CONGRATULATIONS

100 PEAKS EMBLEM

Arthur Schain  Old Emma  03/25/84  738
Jon Fredland  Little Bear Pk.  11/30/86  739
Jill Patterson  Mt. Wilson  12/14/86  740
Pete Mohn  Sawtooth Mtn.  02/18/85  741

200 PEAKS BAR

Arthur Schain  Pinyon Ridge  10/26/86  229
Geoff Godfrey  Krahka Ridge  12/20/86  230

FROM THE CHAIR
by Frank Dobos

The year 1986 has finished with the yearly Banquet and 1987 is now full speed ahead. In 1986 a number of members finished the list, including the Chair, the Vice Chair and Secretary of the Management Committee. We welcomed many new members, gained twenty-eight 100 Peak Emblem and seventeen 200 Peak Bar Holders, and six list-finishers. The year passed without serious accident or injury.

Our new By-laws were approved by the Angeles Chapter and by the HPS membership. It took four long years to come about. We owe a special vote of thanks to George Pfeiffer and John Southworth, for without their knowledge and diligence this could not have happened within the year. Thanks to them, we now have a place to look to see that we are doing our job properly.

In 1986 as Outings Chair, I asked all of our leaders to schedule more outings. The response was not as great as expected. I would like to see something like four hikes per weekend, with hikes also planned for holiday weekends. So I repeat my plea, asking your help to make 1987 a better, a more successful year. More hikes, more members in the Sierra Club and the Hundred Peaks Section.

Let's move to protect our environment in 1987. Get involved in conservation issues by writing your comments and complaints to the appropriate places. Let's save our shrinking forest, mountains and
FROM THE PAST CHAIR
by Jon Sheldon

Those of you who couldn’t attend the gala Annual Awards Banquet missed a terrific evening. Over 150 peakbaggers from all over Southern California gathered to catch-up on each other’s wanderings and to celebrate the accomplishments of this year’s awards recipients. Everyone looked terrific even without the polypropylene, down or goretex that usually passes for high fashion in our circles.

After the social hour (and a half) and the dinner, it became time for the highlight of the evening—the awards presentation. The 1986 recipients are (in dal):

R.S. FINK SERVICE AWARD:
Edna Ersparmer

LEADERSHIP AWARD:
Frank Goodykoontz

SPECIAL AWARD
FOR FOREST PLANNING:
Bob Kane

Also introduced were two HPS members who are being honored at the Chapter Banquet to be held on February 28, 1987:

SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD:
Bob Cates

OUTINGS SERVICE AWARD:
Alan Coates

Congratulations to them all for their well deserved recognition!

Raffle and door prizes were given out throughout the awards presentation. We would like to thank the donors for their generosity:

A-16, Tarzana:
Bomber hat won by Roger Gates.

A-16, W.L.A.:
Bomber hat won by Evelyn Maxwell.

Maps, Etc., Canoga Park:
California Coastal Trails
by John McKinney
won by Bob Kane.

REI, San Dimas:
$25.00 Gift Certificate
won by Dotty Rabinowitz

Sports Chalet, Huntington Beach:
Daypack won by Jacques Brousseau.

Sports Chalet, Huntington Beach:
Daypack won by John Backus.

Sports Chalet, La Canada:
$30.00 Gift Certificate
won by Charlotte Bourne.

Westridge, W.L.A.:
Daypack won by Bob Cates.

Bob Cates:
Autographed copy of his Joshua Tree National Monument
won by Bobcat Thompson.

Bob Cates:
Autographed copy of his Joshua Tree National Monument
won by Patty Kline.

Edna Ersparmer:
Original silk-screen, "Glacier."
won by Ed Sweedeen.

Edna Ersparmer:
Original silk-screen, "Poppies."
won by Evelyn Davis.

Edna Ersparmer:
Original silk-screen, "Birches."
won by Joe Young.

Patty Kline:
Original framed photo, "Ocean Dunes,"
won by Steve Zeschke.

Patty Kline:
Original framed photo, "Ocean Dunes," won by Doris Lindberg.

Milt McAuley:
Copy of his book, Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains.
won by Lloyd Williams.

Dotty Rabinowitz:
REI Engagement Calendar
won by Laura Webb.

After the hubbub of the presentations, the throng settled down to see the slide presentation, "Throughout the Years With the HPS". This was a history of the people of the HPS which was assembled from the slides submitted by many HPS members. Dotty Rabinowitz, Slag Brown and Joe Young were the committee responsible for going through the slides submitted (as well as digging up slides of some of us who are camera shy) and putting together an enjoyable show. Joe Young was the emcee and we were treated to pictures of how we looked then and now.

Spotlighted were: all the HPS Chairs from the first Chair, Walt Wheelock, to our current Chair, Frank Dobos; many HPS notables including Sam Fink, Dick Akawie, Dick Worsfold, Jack Basscom, Bob Cates, Paul Lipsohn and Simone Detiguel; list-finishing parties and the hundreds (thousands?) of empty champagne bottles; and the three most prolific leaders: John Backus, Bobcat Thompson and Slag Brown. A special tribute was made to all of the HPSers who are no longer with us in a poem written by Julie Rush for Herb Drotzau. It was a touching reminder of all the friends we’ve lost.

The party finally wound down at about 11:30 p.m. Thanks to everyone for being kind to a very nervous outgoing Chair and especially to Dotty for organizing everything and Joe for his detective work and smooth delivery. See you all at Taix next year!

Proposed Senior Emblem
and Other Emblems
by Don Tidwell

This proposal is not in the proper format to vote on right now. This just presents the basic idea so people can talk about it and start working on it. More than one person has already earned it, I believe.

Senior Emblem: Climb 100 listed peaks by two different routes.

Pathfinder Emblem: Climb 100 listed peaks by three different routes.

Senior 200 Bar, Senior Finisher, etc. You get the idea.

The big question is how to define whether two routes are different or
not so different. I propose that one route is considered different from another route or other routes when:
1) At least 3/4 mile of it is different (drive-up clause); 2) At least 2/3 of the route's mileage and elevation change were not part of another route; 3) Side trips and return trips don't count.

The impact of this proposal is that lots of extra paperwork will be required of hikers who will need to keep track of routes as well as what peaks they climbed when, and of the HPS Treasurer, who will have to go through their lists of peaks and verify all of the mileage and elevation numbers for the different routes. This will not be such a problem if peak guides contain trail profiles of all known routes for all the peaks.

Another impact of this proposal is that people will have other goals to work for. Some people will concentrate on the 100 peaks with the most alternate routes instead of getting in shape to finish the list. This could lead to more trips in the local area.

I am quite sure that this will be on the ballot this year. Please send me a list of S M T F, work on your favorite trail. Trails need the help of those who are loving and using them. Lest a trail late! This would be a good time to restore it. See the Southern Sierra for more trails days info or contact the leaders: Lou Levy, Ron Webster and Jo Kitz.

Conservation News
by Ruth Lee Brown

The Inyo Forest Plan deadline for public comment has been extended to March 15, 1987. Check the full page insert in the February Southern Sierra. Send letters with your critique of the plan to:

Forest Supervisor
Inyo National Forest
873 N. Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Leadership Training Seminar:
April 11-12, Sat.-Sun.

Became a qualified Sierra Club leader! Leader candidates are required to be Sierra Club members, to have participated in at least five Club outings or equivalent, and to have the mountaineering technical skill appropriate to the category (0, 1, H, E) you want to be rated for. Send a tape for application and info to Registrar: Nancy Gordon, 6550 El Camino Blvd., Canoga Park, CA 91307, (310) 884-8058. Appl. deadline is 4/1/87.

Remember to send your contributions in by April 1, 1987 if you want them to appear in the next issue of the Lookout!
**100 Peaks Lookout**

which (has been reintroduced as Senate Bill S. 7/ House Bill HR 371). Even a handful of thoughtful letters from Californians urging support for the bill at this critical time may be enough to make a difference in Senator Wilson's decision. We are counting on your letter as one of those.

Address:
Hon. Peter Wilson  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Phones:
Washington, D.C.: (202) 224-3841  
Los Angeles: (213) 209-6755  
San Francisco: (415) 556-4307  
San Diego: (619) 293-5257  
Fresno: (209) 487-5727  
Orange County: (714) 720-1474

Thank you for all you can do.

Sincerely,
Jim Dodson, Regional Vice President, Sierra Club  
Judy Anderson, California Desert Protection League  
Patty Schifferde, Regional Director, The Wilderness Society  
Jim Eaton, Executive Director, California Wilderness Coalition

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**Rare Plant Advisory**

by Don Tidwell

The need to remove brush on HPS peaks and the virtues of pruning brush from climbing routes has been told in recent issues of the LOOKOUT. Here is another viewpoint. HPSers usually know so little about plants and climbing routes that what they do to the plants is plain vandalism, and destroys the natural features that Sierra Clubbers, Forests and Parks are supposed to protect.

While climbing Bald Eagle Peak in November with John Backus, I made a point of leaving the loppers at home, and telling everyone why. The entire route is located in the Bodfish Plute Cypress Botanical Area, which protects the endangered Image. However, other HPSers, whose names were in the register, had previously chopped in the area, and chopped off large branches of the rare cypress. These thoughtless people had ignored the forest map and the HPS peak guide, both of which point out the cypress trees. The trees weren't in anybody's way either. These people clearly should not be encouraged to prune brush by the HPS LOOKOUT.

In general, pruning is acceptable to maintain trails shown on forest Service maps or firebreaks. On cross-country routes, pruning should occur only in certain situations, where all of the following conditions are met: there is no alternate route going around the brush, everyone stays on the exact same route (and doesn't clip out parallel routes), and the brush consists of ceanothus and/or scrub oak (other plants usually yield when pushed). When all three conditions are not met, pruning a cross-country route is not warranted.

HPSers should learn about plant communities, and how to find routes around brushy spots. Protective clothing, including long sleeves, trousers, gloves, head and eye protection should be worn in chaparral. Push branches out of the way with feet, back and hands. These practices will eliminate the perceived need to prune most cross-country routes. Then, there will be more energy to clear brush on and maintain real trails.

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**PEAK QUIZ**

by Alan Coles

Test your knowledge of our peaks. Many of the answers can be found in previous editions of the LOOKOUT and the Southern Sierran.

1. Evan Semuels helped find a new route up this "hot" peak that had numerous problems with private property owners. Drive up enthusiasts, however, will not be thrilled by the walk.
2. The northern most peak on the list is adjacent to a wilderness area named for its unique rock formations.
3. The California Wilderness Act of 1984 added 1.8 million acres to wilderness. The largest single addition in Southern California is the Dick Smith Wilderness in Los Padres National Forest at 64,700 acres. Name the two highest summits in this wilderness.
4. There are several peaks that have names of former presidents, but only one you might pass through hell's half-acre to climb.
5. Ramona, the native American woman on whose life the book by Helen Hunt Jackson is based, is buried next to the sacred hot spring at the base of the peak named for the tribe of which she belonged.
6. This peak is the highest point in the first wilderness in the Cleveland National Forest. Climbers are often impressed by the giant "little apples" bushes seen along the way.
7. Undoubtedly, the best known (in terms of its name being published) peak on the list is famous both nationally and internationally. You have a choice of 5 trails to the summit.
8. The California Dept. of Fish and Game has recently started to relocate Nelson Bighorn Sheep from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Los Padres National Forest where years ago they once thrived. The area in which they are being released is a rugged one near a prominent peak in the center of the proposed Sespe-Frazier Wilderness Area.
9. A national scenic trail goes to the top of this lofty summit. The Sierra Club would like wilderness protection for the area, but the proposed San Bernardino National Forest Plan allows for ski lift expansion on it.
10. Ancient Lumber Pines only grow on the tops of 2 peaks in the Los Padres National Forest which extends all the way from Monterey.
to near Castaic. The proposed Los Padres National Forest Plan sets aside the top of only one summit as a special biological study area. The Sierra Club would like to have both summits protected. Bonus point if you can name the peak that is not protected in the plan. (Special note: Limber Pines are much more common in the San Gabriels and the San Bernadinos.)

Note: The answers to the "Peak Quiz" will appear in the next issue of the LOOKOUT.

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Starting the New Year Off...
by Michael Sandford

After a great New Year's party, Dotty and I decided to take a small hike to Occidental Peak. Just a short hike to bring in the New Year! The weather on Saturday was great, the temperature was ideal—nothing could have been better. We started off down the first saddle (about .5 miles into the hike), when I made a very minor slip and fell backwards. No real problem except my heel locked on a rock with another rock directly behind my lower leg. On my way down, I heard the snap as my leg broke in two pieces. So much for the "easy hike".

I knew I had a problem and Dotty went back to get help. In a very short time, the Sheriff Rescue Team was there with a helicopter and I was air-lifted down to Verdugo Hospital. From the time I fell at 12:30 until I arrived at the Hospital at 2:15 (including lifting me up 65 feet to the hovering helicopter), the rescue team really did an outstanding job. I don't think it could have been done at a much faster clip. It's nice to have this group there when the need arises.

I'm now sitting at home in a full leg cast without hope of hiking for six weeks. I guess this is just another lesson on what can happen, even on the simplest of hikes. It's a good thing I took extra clothing which kept me warm and hiked with a friend that was able to get help in the event of an emergency.

See you at the Tam soon.

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Peak and Chews:
An HPS Restaurant Review
by Ruth Adler

Where to eat dinner after a hike is a matter of the most profound concern. We peakbaggers must have something to look forward to. We have to keep up our strength. Therefore, choosing the right restaurant is an extremely important decision which cannot necessarily be made on the spur of the moment. All kinds of factors must be taken into account: menu, ambiance, location and price.

What we peakbaggers need is a forum for discussion and review—hence, the addition of this new regular feature. If you come across a particularly good, bad or indifferent restaurant that you would like to comment on, please send in a postcard or letter to me and I'll include your comments in this column.

Sample (and first entry):

Garcia's: Hwy. 111 & Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage. Mexican restaurant with great chips and salsa, lots of drinks, tasty and attractive meals, portions okay. We sampled the #3, Sonora Beef Enchilada (an interesting dish that comes with thick homemade corn tortillas) and thought these entrees were good, while the Chicken and Beef Tostadas were nothing out of the ordinary. Excellent service. Bright and cheerful. Moderate prices (dinner $5.00-$9.00). (Ruth Adler, 2/1/87.)

Okay, guys, peak, pick, choose, chews, and then send your review in!

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REGISTER BOX
by Jim Adler

REGISTERS NEEDED:
Tehachapi Mtn./SE: can deficient
Santa Cruz/66: can, book shot up
Lieber/6A: mouse proof needed
Condor/9C: missing
Roundtop/10H: crummy
Veltor Mt./11F: missing
Mt. Markham/120: missing
Winston/13A: missing
Mt. Lewis/136: missing
Mt. Islip/14C: now 1/2 beer can
Middle Hawkins/14E: beer can
Smith Mt./15B: missing
Delamar/21E: decrepit
Gold/21H: decrepit
Silver/21I: beer can
Onyx #1/236: missing
Constance/24A: 1/2 missing
Allen/25A: missing
Birch/25B: 1/2 missing
Cedar/25C: decrepit
Galena/25E: 1/2 missing
Ryan Mtn./26D: missing
Castle Rocks/270: missing
Garret Pk./321: missing

If you are climbing any of the above peaks, please consider bringing a new register can and book. If you discover a peak which needs a new register, please advise either the Author or the Editor. Also, please advise if you have replaced any of the missing or deficient registers or discover that any of the above reports are erroneous or out of date. (Since register books and pencils are so easy to carry all the time, peaks where only books or pencils are needed will not be listed.)
Good news: four peaks were removed from the “missing” list since last issue, three more were added, for net progress of one register. Keep the reports coming in and the cans moving out.

Don Tidwell notified the Editor that there will be a dedication ceremony of the Caliente Trail. The Editor called Lee Wilson of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club per Don’s suggestion. The ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 4th at the trailhead. (The trailhead can be reached by driving about 12 miles west of New Cuyama on Hwy. 166 to milepost 50.5.) No official time has been set yet, but Lee Wilson says that the ceremony will probably begin about 10:00 a.m. The Santa Lucia Chapter will install signs and then lead a hike up the new trail.

Lee Wilson and the Santa Lucia Chapter spearheaded a campaign to raise money for the trail and signs. Contributions were made by the BLM, the Board of Supervisors of San Louis Obispo County, the Santa Lucia Chapter, the Sportmen Club. Lee Wilson and his family and others. Lee Wilson says that the Santa Lucia Chapter has been fighting for a long time for the 60,000 acres of BLM land that Caliente is on to become wilderness. He really loves the area and would like to see it preserved.

Wendy had never been backpacking and we needed some conditioning for Iztaccihuatl (outside Mexico City) for the following weekend, so we decided to backpack this traverse in the direction with the most altitude gain (about 10,000’ counting the ups and downs). Armed with 8 quarts of water, a 40 and a 28 lb. pack, and plenty of natives, we left the car at the East Fork (about 2000’ elevation) at 7:00 a.m. By previous arrangement we encountered newlywed Ron Bartell and Christine Mitchell at 2:30 p.m., who were traversing in the opposite direction, and swapped car keys. The Bartells made quite a fuss about the wind near the top of Baldy, even confessing to having considered turning back. Not us. What could a little wind do? The Bartells gave us another quart of water and we continued over the top of Iron (8007’, 3:00 p.m.) and made camp (4:10) on a semi-flat spot to the south side of the San Antonio ridge just past the first notch.

Below the ridge the wind was quite modest so I did my usual instant tent pitching exercise. One peg wouldn’t go in easily so I laid a rock on top of it. At 7:00 p.m. the wind returned. It sounded like the ocean. Two out of four stakes came loose (straps exist for six more, but I never carry the extra stakes––too heavy). We brought a huge rock into the tent to hold one corner down. The rock made a hole in the bottom of the tent. My fancy new air mattress went flat. Neither of us got much sleep. The next morning we thought about turning back, but by now my truck was parked in the Bartell’s garage and their car needed somebody to drive it home from the other side of Baldy. They didn’t turn back. Neither would we. I thought about it. Wendy talked about it. We started for Baldy (8:00 a.m.).

Now I’ve done this traverse a couple of times as a (long) day hike and the class 3 never seemed like much of a deal. The wind and our gargantuan packs made it seem quite formidable. On the last notch I tried lowering my pack onto a ledge with the rope. 350 ft. of climbing down to retrieve the thing has shown me the wisdom of having someone waiting for the packs on the ledge.

We got to the base of the last ridge (which is at about the same height as Iron) at 1:00 p.m.—it took us five hours to go roughly 3 miles. The wind had been picking up all morning, but then it died down as soon as we got into the trees on the west side of Baldy. I was quite relieved as the wind had been much worse than I thought was physically possible.

An hour later we were at 9000’ and the trees began to shrink and the real wind started to blow. I cannot describe the wind above 9000’ that day. The ranger said later that the wind hit 85 mph at the Baldy weather station on both days that weekend. And the weather station is well down from the top, where the wind doesn’t even blow as hard. A couple of times I was knocked off my feet sideways onto some rocks. Crawling barely sufficed. I was holding my mittens firmly under my leg when they disappeared into the wind. When I was a kid in Texas we used to stand up in the back of speed pickup. Child’s play. This was the real thing.

After an hour and a half we struggled up 500 ft. or so where we could traverse the south side of West Baldy and get some relief from the wind. In an unusual burst of sanity, we decided to pass on checking out the conditions on the top of Baldy (10,064) and instead kept to the
right until we reached the trail that drops down to the ski hut (5:10) and the car at 7:00 p.m. One quart of water left.

Wendy is looking forward to her second backpacking trip, but has expressed a preference for trying something with a trail. Me, too.

**Chalk Pt., Gobblers Knob:**
12/6/86: Leaders: Jack Trager, Luella Martin
by Jack Trager

Only the "crazies" came out after a night of rain and continuing showers. However, none of those meeting at the Pomona carpool point wanted to forgo the chance to capture Chalk immediately after its "relisting" to the 100 Peaks.

The hike itself went well. The route from the parking place to the base of the mountain is well ducked and brushed out. We went up the canyon west of the peak to the saddle and then directly up the ridge east of the summit. Since it was wet and cold on top, we stayed only briefly and returned down the north ridge for a pleasant (?) loop trip. While the rain was only a drizzle, the brush and grass were wet and all were quite thoroughly soaked by the time we returned to the cars despite rain gear.

Having gotten the peak that most wanted, there was a unanimous vote to pass up the proposed muddy drive to Gobblers Knob.

Participating besides the leaders were: Edna Erspamer, Pete Mohr, Jeff Wilson, Les Pitts and Gordon Lindberg.

**Round, Luna & Rattlesnake Mtns.: 12/6/86:**
Leaders: Alan Coles, John Radaj
by Alan Coles

Only John and Ann Fulton showed up at the Pomona carpool point on a cool and wet Saturday morning. Taking their nice Chevrolet Blazer, we drove over Cajon Pass where, as expected, the sky was much more optimistic. We picked up John near Hesperia close to where he spent the night. With such a small but very congenial group we were able to do all three peaks by 1:00 p.m. We had a few minor drops of rain between Luna and Rattlesnake and a brief white-out on Luna, but otherwise the desert was gorgeous. The smell of sagebrush and rabbitbrush, the beautiful contrast of color with the intermixing of clouds and sun on the land, and the vivid shadows and highlights of the many unusual rock formations made these usually average peaks into a very nice outing (and without the usual crowds). Too bad so many people were scared off by the weather.

Something of interest: Scientists from nine universities and the U.S. Geological Survey are drilling a hole 16,000 feet into the earth's crust near Cajon Pass to learn more about the San Andreas fault. The hole will be the deepest ever in this country and is being funded by the Natural Science Foundation. The site is one of the most important along the fault since it is the segment which has not had a major slip in recent history (130 years).

**Playon Pt.: 12/13/86:**
Leaders: Luella Martin, Gordon Lindberg, Jim Rainford
by Luella Martin

In the spring there would have been plenty of time, but in December, it was cutting it very close. The weather was good, but the snow level was at an unexpected 5,500 ft. in patches on the shady side of the ridges. I had warned the participants that Onyx would be a no-go if we didn't get to the Onyx roadhead by 2:30 p.m. We were off Pinyon at 2:35 p.m.

I had a good group. Several called to tell me that they couldn't make it. Everybody who didn't call showed up, but one. Jim Rainford brought along an unexpected Lew Amack. Lew had come for Onyx, but was a good sport about me calling it off for lack of daylight. He also informed me that the normal Pinyon approach was now posted with a "No Trespassing" sign, and the Short Canyon Rd. is gated at the Kelso Creek Rd. with a posted "No Vehicles" sign. The first piece of information proved to be true. I didn't check the second.

We met at Walker Pass Campground at 7:00 a.m. Bill Faulkner was parked below the rest of us so I almost missed him. This caused a mix-up and delayed us until 7:30 a.m. before we were on the trail. I used the Jenkins route which I'd climbed in 1974. I remembered going up a steep boulder and I tried some sidehilling on the way up. This was a bad idea. The ridge tends to drop off steeply on both sides. The brush was not bad. A little cutting would help. I lost approximately 45 minutes in one sidehill adventure. Gordon decided he'd wait for us (he has Pinyon), so Jim Rainford took over as assistant. We were on the summit of Pinyon by 11:30 a.m. On the way down after we collected Gordon, I missed the turn-off at elevation 6050 and continued down the Wrong ridge toward Walker Pass Lodge. I quickly realized my error and decided to cut back to the proper route by going down the side of the ridge toward the cars. It soon became apparent that there was a drop-off so I picked up a game trail and attempted to sidehill back to the correct ridge. We could have done this except that the game trail led into icy snow. Rather than backtrack, I elected to go back up to the top of the ridge. We ate a belated lunch, checked the map, found the correct ridge and were back at the cars by 2:35 p.m.

Thanks to all for bearing with me on this exploratory trip. I had not read Jenkins before the hike. Thanks to Evan, Jim and Lew for letting me take out their 7.5 minute topo maps.
Quail Mts./Private Trip:  
12/30/86  
by Dick Farrar

Since the road to the Lost Horse Ranger Station was closed, Bob Bunting and I opted for the approach to Quail via Juniper Flats. We started out on the Calif. Riding and Hiking Trail at 9:00 a.m. This starts right next to the Juniper Flats Rd. (locked gate) which intersects the Keys View Rd. about a mile south of Cap Rock. There is a glass-topped table at the trailhead with a map, backcountry regulations, self-regulation tags, and other useful information. The trail distance to Juniper Flats was 4.5 miles with another 2 miles to Quail summit. After 10 minutes, we passed a redwood post with the mileage marker “19”. Somewhere between that and the next mileage marker we missed the main trail and veered off to the north. Recovery was by means of heading south across the desert floor until we intersected the trail somewhere between the 20th and 21st mileage markers. Continuing westward, the trail intersects an old road (shown on the topo) about a half-mile after the 22nd marker. Finally it intersects the main road to Juniper Flats just before the 23rd marker. We turned right on the road and reached the end at Juniper Flats after about half a mile. From there we headed north northwest staying well to the right of the ridges to the west and to the left of a firebreak visible in the distance. After about 10 minutes, we reached a low rock outcropping with a duck in front. Just beyond that we hit a prominent wash heading generally west. This was apparently the main canyon referred to in the original Von Pertz guide sheet. After a few minutes the canyon forked, with a couple of prominent ducks high above in the middle. We took the left fork since it seemed to rise toward a saddle visible high on the ridge to the west. When we got to the draw heading up to the ridge we left the canyon and went straight up the steep but reasonably solid slope. At the top of the ridge we could make out the spectacular cairn on top of Quail by peaking sharply to the right (northeast). From here there was a faint trail which contoured to the right of some intervening bumps and headed straight for the cairn. We arrived at the cairn at 12:30. The cairn is truly a work of art. It is over 8 feet high and resembles an elongated pine cone with symmetrical petals. The register, installed by the National Park Service, is a heavy duty ammunition box bolted to the rock.

Although the hike was quite comfortable in shirt sleeves, a windbreaker was in order at the summit. The views were clear in all directions with San Jacinto and San Gorgonio easily recognized. The weather was unseasonably mild with very little wind along the ridge. After a leisurely lunch, we started the descent at 1:30, retracing our ascending route exactly. From the rock outcropping with the duck in front, just off the main wash, the compass bearing back to the end of the Juniper Flats Rd. was 160. Since we had plenty of time before dark, we again took the trail rather than the Juniper Flats Rd. We arrived at the car by 4:00 p.m. and had time for two of the standard tourist attractions, Keys View and Hidden Valley, before dark.

Eagle Crag, Combs Pt.: 1/10- 1/11/87: Leaders: Bob Henderson, John Cheslick  
by the Leaders

Eight hikers met Saturday at the Dripping Springs Campground north of Eagle Crag determined to do the peak the long way (22 miles) and, possibly, return in the dark. The trail, through the Agua Tibia Wilderness, has an easy grade and is scenic. You start in chaparral that has not been burned for many years, passing under large manzanita trees with trunks a foot thick, through to peaks covered with large stands of Coulter pines.

Alan Coles brought his brush loppers, so he and Bob trimmed part of the way up, but then let Bob Emerick and Jim Rief of the loppers and clippers do the hard stuff on the old road from Agua Tibia Peak to Combs Saddle. Alan guided the group to a quick finish, catching the wrong turn and showing the best way to the top. The strong group, which also included Lew Amack, Alice Cahill, and Bob Doyle, made it to the peak in 5.5 hours and back just before dark.

This was the first weekend after the first big winter storm and northeast winds that day cleared out any haze, so all the high peaks with their caps of snow were visible to the north and east. Alan says the wildflowers will predominate on his shorter route through the Cutca Valley scheduled for March. The trail is now well brushed out, is generally very good, and varies greatly in the character of the plants along the way.

The next day, the scheduled Palomar High Point was skipped since the Forest Service closed the roads for the winter season due to the weather conditions eliminating the planned easy drive-up. Only Alice stayed for the Sunday activities, so the three of us drove over to Combs Peak and found an open gate inviting us to a pleasant 3 hour trip up to and back from Combs Peak. We enjoyed watching John trimming his way through a gap completely obscured by snow-laden bushes. "Will the snow fall down his neck?", we asked. "Yes!"
Old Man Mtn., Monte Arido: 1/24-1/25/87; Leaders: Alan Colles & John Radalj by Alan Colles

Scheduling a trip for these two peaks is never easy as it can be either very hot or freezing cold. But if the weather is clear and the temperature pleasant, this can be an enjoyable if somewhat long dayhike. Fortunately for us, it turned out to be such a day.

The plan was to do these peaks from the seldom led west route starting at Juncal Campground. This route has less gain and is far more scenic. It also provides a nice starting location. Juncal CG is a shady, quiet spot along the upper portion of the Santa Ynez River. It is a long hours drive from Santa Barbara, but there are many good views along the way, both day and night.

Seventeen strong hikers met at 7:00 a.m. at this spot to start the long walk. Most of us had a restful if somewhat cold night there. The brisk temperatures got everyone off to a fast start reaching Jameson Lake a little after 8:00. Things warmed up a bit and a longer break was taken at pleasant Upper Santa Ynez CG, where a perennial spring flows. By 10:00, the group had walked the relatively mild 7 miles to Hurrietta Saddle where the Santa Ynez fault crosses over to the Ventura River side.

Here, I did something that normally I wouldn't do, but, because of the time consideration, I let everyone set his or her own pace and rest stops, and proceeded non-stop to Monte-Arido. The route is very clear and the group was comprised of very experienced hikers. Enduring Bobcat jokes, the first group reached the summit of the dry one by 12:30 p.m. By 1:00, twelve were on top, the other five, including co-leader John, having returned. The route was longer than expected by about 2 miles (13 miles from the start). So much for this being an easier route; at least it is more scenic.

The top was quite cold due to a chilling wind. The views over the Channel Islands were spectacular. A few renegade clouds from a disappearing storm front stayed to the north. We left around 1:30 p.m.

Ten of us reached the top of Old Man by 2:30 while Bobcat was seen chasing Harriet Hangback over to the second lower summit. (Hangback is known to be fond of these peaks and is sometimes seen on them.) Martin and Christy took the road back while the rest of us opted for a unique chance to go cross-country down a ridge "cleared" by fire. With a potential savings of 4 miles and a few hundred feet of gain, it seemed ideal. Off we went and it didn't take long to realize that even what was left of the brush proved to be quite an effort. Cursing myself for doing something that I should not have done, we pushed and shoved our way through the mess. Finally, the ridge cleared and the rest of the descent went far better. Amazingly, just as we reached the road, along came Martin and Christy! Given how fast they move, it seemed we saved time and wear on our feet (at the expense of everything else). We looked like a paramilitary group out on maneuvers.

Wearily, we marched back watching a beautiful sunset over Jameson Lake reaching camp at 7:00 p.m.--a long 12 hour day.

Not surprisingly, the few who stayed the night at the campground didn't feel up to any hiking on Sunday. After a leisurely breakfast, we went home. Many thanks to John Radalj for assisting. Special thanks (and apologies) to Jon Lutz, Evan Samuels, Don Borad, Mike Fredelle (doing these peaks for the 6th time!), John Chester, Bill & Gisela Klunin and Bob Henderson for enduring that ridge without a complaint. They did an extraordinary job of staying together in what otherwise could have been a bad situation.

Stay tuned--we will be doing Calliente in March...
TROPHY HUNTING OF MOUNTAIN LIONS may be resumed in California this year after a moratorium of 15 years. The legislature that mandated the moratorium expired last year because Gov. Deukmejian vetoed 1985 legislation to renew the ban. The Dept. of Fish and Game is expected to recommend in February that a hunting season be established. The Fish and Game Commission will probably act on this in April after hearings throughout the state.

Fish and Game did not adopt the hunting season last year, because of intense public opposition in an election year. Data on mountain lion populations in California are unreliable: estimates vary from the DF6 figure of 4000 to a low estimate of 1000. Limited hunting is allowed now to protect livestock and the public. Last year, there were two fatal mountain lion attacks on children in Orange County, possibly by the same lion. The last previous attack on a human occurred in 1909.

The Sierra Club is not opposed to hunting as such. It is involved in negotiations about whether to allow hunting, and if so, how much. Some conservationists have formed the Mountain Lion Coalition to oppose the trophy hunting of mountain lions. Their local phone number is 213-457-LION.

(From the Jan. 1987 Angeles Chap. Conservation Committee Newsletter)

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**SPECIAL CATEGORIES**

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