

THE LOOKOUT

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The Official Newsletter of the Hundred Peaks Section



Triple List Finish!!!

Keith Christensen, Tanya Roton
Kelliher, and Mat Kelliher celebrate
their List finishes on Five Fingers



Historic Double List Finish!!

William Simpson and Zobeida
Arauz celebrate their List finishes
on Ontario Peak



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

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Submit material for The Lookout to:

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

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

It can be accessed at angeles.sierraclub.org/hps/



Welcome to the new
issue of The Lookout
From Executive Editor,
Lilly Fukui
and
Managing Editor,
Chris Spisak



Photo taken in the Alabama
Hills, near Lone Pine

In the last issue, we celebrated Wayne Bannister's 5th HPS List Finish. Quite an accomplishment! This issue, we have much to celebrate again: Both a 5th HPS List Finish and 2nd Lead the List by William Simpson, an unprecedented 5th Lead-the-List completion by Mars Bonfire, a 7th HPS List Finish by Zobeida Auraz, and a Triple 1st List Finish by Tanya Roton Kelliher, Mat Kelliher, and Keith Christensen! We were there for the later. It was a blustery, cool day on Five Fingers, with about forty others, also in attendance. Everyone seemed to enjoy our little rock climb to the summit. A great potluck dinner followed this achievement at a nearby campground. This is the true spirit of the Hundred Peaks Section, hiking the peaks yourself, but also supporting and encouraging your fellow peak baggers. We do not have many planned outings in the schedule at this time of year, but try to get out and encourage your friends to join you in one. The cool weather makes hiking very pleasant this time of year, and we hope to see you on the trails!

Also, don't forget that the HPS Awards Banquet is Saturday January 11, 2014 at The Monrovia Restaurant.

In this Issue:

- Newly elected Management Committee members
- Two new peaks to climb: Beartrap Bluff and Mount Minerva Hoyt
- A new route to Mount Harwood
- A new installment of "Meet Your Leaders" with Bill and Virginia Simpson
- A historic Double List finish and a Triple List finish
- An "Outsider's" view of our hiking mania
- An unprecedented Lead-the-List Finish Number Five!
- A same day HPS List finish with a Lower Peaks List finish
- A look at map accuracy
- And challenging outings to work off that newly acquired Holiday weight.

Lots to do and read about. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Unprecedented 5X Lead the List Finish for Mars Bonfire

By Dave Comerzan

On 11-5-13, I had the opportunity to co-lead this record-breaking finish by Mars. Frank Goodykoontz was the first to the 4X Lead on 1-16-99. Mars tied that also in January, 1-2-13. In my opinion, leading the list is the most difficult of all our Emblems. So many variables – weather, road closures, and need for a co-leader “I” rated or above make for constant rescheduling. Having led the list once and almost a second time, I speak from experience. Leading it 5X is an amazing feat. This is a record that will last for some time.

Joining us on this memorable occasion was Pat Arredondo, Bruce Craig, and George Christiansen. We had more participants when it was originally scheduled several weeks prior. It had to be scheduled later due to a road closure and many folks couldn't make it on the new date. We were doing Rt. 1, from the south. Rt. 2 was not an option due to a road closure. Mars couldn't do Wilson or Frazier as a drive up for a list finish. No – he had to do a 16 mile round trip, 4700' gain, 9 hours, 35 minute hike. Oh well, if you want to be part of history, that's the price you pay.

Pat, Bruce, and I went in Monday night and spent the night at the Rock Campground about a third of a mile from the trailhead. George drove in the morning and started a little later than us. He quickly caught up to us. Amazingly enough, as we were driving in, we see a green SUV coming toward us. Sure enough, it was Mars. He had driven in Sunday night, spent the night at the campground, hiked Hildreth on Monday and was heading into Santa Barbara to spend the night in a hotel. He then joined us at 6:00 am to hike Hildreth for his 25th and last time. Hildreth from the south two days in a row. That's our Mars.

This was the second time I have done this route and it was in the best shape I have seen it. The first 3 ½ miles follows a creek and thanks to hunters and locals, the trail looked like a maintained trail. You have to cross the creek (little or no water) a number of times. It was easy to pick up where the trail was on the other side due to some well-placed ducks and flags. The first time I did this route in 2010, we spent a lot of time looking for the trail. Even at a few trail junctions, ducks and flags showed us the correct way.

In the first 3 ½ miles, you only gain about 500'. You pay the price for this in the last 4 ½ miles. You leave the creek at the start of a steep ridge. At the top of the ridge you run into what used to be a very brushy area. I remember crawling on hands and knees to get through this area. Due to the fire and someone's cutting, there was an obvious route through it. Once through, you drop down to the road. This road is so overgrown in spots, it was hard to tell you were on a road. This is the same road that comes in from the opposite side to Hildreth. Although easy enough to walk, it was a lot of up and down before reaching the use trail to the top. Since it was such a long hike, we didn't do much celebrating at the top. We waited until we got back to the car to have a cold beer. We only had one beer since it was a 4 hour drive to our homes. It was a good hike, weather was pleasant and the company even more pleasant. We started at 6:10 am and reached the summit at 11:15 am and returned to the cars at 3:45 pm. Stats per my GPS were 16 miles round trip, 4775' gain, 9 hours, 35 minutes. All and all, a great hike.

Mars and I have co-lead 314 hikes all mid-week. Our first led hike was June 7, 2005 to Samon, again another hard hike. Along the way, we summited 521 peaks. We came close to leading every peak on the list, missing it by only 6 peaks that we did not do together. We hiked almost every week of the year.

Along the way, we had many “adventure” hikes. Adventure hikes for the newbie to HPS is the politically correct way of describing a hike you would never do again. It was both extremely steep and loose, on your hands and knees crawling through brush or class 4 or 5. Most of these were at my instigation. I was always looking for a pathfinder. Usually, Mars had done these routes before, knew they were terrible, but let me find out on my own. Mars’ term for these routes was “interesting”. We never failed to reach the peak we were aiming for. Once though, we came close. We were doing Scodie from Cow Canyon and I wanted to start at a point that was only ½ mile from the peak. How hard can a ½ mile be? We found out. We ended up looking at Class 4 rock and thought we would have to turn around, but Mars remembered a way he and Kathy had done. We were able to traverse to that point and make the summit. And there was the time I wanted to get a pathfinder to 10K. I’m sure Pat Vaughn and others will remember that one, a bush whack never to be repeated. Mars loves to push his vehicles to the limit. George Christiansen will remember the time we almost lost his vehicle following Mars down an old jeep road. Speaking of vehicles, I had the privilege of riding in four different vehicles in the short time I hiked with Mars. First, it was a Mercedes, then the red Silverado, followed by the Jeep and now the Subaru. By comparison, I owned one vehicle for 30 years before I bought the one I have now.

As most of you know, Mars is very goal oriented. When he reaches that goal, he moves on. His goal was to lead the list 5X. He’s done that. He will not lead any. Moreover, while I’m not happy we won’t be leading any more, I can respect his decision. He will still be around though as he works towards his other goal – to do the list 25X. And if he sees a hike to be led to a peak he needs, he will join it as a participant. Of course, the leaders of that hike will need to see his hiking resume to make sure he is qualified to be a

participant. I, for one, will miss spending my Tuesdays and Thursdays with Mars. I learned a lot from hiking with him and hope to still hike with him. He has a very quiet way about him. When he chose the route for the hike, he would choose the most “efficient” route – meaning the easiest way up and down. Mars, we are going to miss your leading. However, like they always say – “never say never.”



Etiwanda from Joe Elliott Campground – 11-17-2013

By Dave Comerzan

This was a private hike with Tom Connery and Pat Arredondo. Tom was looking for some pathfinders and we were interested in the condition of this trail since the fire a few years back. I had done this route back in 2000 and it was in good shape then. We didn’t know anyone who has done the trail recently so we weren’t sure what we were getting into. This is Route 2 in the peak guide. The road to the trailhead – 1N34 – opens the first weekend after Labor Day and closes with the first snowfall. This gives you a short window to do this route. This peak is usually done from Ice House Canyon with Cucamonga Peak. It starts 1000’ higher than Ice House and is somewhat shorter. The road in is rough, but passable with any good high clearance vehicle four wheel drive not needed. It took one hour to drive the 11.6 miles from Sierra Ave. to the campground.

We parked at Site No. 1, but you can drive about another 1/10th of a mile and park at the start of the wilderness boundary. Hiking conditions were perfect, bright blue sunny sky, temperature in the low 40's, no wind.

The trail starts where the road ends. The first 2.3 miles is actually in good shape and easy to follow. This is an area where many hunters go and they have kept this trail open. It's a good thing. Trying to cross country through the buckthorn to the ridge would have been impossible. There was lots of deadfall, but it was easy to go over or around it. Also, there were several rock filled gullies to cross, but it was clear as to the route over the rocks. As you get closer to the start of the ridge at 7200', the trail begins to deteriorate, but it is still easy to see where it is going. At 7200' the trail took a sharp turn to the south, went about 2/10th of a mile, then took a sharp turn to the north again going 2/10th of a mile. This part of the trail was very difficult to follow and had lots of deadfall we had to work around and through. We realized that we could have gone straight and picked up the trail in a short distance and avoided that portion. We did this on the way down.

The trail is now traversing the north side of the ridge to Etiwanda. Again, it is easy to follow, especially to a number of ducks (courtesy of Tom and Zobedia who hiked part way down the trail a couple of months prior). There were a couple of spots where the trail was washed out and you had to be very careful crossing these washouts. Also, we hit several ice patches that were a bit dicey to cross. We lost the trail at one point. We had missed a switchback and were too low. We had waypoints and were able to work our way back up to the main trail. At the summit, Pat and I spent a relaxing hour while Tom ran off and did Cucamonga and I mean run. He did the additional 3 miles round trip and 400' gain in one hour.

We went down the same way, taking a couple of short cuts saving us some time and distance.

We started the hike (6000') at 7:35 am, reached the summit (8662') and returned to the car at 2:25 pm. The stats were 9.3 miles round trip, 2800' gain and 6 hours and 50 minutes, pretty much in line with the peak guide. All and all, this is a good route to these two peaks. I would not do this route if there was any appreciable snow in the mountains. A lot of the trail is on the north side and would be very dangerous. Also, we agreed that we didn't know which was harder, the hike or the 2 hour ride on the rough road in.



Meet Your Leaders: “IRON MOUNTAIN” BILL SIMPSON AND ENDURING VIRGINIA SIMPSON

By: Lilly Fukui and Chris Spisak

On a cool Saturday morning, we interviewed “Iron Mountain” Bill and Virginia Simpson at their beautiful Asian-themed home in Santa Monica. We also “met” their two unique cats. William “Bill” Simpson was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, and has two older sisters. Bill has a J.D. degree and is a certified accountant/ financial/ accounting malpractice expert witness extraordinaire. Virginia Shackelford Simpson was born in Poteau, Oklahoma and has three sisters. She worked as a nurse at the UCLA Santa Monica Campus.



While growing up, Bill’s family would spend a week in Yosemite on vacation where they would set up a tent. They would sit around, look at the trees, and take in the

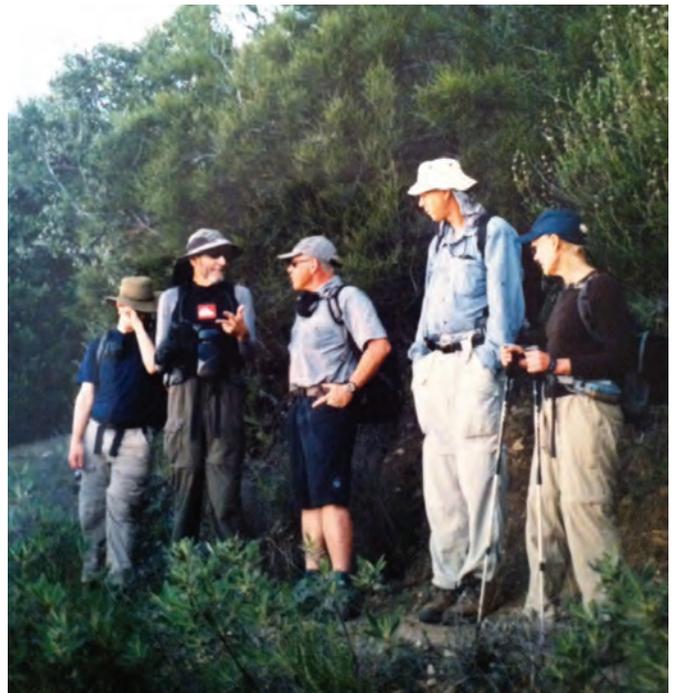
view of the area. There was no hiking or biking, but one year he finally got his parents to pay for a bike rental for one day. In 1998, he started working out with a personal trainer because one day when taking grocery bags out from his car trunk, he realized it was very heavy (although the items were not really.) His arm muscles were weak.

Bill played a lot of squash and racquetball at the downtown YMCA and got the name of a trainer – named Brian Mason, who was good about building a strong upper body. Brian was a hiker, so every month or two he would ask Bill to join. Bill says he turned him down because he thought, “hiking was lame.” Bill wanted more active sports like the racquetball and squash that he was really into. After three and a half years of being invited on a hike, Bill still kept saying “No,” but he realized there must be something about hiking that is redeemable and valuable. Particularly since Brian hikes about eight to ten times a year, taking along his clients. Bill finally said he would go hiking with him sometime. Bill plays golf on Saturdays (for about 15 yrs.), so he told Brian that he would rather hike on Sunday. About six months later Brian told him that there was another hike coming up, again, on a Saturday, in two weeks. Bill said ok to this hike only because the golf club was closed to members while they were having a special qualifying tournament for U.S. Amateurs. Bill saying, “Yes” to the hike, stunned Brian but this may also have been good for Bill as well!

Bill showed up on this hike and there were about 10 to

12 people (mostly friends and clients of Brian), to hike Mt. Baden Powell from Dawson Saddle. Bill realized that he was the slowest person on this group as they would all get ahead, and Bill had to work to catch up. Bill loved the gorgeous scenery, the smell of the forest, and overall had such a good time on the hike that he told Brian: “Look, I’m going to go with you on your next hike!” Therefore, Bill bailed on his golf and started hiking about every month and he realized that he got the “bug.” After the first year, he had done maybe eight, going to South Mount Hawkins before the fire, and other hikes.

Virginia started hiking in August of 2007 in the Santa Monica Mountains on Monday and Wednesday nights. She also sometimes hiked on Friday night. On one of the Santa Monica hikes, she met Ted Lubeskoff, an HPS Leader who recommended that she join him on a 16-mile HPS hike to Topatopa Bluff, which he was leading from a trailhead near Ojai Road. This became her first HPS hike. Virginia felt she was not strong enough nor in good enough shape, but she went anyway. The group also attempted Hines Peak, but they turned back because of snow. She had no idea about what to bring on the hike, and when told to bring lots of water at least 3 liters.) She took three of the big bottles of water! Gosh, was she prepared!



When Virginia expressed that she could not hike to strenuous peaks, she was told to think about hiking with certain leaders, but was told, “*Certainly not with Bill Simpson, as he is excessively fast, very strong, and*

hard-core!" And Virginia's comment when she wanted to do Lukens but after learning it was going to be led by Bill was "*Oh my gosh, Oh no, it's with him (Bill Simpson),*" but she was told that since Lilly was co-leading with Bill on this hike, that it would be okay! Therefore, she met Bill on this, her second HPS hike, in 2008. Virginia said that it turned out to be "*a very nice hike with lot of friendly hikers*" and enjoyed the pretty scenery.

By the end of his first year of hiking, Bill was asking people he met about their hiking, and he would meet other hikers and ask them what kind of hikes they do. Some would do city walks, from Hollywood Hills to the Hollywood Sign, Griffith Park, Santa Monica Mountains, etc. His trainer, Brian suggested doing Mt. Whitney. Brian had also heard about 'Cactus to the Clouds' and suggested doing that first. After about a year and a half total of hiking, they did it.

Bill hiked Whitney in October of 2003 with his trainer. Bill mentioned that he used Erik Siering's blueprint for doing 17 peaks over 10,000' in the Gorgonio area in one day, saying that Erik had done 37 miles solo! Using Erik's route with his friend Brian and another hiker, he came out with a new route – due to his foot problem that developed, called Morton's neuroma. Bill did the same route as Erik's, starting and ending, but came out six miles shorter. He accomplished this by going over the intervening bumps, rather than around them.

Bill and Virginia got married on 09/09/09 at the Shutters on the Beach Hotel in Santa Monica. A week before their wedding he noticed an article in the Los Angeles Times that said Santa Monica was going to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Santa Monica Pier on Wednesday, October 9th. The first fireworks off the pier in 20 years for the sunset (same day as Bill and Virginia's wedding), and their rooms looked out over the beach. Within about seven minutes after their reception starting, the fireworks started going off and people were coming up to him saying, "*Dude, you really know how to get things done! All right.*" The fireworks were a symbol of their relationship!

Bill's *Hundredth Peak* was Silver Peak, July 12, 2006. His *200th Peak* was Rabbit Peak #2, January 2, 2007. By July of that year, he had *completed the List* on Cedar Mountain. His *second List Completion* was on West Big Pine, May 2, 2010; the *third* on Chaparrosa Peak, October 22, 2011; the *fourth* on Boucher Hill, October 21, 2012; and the *fifth* on Black Mountain #2, October 27, 2013. Bill was awarded the *One Thousand Peaks emblem* for Dragons Head on March 13, 2008, and *Two Thousand Peaks* for Onyx Peak #2, on January 20, 2013. He has a *Pathfinder Emblem – 200 Peaks* for Iron Mountain #1 on June 13, 2009, and an *Explorer Emblem – 100 Peaks* for Five Fingers on October 2, 2010. An impressive record!

Virginia's *Hundredth Peak* was Haddock Mountain, August 10, 2008. Her *200th Peak* was Lake Peak on

August 23, 2010. She is currently working on her "I" provisional and needs a day hike. She plans to lead Quail in Joshua Tree. She is at about 230 on her first list finish. Said she loves rock climbing.

Bill has led the list twice. His *Second Leadership List Completion* was on July 20, 2013, it was combined with Zobeida's seventh list finish, and about 46 people showed up to do Sugarloaf and Ontario. His leadership awards include in 2009, the *Hundred Peaks Section Bill T. Russell New Leader Award*, and in 2011 the *Angeles Chapter Outings Service Award*.

Once a year Bill said that he likes to do some kind of outrageously "extreme" hikes, like hiking 17 peaks over 10,000' in one day! Bill also did Iron Mountain to Mt. Baldy and such other challenging hikes, like Rattlesnake to South Mt. Hawkins and back. His license plate reads "HKR XTRM," hence he feels obligated to do some extreme hikes at least once a year. This is Bill's second year on Management Committee and has been recently re-elected. Congratulations!

Bill's goals for HPS:

- 1) Increase membership and participation.
- 2) Increase the number of leaders by encouraging people to become leaders.



Bill adds that they are in the process of setting up a new HPS website that will be available to more people for hiking in the future. Bill says he tries to lead two hikes a week, Wednesdays and Sundays but there are exceptions when he will lead on Saturdays.

Virginia's goals: She would like to finish the list and lead the list at least once, and get her "I" provisional out of the way. She keeps a list on an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of the peaks hiked/led.

Regarding leadership, Bill cites from the philosophy that Tom Hill taught him, quoting:

"If you're going to hike, you might as well lead it."

Bill says this is why he likes to lead and enjoys it. Some people don't like to lead a lot because it is a lot of work, but we always need new leaders.

"Enjoy your hikes you all – and most of all, be safe."

Historic Double List Finish:

A Lead-the-List No. 2 and

A List Finish No. 7!

By Bill Simpson

NOTE: This article is one of two articles discussing this event. For a non-HPS participant's view, read "Hiking with Bill" by Ken Conklin.

This unprecedented double list finish event on July 20, 2013, had its origins in late 2012 when Zobeida Arauz and yours truly compared notes on our respective HPS lists. We found it would be possible – assuming we both continued hiking HPS peaks – to finish lists on the same peak in the summer of 2013. The common peaks we ended up focusing on were Ontario Peak and Sugarloaf Peak. These would be the last two peaks needed by both of us: Zobeida to finish her 7th HPS list and me to finish leading the HPS list for the 2nd time.

This was to be an event worth celebrating! To attract the largest number of participating celebrants, we chose Ontario Peak as our list-finish peak (as opposed to Sugarloaf Peak). As the primary leader for the hike, I decided to get additional "primary" leaders to lead three other groups in addition to my group. Zobeida and I would, of course, need to go up Falling Rock Canyon and bag Sugarloaf Peak on the way to Ontario Peak. Based on the preferences of the many leaders and others who were interested in the event, I ended up needing four groups of hikers: two groups to go up Falling Rock Canyon to Sugarloaf Peak and Ontario Peak and two groups to go to Ontario Peak via trail through Ice House Saddle. The three other primary leaders I recruited were Doris Duval, Ted Lubeshkoff and Virginia Simpson.

Ted and I lead our groups up Falling Rock Canyon and Doris and Virginia lead their groups on trail via Ice House Saddle. Thus, four groups of hikers went to Ontario Peak, with each route being used by two of the groups. Each route had a group that departed from the trailhead at 8 a.m., and each route had a groups that departed from the trailhead at 9 a.m. A total of 46 hikers, including 24 participants and 22 leaders, ended up participating in the event. Each hiker was able to select his or her route and departure time from the trailhead. Each of the four groups ended up with ten or more hikers, which included four or more leaders per group.

The day was planned for a suitable celebration upon arrival to Ontario Peak. I expected everyone would arrive at around 12:30 p.m., with the members of the two 8 a.m. groups needing more time than the members of the two 9 a.m. groups do. The timing worked well: virtually everyone arrived within a 15-minute window between 12:10 p.m. and 12:25 p.m. In fact, Ted (the primary leader of the 9 a.m. Falling Rock Canyon group) and I (the primary leader of the 8 a.m. Falling Rock Canyon group) walked together to Ontario Peak as his group caught up with my group on the Ontario Peak Trail very near the summit of Ontario Peak.

The celebration was wonderful! Many people brought many different treats and various other food to share. Also, Jimmy Quan and I had stashed four bottles of champagne and four bottles of sparkling cider at the peak several days before. (We had decided carrying four glass bottles each up Falling Rock Canyon on the day of the event would be unnecessarily risky.) In retrospect, we should have stashed eight bottles of each as the beverages which were there were consumed quickly, leaving many asking "where's the rest; can we have more?" Following the celebration, everyone but two returned via trail, and several people also bagged Bighorn Peak on the way back to the trailhead.

Hiking with Bill

By Ken Conklin

Originally published in the Roanoke Times on August 17, 2013. Conklin of Daleville, VA, is a regular guest columnist to the Roanoke Times.

There is an organization within the Sierra Club called the Hundred Peaks Section or HPS. They maintain a list of 277 mountain peaks in Southern California, which are minimally 5,000 feet above sea level. My friend, Bill, is close to completing his fifth time hiking all 277 peaks. On July 20, I knocked off Sugar Loaf Peak (6,924 ft.) and Ontario Peak (8,694 ft.) from the list, bringing my total conquered mountains to 11.

Bill used to play golf. He belonged to an exclusive country club in Los Angeles. Each round of golf there with him was a civilized experience giving me a hint of what things might have been like had I chosen the same career path as he.

However, Bill does not play golf anymore; he hikes – a lot. In addition, many HPS members are much more fanatic than Bill about their hiking. For example, a hiker named Mars Bonfire has completed the loop 19 times. Conducting a Wikipedia search on that name turns up an interesting piece of music trivia, by the way. When I explained all this to my wife, I was once again the recipient of her signature eye roll.

It turns out hiking is the only way these days I can spend quality time with Bill, whom I have known since the third grade. I suppose I could sit around and play cribbage with him but I am tired of winning all the time.

Whenever I visit, Bill plans a hike so I can check off a few more of the peaks. But, at this rate I will be 300 years old when the list is complete. You would think with the Appalachian Trail running through my town I would set a more reasonable local goal.

When I first considered hiking as an activity I had images of groomed trails, fluttering butterflies, chirping birds singing songs of hope accompanied by soft beckoning sunlight. Bill, though, has other ideas about the nature of hikes. For example, the communication he put out regarding the July 20 hike stated, “This hike would not be suitable for beginners due to the difficult climb up Falling Rock Canyon”

Bill went on to explain this was a special milestone hike of some sort because one person was completing the 277 peaks for the seventh time and Bill himself, a Sierra Club certifiable – oops, I mean certified – hike leader was completing his second loop as a leader. Fifty hikers were involved, including my next-door neighbor’s mid-thirties son (who now lives in nearby Irvine, California), an 84 year old I have hiked with previously, and several people in their 70’s. We were separated into four groups. Two were organized for using the easier maintained trail and two for the more grueling off-trail. You can guess which one I was on, because that is the way Bill likes it.

To prepare I went on many five mile brisk walks, outfitted in my hiking boots and backpack, at Botetourt County’s aesthetic Greenfield Center. At 2,000 feet above sea level, it was not anywhere close to the oxygen depleted 8,000 feet of the upcoming hike. But, I falsely convinced myself the high Virginia humidity would compensate for the lack of altitude.

A week before going to California I hiked up to McAfee’s Knob from the trailhead along VA311 near Catawba. I highly recommend this 7.8-mile trek for a good work out and to actually experience those fantasized butterflies, singing birds, and soft sunlight. The reward for doing so is the spectacularly photogenic spot at the destination.

So, how did I do? Well, I did not throw up. I also discovered that Falling Rock Canyon was aptly named. The first time I stepped on a loose sizable stone and watched it start tumbling its way toward my fellow hikers below I hollered, “Fore!” Then I heard the experienced hikers holler “rock!”, so I adopted that expression thereafter. I had ample opportunity to use the term.

At the summit, to celebrate the twin milestones a potluck meal was laid out, including champagne. By the time I staggered into the festive crowd on Ontario Peak, the bubbly was gone, however. My neighbor’s son, who reached the peak long before me, was wondering why I thought this might be a useful experience for him. I directed his attention to the smiling eighty-four year old.

Then Bill reminded me I have only 266 more to go!

Who is Ken Conklin? Friend of Bill Simpson since third grade, Best Man at his wedding with Virginia, a writer, and a manager in the technology industry.
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THE ADVENTURES of MIRIAM KHAMIS

by Wayne Bannister and George Christiansen



Miriam Khamis finished the HPS list as well as the Lower Peaks Committee list on November 11, 2013 with a bike/hike to Santa Cruz Peak and Cachuma Mountain in a private outing led by George Christiansen. This was one of the few same day double list finishes in HPS history. Of course there are hikers and HPS members who have gone on and completed the HPS list and Lower Peaks list multiple times, or even led the lists multiple times, but Miriam's story is more of courage and persistence.

Miriam's first HPS peak on the HPS List was Mount Baldy in May of 2008 shortly after meeting Leo Logacho. She does not hesitate to say that this hike was a trial run for Leo -- if he could not keep up -- he would be history. Wayne Bannister ran into her when she signed up for one of his hikes. "She seemed exuberant but a little crazy, then after hearing her story of misadventure on Big Iron, I was convinced of both observations".

On March 13, 2011, she and Leo Logacho started out late on a private hike to Big Iron. Leo stopped due to leg cramps, but Miriam persisted. Leo then followed, but darkness was approaching (Miriam had both lights in her backpack), so he headed down to safely return before dark. She was able to check off another peak, but the way back became much more difficult as it became dark. She attempted to follow the ridge, a technique she had overheard from a leader on one of her previous hikes, but got off trail. After many hours she ended up in the wrong canyon, drinking stream water and praying to God to direct her in the right direction in the dark. She did find a cabin and decided she needed to "gain entry" and see if they had a phone. Luckily she was able to contact the San Dimas Search and Rescue team and a disgruntled cabin owner (not happy about a broken window -- but this was about survival). Leo, now knowing Miriam's obvious commitment to the mountains, and not wanting to have another "near death" experience, decided to take WTC and utilize a GPS while hiking.

Miriam is not only a hiker, but plays tennis, does 25, 50 and 100 mile road bike rides and then goes out Salsa and Argentine Tango dancing at night (where she met Leo) before she starts the night shift at Kaiser Permanente, recently transferring to the Recovery Room from the Intensive Care Unit as a Registered Nurse. After her experience on Big Iron, she went on many HPS hikes with experienced HPS Leaders. Miriam didn't start the Lower Peaks Committee (LPC) list until January 13, 2013. Leo has continued to pursue HPS leadership training himself and has successfully guided the couple on many hikes in order to complete the two lists, but not before another "near death" experience.

On April 21, 2013, while mountain biking down from Pleasants Peak on a private trip with Leo, she hit a rut in the road and crashed. A helicopter ride to the hospital followed. She suffered a separated shoulder, 4 broken ribs, a punctured and collapsed lung, and spent 11 days in the hospital recovering from complications. She said the "the pain was worse than childbirth". This ride was in preparation for her HPS List finish on the Big Three scheduled for five days later, as well as picking up Cachuma Mountain on the same day (but not at this point as a "double" finish). Due to the accident, and pending her complete recovery, her finish would have to wait. "Waiting" is not in Miriam's vocabulary.

Within three weeks, she was road biking, and upon telling her Doctor what she had been doing, her Doctor said, "I didn't hear that". Her recovery continued quickly; training resumed (including biking downhill slowly); and a new completion date contemplated. In the meantime, she realized that she only had about twenty more LPC peaks to complete and she could complete both lists on the same day (secretly, she may have realized that she could hold or tie a record that Mars did not hold). She then hijacked Leo and George; Leo on every available weekend, and George on weekdays, to finish all remaining peaks on both lists. Some of these hikes involved starting at 9:15AM after she had worked the night shift, hiking or biking, and then back in time for the 10:00PM night shift. As Wayne observed, "exuberant but a little crazy."

In spite of the Government Shutdown (closed gate to Hildreth, and Santa Cruz Island closing one day after hiking El Montanon on the LPC List), Miriam pursued her quest. The "Double List Finish" was scheduled for October 28th, to be led by the Doggetts and George Christiansen. Although the bike and hike was canceled due to adverse weather, George, Keith Christensen, Leo and Miriam persisted on mountain bikes on a private outing, with intervals of rain, hail, sleet and snow flakes, but completed only San Rafael Mountain and McKinley Mountain.

The final push had to be rescheduled for another day.

Miriam's final completion of a Double List on November 11, 2013 on Santa Cruz Peak and Cachuma Mountain was special not because she completed two lists on the same day, but because she came back from adversity and a major injury to complete two lists. She also completed the Orange County List on November 24 (Elsinore Peak), two weeks after the other two. Miriam is known for only doing a peak once, but you may just see her doing the Desert Peaks, the San Diego Peaks, (possibly not the Sierra Peaks -- Galena was challenge enough) -- but she will no doubt be hiking and peak bagging in the future.



Advance Schedule of Hundred Peaks Section Activities

January - March 2014

by Mat Kelliher, HPS Outings Chair

The following is a listing of all HPS Outings submitted and posted to the Angeles Chapter online Schedule of Activities (OARS) as of December 4, 2013. These outings cover the period ranging from January 1 through March 31, 2014.

Note that **new HPS outings are added to the online schedule of activities (OARS) all the time**, often only a few days prior to when a trip is scheduled, so if you haven't found what you're looking for in this edition of The Lookout, be sure to check for newly added outings on the HPS online Schedule of Activities (OARS) at:

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

HPS outings are open to everyone; you don't need to be member of either the HPS or Sierra Club to participate! However, to participate in an outing, you will be expected to sign a liability waiver, which you can preview here: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers/SignInWaiver.pdf>.

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

Jan 7 Tue Hundred Peaks

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

Jan 11 Sat Hundred Peaks

O: Rattlesnake Peak (5826'): Spend your Saturday morning working up an appetite for that evening's HPS awards banquet. We'll hike a steep 9 miles, with about 4100 feet of gain, in the San Gabriel mountains. In order finish in time for the banquet, plan on an early start and a moderate (but steady) pace. Bring extra clothing layers and the rest of the essentials. Contact leader for meeting information: CHRISTINE SOSKINS; Co-leaders: BILL SIMPSON, JIMMY QUAN, BRUCE CRAIG

Jan 11 Sat LTC, Hundred Peaks, DPS, SPS, WTC

I: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: ROBERT MYERS; Assistant: PHIL WHEELER

Jan 11 Sat Hundred Peaks

HPS Annual Awards Banquet: Come celebrate our accomplishments on January 11, 2014 at the HPS's annual awards banquet. This year's speaker is Tom Harrison, of Tom Harrison Maps. He will present "Mapping the Mountains." Tom Harrison was a California State Parks Ranger and has degrees in geography from Florida State University and San Francisco State University. Tom Harrison Maps has 66 maps in print, covering many of the wilderness areas and parks we love to explore in California.

The banquet will be held at The Monrovia (534 South Myrtle Ave., Monrovia, CA 92016-2814). Happy hour will start at 5:00 pm, and dinner will be served at 6:15 pm. To add some variety and to satisfy our collective sweet tooth, we're going to have a dessert potluck this year. If you are so inclined, bring a dessert to share (don't worry, you can still partake even if you don't contribute). Reserve your place by sending a check payable to HPS (\$38 per person, if received by 1/4/14; \$43 per person, thereafter) to Reservationist: ALICE GOLDMAN, PO Box 481148, Los Angeles, CA 90048

Jan 12 Sun LTC, Hundred Peaks, DPS, SPS, WTC

I: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle: Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: ROBERT MYERS; Assistant: PHIL WHEELER

Jan 15 Wed Local Hikes Committee, Hundred Peaks

O: Annual January Birthdays Pot Luck at Mt Lukens: Mt. Lukens (5074') is the highest point in the city of LA and an appropriate place for our January Birthdays event. The hike is 3000' gain and 9 miles round trip. Do some or all of it as long as you return in time for the pot luck lunch banquet at 1:00 pm. If you have a January birthday, email Laura with your age to be included in the impressive grand total. Bring something for the pot luck (celebratory beverages welcome). Take the 210 to Pennsylvania Ave exit north to Foothill, left on Foothill, right on Dunsmore to Deukmajian Park entrance. If you plan to do the full hike, meet at the trailhead at 8:00. Those wanting to do some of the hike (or none at all), make your own arrangements. This is a Local Hikes Committee outing co-sponsored by HPS. Leaders: LAURA JOSEPH, BROOKES TREIDLER, and any other leaders with January birthdays.

Jan 15 Wed Hundred Peaks

I: Big Bunny Pentathlon Lap #3 - Villager Pk (5756'), Rabbit Pk #2 (6640'): Join us for the January leg of our Big Bunny Pentathlon on Martin Luther King's birthday; a great hike and a great man who inspired great acts. At 22 miles rt and 8000' gain, this strenuous hike is only for the experienced hiker. Please bring liquids (4 to 5 liters), lugsoles, layers, lunch, hat and headlamp (with extra batteries). Contact peterdoggett@aol.com for more information. Leaders PETER & IGNACIA DOGGETT, FRANCESCA MARCUS

Feb 1 Sat OCSS, Hundred Peaks

I: High Desert Pictograph Hike: Moderately strenuous all day 7 mi, Approx 400' hard won gain/loss with steep cross-country desert slopes and boulder scrambling in cactus filled brushy area to see two outstanding pictograph sites. Led at a deliberate pace with limited breaks. Group camping available in conjunction with Feb 2 Elton Mine, Eagle Cliff Mine and Desert Queen Mine trip led by Frances Penn. This is an OCSS Outing co-sponsored by HPS. Conditioned hikers please contact Leader: DIANE DUNBAR (dianedunbar@charter.net), Co-leader: FRAN PENN

Feb 2 Sun OCSS, Hundred Peaks

I: JTNP Elton Mine, Eagle Cliff Mine and Desert Queen Mine (4,300'): Join us to explore these historic mines in Joshua Tree National Park, 6 miles roundtrip, 300' gain. We will meet Sunday morning at the intersection of Park Blvd. and Desert Queen Mine Road/Geology Tour Road. We will explore our cross country route to Elton Mine and Eagle Cliff Mine while we imagine the miners trying to make a living using the mining equipment left around the Desert Queen Mine area. Group camping available in conjunction with Feb 1 High Desert Pictograph hike led by Diane Dunbar. This is an OCSS Outing co-sponsored by HPS. Send hiking resume to Leader: FRAN PENN (fpenn@rutan.com), Asst: DIANE DUNBAR

Feb 2 Sun LTC, Hundred Peaks, DPS, SPS, WTC

I: Mt. Pinos Navigation Practice on Snowshoes: Ever wonder what it is like to navigate in snow? Find out on this navigation practice as we take a cross-country route to Mount Pinos (8831'). Four miles round trip, 700 feet gain. Snowshoes required. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: ROBERT MYERS; Co-Leaders: ANN PEDRESCHI SHIELDS, ADRIENNE BENEDICT, JANE SIMPSON

Feb 15 Sat Hundred Peaks

I: Big Bunny Pentathlon Lap #4 - Villager Pk (5756'), Rabbit Pk #2 (6640'): Join us once again for Rabbit Redux, the February leg of our Big Bunny Pentathlon. No John Updike story, no Rabbit Run, we'll nevertheless move at a moderate-strong 14 hour pace. At 22 miles rt and 8000' gain, this strenuous hike is only for the experienced hiker. Alternate route possible. Please bring liquids (4 to 5 liters), lugsoles, layers, lunch, hat and headlamp (with extra batteries). Contact peterdoggett@aol.com for more information. Leaders PETER & IGNACIA DOGGETT

Mar 15 Sat Hundred Peaks

I: Big Bunny Pentathlon Lap #5 - Villager Pk (5756'), Rabbit Pk #2 (6640'): Join us for the 5th lap of our Big Bunny Pentathlon. Sometimes referred to as Tyrannolepus Rex, we will again enjoy the tremendous views offered by this fantastic ridge. At 22 miles rt and 8000' gain, this strenuous hike is only for the experienced hiker. Alternate route possible. Please bring liquids (4 to 5 liters), lugsoles, layers, lunch, hat and headlamp (with extra batteries). Contact peterdoggett@aol.com for more information. Leaders PETER & IGNACIA DOGGETT

Mar 29 Sat WTC, 20's & 30's, DPS, Hundred Peaks

I: Last Chance Mountain (8456'): Enjoy a beautiful cross-country, springtime day hike to Last Chance Mountain at the north end of Death Valley National Park. The hike will be 7 miles round-trip with approximately 2300 ft. of gain. Optional car camp Friday & Saturday nights under a new moon near the entrance to decommissioned Crater Mine. You may pair this trip with the day hike to Sandy Point on Sunday, March 30. Bring 10 essentials, 3 – 4 liters water, and a pleasant demeanor. Wilderness Travel Course, or similar experience & training, is encouraged. This is a WTC Outing co-sponsored by 20's & 30's Section, Desert Peaks Section, and Hundred Peaks Section. Send experience, current conditioning and contact information to Leader: BENJAMIN BOWES (bowes.benjamin@gmail.com), Assistant: WILL McWHINNEY

Mar 30 Sun WTC, 20's & 30's, DPS, Hundred Peaks

I: Sandy Point (7062'): Cross-country, springtime day hike to Sandy Point near the north end of Death Valley National Park. This hike affords panoramic views of the Eureka Valley and snowcapped Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains in the distance. 11-mile round-trip with approximately 2000 ft. of gain. Optional car camp Saturday & Sunday nights under a new moon near the entrance to decommissioned Crater Mine. You may pair this trip with the day hike to Last Chance Mountain on Saturday, March 29. Bring 10 essentials, 3 – 4 liters water, and a pleasant demeanor. Wilderness Travel Course, or similar experience & training, is encouraged. This is a WTC Outing co-sponsored by 20's & 30's Section, Desert Peaks Section, and Hundred Peaks Section. Send experience, current conditioning and contact information to Leader: BENJAMIN BOWES (bowes.benjamin@gmail.com), Assistant: WILL McWHINNEY

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HUNDRED PEAKS SECTION MEMBERSHIP REPORT – November 2013

By Greg de Hoogh, HPS Membership Chair

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Lead-the-List Completion #5

#1 – Mars Bonfire – 11/5/13 – Hildreth Peak

List Completion #5

#13 – Wayne Bannister – 10/20/13 – Hildreth Peak

#14 – Bill Simpson – 10/27/13 – Black Mountain #2

200 Peaks

#469 – Lawrence Lee – 11/7/13 – Lily Rock

DONATIONS:

Ruth & Calvin Boyer – \$10

NEW MEMBERS:

Kelley Laxamana
Sharon Kirk

NEW SUBSCRIBERS:

Benjamin Bowes

MEMBERSHIP COUNTS:

281 Members (240 primary + 41 household)

30 Subscribers

311 Total



WTC Jedi Master
Beth Epstein, on Five
Fingers

The Elections Committee met on December 2 to open ballots and count votes.

Elected to the HPS Management Committee for the 2014 – 2015 term:

Ron Campbell
Coby King
Bill Simpson

The proposals to add Beartrap Bluff and Mount Minerva Hoyt to the current HPS List were **approved**.

Our thanks to the members of the Elections Committee for another difficult job well done!

THE NAVIGATION CORNER: MAP ACCURACY

By Bob Myers, LTC Navigation Chair

An inaccurate map is not a reliable map. “X” may mark the spot where the treasure is buried, but unless the seeker can locate “X” in relation to known landmarks, the map is not very useful.

USGS, Map Accuracy Standards

The last Navigation Corner (November-December 2013) explored the distortion that results from representing the curved surface of the earth on the flat surface of a map. The process of doing so distorts the actual shape of the earth in one of four ways: area, shape, distance, and direction. The large scale maps that we use in our outdoor activities cover a small enough area that distortion is not a problem. Because of rigorous accuracy standards, these maps are highly reliable.

Large and Small Scale Maps

Accuracy is often determined by the scale of the map. A large scale map will be more accurate than a small scale map. Many people are confused by the difference between large and small scale maps. Map scale is the relationship between distance on a map and the corresponding distance on the ground and is expressed as a ratio, such as 1:24,000.

A large scale map shows more detail than a small scale map by covering a smaller geographic area. By contrast, a small scale map shows a larger geographic area in less detail. Illustrated below are three different map scales. The world map is a small scale map, with one inch on the map equal to 600,000,000 inches on the ground. By contrast, the other two maps are at larger scale. On the 1:24,000 map, one inch on the map represents 24,000 inches on the ground. Scale is relative. The 1:200,000 map is a large scale compared to the World map but a smaller scale compared to the 1:24,000 map.



1:600,000,000



1:200,000



1:24,000

So why is the scale with the bigger number called a small scale map? A scale of 1:200,000 is smaller than a scale of 1:24,000 because the fraction 1/200,000 is smaller than 1/24,000. As the USGS notes in one of its publications, “large is small” because the larger the number, the smaller the scale.

Map Accuracy Standards

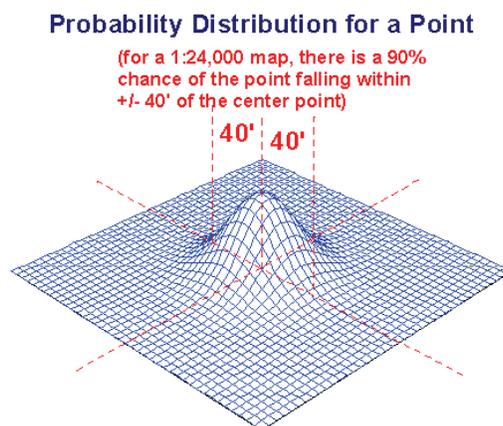
National Map Accuracy Standards were first established in 1941 by the United States Bureau of the Budget, the predecessor to the Office of Management and Budget. The 1947 edition of these standards governed the USGS 7.5 minute map series and established the following horizontal and vertical accuracy standards:

Horizontal accuracy. For maps on publication scales larger than 1:20,000, not more than 10 percent of the points tested shall be in error by more than 1/30 inch, measured on the publication scale; for maps on publication scales of 1:20,000 or smaller, 1/50 inch.

Vertical accuracy, as applied to contour maps on all publication scales, shall be such that not more than 10 percent of the elevations tested shall be in error more than one-half the contour interval. (<http://nationalmap.gov/standards/nmas647.html>)

In connection with the 7.5 minute maps we use, the horizontal accuracy standard requires that the positions of 90 percent of all points tested must be accurate within 1/50th of an inch on the map. At the 1:24,000 scale, 1/50th of an inch is 40 feet. The vertical accuracy standard requires that the elevation of 90 percent of all points tested must be correct within half of the contour interval. On a map with a contour interval of 40 feet, the map must correctly show 90 percent of all points tested within 20 feet of the actual elevation.

The following illustration demonstrates the point accuracy of the USGS topographic maps:



Source: http://www.colorado.edu/geography/gcraft/notes/error/error_f.html

Given the typical hiker's navigation objectives, getting to within 40 feet of the feature is more than sufficient. Indeed, a map error of 40 feet would not be discernible on the 1:24,000 map since such an error is the equivalent of a pencil dot.

The National Map Accuracy Standards have ensured that the maps we use have a high degree of accuracy. With the advent to digital maps, new map standards have been adopted such as the National Standard for Spatial Data Accuracy adopted in 1998 and the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP) Guidelines for Digital Elevation Data adopted in 2004.

Although USGS maps are very accurate, they are not perfect. All maps have some errors. The Indian Cove map has a number of errors, including a misidentified contour line and a rock formation mapped in the wrong location by more than several hundred feet. Moreover, a map might be accurate when it is produced but become inaccurate with the passage of time. Man-made features change: roads are moved and trails re-routed. For example, the northern portion of the Boy Scout trail is not correctly shown on the Indian Cove map. Finally, information on the map changes, such as magnetic declination. Given the age of USGS topo maps, the declination information should be considered out of date.

Upcoming Navigation Events

With 16 days of navigation outings scheduled in 2014, we offer plenty of opportunities to learn navigation or improve your skills.

On February 1, 2014, we offer our "Mt. Pinos Navigation Practice on Snowshoes." We launched this outing in 2011 to explore issues of navigating in snow conditions. The outing is subject to cancellation if we do not have adequate snow.

On April 12-13, 2014, we return to historic Mojave National Preserve for our "Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle." Principally designed as a practice, checkoffs can be specially arranged.

Our two-day Warren Point Navigation Noodle on April 26 and 27, 2014, is a great place to learn new navigation skills. Saturday is spent with instruction and field practice. Sunday is for checkoff for those who are ready and an additional practice day for others. We will be car camping starting on Friday afternoon.

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

2014 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Elected Members: (Expiration of Term)

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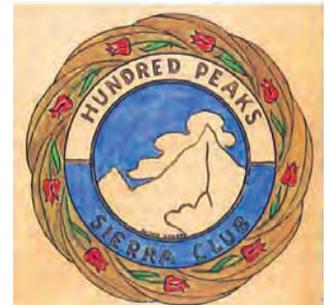
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Facebook page for the HPS:
<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/group.php?gid=49056040017>



The nearby higher peaks were snow covered, near Five Fingers



Traffic jamb in the chute on the way down from Five Fingers

Hundred Peaks Section: **The Lookout**
The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter
Wayne Vollaire
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TO: