

THE LOOKOUT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HUNDRED PEAKS SECTION

V58 N2 March - April 2021



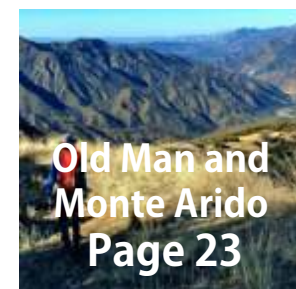
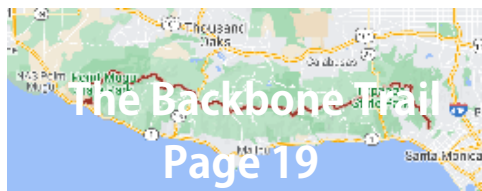
Coby King

HPS Lookout Newsletter

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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

Letter From The Chair

Greetings:

I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as HPS chair one last time. I want to thank Mike Dillenback for his exemplary service to HPS for the last two years as chair and for his four years on the Section's Management Committee. Mike was able to serve as chair in a "normal" year (2019) and then during an extraordinarily challenging year (last year). His steadfast leadership served the Section well and I encourage you to thank him if you get a chance.

I want to use this month's Letter from the Chair to in part lay out an agenda for the year.

First, of course, I want to work with Chapter and National to encourage the Club to figure out how to restart outings. Such a restart must, of course, be consistent with the best public health advice. However, in my experience, National in particular tends to be too cautious. We, along with the other outings groups, must encourage National and Chapter to make restarting and promoting outings a priority so that when the science allows it, we are ready to go.

Second, and this has been a problem for a number of years, is the need to improve the membership joining and renewal experience. I look forward to working with William Chen, Ryan Lynch, Laura Newman and our intrepid webmasters, Karen and Wolf Leverich, to put into place a system that is more intuitive and easy to use.

I will also continue to manage the Facebook page, which after some drama last summer has returned to a friendly place to discuss our mountains and trade tips on conditions. Until National allows us to restart outings, we can't use the page to organize and advertise hikes, but I'm hoping that restriction will be lifted soon.

Finally, I hope to make some progress on the new Star Emblem Peaks. The list that MComm selected has gotten good reviews and I look forward to making some progress.

(I also plan to finish the HPS list, as I'm sitting on 278!)

I hope you are still able to get to our mountains in a safe way.

Happy Trails,

Coby King

2021 Chair, HPS Management Committee

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

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

Phone: 213-534-7357

lookout_membership@hundredpeaks.org

George Christensen (12/2021)

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g.m.christensen@me.com

William Chen, Outreach (12/2022)

Santa Clarita, CA

(805) 931-6586

william101.chen@gmail.com

Sunny Yi, Programs, Outreach (12/2022)

sunnyyi1125@gmail.com

Appointed Members:

Laura Newman, Treasurer

hpstreas@gmail.com

Mat Kelliher- Outings & Safety Chair

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Ignacia Doggett, Elections Chair

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Tanya Roton, Nominations Committee

tanya.roton@gmail.com

Wayne Vollaire, The Lookout Mailer

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email: avollaire1@gmail.com

Appointed Members:

Jim Fleming, Co-Chair, Safety

Adopt a-Highway

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Simi Valley, CA 93065-7352

Jimf333@att.net

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Los Angeles, CA

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Sharon Moore

Hundred Peaks Section
Bi-Monthly MCOMM Meeting

11-10-2020

- 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
- Jim Hagar - Member At Large
- Laura Newman- Treasurer
- Zoom Meeting Call to order: 6:34
- Confidential Discussion on Lookout Political Issue. Resolved and Filed
- Confidential Discussion on HPS Policy, Apvd and Filed
- Chair Report:
 - Elections to be managed by Coby King. Paper ballots sent out to eighteen members. Discussed reaching out to past Membership Chair Michael McCarty to update membership list in absence of others.
 - 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
 - Chapter Virtual Outings Meeting attended by Michael Dillenback, Mat Kelliher and Mark S. Allen.
 - Elections outcome; 2021 MCOMM posts to be discussed in Meeting 1-12-21 M/V/Apvd
 - Angeles Chapter Banquet Nov 8th - MOVED to May 2, 2021
- Outings and Safety Report: no report this meeting
- Treasurers Report of Sept Oct 2020 by. Laura Newman Apvd and Filed
- Secretary's Report, 9-8-20 MCOMM Minutes by HPS Secretary Mark S. Allen (Apvd and sent to Karen Leverich for posting on www.hundredpeaks.org Website.
- Membership Report, No Report
- Mountain Records Report, George Christiansen

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

- Mountain Records Report, George Christiansen, continued
BOBCAT FIRE (CLOSURE ORDER 05-01-20-08)
Effective Oct 9, 2020 Thru April 1, 2022 (Angeles NF)

10D Bare Mountain

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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).

- 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: No Report
- Meeting Adjourned 8:15pm

Summits

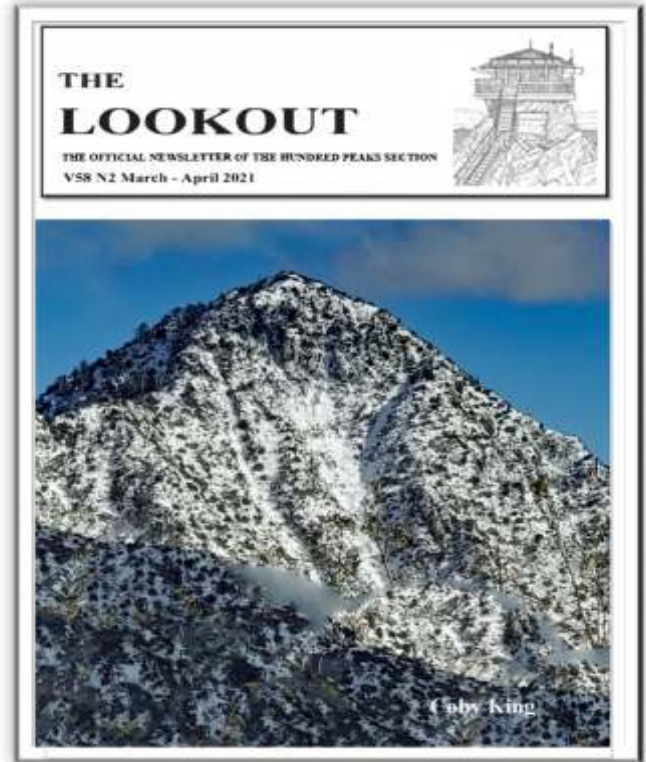
Photo by Eric Chu



The Backbone Trail

Above, Bill Simpson and Jim Hagar Lead the Backbone Trail, Santa Monica Mountains.

Right, Cover: Strawberry Peak photo by Coby King



Tecuya Mountain (7160')



Teresa Blackmon Spohr on Beauty Peak



Winnette Butler at Eagle Rock, Warner Springs, CA



Mat Kelliher, Tanya Roton with Michael Dillenback on Fox Mtn. #2 (2/6/2021)

HUNDRED PEAKS SECTION - ANGELES CHAPTER - SIERRA CLUB

January, 2021

HPS PEAK LIST

280 Peaks

CHANGES (From the Peak List dated March 2020):

Tehachapi Mountain (3E) delisted due to private property issues.

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|---|---|---|--|--|

THE NAVIGATION CORNER: VERIFY YOUR LOCATION USING A QUADRANT APPROACH

By Bob Myers, LTC Navigation Chair

The key to staying found is to engage in a verification process to confirm that 100% of the features on your topographic map match the features you see in the field. Too often, navigators attempt to convince themselves they are at the right location when only some of the features match.

Take the following satellite image of an area in Indian Cove, Joshua Tree National Park. If you are standing at the location represented by the red dot, what strategy should you use to confirm your location on the topographic map?

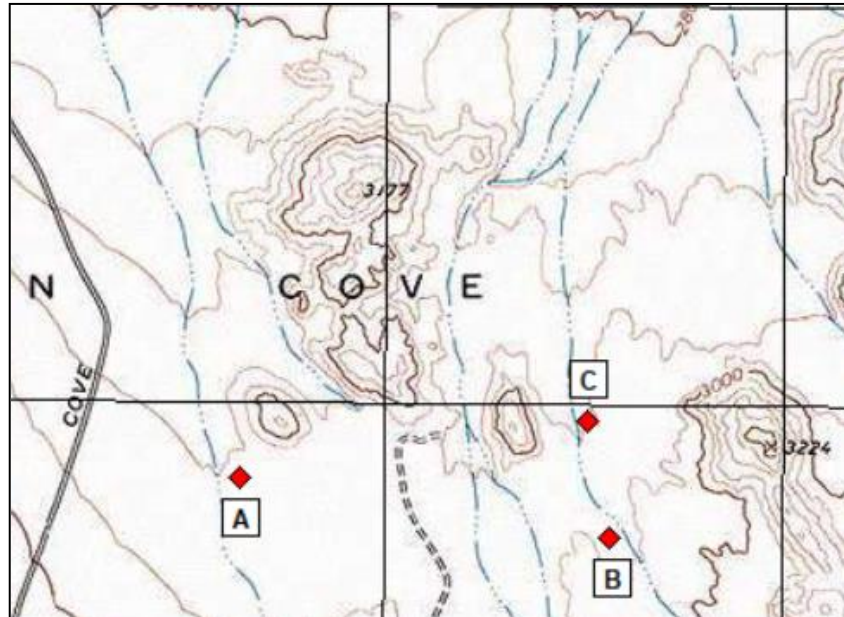


I recommend using a quadrant approach as illustrated above. The quadrant can be as big as you need it to be. Although you can draw a quadrant on your map, you can also visualize the quadrant. To be at the right location, the features in the field have to match the features on the map in all four quadrants – NW, NE, SW, and SE.

Standing at the red dot, the following features are observable:

- Flat open area to the north and northeast
- A peak to the east
- Flat open area to the south
- An intermittent stream to the west
- A peak to the west

Based on this information, is the red dot at location A, B, or C on the map below?



There is only one correct answer. Both A and B are missing several of the elements described above. Using this systematic approach will ensure that you can identify your location on the map.

Upcoming Navigation Event

An online navigation workshop will be conducted on April 26, 2021. Contact me to sign up at rmmyers@ix.netcom.com.



February 11, 2021

Sandy and Peter Lara, Catherine Rossbach

Private Hike



Catherine heard there was a lot of poodle dog bush on Heald so we went prepared with Tyvek suits (\$13 at Home Depot). But let me start at the beginning.

Peter and I drove our camper, and Catherine her Subaru, completely different routes to the Nicolls and Heald trail head and came upon each other while driving along Coby King's Peak-bagger track for the road. Good timing! (And thanks, Coby! Those approach roads are often more difficult than the actual hikes, especially in the dark!) We were ready to go the next morning around sunrise, but remained in the shadow of the ridge 1100' above us almost until we reached it. The day was sunny and clear with a cool breeze. Catherine and I climbed up to the saddle and turned left/north to Nicolls while Peter took a more direct route and did a little class 3. We intersected Peter part way up. We summited in good time and headed back to the saddle.



From Nicolls' summit and on our descent to the saddle, it was sobering to look at the long ridge to Heald. It had burned years before and was now covered with downed trees, dried grass, and acres of poodle dog bush.

The poodle dog, (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eriodictyon_parryi), was thick and unavoidable for over a mile round trip including the summit. Climbing Nicolls was enjoyable; we found climbing Heald not so much so. Catherine had previously reacted to poodle dog and had told me before the trip that if it was really bad, she would wait for us at the saddle. When I mentioned this to Peter a few days before the hike, I threw out the idea of wearing Tyvek suits, almost as a joke, but Peter took it seriously and suggested it to Catherine. All three of us came prepared with them.

It's almost 2 miles from the saddle to Heald Peak, which is named after Weldon Heald, the founder of the Hundred Peaks Game which became the Hundred Peaks Section. There is a plaque commemorating him on the site (which is not where the X is on the topo map, but at the high point at the southern end of that ridge bump). We hiked about a half mile before running into a field of poodle dog that we couldn't avoid. It was thick and there was no way around or through without repeated contact. We put on our "onesie" Tyvek suits. Peter had an XL that did not have a hood or booties. The store didn't have any Larges in stock so Catherine and I both had Mediums which had integrated hoods and booties. The only problem is that I barely squeezed my men's size 12 boots into the booties and the legs were a bit short for my 5' 10" frame. The crotch started to rip with my first large step. Catherine was fine in the Medium but later had reactions at her wrists (between the suit and her gloves) and her face, as well as other places the flying poodle dog fibers happened to make their way into her suit.



I remembered this hike from 2001 when it took two of us about 6-7 hours to do both peaks. At that time, we started up the west ridge to Nicolls (a lot of bouldering), then went down to the saddle, out to Heald, back to the saddle, and down. It was strenuous but straightforward. There were no toxic plants and there was enough challenge in the route-finding and rocky parts to make it fun. There were pretty trees, especially around the summit. It was refreshing.



This time we had large areas of a toxic plant to make our way through, wearing our suits, trying not to inhale. We had a fun additional challenge of consolidated snow on north-facing steep, rocky section (about 300' gain over 0.1 mile) which, together with dead fall from the fire, obscured some of the usual route. I was glad my boots had worn at least part way through the Tyvek booties while on this rock and snow, so I was using some boot tread rather than the slippery booties. We picked our way up the rocks and came out to more fields of poodle dog above. My pleasant memories of shady trees near the summit were hit with the hard reality of what fire can do. There was poodle dog everywhere. We found the plaque and register, had a very late lunch, and turned around.



The suits were ripped by the end of the last poodle dog plants, but we kept them on for the descent as they were good wind protection. The extra hours it took to do this hike meant that we came out in the dark, wearing our “moon suits” with headlamps--rather comical, making us giggle. Someone below flashed headlights at us for a while and then drove away when we were still on the ridge. We got down to the saddle, quickly made our way down the last 1100' from the saddle to the vehicles, and drove down the dirt road. We got a little off track near the bottom turn to the right/north to get back to Hwy 178 and noticed three other vehicles with

lights on near us. It turned out that the guy who flashed his lights at us thought we were in trouble so he drove down, called the sheriff, and led two deputies in their cars to our location. No problem, they were glad we were okay. They weren't used to seeing people hiking at night that high up! We can only imagine what they might have thought if we were still wearing our suits!!! They led us out and we were on our way.

Poodle dog bush can be toxic to humans, much like poison oak is to some people but not all. The more contact one has with it, the more likely sensitivity will develop. HPS is faced with a conundrum. Do we suspend the peak to protect climbers from contacting this toxic plant, preventing them from having or developing an immune response that can never be undone? How long would we suspend it? The natural history for the poodle dog to eventually be replaced by usual native flora is about 10 years after a fire. That's a long time to suspend a peak! How would we know when to unsuspend it? Some people don't react to poodle dog. If some were willing to clear and maintain a (>0.5mi) path through it (risking stimulating their immune systems), could we keep it open? Suspending a peak doesn't mean it can't be climbed by anyone who chooses to. Should we keep it unsuspended with a warning in the peak guide about this toxic plant? If it is not suspended, does a member need to climb it to finish a list?

Summits

Photo by Eric Chu



Amy Huang pictured with Luna on Rattlesnake Pk.



Gordon Jenkins and Chris Feifer, San Jacinto Mountains



Teresa Blackmon Spohr



Backus and Russel Peaks



Pinyon Peak 6805'



Pinyon Peak, Pacifico Mountain, Scodie Mtn. photo credit: Nahid Shirazi



Lilly, Chris and George hiking Placerita Canyon & Joshua Tree



Pacifico Mountain



Tanya Roton, Kyla and Mat Kelliher (photo) get their first Star Emblem Peak on San Gabriel Peak, 1/17/21



Scodie Mountain 7294'



Isa Galan, with friends on San Juan Hill, 2/28/21

From Michael Dillenback:

Dave Endres passed away in January. Dave was a stalwart in the Southern California hiking and climbing community. Dave mentored me as a Sierra Club leader in the WTC Group 3 in Long Beach South Bay.

Dave had climbed most of our HPS peaks but never kept track of them. Several years ago he and I started climbing the peaks together and he started keeping track of them. This all got interrupted when he got cancer. I believe many of you knew him. He will be missed.

My friend Neal Robbins, the current leader of WTC LBSB Group 3, wrote the following obituary for Dave Endres. I thank Neal for letting us use his article in the HPS Lookout Newsletter.

David Bruce Endres

September 26, 1945 – January 25, 2021

David Bruce Endres, an Emeritus Professor of Clinical Pathology at the University of Southern California, passed away peacefully on January 25 as a result of a multi-year battle with esophageal cancer. He will be laid to rest on February 25, 2021 at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Hollywood Hills. He is survived by Karol, his wife of 55 years, son Todd, daughter-in-law Christina, and two grandchildren, Jacob and Julia. David is also survived by five sisters and one brother: Susan, Barbara, Laura, Mary, Marcia, and Gary.

David, or Dave as many of us knew him, was born in Muskegon, Michigan on September 26, 1945 to Joseph Bernard Endres and Lois Arlene Endres. He completed his secondary education in La Grange, Indiana and received his B.A. in Biology and Chemistry from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, in 1969. David received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Roswell Park Memorial Institute/State University of New York at Buffalo in 1976, and then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Physiology and Biophysics at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, in 1978. He went on to have a distinguished career as a clinical pathologist at the University of Southern California. David retired in 2017 as an Emeritus Professor of Clinical Pathology.

Dave was an avid outdoor enthusiast and a leader in the Sierra Club community for many decades. He graduated from the Basic Mountaineering and Wilderness Travel Course (BMTC) in 1987 and returned under Chuck Wilson and subsequently Barb Cohen (Scholle) as an instructor for Group 3 out of the Long Beach- South Bay area. By the time BMTC was reformulated in 1992 to become the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), Dave had taken over leadership of Group 3, a position he held for 17 years. He also served as Area Chair for the Long Beach-South Bay area during his tenure.

As a Sierra Club outings leader for SPS, DPS and WTC, Dave exposed many climbers to remote peaks across California. He had a strong passion for training the next generation of outings leaders; he initiated private snow mountaineering and leadership training events for leaders and advanced students as much in an effort to upgrade the skill set of the club leadership pool as to increase the pool of people he could climb with. He also planned and executed international climbs to places such as the Arctic, Mexico, South America, and Africa. Dave trained a whole generation of climbers at a time when there were only limited opportunities for such training.

By 2009, when Dave decided to step down from the Group Leader role to make room for the next generation of WTC leaders, he had amassed the largest contingent of restricted mountaineering leaders WTC had seen in a group since the BMTC days. In subsequent years, he continued to assist WTC as assistant group leader, instructor, and all-around mentor to students and leaders alike. Dave dedicated 37 years of his life to BMTC/WTC and to those who shared his passion for the outdoors and high peaks. Dave's optimism, energy, and sense of adventure were infectious to all who knew him.

Please visit and contribute your memories of Dave to "Celebrating the Life of Dave Endres;" <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/HoeVubgv>. Donations can be made to: Dr. David Endres Esophageal Cancer Research Fund: <https://cancer.keckmedicine.org/giving/donate/> Funding for preservation of the environment: <https://earthjustice.org/give/tribute-memorial>



Lower Peaks Corner

San Luis Obispo Triple

Private Hike

Jason Pair 2-14-2021

A 3-hour drive north along the beautiful 101 highway can SEEM a lot longer when your only company is a slumbering 15-year old in the passenger seat, hungover from a late evening of video game over-indulgence. Thankfully, he's of the age that he can go 0 to 60 in a matter of seconds, because as soon as we parked at the Bishop Peak trailhead we were off on the start of an ambitious (for us) 3-LPC Private Hike peak excursion in and around San Louis Obispo.



We joined a large local crowd on the ascent up Bishop Peak, which winds through some beautiful oak forest as it makes its way to the south side of the peak before switch-backing up to the summit saddle. As would be the case for the rest of the peaks that day, the trail was well-maintained without any navigational challenges. A bench greets you at the saddle that has an engraved sign that says "End of Trail." Most of the hikers ignore this and head for the eastern summit blocks. But we head west ducking through shrubs along use trails and boulder-hopping to the higher western summit blocks.

A few Class III moves to our high point, that was unfortunately emblazoned with some phallic graffiti (what compels people???). The views from the summit are wonderful of the surrounding farmland. I heard another hiker say "I feel like I'm in Ireland."

After a 30-minute drive to Cerro Alto campground in Los Padres National Forest, where we paid the Iron Ranger a \$10 day-use fee, we started off on the trail that follows the East Fork of Morro Creek (Canyon Trail). It's a well-trodden trail that keeps you in the shade for the first mile (watch out for poison oak). After 1 mile you join the AT&T trail, before intersecting with the Cerro Alto Upper Trail at about 2 miles. In total, it's an easy 3 miles to the summit. We had nice views out to the coast and Morro Rock on the ascent. Once at the summit the clouds rolled in, obscuring our views. The mist and breeze were rejuvenating and we made our way quickly back to the car on the steeper, more direct Bridge Trail that emerges between campsite #15 and #16 after 2 miles.

We still had plenty of time to get a 3rd peak so we drove 34 minutes to the beautiful Montana de Oro State Park. The Valencia Peak trailhead is just past the Islay Creek campground. There was plenty of roadside parking. Thankfully the skies had begun to clear again and the views of the coast were sublime. We were back at the car by 4:30 pm. All told, 14.4 miles, 3,840 feet of elevation gain. and 30,000 steps.



Ella's Big Adventure to Beauty and Iron Springs

Feb. 6, 2021

By Louie Rodriguez



Photo: Teresa Blackmon Spohr

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021, started out as an ordinary Saturday. That is, until 14 hikers gathered on a dirt road in San Diego County for a Private Hike to Beauty Peak (5548') and Iron Springs Mtn. (5755'). Trip was to cover 8.5 miles and 2700' ft. and back before sunset.

Adventurous Ella planned for both peaks under gorgeous weather with clear skies and no serious wind. At 8:20, the group took off on a decent use trail up and over several hills to a major gully. After a little rock scrambling, the troop got past the dry waterfall and continued up the gully to the earthen dam, where a nice break was had by all.

The dam is split off for both peaks. First objective was Beauty. With the help of a few hikers with previous experience in this area, the group found the opening to the "clipped" use trail toward Beauty. Once on this use trail, the fun began as we followed the ridge "trimming" as we went. Clippers and loppers were going full tilt to clear the use trail. Fortunately, there were regular duck trail marker sightings along the way. Also, our friend Gaia and Cal Topo joined us as well to help us navigate through the thick brush.

With the early morning adrenaline going, Ella and friends made it to the top of Beauty around 11:00am. After a lot of high fives and register signings, Ella corralled everyone to get going before anyone could get comfortable. She announced lunch would be back at the dam. Going down to the dam was much easier and faster with the newly clipped trail. Once at the dam, we spread out and enjoyed lunch around 12:30. Lots of friendly chit chat was in order, as we all felt good with one peak done and the other close in hand. Lunch however, was interrupted by a few bees buzzing around. But no one stung the bees!

For our lunch entertainment, "QT" was roaming around looking for handouts during the luncheon. He definitely scored a bunch of peanut butter licks! At 1:00pm sharp, the trail boss called for attention and everyone sprang up for our next objective, Iron Springs. Once again, the clipping crews and the clearing crews went to work as we wound our way from the dam to the ridge nearby and headed east. As we picked our way up the ridge, more friendly duck markers greeted us along the way, confirming our bearings.



Louie Rodriguez

Before long we had reached the summit of Iron Springs at 2:42pm. We were greeted with an amazing 360-degree view of many mountain peaks. Most with snow on them.

After more celebrating, it was time get going with only a short stay at the top. Going down was soooooo much easier after all the clipping that was done, even though we got off track a few times, but with no real loss of time. At 5:00 we were safely back at the cars.

It was quite an adventure as we scaled two HPS peaks, did lots of trail work, marveled at the views, and enjoyed our trip mascot "QT".

Great job Ella for leading a fun trip!



Louie Rodriguez

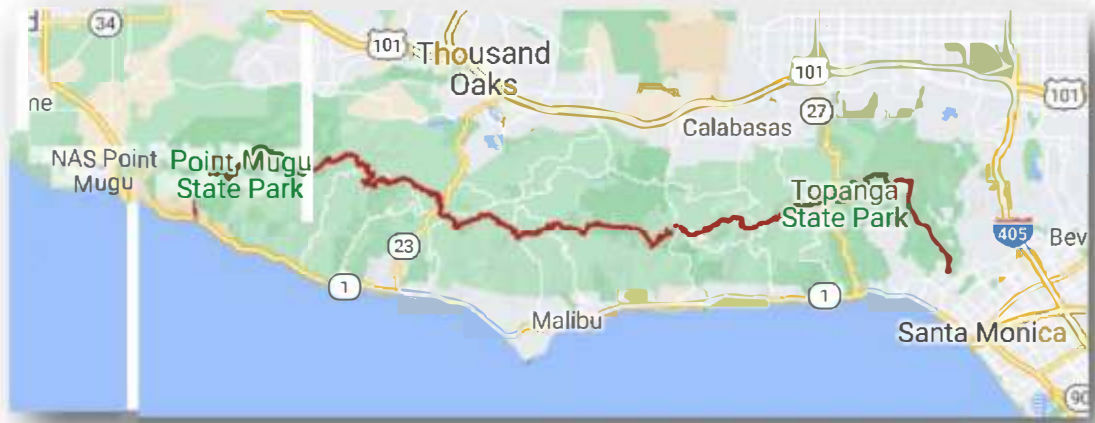


Photo: Louie Rodriguez

The Backbone Trail

By Bill Simpson

It was late last summer when I approached Jim to be the primary organizer of this winter series of 11 private Wednesday outings designed to hike the entire Backbone Trail in both directions. The drives to the various trailheads would be short when compared to the much longer drives to traditional HPS winter trailheads. This would be a big plus during these no-carpooling COVID times. As he does at the start of each of these private hikes, Jim told everyone to wear a mask throughout the outing (except when eating or drinking) and to maintain at least ten feet of distance from each other at all times (except for hikers who live together, of course). Jim is adamant that everyone needs to protect each other from the potential of getting COVID-19.



Photos by Sharon Moore

The Backbone Trail Page Two



Photographs by Sharon Moore

Minerva Hoyt, Quail & Monument

February 18 & 19, 2021

By Larry Edmonds

Private Hike

On Thursday morning, February 18th I met John Palka at the Quail Springs Picnic area in Joshua Tree NP at 9:00 AM. The plan for the day was to hike to Mount Minerva Hoyt and Quail Mountain. From the picnic area we headed SW towards the mouth of a canyon that would lead us to Johnny Lang Canyon following a use trail.

When we got close to the mouth of this canyon we were pleased to pick up a well maintained trail headed in the direction we needed to go. This trail stayed on the NW slopes of the canyon and dropped us into Johnny Lang Canyon at a sign indicating the trail is not maintained from that point on. From here we left the trail, crossed Johnny Lang Canyon and followed the ridge to Mount Minerva Hoyt. Other than steep the going was easy with open brush and one short rocky band to go up. We found no register on Minerva Hoyt so we left a new one. From here we dropped to the SW saddle where we visited briefly with two other hikers out for the day. We then picked up a nice use trail which followed ridges to Quail Mountain.

We were surprised not to find a register at the high point but later located the register at Jo BM a short distance north of the high point. It was a cold windy day so we stayed on top no longer than to have our lunch. We took the same route back to the picnic area except from the saddle below Minerva we contoured around rather than going back over the top of Minerva Hoyt. The stats for the day were 9 ½ miles with 3163 feet of elevation gain. It took us 6 ½ hours including all breaks. We spent Thursday night at the Cottonwood Campground, a cold night but at least the wind had died down. The plan for Friday was to hike up Monument Peak and the Cottonwood Mountains High Point. But on Friday morning we decided to only go for Monument because John's knees were bothering him and I didn't mind since that was also a plus for me. My wife would be pleased that I arrived home early rather late in the evening. We drove my truck out Pinkham Canyon road which did require some clearance but a 2WD vehicle would be fine. We parked close to the middle of section 31 on the topo map. From there we simply followed the ridge which generally heads south from Monument.

Not far up the ridge we found a use trail that was relatively easy to follow although there were sections where it was not obvious. Once we reached the base of Monument there was a short low class 3 to high class 2 rock scramble to the top. The views from atop this peak were awesome. We took the same route back down. Stats for the day were 6 ¼ miles with 1800 feet of elevation gain.

It took us 6 hours including all breaks. It was a great trip getting on top of some nice peaks and catching up with an old friend.

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Me atop- Minerva Hoyt Mountain



John down climbing from Monument

It took us 6 hours including all breaks. It was a great trip getting on top of some nice peaks and catching up with an old friend.

Hiking Photography

By Jim Oak Chung



Photo: Mary Varalyay



Bighorn Mountains Pathfinder



Bighorn Mountains (5,894')



Warren Point (5,183')



Choi Si Keum at Tecuya Mountain



Tecuya Mountain (7160')



Eureka Peak



Minerva Hoyt

Old Man and Monte Arido

By Mike Macki

Private Hike

If you are up for a long day hike on a dirt road these are the peaks for you. Aside from the fact almost all of this hike is on a road there are some very nice features along the way in addition to some great views. We started out at the limited parking and busy Matilija Canyon Trailhead about 5 miles up from Hwy 33. There were about a dozen cars parked when we arrived.

We started up the road passing the few occupied buildings quickly crossing

Matilija Creek. We could have taken the trail up Murrietta Canyon past Murietta Camp but chose to stay on the road, mostly because we did not see the junction for the trail! The hike up Murietta Canyon is a gentle one. Very comfortable grade for the first couple of miles. The last half of the canyon is a bit steeper, but not much. Lots of regrowth after the Thomas Fire of oaks and sycamores make the hike in this canyon a pleasant one. The small stream about half way up was flowing well.

Once at Murietta Divide the terrain changes and the road becomes less travelled. As you climb, albeit at a comfortable to moderate grade, the coast, the Channel Islands, and Jameson Lake come into view. You also pass what I assume to be an old stock pond labeled Murietta Pond on the USFS topo. Fantastic sandstone boulder outcroppings dominate your hike as you approach Old Man Mountain.

On Old Man we took in the view and could see Monte Arido off to the north. The route down Old Man is obscured in some places and has few carines. It's about a quarter mile down the ridge and through a gully to get back on the road to Arido. A bit of care was needed to avoid poodle dog brush.

Back on the road it is again a gentle grade over to Arido. The summit of Arido is wide and flat, it does offer some great views all around. It was now time for the long haul back.

Nice views of the coast and Channel Islands are offered up along the way back, in addition to views of Divide Peak. There are a couple of little bumps on the way back that require some uphill but for the most part it's a downhill walk. .

Here, I did see where the trail to Murietta Camp came out on the road but it was getting dark by the time we got there so we stuck to the road for the hike out. We had a half moon which was enough light to get us back without headlamps. We did not see another person after the first mile for the entire day and we were the last car to leave the trail head. 24.5 miles, 11 hours and over 6000ft elevation gain.



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



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