# HPS Lookout Newsletter

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Hi HPS’ers!

You never know how much you miss something until it’s taken away. I really miss our HPS hikes and events. We haven’t had any since Mid-March. And I know many of you feel the same. All, except virtual meetings have been canceled through August 31st.

I have heard that National Safety Committee is developing plans for the eventual safe opening of hiking and events. But there is no word about when they will be allowed again.

I am sure the timing for the opening is dependent upon the Covid-19 stats. Right now CA is having an increase in positive tests, hospitalizations and deaths. Let’s hope and pray that the stats start trending downward so that we can get back outdoors with our HPS hiking/events.

I have seen that many of our members have been out climbing our peaks on private hikes in small groups. Be safe. Social distance and wear masks when social distancing isn’t possible. Also, limit carpooling to household members. Don’t become a Covid-19 stat.

In the last Lookout, the HPS Board allowed two articles to be included that had some political content. We received some adverse comments from our readers. Thanks for those comments. In future Lookouts, our intent is to stick to articles related to our beloved peak bagging and related articles.

This Lookout is different since we have no current HPS hikes/events to publish. So Editor Mark S. Allen has come up with vintage articles from the past. I hope that you enjoy reading the Lookout as much as I have.

Be well and stay safe!

Mike
HPS Chair
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- Garrett Marcotte
- Matt Liao

Donations
- Jin Oak Chung - $250

Membership Statistics
- 19 Life Members
- 185 Members
- 20 Household
- 12 Subscribers
236 TOTAL

Emblems
200 Peaks bar
- Gloria Nafel - Tip Top Peak - 5/15/2020

HUNDRED PEAKS SECTION MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Jun/Jul 2020
Ryan B. Lynch, HPS Membership Chair

Hundred Peaks Section (HPS)
Lookout Subscription Form
(There are no prerequisites to become a subscriber)

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IF YOU WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER, PLEASE SEND A LIST OF 25 PEAKS YOU HAVE HIked 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
Howdy Hikers,

I hope this email finds you and your family safe and well. I wish I had better news to share, but I don't. Here's a summary provided by our Chapter's Safety Chair of the latest announcement from the Sierra Club regarding the status of Outings. To summarize Ron's text below, cancellation of all Sierra Club Outings has been extended through **Monday, August 31, 2020**. Outings that were previously posted and scheduled to occur after Aug 31 remain suspended. New outings, regardless of their proposed date, will not be approved or posted.

I’ll let you all know as soon as anything changes,

Mat Kelliher,

HPS Outings Chair

Outings Chairs,

I’m afraid I have more bad news to share. As you know, after the coronavirus pandemic struck in mid-March, the Sierra Club canceled all outings as well as all in-person meetings through June 14. Today the Club announced that it has extended the cancellation **through Monday, August 31, 2020**.

Just in case that is not clear: No outings or in-person meetings, events or training by Angeles Chapter or its many groups, sections or committees are permitted through the end of August.

I know you are all sorry. Some of you are probably angry. I’m sorry too.

I can only tell you that I have made the case to National as best as I can that outings are vital to the Club’s engagement with the public. Outings are the best way we can encourage others to see the world the way we do. Even if we must limit the kinds of outings we do during the pandemic, we should be doing some outings to reach the public. That is the message I will continue to deliver to National.

Ron Campbell

Angeles Chapter Safety Chair
Cover: Pinto Mountain, 12-29-19. Leaders Peter and Ignacia Doggett. Participants: Nahid Shirazi, Andrew Manalo, Sunny Yi, Jason Park, Coby King, Mary Varalyay, Jin Oak Chung, Laurent Bentolila, Jessie Glick, Lisa Sanford, Connie Burkson. Photo: Jin Oak Chung

Iron Mountain

Submitted by Nahid Shirazi

Condor Peak, Fox Mountain # 2, Iron Mountain # 2 (04.20.2019)
Submitted by Nahid Shirazi
From Larry Pond:

Grays Peak July 21, 2018
"Reddy" Sreedhar Yetur led a group of 15 hikers to 111PS Grays Peak where two achievements were celebrated.
First, the completion of the Reddy’s "O" Provision to ascent to Grays Peak and second Jeff Buchholz earned his 111PS 100 Peaks Emblem. The two achievements received a champagne toast during the lively peak celebration. Hikers, L to R, are: Sze Hu Chang, Christine Carter, Mary Vurtyay, Mut Kellhin, Tanya Rotten, Sreedhar Yetur, Muri Sakai, Virginia Simpson, Swee Chin Goh, Larry Pond, Wasi Khan, Michael Dillenback, Bill Simpson, Becky Maudisa, Jeff Buchholz.

San Gorgonio Mountain Sep 1, 2018: Ryan Lynch led a group of 9 hikers to 5 HPS peaks in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. The group photo is on San Gorgonio Mountain with: Al Shipley, Fiona McGinley, Justin Barham, Katherine Jankiew, Larry Pond, Larry Wozniak, Martins Ledstein, Reddy Yetur, Ryan Lynch.

Cornell Peak Aug 18, 2018:
Larry Pond led a group of 6 backpackers on a WTC Experience Trip into the Mount San Jacinto State Wilderness area.
On Saturday, the group backpacked into Tamarack Valley; made camp then made their first 111PS ascent in Cornell Peak.
On Sunday the group made ascents to Jean Peak, Marion Mountain, Daring Peak and Monat San Jacinto making it 5 HPS peaks for the weekend.
The trip, co-sponsored by HPS and WTC, WTC students Amy Manger, Al Shipley, and Larry Pond satisfied their WTC graduation requirements with this trip. The photo shows the backpackers on Cornell Peak. L to R: Mark Manger, Bill Simpson, Larry Pond, Al Shipley, Amy Manger, Jeff Reddy.
Pacifico Mountain List Finish. It was indeed a great day of hiking (12 miles with great views and weather) and partying (52 hikers, two hours at the peak, an over-abundance of great food, fifteen bottles of champagne, many bottles of cider and sparkling cider, and four nice raffle prizes). Be sure to check out the photos from Swee Chin.


Participants: Swee Chin, Bruce Calkins, Diana Neff Estrada, Jorge Estrada, Cindy Tang, Fariba Akhiany, Ali Akhiany, Bernadette Kim, Anh Nguyen, Marco Onofri, Christine Soskins, Alanna Ow, Mari Sakai, Susan Kang, David Han, Mary Varalay, Robert Williams, Mike Petrello, Theresa Haley, Tanya Roton, Amy Munger, Mark Munger, David Needelman, Kat Jankaew, Wasim Khan, Melody Wu, Gary Bowen, Tom Connery, Wade Stuckwisch, George White, Mary Patterson, Dan Butler
Racing for the Peaks - The HPS Hiking Olympics

By William Chen

Many thanks to Michael McCarty, Mark S. Allen, Peter Doggett, Robert (Bobcat) Thompson, and Joe Young for their important and numerous contributions to this article through their ideas, stories, and information.

On a mid-January day, I looked for a hike in the mountains above Los Angeles. I contemplated an easy adventure to a popular peak - so I set my sights on Smith Mountain in the local San Gabriel Mountains.

The Hundred Peaks Section of the Sierra Club (HPS) maintains a list of 281 peaks in Southern California for hikers to enjoy, and Smith Mountain was a very suitable hike for me since it was on that list. Every time I hike another peak on the HPS list, I get closer to an emblem, the section’s reward for climbing ever more peaks on its list. For the better part of an year and a half now, I’ve been obsessed with getting on top of every little topographical bump in Southern California. Sometimes I wonder if I’m going to like visiting Las Vegas or whether I’m really advancing my career, but most of the time I just think about what month the snow will melt on Mount Pinos so I can stand on top of it.

With my motivation (somewhat) clear, I signed up for a Hundred Peaks Section outing to Smith Mountain. The outing is led by a husband and wife couple from Burbank, Peter and Ignacia Doggett. Peter is a mild-mannered fellow who has finished the HPS list 14 times.

We reached the summit in fair time. Our group started along a paved road, descended to a saddle, before finally going up a steep trail to the top of Smith Mountain. On the way down, I asked Peter about something I had heard of occasionally from my time hiking in Southern California - an event that fascinated me very much.

Peter described the scenes to me. The last HPS Olympics outing began on a cool morning in June 1991, when a band of hardy hikers set out to do the impossible. Meeting in La Canada, they drove over to the San Bernardino Mountains to start their quest. Starting at 10:40am, the clock started ticking down. Mill Peak, Keller Peak, Delamar Mountain, Mount Lewis, Round Top, one-by-one these mighty peaks fell. The group emerged victorious on top of Mount Lowe at 10:35am the next day, having bagged 33 peaks in 24 hours, a new record for the HPS Hiking Olympics, never to be beaten again. As the group came down to Eaton Saddle, they were greeted by friends bring treats - and R. Sam Fink, one of the progenitors of the Pacific Crest Trail and a famed founding father of the Hundred Peaks Section.
My interest piqued, I got in contact with Joe Young and Robert “Bobcat” Thompson, who led many of these hikes. Bobcat and Joe provided me histories of the Olympics that they’ve led.

The Hiking Olympics has a heritage of nearly 47 years. Les Stockton (“the Red Baron”) came up with the idea of bagging within 24 hours as many peaks as humanly possible. He and Howland Bailey led an outing to accomplish this superhuman task in May 1971. Among the participants on this epoch hike was Joe Young, still the current HPS historian in 2018. The group bagged 20 peaks, all in the San Gabriel Mountains. The idea lingered on, and attracted the attention of leader Lew Amack, who led a precursor to the HPS Olympics in 1984. While the real Olympics were being held 5,000 feet below, Amack and his fellow hikers Don Tidwell and Lisa Freundlich summited 29 peaks.

Joe Young scheduled the first official edition of the HPS Olympics, and held it on June 21-22, 1986. The day began with a massive group of 25 starting out on top of Keller Peak. The outing ended up being quite the adventure, as the group’s rental van got stuck on top of Little Bear Peak and much of the group ended up having to search for a lost hiker on Delamar Mountain. Several hikers turned out to be unprepared and some even failed to bring water; nonetheless, participants were able to get on top of 20 peaks.

The next year, the Olympics were held again. In June 1987, five hikers, including Joe and Bobcat, bagged 30 peaks, breaking the existing record. The group started on Slide Peak at 10:45am before ending on Deception Peak at 10:23am the next day. To mitigate the problems that were encountered during the previous outing, Joe brought a truck on this hike and limited the excursion to only the most capable hikers. By beating the previous record and outdoing the first Olympics by 10 peaks, this outing was a roaring success.

The event had two more editions and the June 17-18, 1989 event, again led by Joe and Bobcat, resulted in 32 peaks bagged, with the group finishing on Deception Peak. Through some planning, they swapped one of the more difficult peaks with three simpler ones, allowing the group to gain an extra two summits.
Finally in June 1991, the final Olympics were held with 8 participants, setting the current record of 33 peaks in 24 hours.

Typically, the events would begin with breakfast in La Canada, and the group would carpool over to the San Bernardino Mountains, starting at a peak above Big Bear Lake. At the top of the summit, the main leader would record the time, starting a 24-hour countdown. The group would then proceed westward towards and into the San Gabriel Mountains. The peaks bagged would be drive-ups or peaks with less than 4 miles round trip to hike. Typically, dinner would be had at a gas station or other convenient spot in the Hesperia area; this was a longer break, intended for planning, recuperation, and reflection. Finally, with razor-sharp focus, the group would grab as many peaks in the San Gabriels as possible - with a watchful (but tired) eye towards beating the previous record.

The endless driving wore on many participants. But a diverse number of memorable acquaintances were made on these trips as well. Peter Doggett still remembers nearly all the participants on his 1991 hike; among others, there was an easy-going leader, a Scotsman, and an audio engineer for Huell Howser’s *California’s Gold* program. Certainly at the end of each hike, one must have felt a high degree of solidarity with one’s fellow hiking companions. For 24 hours, they together had heeded the call of the mountains and gave nature its ultimate tribute.

As a necessary part of the event’s objective, the HPS Olympians sought peaks that were simple and took little time to hike. Though they may not have been the tallest mountains, it is those peaks and their little hilly compatriots that are the mountains most common on our dear planet. The HPS Olympics paid homage to them by giving them a tribute they so desperately deserve, but so infrequently get.

I don’t really know what is it about peakbagging that brings me back out to the wilderness to just to tag a couple of little bumps. Perhaps it is just an obsession - a tic that brings me a bit of emotional peace, a way to stay centered in life. Or maybe I’m a goal oriented person - the HPS list is motivation to get myself outside and into nature, so I can see as many beautiful places as I have time for. As John Muir’s famous quote goes: “the mountains are calling and I must go.” Some of us feel the echoing call of the mountains so strongly that there is a feeling of absolute and overwhelming compulsion go to all of them within our finite lifetimes, as futile a goal that may be. In the end, it is not so difficult for me to understand, I think, why someone would want to bag 281 peaks within a few years - or 33 peaks in one day.
The Lookout Over The Years
By Mark S. Allen
The Lookout Over the Years

By Wynne Benti

From the beginning the Lookout Newsletter served as the driving force of HPS. Mary Meisel began as the first Editor, January 1946. HPS Historian Joe Young contributes, "The Lookout Newsletter" got its name as the result of a contest. The winner was a teenager named Linda Frost in July of that year. Such was the organizational prowess of the Lookout Newsletter.

Jim Fleming, HPS Chair in 1984, 1997, and 2009, writes,"the Lookout newsletter has a special place in the hearts of all peakbaggers. I think that I have all of the paper issues from my first days as a climber with the Section in 1974. It is fun to go back and look at them from time to time."

Tom Armbruster, HPS Chair 1989, states, "We learned about section activities through the Angeles Chapter Schedule of activities and the Lookout Newsletter." (The Schedule began with the Southern California Chapter of the Sierra Club in 1911). You had to get your trip proposals in about four months in advance because they had to go through the Chapter Safety Committee and then on to the editor. The Schedule was edited for many years by Dick Akawie. We named a summit for him."

During my rather short tenure as Lookout Editor, my favorite headline was a photograph of our HPS Chair Stag Brown, Wednesday night leader of tiger hikes in Griffith Park as well as challenging peak bags. One of the other two photographs is of HPS member Betty Snow at the first public comment meeting for the Desert Protection Act in Barstow. Four years later, President Clinton signed the ‘desert bill’ changing the status of Death Valley National Monument, Joshua Tree National Monument, and Mojave National Preserve to National Parkland while protecting almost five million acres of public lands as Wilderness.

A second public comment meeting was later held at Beverly Hills High School. Friends of the River Executive Director, David Bolling asked me if I would use my three minutes to speak on behalf of the Friends, a group I joined in 1975 as a student at UC Davis. I sat next to Sally Reid who saw my lengthy speech and exclaimed, “Oh no, too long,” and began to edit it down moments before I was supposed to speak before the raucous crowd of environmentalists and off-highway enthusiasts.

That year, I was honored to receive the HPS Conservation Award; an Angeles Chapter Conservation Award; and the Gerald L. Phillipp Award from General Electric, given to a handful of employees worldwide. All three awards were for work protecting the Los Angeles River, a wild urban riparian habitat with no buildings along its edge, unlike today. The big threat then was State Assemblyman Richard Katz’s proposal to expand freeway lanes into the river.

While producing the Lookout, I also served in a number of other capacities, including on the chapter’s executive committee and as chair of the chapter’s rivers conservation subcommittee, a position inherited from desert activist and protection act champion, Elden Hughes. I was one of three organizers of our 1990 Earth Day Celebration in Bette Davis Park, which included Lewis McAdams of Friends of the Los Angeles River and David Bolling from Friends of the River in Sacramento. We took politicians, press, and the public in canoes down the natural part of the river accessible from the park. Betty and Louis were there. Elden Hughes loved that bumper sticker so much, he slapped it on his car’s rear bumper where it stayed until he passed away, twenty-one years later at the age of eighty.

Looking back, I think how lucky I was to be part of the Angeles Chapter hiking community, and how much I enjoyed hiking with HPS. **Photo caption, above: left to right: Wynne Benti getting her 100 Peak Emblem on Mt. Harwood, October 10, 1991, with Lloyd Williams, Mike Sanford and Jo Solomon**.
I was informed that Monument Hill at the Santa Rosa Plateau may be added to the Lower Peaks Section. I would say go for it! Chris Spisak and I have hiked there a few times, via the Hidden Valley Trail. The California poppies were in full bloom along the Punta Mesa Trail while we were there. This is a short hike going through the Los Santos Trail to the Vernal Pools. Next, hike through the scenic Adobe Loop Trail first would add a few more miles and depending on the season, you can see chocolate lilies, big Engleman Oaks, as well as rattlesnakes and coyotes! The vernal pools are filled usually after a heavy rain in early spring. As of the last week in May, the vernal pools were dry but were carpeted with beautiful purple flowers named downingia cuspidata (tooth calicoflower). These beautiful flowers grow only in vernal pools or temporary wetlands.

The Plateau is very large at 8,500 acres, with many areas to hike. It opened on Memorial Day, 1997. I have been hiking around the Plateau with fellow hiker Larry Pirrone, including to the Sylvan Meadows, for over 20 years! We learned from Ranger Rob Hicks, Park Interpretor, that the Visitor’s Center would be opening back then and (he) asked us to display our photographs of the plateau. Our combined photo display opened with the Santa Rosa Plateau at that time. You can get a map at the Visitor Center after you drive West on Clinton Keith Road from the 15 Freeway. There is a fee of $4 for adults.
Recollections
by Jack Bascom

In the pre-war years, I served on the Schedule Committee of the Southern California Chapter. My duty was to write up the Sunday day hikes for the Schedule. In those days there were no leadership training courses and the suitability of leaders was at my discretion. In general, leaders were required to be members of the Sierra Club, show a willingness to lead, be mentally sound, physically fit and morally straight. The last item was important as the leader had to account for all the nickels he had collected as trail fees. When a leader failed to show up for a hike, I would often substitute.

In November 1940 our committee received a letter from Weldon Heald describing a hike he had made from Buckhorn to Pleasant View Ridge. A recent extension of the Angeles Crest Highway had made this day hike possible. In his letter Weldon said "I believe it is new to the Club and is of such a high order that I am very enthusiastic about it." He followed with a detailed description of the hike including the view "from Cuyamaca Peak to Mt Whitney and from San Clemente Island to Telescope Peak, one of the finest views in Southern California." I was given the letter and was expected to follow up. I found that he was unlisted in the directory and the only address he had given was "Los Arboles, Rubio Canyon, Altadena."

> From March - April 2017 <

I was about to give up looking for him when it occurred to me that since there was another Heald in the phone book he might be a relative. I called him. I dropped in on Weldon Heald on a Sunday morning and he was surprised when I showed him his letter. In a few minutes, I was convinced that he conformed to the necessary requirements for a leader and then I began to persuade him to lead the hike. He protested saying that not only had he never led a hike, but he had never gone on a day hike. I explained to him that since he was the only one that had scouted the trip, he was better able to lead it than anyone else. He finally agreed and we settled on a date, June 29, 1941. I recall that later, I was complimenting myself on getting his assent to lead the hike, when it occurred to me that I had forgotten to ask him if he was a member of the Club!

The next time I saw him was the day of the hike. He did an excellent job of leading and the day was so clear that we did see Mt. Whitney. On the return hike to the cars, Weldon divulged to me an idea he had. He had compiled a list of 112 peaks over 5000' elevation between the Tehachapis' and the Mexican border. This list he had gotten from Topo, Forest Service and Auto Club maps. It was his intention to climb 100 of these peaks. He asked me what I thought of as his idea. At first I thought it was another labor for Hercules. If he wanted to make the Book of Records I could suggest an easier way.

Someone had just pushed a peanut with his nose up Pikes Peak. That seemed easier. However, since he had done a great job of leading I had to be careful with my reply. Suddenly, I got an idea. I wanted to go back to Iron Mountain and see what the top looked like in daylight. It was difficult to find anyone to go with. The people I had climbed it with four years earlier on a 17 hour Club hike turned pale and sick when I mentioned another hike to Iron Mountain. If I could get Weldon to go with me, and we found a better route, we could make it by daylight. How much persuasion would it take? I asked him if he wanted to include Iron Mountain on his list. He said he was eager to climb it if he could find someone to accompany him. We agreed on a date for the hike. Then, I told him his "Hundred Peaks List" was a great idea. That made him happy. After climbing Hot Springs Mountain in March 1940, he found that he had climbed 50 peaks and decided to go for 100. When we climbed Iron Mountain in November 1941, it was his 65th peak and I had collected 38.
Weldon was an interesting person to hike with. He was a graduate of MIT with a degree in architecture but was more interested in writing about the outdoors. He wrote extensively for Westways and Sunset magazines and was the author of several guides including a "Guide to California". He was a Vice-President of the American Alpine Club and a Director of the Sierra Club.

I accompanied him on many of his peak bagging hikes and together we revised the lists, adding new peaks as we found them. I recall a hike previously climbed, and I went over Throop Peak to Mt. Lewis. At an agreed upon time, I flashed sunlight by a mirror to him. Weldon failed to see it. but being a prolific writer, he wrote about it in the Williamson register and for years after I heard from others about our experiment. As I crossed the saddle between Mt. Lewis and Throop Peak. I recall thinking, "What a nice secluded place to build a hideaway cabin." It was well that I didn't carry out such plans as The Angeles Crest Highway now goes through Dawson Saddle.

On another hike we went to Thomas Mountain, where I managed to bring home a wood tick. That evening while driving down Colorado Street in Pasadena, my arm became paralyzed. I drove to the Emergency Hospital where the doctor used some chloroform and removed the tick.

Worried as to whether I had enough money to pay for the operation I inquired, "How much?" The doctor replied, "No charge." Those were the days.

A war interrupted our peak bagging, but in 1946 we continued. Others had become interested and the "idea" had become a game. The first 100 Peaks scheduled hike was made on March 10, 1946 to Iron No. 3 and Rabbit Peak. I was the Leader and Parker Severson was the assistant we made it up Icehouse Canyon. I had previously climbed Ontario Peak, but Cucamonga Peak was new to me. Since Weldon had made Cucamonga but not Ontario, we parted at the saddle and went for our different goals. I noted a distinct peak east of Cucamonga Peak that was shown on the topo map as 8701'. I suggested to Weldon that we add it to the list. He said, "What shall we call it?" I said, "If Ontario Peak is north of Ontario and Cucamonga Peak is north of Cucamonga, what do you say we call 8701 'Etivanda Peak' as it is north of Etivanda?" So that is how it got that name. On another hike we climbed Mt. Emma. That evening Weldon called to say that he had checked the latest topo map and that Mt. Emma was shown to be a higher point about a mile south of the one we had climbed. The mountain we had climbed was called "Emma" on older maps, so he said "What do you say we call it "Old Mt. Emma'?" When it came to giving names to peaks, we were drunk with power. No one else was interested.

Later, another 100 Peaks scheduled hike was made to Throop Peak. On this hike, a reporter and photographer came along from the Los Angeles Times and we gained much publicity. We could say, "Without a newsletter, we just put our write-ups on the front page of the Times!"

In June 1946, Weldon completed the 100 peaks and I was privileged to accompany him. We drove from Lockwood Valley on a one-way dirt road to a high point near Mt. Pines. then hiked over Mt. Pines and Sawmill Mountain to Grouse Mountain. To record my congratulations a time exposure picture was taken. The first climbing of 100 peaks had been accomplished.
San Rafael Peak

10-23-19

By Jim Hagar

Wonderful hike to San Rafael Peak and San Guillermo Mountain. Fifteen hikers braved a deep stream crossing in their vehicles to climb San Rafael with amazing views and a register going back to 1974 with many well known HPSers register signins including Zobeida Arauz’s 100th peak in 2001. Next we went up San Guillermo and said goodbye to Diana and Jorge Estrada, HPS regulars for many years, with champagne, then returned to the cars for strawberry shortcake. Great day. Wishing you well Diana and Jorge in your new home in Reno!
Over the last year or two, the Los Padres Forest Association has been quietly working on promoting an Adopt-A-Trail (AAT) program here within the Los Padres. The idea of an AAT program is really neat and here's a great example of how an AAT works. Four years ago the Hundred Peaks Section (HPS) of the Sierra Club reached out to us asking about trail conditions up and around the BIG FOUR peaks (Madulce, Samon, Big Pine and West Big Pine). The HPS, (Hundred Peaks Section, Sierra Club), or peak baggers as they are sometimes known, travel across Southern California bagging a list of designated peaks. I believe the peaks need to be over 5,000ft and distinct enough to warrant being called a standalone peak. The BIG FOUR are on their list and they had noticed that some of the trails, in particular the Madulce Peak Trail, were becoming impassable due to fallen trees and post-Zaca re-growth. The BIG FOUR are challenging enough to summit without having to deal with extra bushwhacking so we figured out a way to help each other out through an informal HPS adoption of the Madulce Peak Trail. The LPFA would offer to lead a trail project each year along the Madulce Peak Trail and HPS would provide the trail workers. We get workers who will spend a day cutting brush and they get to camp at Alamar Station and have a better trail to their favorite peaks. Everyone wins and it's fun - what could be better?!

2016 marked the third year of this arrangement and once again it was a huge success. the crew of 16 HPS's spent the day in July brushing the trail out to Madulce Peak and helping Steve remove as many downed trees as he could along the trail. We ended-up working a bunch of the trail but there is still much more to be done out there. The cool thing is when you compare the trail now to what it looked like when HP adopted it three years ago - it has improved dramatically and that is just from HPS adopting the trail and committing to work it once a year. Imagine the potential if every trail was worked even one day a year! Article written by Bryan Conant (Used with permission of Los Padres Forest Association).Photos credit: Steve Cypher.
Brown Mountain 3-20-2016
By David Comerzan

This was a scheduled hike. The Co-Leader was Coby King. Joining us was Karen Buehler, Mike Johnston, Doris Duval, Phyllis Chung, Marlen Mertz, Illwoo Suh, Jinoak Chung, Bill Faulkner, Wayne Vollaire, Jon Nelson, and Mark S. Allen.

This was my 4th visit to this beautiful Lower Peak. The weather was good, a little warm but acceptable. Some of us met at the La Canada rideshare and drove to the trail head. A few of the folks drove straight to the trail head. We were doing the primary route, starting at Eaton Saddle on the Mt. Wilson Road. I wanted to get an early start partly to beat the heat and partly to get a parking spot at Eaton Saddle. This was the weekend and I knew it could get crowded, but couldn’t believe the cars. The parking lot at Red Box was totally filled. I was the last car up and had to park a short distance from the trail head. When we were doing our introductions at the trail head, a group of about 50 people passed us. It was great to see so many people out hiking.

Starting at Eaton Saddle, we walked the fire road about 1.3 miles, going through Muller Tunnel, past Markham saddle, to a point where the road turns to the east. This is the start of the trail to the Tom Sloan saddle. This trail drops down about 900’ to the saddle. When I did this two years ago, it was quite bushy. Karen told us a trail crew has been in that way working their way to Bear Canyon. They did an excellent job.

At the saddle, there was a junction. The trail to the right (north) goes to Bear Canyon. The trail to the left (south) goes to the Dawn Mine and eventually to Mallard Canyon. We continued straight ahead (west) on a use trail. The use trail was in good shape and easy to follow. It went up and down over several bumps before coming out on the ridge to Brown. Once on the ridge, we continued west to the summit. There was a large rock cairn on the summit with a register. On the summit, we were treated to a historical presentation, including music, on the history of this peak by Marlen. It seems it was named after John Brown, the abolitionist, who murdered pro-slavery ranchers in Kansas. With a small army, including two of his sons, captured the US arsenal at Harpers Ferry, VA. For this he was tried, hanged and became a martyr of the North. His two sons escaped to California where they gave the name to this peak.

After a relaxing lunch on the top, we returned the same way. Two of our members, Jon and Mike, had wisely decided to stop short of the peak and have a nice long rest before heading back. There were a couple of spots on the use trail that needed good, careful footing to avoid a fall. Also, two others, Jinoak and Illwoo, signed out at Tom Sloan saddle. They wanted to see what the Bear Canyon campground looked like. The rest of us returned to the cars, tired but happy.

Goodykoontz Peak, 8-23-16. (L-R), Bruce Calkins, Heesook Kim, Peter & Ignacia Doggett, Susan Kang, Donna Gallick, James Chung, Jinoak Chung (photo by David Han)

Brad Stemm: 09-14-2016. Mid-week Sierra Club 2-peak group hike to Gold Mountain (8,235’) and Grays Peak(7,920’), north of Big Bear Lake. Some of the group at Grays Peak summit rocks. Good hiking weather, thanks to leaders Bill and Virginia, good to see everyone!

^Above, Bill Simpson leading the group up the steep ridge towards Sawtooth Mountain with May Tang, Patrick Vaughn, Zachary Kaufman, Louie Hoffman, HeeSook Kim and with Virginia Simpson sweeping. Photo by Jimmy Quan

< To left: Jimmy Quan: October 5th, 2016 our group of five leaders hiked from Cloudburst Summit to Winston Peak, Winston Ridge Akawie Peak. May Tang, Jim Hagar, Jimmy Quan, Virginia and Bill Simpson.

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Bill Simpson: Five HPS peaks bagged near Big Bear Lake on Saturday. The fourth peak - Slide Peak -- was my 3,000th HPS peak. [Crafts, Butler, Keller, Slide & Mill, October 8, 2016]

Susan Kang earns her List Completion on Goodykoontz Peak, August 23rd.

Yasu Iemori completed the HPS list on White Mtn #2, 5-31-15. Yasu kneels as the rest of the group stands; L-R, are Susan Kang, Illwoo Suh, Mark Lyons, Mike Stubblefield, Stephen Bryne, Nancy Jones, Ignacia & Peter Doggett, Louie Hoffman, Jason Park, Sunny Yi, Bruce Craig, Catherine Rossbach. Photo: Jinoak Chung

Dean Stewart who earned his 100 Peaks Emblem on Sawmill Mountain, September 4th.

Herman Hagen’s 200th HPS peak, 10-29th. L-R are Eric Chu, Tay Lee, Naresh Satyan Youngok Lee, Illwoo Suh, Sonia Arancibia, Herman Hagen, Ignacia & Peter Doggett

Mike Manning celebrates his 200th peak in HPS style with his favorite hiking buddy, Bernice Manning, on Bertha Peak, October 21, 2016.
Hiking Photography
By Jin Oak Chung

Sheep, Martinez Backpack

Old Man, Monte Arido 11-4-18

From Jan - Feb 2019

Photo: Mary Varalyay

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

Our newsletter, The Lookout, is published six times a year. Final dates for receipt of material have changed to accommodate our membership. They are January 2nd for the January-February issue, March 2nd, for the March-April issue, May 2nd, for the May-June issue, July 2nd, for the July-August issue, September 2nd, for September-October issue, and November 2nd for the November-December issue.

The Lookout Newsletter is the property of the Hundred Peaks Section. If you send photos or CD’s, please include your name on the back of each. Please identify the location and each subject in all photographs, whether digital or film. When taking photos, please ask participants to remove hats and sunglasses. Please include SASE if you want material returned. Submit material for the Lookout Newsletter to Mark S. Allen, Editor at Lookout-editor@http://www.hundredpeaks.org or Mark S. Allen, 11321 Foster Road, Los Alamitos, CA 90720

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