

SAN DIEGO PEAKS CLUB

The adventure hiking club for serious hikers

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Rain, rain, rain!!!!!! California is quaking to doom, it's being tormented by torrential downpours that soak to the core. Borrego has had about 8 inches of rain and former roads are disappearing. In January I took a Friday off work to drive down to Dos Cabezas (by Ocotillo) to set up an orienteer. After setting up a tent in the rain, I started putting out my "controls" for the orienteer. When I was done I got back to the car, took a perspective, and said, "I'm getting out of here while I still can". I packed up and called the practice off. We rerouted the Lost Ruin hike because we didn't want to hike in a creekbed that had this much runoff. We abandoned the Sawtooth Mtn 11 hour trip because we saw we would have been in rain for 10 hours (instead we had a lovely time over at Split Mtn, see Outings write-up). We also had to cancel Carey's Castle because of flooding on the roads.

The talk of rain drives Vicki crazy. Specifically, I say, "It's raining outside", and Vicki replies, "Of course it's raining outside, it doesn't rain inside! Nevertheless, it is hard to break the habit of exclaiming that it is "raining outside". Vicki use to be a journalism major. She will be my editor and will help to improve the newsletter. We have set May 1, 1993 as a wedding date. We bid on a house yesterday; a 3 bedroom, 2 bath on the east side of Golden Hill (92104). Hope we get it.

I am taking a wilderness first responder class at Southwestern College on Tuesdays and Thursdays to enable me to better respond to emergencies (and to fulfill a mountain rescue requirement. This is an excellent course. I mention it to alert anyone who is interested that another course begins next semester (begin 3/30, end 6/3/93).

This is a fun schedule of hikes. The March 6-7 hike will be a joint SDPC and DPS hike with Ron Jones and Igor Mamedalin doing the DPS leading. On March 28 Al Holden agreed to be the SD Sierra Club link in a joint hike with them. Carl "El Coyote Pelon" Johnson has given me another "Baja list" of adventures. Ranchita Ted has also agreed to lead two weeks of adventures! I may be tied up a bit with moving and marriage and wilderness first aid and mountain rescue; so please excuse me if I don't lead a lot of adventures in the next few months. As always, I will endeavor to keep club members informed of exciting adventures.

HIKER OF THE MONTH

The HOTM for March is John Strauch. John previously won this honor in November, 1991; so he is the first two-timer! John not only wins for his feat of being the second macho award winner (100 peaks), but the way he achieved this award is inspiring. In a letter dated Dec 28, 1992 John writes, " Dear Paul, Just wanted to let you know that I polished off Ruth, Zosel, Crab and Alice yesterday, although perhaps I shouldn't say polished. I drove around to the Rabbit Peak trailhead in Oasis Saturday afternoon, hiked about three miles to where Barton Canyon comes out of the mountains and camped there. The next morning at 6:00 I hiked up Barton Canyon to the 2800' contour and up the ridge to Ruth. Then across the Villager-Rabbit ridge, where it started drizzling, to the Zosel ridge and down from there. You probably won't be surprised to hear that only you had signed any of the registers. Unfortunately, by the time I got down it was dark and I couldn't find my way back to my tent. Somehow I overshot Barton Canyon without realizing it. Luckily I stumbled onto the white ducked trail to Rabbit and from there was able to make it back to my car at 10pm. I was in the dark for 5 hours and it rained steady the last 2-3 of those hours. I went through one set of batteries and was worried that the second set wasn't going to last." Now this report may scare some of you, but John is a very skilled hiker and was prepared. For example, he had read about the white ducked trail, so when he hit the ducks he knew that he was safe. If you want to follow along, this is on the Rabbit Peak 7½ minute topo. By the way, he retrieved his gear two weeks later. John is also a nationally ranked top bridge player and recently won the district Grand Nationals (There are 26 districts and there will be a playoff). John will be list completing on March 6-7 Collins hike. Come out and help us drink the champagne!

