doggett, Elections Chair**

peterdoggett@aol.com

**Tanya Roton, Nominations Committee**

tanya.rotan@gmail.com

**Wayne Vollaire, The Lookout Mailer**

2035 Peaceful Hills Road, Walnut, CA

91789-4009 Home: 909 327-6825

email: avollaire1@gmail.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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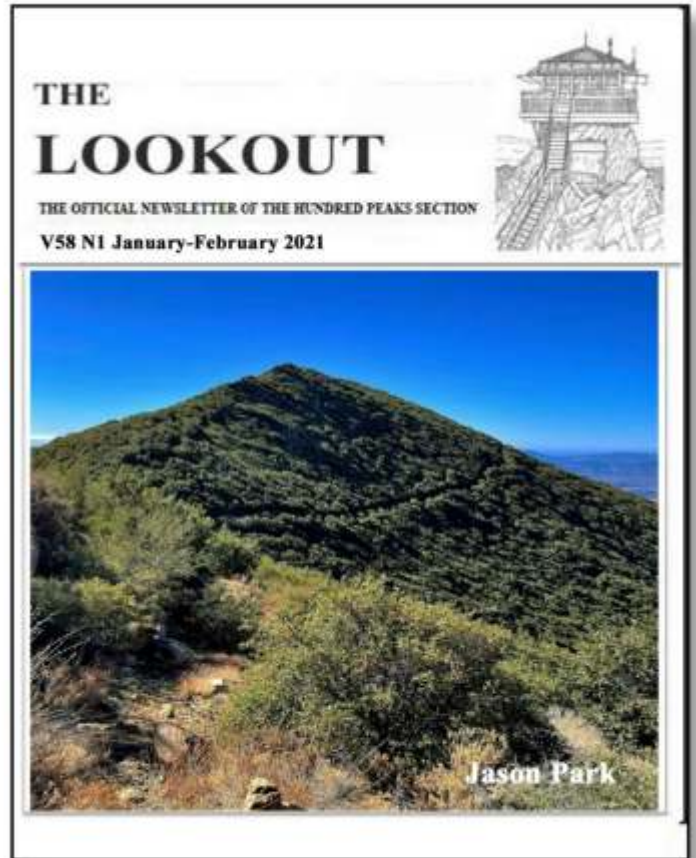


# Summits

Photo by Eric Chu



Wei Han



Jason Park

Cover: Santa Cruz Peak, by Jason Park



Gordon Jenkins on Caliente Peak 11-20-20



Jason Park



Private Hike to Sugarloaf Peak, 11-25-2020



Nick Shah



Private Hike to Ortega Peak ( 5,846' ), 11-22-2020

Trappers Cabin, built in 1918. Now owned by the Girl Scouts. Camp Singing Pines, San Gabriel Mountains.

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

By Bob Myers, LTC Navigation Chair

When we started 2020, none of us 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.

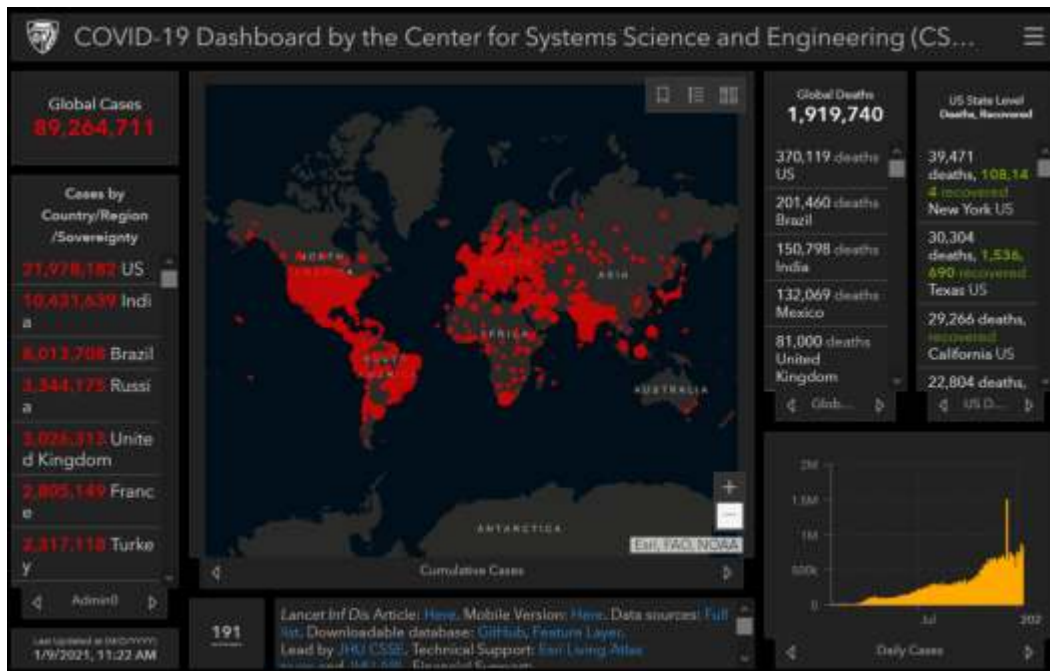
### **Delayed Release of National Spatial Reference System**

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**

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.



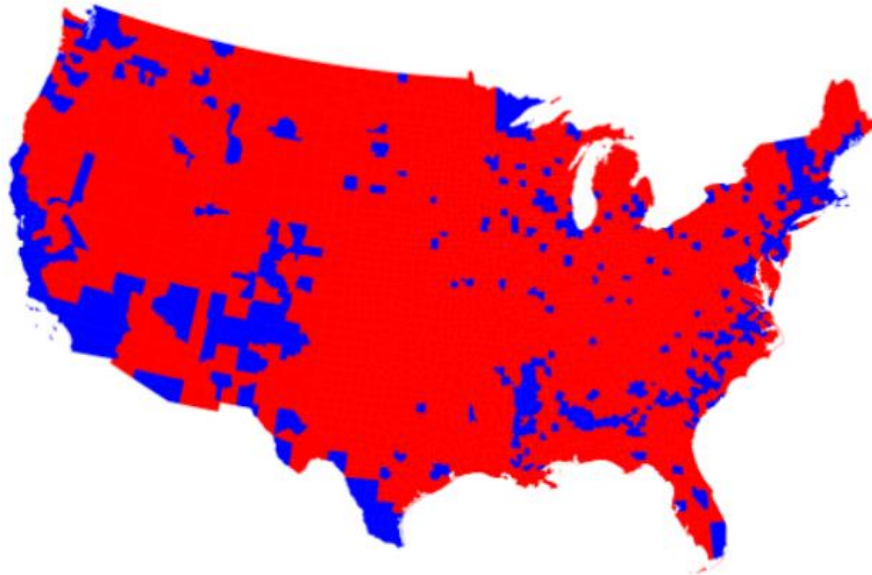
Another noteworthy map is the Esri CovidPulse Map (<https://tinyurl.com/y27emust>). It provides state-by-state rankings and shows a variety of data for each state.



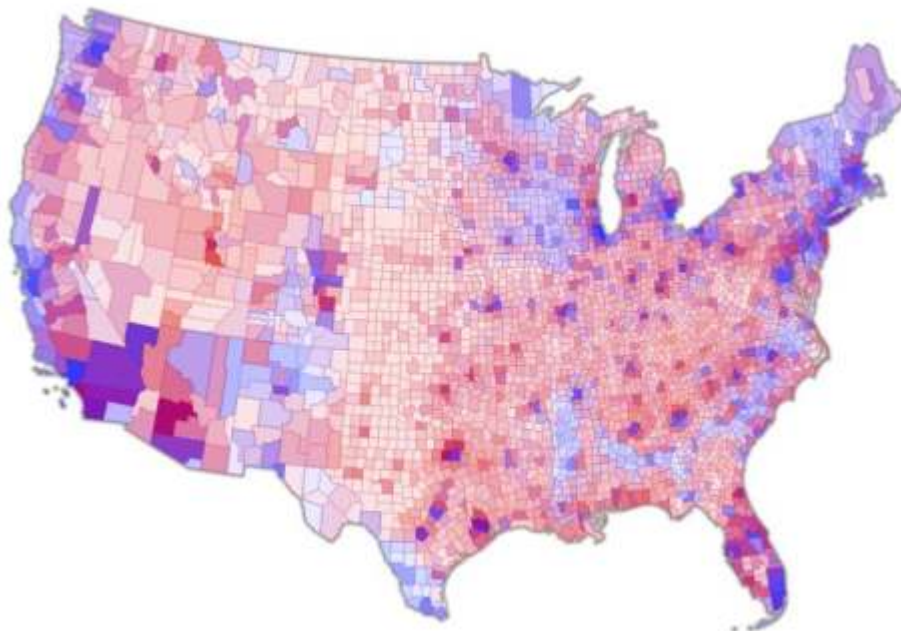
Among major newspapers, the New York Times has an impressive pandemic mapping project. It provides excellent data analysis and has a variety of maps, charts, and graphs. It makes its data freely available on GitHub, which is online platform for developers and researchers.

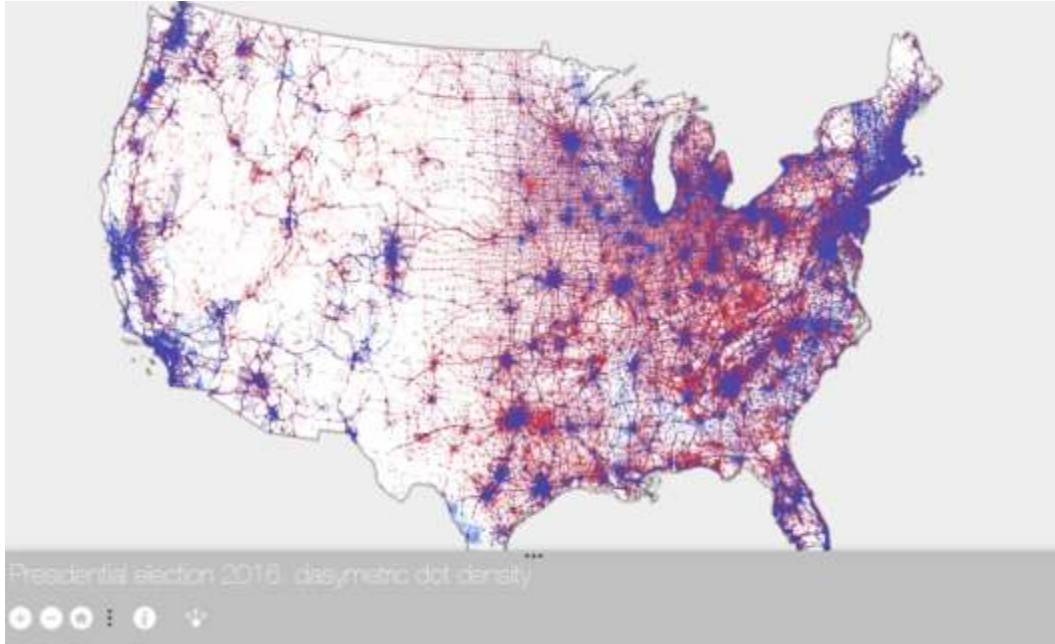
## Election Maps

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 [rmyers@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rmyers@ix.netcom.com).



# The Big 3

2020



Photo Montage by Mark S. Alle

# Private Big Three Trip

by Louie Rodriguez

After two postponements, the private Big 3 Trip came together on November 13-15, 2020. This was a trail maintenance trip sponsored by the Los Padres Forest Volunteer Association. Representing the association was Steve Cypher and Curt Cragg.

A total of 15 hikers met on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> for the drive in after the gate was unlocked from Happy Canyon Rd. It was expected to be about an hour drive up in a variety of 4-wheel drive vehicles. Big rocks and a narrow brushy road slowed us down mid-way up. Snow later on the rough road led to one car sliding off the road and others struggle up steep sections with snow and mud.

After a lot of finagling, we made it to McKinley Spring with lots of snow still on the road. So, the group decided to park it there and make a quick trip (about 1 ½ mi RT) to McKinley Mountain (6200+) before it got too late, while also scouting the road to see if the vehicles could make it to McKinley saddle. By dusk, we were able to drive all the cars to the saddle and make camp.



Soon after sunset, the predicted winds kicked up. After chow everyone drifted back to their tents succumbing to the increasing gales. All night the winds whipped with some ferocious gusts. The wind chill was in the 30's by my guess. Several tents took a beating and not much sleep was had. Next morning the winds faded, but lingered all day.

Saturday was the trail maintenance day. After a morning briefing at 8am by the forest reps, the group took off to first climb San Rafael Mountain (6593') with tools in hand. It was only a few miles to the non-descript peak, but the reps led us further to a nice pine forest stand, where we learned about the forest and fire history, along with some native history.

Then we started on our way back and the trail work began. Cutting, trimming, clearing, as we leap-frogged along the trail. There were still some pockets of snow on the north side that we had to deal with. Around noon we had lunch scattered half way back. By around 2:30 pm, we had worked our way back to camp for a much-needed break. A lot of cutting was done and the reps thanked us for our efforts. Great team work by all to clear the trail from buck thorn and a couple varieties of ceanothus.

There was an impromptu happy hour hosted by Jim as we loosely gathered around a folding table and traded stories. At around dusk, several HPS'rs on a separate trip, appeared at the saddle. We greeted them with some cheers as they completed the Big 3 the hard way, from the locked gate, 28 miles round-trip! They were glad to see us, but quickly took off down the road as they had 10 miles to get back to the gate.

That night we slept better as the winds were light.

Sunday, we gathered at 6am for the jaunt to Santa Cruz Peak (5570'). Jim led the group of 13 with the hope of returning by 2pm, to allow for breaking camp and driving down the treacherous road. It was only an 8 mi RT hike, with most of it on an old overgrown road, but there was a good mile or so of steep climbing, scrambling, bushwhacking, and route finding.

With some guidance from Pat Arredondo and several Gia readers, we reached the obscured summit around 10 am. After signing the register and a minimal snack break, we headed back, knowing we still had to beat the clock. A more formal lunch came around 11:30 ish on the ridge back. The sun had come out and things took a 180 as the temps rose on the exposed ridge and the once feared wind was gone, leaving us without a needed cool breeze. We straggled over the last couple miles with the heat picking up, and I for one, ran out of water at the bottom of the last climb.

But sure enough we made the saddle a little after 2:10, with the last few arriving by 2:30 or so. No rest for the weary, as we had to break camp, pack the cars and head back. Forest rep Curt had "plowed" the road with his 4-wheeler, making it easier on the first tough section down the snow and mud. He also organized the cars out in a certain order based on vehicle and driver capability. Nice work Curt!

After an hour and a half of bouncing down the bumpy road, we made it to the gate and other cars well before sunset. We said our good byes quickly, as we all had long drives ahead of us.

Great job by Jim on his planning and trip execution, along with other leaders Pat and Jerry Gerard. Also, a big thanks to Steve and Curt for their guidance and forest access. We could not have done it without them! Check off the Big 3 for this year...



Hikers walk the road from Cachuma Saddle Parking.



Nahid Shirazi and Sunny Yi resting along the way to the Big 3 from the parking lot. (Page 17)



Jason Park, Nahid Shirazi, Ali and Fariba Akhiary on Santa Cruz Peak.

# Lasting Events

**Hundred Peaks Section  
2020 Annual Awards Banquet**

January 8, 2020  
The Monrovia Restaurant

**Happily Birthday Jim Fleming**

**Bill Simpson with Barbby Vokac and wife Priscilla**

**Second List Completion #46 for  
Jinook Chung**

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**Special Recognition of HPS Leaders**

**Hundred Peaks Section  
2020 Annual Awards Banquet**

January 11, 2020  
The Monrovia Restaurant

**Bill Simpson receives John  
Parker Leadership Award**

**Gene Duggan Led First Reading during Annual  
of Achievement**

**Gene Duggan receives 100 Peaks  
Emblem**

**Bobbi Wilson receives 100 Peaks  
Emblem**

**Kimberly Hunsick receives 200  
Peaks Certificate**

**Mary Vaseley receives Special Services  
Award, "Spirit of Participation"**

**Michael McCarty receives Special Services  
Award for work as Membership Chair**

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**Hundred Peaks Section  
2020 Annual Awards Banquet**

January 11, 2020  
The Monrovia Restaurant

**100 Peaks Emblem #1102  
for Teresa Spahr**

**100 Peaks Emblem  
#1208 for Chris Keller**

**100 Peaks Emblem #1209  
for Cynthia Tessin**

**100 Peaks Emblem #1210 for  
Keith Robinson**

**100 Peaks Emblem  
#1211 for Mikey Sullivan**

**100 Peaks Emblem #1212 for  
Shelly Britton**

**100 Peaks Emblem #1213  
for Aimey Huang**

**100 Peaks  
#1215 for  
John Martin**

**200 Peaks Bar #506 for  
YungDee Lak**

**Bill T. Russell New Leader Award,  
200 Peaks Bar #503 for Jerry Grenard.**

**Third List Completion #37,  
Pathfinder Emblem - 200 Peaks  
#23, One Thousand Peaks #28 for  
George Christiansen**

**First List Completion  
#529 for Eric Chu**

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**Holiday Hoopla 2019**

1000 WARDEN AVE SAN JOSE, CA 95128

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# Milestones



"Hike onto History, Step into Science"  
Lookout Mtn #2 (6812') – This July 20th was the 50th anniversary of American astronaut Neil Armstrong being the first man to step on the moon, and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man to step on Mt Everest's summit. Celebrate and take your own step onto history, as we climb a peak that was part of Albert A. Michelson's light experiments. Projecting a light beam from Mt Wilson to Lookout, and back, resulted in the measurement of the speed of light and ensuing consequential scientific applications and discoveries. (Submitted by Ignacia Doggett)



Wade Stuckwisch led South Mount Hawkins, Saturday July 13th. It turned out that it was also Wade's 100th HPS Peak climbed.



**Bare Mountain - 08.03.2019 - Reedy's 100 lead**

Bare Mnt 8-3-2019

Photo: Jeff Buchholz. Credit also Nahid Shirazi



**Mummy Peak (09.01.2019)**

Mat Kelliher 50th lead + his 5th emblem desert peak



Mary Varalyay and Yasu Iemori, both gained Galena for their 1000th HPS on 7-21-19 (photo by Jin Oak Chung)

# Private Hike to Minerva Hoyt

November 28, 2020



Deborah Y. Nakamoto, Pat Arrodondo, Winnette Butler.



Winnette, Nick, Jyoti, Pat, Richard and Dora.



# Summits

Photo by Eric Chu



# Mayan and Butterbredt Peaks

12-19-20

By Teresa Blackman Spohr

Private hike in the Southern Sierras to Mayan and Butterbredt Peaks.

These were two short but steep hikes, for a total of about five miles and 3,000 feet of gain. It was a perfect day - couldn't have had better weather!

HPS number 207 & 208!



Mayan and Butterbredt Peaks, Bill Simpson, Jim Hagar, Teresa Blackman Spohr, Samantha Holloway.

# Milestones



11-9-20, Tecuya Mtn. Chris Naschak Feifer bagged her 200th Peak accompanied by her Mother Gudrun and Gordan Jenkins.



Teresa Blackman Spohr, Birthday January 10th with husband Fred on Garnet Mountain private hike



Jason Park



Jason Park

# Pyramid Peak

## 12-19-2020

### By Larry Edmonds

For my December Larry's Hike Of The Month (LHOTM) I decided to do a Private Hike to Pyramid Peak in the Santa Rosa Mountains, a peak on the Sierra Club San Diego 100 Peaks List. I knew that Jim Wick would be joining me and that it was a peak that he needed on his quest to compete the San Diego 100 peaks list. It is also one of those peaks that I really enjoy and have therefore been up several times. On Saturday morning, December 19<sup>th</sup>

I met Jim Wick, Mark Sutton, John Allen, Susan Smith and Leslie Williams at the traditional trailhead for Villager and Rabbit peaks. Also meeting me there were John Strauch and Jim Leckie whom planned to hike with us a short distance before heading off to do one of the hikes in Robin Halfords book. We started out across the relatively flat desert towards the mouth of Palo Verde Canyon where we headed up an old mine trail that takes you across a ridge to Smoke Tree Canyon. The point where this trail starts is not obvious. Used to be a very large duct at the point it climbs up out of Palo Verde Canyon, but the duct is no longer there.

Once in Smoke Tree Canyon we traveled a short distance up canyon to the rock tanks utilized by big horn sheep as a water source during the long dry summer. I was curious to see if they held water this year since we have had very little rain so far this fall/winter. They were empty, the largest of the tanks had moist soil but that was it. I have been to the tanks around six times or so and this was the first time I had seen them dry. From here we climbed out of the canyon picking up a ridge headed east that shortly turns to the northeast and brings you to the top of the main ridge to Pyramid. I enjoy this hike because up to this point you have very nice views over the expanse of Anza Borrego Desert State Park and once you reach the top of the main ridge to Pyramid you're rewarded with a view to the east of the Salton Sea, Chocolate Mountains and beyond. Also to the south you are looking at the sheer side of Travelers Peak, another one on the San Diego 100 list and for me memories of climbing that one with Jim Wick in high winds trying to not get blown off the ridge. From this point we simply followed the ridge north over a couple of high points to Pyramid with expansive views to the east, west and south and looking ahead at Rosa Point if you know what to look for. Rosa is another peak on the San Diego 100 peaks list and also on the DPS list. After sitting atop of Pyramid enjoying the views and lunch we continued north on the ridge to the saddle between Pyramid and Marble Peak where we picked up a faint use trail that leads back down to Smoke Tree Wash and the mine trail out. Another fun day out in the country I love with good friends.



John S., Jim L., Leslie, Mark, me, Susan and John A. at the trailhead



Headed to the saddle between Pyramid and Marble Peaks



# Lower Peaks Corner



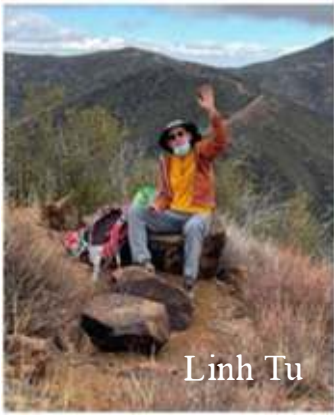
Newcomb Peak (4166 Ft.) Happy HPS & LP Hikers with Holiday Hats, Mt Wilson--January 2, 2016. (L to R) May Tang, John Radajl, Dave Comer-zan, Wayne Vollaire, Patrick Vaughn, Mike Manning, Bruce Craig. On a "topsy-turvy" reverse gain outing, hikers started at Mt Wilson descending 1650' on the Rim Trail. Photo and text by Marlen Mertz



Wasim Khan atop Aqua Tibia Mountain (4779ft.) 12-15-14  
Photo Mark S. Allen



Old Sugarloaf Peak , (3326 Ft.) 11-22-15.  
WTC Leader Sharon Moore. Used with permission. Photo credit unknown



Linh Tu

## IRON MOUNTAIN #2

December 12, 2020

By Bill Simpson



Jim Hagar

Private hike to Iron Mountain #2 in the San Gabriel Mountains (elevation 5,635 feet). Twelve hardy hikers, socially distanced and masked as appropriate, began the hike just before sunrise.



Linh Tu

Jim Hagar was in front the entire day and set a popular pace for the group.



Linh Tu

The hike was arranged by Mat Kelliher primarily for the benefit of George White, who now has only one peak (Wright Mountain) remaining to complete the entire Hundred Peaks Section list. It was very cold and windy at times, but overall it was a nice day to do this 20-mile hike with 5,300 feet of elevation gain. Photos of me having lunch on the summit and of the landscape were taken by Linh Tu.



Linh Tu



Linh



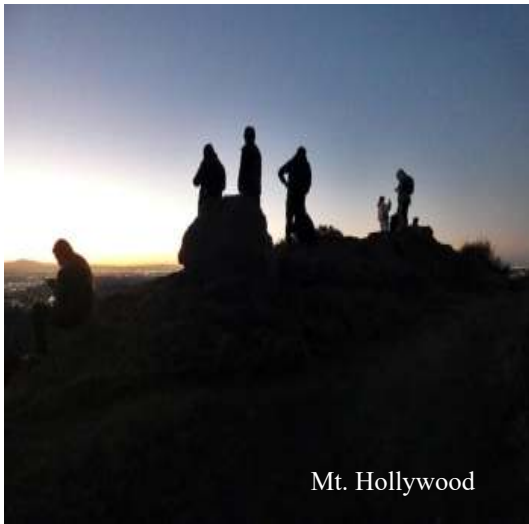
Linh Tu

# Hiking Photography

By Jin Oak Chung



Mt. Baden Powell



Mt. Hollywood



Ortega Peak

## 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, please include your name. Please, also identify the location and each subject in all photographs, When taking photos, please ask participants to remove hats and sunglasses, and wear face mask for safety.

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<http://www.hundredpeaks.org>

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