



The Desert Sage

OUR 77th SEASON

JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2018

ISSUE NO. 373



<http://desertpeaks.org/>

Chair's Corner

by Tina Bowman



Hey, howdy, have you seen all of the outings we have scheduled? Thanks to outings chair Sandy Lara, we have a robust schedule of trips, but we'd always love to have more. So, leaders, why not schedule a trip or two? And participants, don't hesitate to mention some

peaks you'd like to climb to leaders.

Remember, leaders, that if you lead one or more outings for the DPS, you'll get a free year's subscription to the *Sage*. As the ads say, "Certain restrictions apply," but those are minimal—only one free year's subscription will be given to a leader, no more than two leaders per outing will receive the free subscription, sign-in sheets (and medical forms for restricted outings) must be sent to the outings chair in a timely manner, and a trip report must be submitted to Greg Gerlach for the *Sage*. The article may be written by a leader or a participant.

Please encourage your hiking friends who haven't tried DPS outings to participate. Note that new subscribers or new members will receive the *Sage* for a year gratis as an incentive to find out more about our wonderful section.

As you'll see on page 17 of this issue of the *Sage*, our next ballot will include a chance to vote whether to delist Argus and Maturango together and, separately, Navajo. Please read the management committee's reasons for suggesting deletion, and, if you are so inclined, write up your own pro or con arguments for the next issue of the *Sage*.

In October, we had an email from Jon Versteeg, whose father was Chester Versteeg's half-brother. Rightly so, he was "astounded" that the web site didn't have information on Chester as the founder of the DPS. Well, using information from the *History and Lore of the Desert Peaks Section*

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CD, Jim Morehouse, webmaster, quickly remedied that deficiency. The email conversation with Jon led to a small exchange with Elizabeth (Betty) Versteeg Todd, Chester's ninety-something-year-old daughter. If you'd like to correspond with her about her father, please let me know, and I'll give you her email address. My guess is that she'd love to have some of us ask her a few questions.

Get out there and enjoy the desert. It's prime time for our low peaks!

Happy trails,
Tina

THE NEXT SAGE SUBMISSION DEADLINE **IS FEBRUARY 11, 2018**

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Desert Peaks Section Leadership for the 2017 - 2018 Season

Elected Positions

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Tina Bowman
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Vice Chair / Outings / Safety

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Secretary

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Cover Photo Credit...

goes to Sandy Lara. From left to right, Greg Gerlach, Karen Rinzler, Liz Aziz, Marie Macapagal, and Peter Lara on the way up to Sheephole Mountain. Please see the story on page 16 of this issue of the Sage.

Appointed Positions

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Tina Bowman
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The Desert Peaks Section

explores the desert mountain ranges of California and the Southwest, stimulates the interest of Sierra Club membership in climbing these ranges and aids in the conservation and preservation of desert wilderness areas.



Trips & Events January 2018 — November 2018

A lizard seen on the way down from Keynot Peak (photo credit: James Morehouse).

JAN 6-7	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle
JAN 6-7	SAT-SUN	DPS, WTC, HPS	Edgar Peak and Mitchell Point
JAN 14	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
JAN 20-21	SAT-SUN	DPS	Panamint Butte and Porter Peak
JAN 27-28	SAT-SUN	DPS	Mopah Point, Umpah Peak and Turtle Mtns HP
FEB 3	SAT	DPS	Old Woman 3x List Finish
FEB 11	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
FEB 17-18	SAT-SUN	DPS	Smith Mountain and Stewart Point
FEB 24-25	SAT-SUN	DPS, WTC, HPS	Pyramid Peak and Smith Mountain
MAR 11	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
MAR 23	FRI	DPS	Pyramid Peak
MAR 24	SAT	DPS, HPS	23rd DPS Chili Cook-Off
MAR 24-25	SAT-SUN	DPS, HPS, WTC	East Ord Mountain and Brown Peak
APRIL 8	SUN	DPS	DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck
APRIL 18	WED	LTC	Advanced Mountaineering: Knots and Basic Safety
APRIL 21	SAT	LTC	Advanced Mountaineering: Belay Skills
APRIL 21-22	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Mission Creek Navigation Noodle
APRIL 28	SAT	LTC	Advanced Mountaineering: Rappelling
MAY 5-6	SAT-SUN	LTC	Advanced Mountaineering: Anchors
MAY 20	SUN	DPS	DPS Annual Banquet—Save the Date!!
JUNE 16-17	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Mount Pinos Navigation Noodle
SEPT 23	SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Mount Pinos Navigation Noodle
NOV 17-18	SAT-SUN	LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS	Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle

♦ **JANUARY 6-7** **SAT-SUN** **LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

I: Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle: Navigation Noodle in Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday is for practice, skills, refresher, altimeter, homework and campfire. Sunday is for checkoff. Send email/sase with contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: Robert Myers (310-829-3177, rmmyers@ix.netcom.com). Assistant: Ann Pedreschi. Note: Early (at least two weeks prior to the event) sign-up for all navigation checkoffs and practices is recommended. These outings require substantial pre-outing preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the Leadership Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

♦ **JANUARY 6-7** **SAT-SUN** **DPS, WTC, HPS**

I: Edgar Peak (7,162') and Mitchell Point (7,048'): Join us for a very strenuous winter weekend in the eastern Mojave National Preserve to climb a couple of classic DPS peaks high up in the Providence Mountains and experience first-hand just how beautiful, but thorny and rugged, this part of the world actually is. Saturday morning we'll start out at first light at a moderate pace and make our way over to Gilroy Canyon to ascend its steep, cactus-filled course up to the summit of Edgar Peak and return the way we came up for a day's total of about 5.0 RT miles with 2,900' of gain. Back at our cars that evening, we'll set up a primitive, dry camp and enjoy a festive Happy Hour around a raging campfire under star-filled, waning crescent, winter night skies.

Sunday we'll set out at first light again and make our way back to Gilroy Canyon; this time we'll head up the southwestern flank of Mitchell Point, ascending a cactus-studded ridgeline up to the summit. Returning the way we came up, we'll put in a total of about 5.0 RT miles with 3,000' of gain. High Clearance, 4WD vehicles recommended. \$10 per vehicle entrance fee. Email Mat Kelliher at mkelliher746@gmail.com with contact, vehicle type and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher and Neal Robbins.

♦ **JANUARY 14** **SUN** **DPS**

O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Diana and George Estrada in Newbury Park for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. and potluck at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Diana at dneffestrada@verizon.net.

♦ **January 20-21** **SAT-SUN** **DPS**

I: Panamint Butte (6,584') and Porter Peak (9,101'): Join us for two peaks on the western side of Death Valley National Park. We'll start with a tough day Saturday on Panamint Butte from Panamint Valley, climbing about 5,000'+ gain with a RT of 8 miles. Saturday night we'll camp at the meeting point for Panamint Butte. Sunday we'll caravan south to near Ballarat and consolidate into 4WD vehicles for the approach to Porter Peak, hoping not to find ice on the road in Pleasant Canyon. We'll likely follow DPS Guide route D, 2.5 miles RT and 2,100' gain for an easy day. Leaders: Tina Bowman (562-438-3809 or tina@bowmanchange.com) and Jim Fleming (805-405-1726 or jimf333@att.net).

♦ **JANUARY 27-28** **SAT-SUN** **DPS**

MR/I: Mopah Point (3,530'), Umpah Peak (3,553') and Turtle Mountains High Point (4,298'): Join us on this scenic, fun rock-scrambling adventure into the Turtle Mountains Wilderness Area east of Twentynine Palms, California. Saturday, we'll head up into the Mopah range to climb two gorgeous peaks via 3rd class routes – first the DPS-listed Mopah Point followed by Umpah Peak, the high point of the range. After we've come off those peaks and are on our way back to our cars, if time and group energy permit, we'll stop along the way to scale the Class 2 - 3 "Peak 2553." Arriving back at our cars and setting up camp, we'll have put in a day's total of about 10.5 miles, 4,000' of gain which we'll celebrate with a festive happy hour. Sunday, we'll get up early and drive to the trailhead for the Turtle Mountains High Point; from there, we'll travel along a jeep road, dry washes and then XC over Class 2 desert terrain to the high point of the Turtle Mountains for a roundtrip total of about 13 miles with 2,700' of gain for the day. Participants must be comfortable on 3rd class rock and be competent and comfortable rappelling. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmet, harness, ATC, and medical form required. Send e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Leader: Lisa Miyake at lmiyake@gmail.com. Assistant Leader: Mat Kelliher (818-667-2490 or mkelliher746@gmail.com).

♦ **FEBRUARY 3** **SAT** **DPS**

I: Old Woman 3x List Finish: Join us for a class 2 3x list finish for the leader in eastern San Bernardino County. We'll be following route C, possibly D as well if we split the group, for a total of four miles RT and 2,200' gain. Come for the party afterwards if you're not interested in the hike. Contact the Leader: Tina Bowman (562-438-3809 or tina@bowmanchange.com). Co-leaders: Tom Bowman, Gary Schenk, Jim Fleming, Sandy Lara, and Peter Lara.

♦ **FEBRUARY 11** **SUN** **DPS**

O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Tom and Tina Bowman in Long Beach for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. and potluck at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Tina at tina@bowmanchange.com.

♦ **FEBRUARY 17-18** **SAT-SUN** **DPS**

I: Smith Mountain (5,913') and Stewart Point (5,265'): Join us for two peaks in the Death Valley ranges. Saturday we'll meet and consolidate into 4WD vehicles for the approach to class 1 Smith Mountain, then hike 5.5 miles with 2,300' gain round trip to bag that peak, which has great views down to the Badwater area. Saturday night we'll camp along the Greenwater Valley Road. Sunday we'll drive to Shoshone and continue east 15.5 miles on state route 178 for the parking area for class 2 Stewart Point. Stewart's stats are 6.5 miles,

2,600' gain round trip per the DPS guide. Leaders: Tina Bowman (562-438-3809 or tina@bowmanchange.com) and Gary Schenk (714-596-6196 or gary@hbfun.org).

♦ **FEBRUARY 24-25** **SAT-SUN** **DPS, WTYC, HPS**

I: Pyramid Peak (6,703') and Smith Mountain (5,913'): Join us for a moderately strenuous weekend in southeastern Death Valley as we climb one day to the high point of the Funeral Mountains and the next to the high point of the Black Mountains. Saturday morning we'll head out at first light; traveling north at a moderate pace across the desert floor following a slight variation to the DPS Route A which will take us up the SE ridge of Pyramid Peak to its summit. Up top we'll relish the 360 degree views, and see how many of the 19 Listed DPS Peaks surrounding us we can identify. We'll return to our cars the way we came up for a day's total of about 10 RT miles with 3,700' of gain. Back at our cars at the trailhead that evening, we'll set up a primitive, dry camp and enjoy a festive Happy Hour where we'll celebrate the winter desert around a raging campfire under the star-filled, First Quarter moon-lit night skies. Sunday we'll drive across Furnace Creek Wash and make our way south through Death Valley along Badwater Road to our trailhead for Smith Mountain. From our cars we'll hike west across the desert floor and drop down into a canyon that we'll follow up to its head at a saddle between Smith Mountain and Smith Mountain - East Peak, turning right at the saddle we'll make our way over to the high point. We'll enjoy those views up top before making our way back down to our cars (if group energy and interest permit, we'll drop in at Smith Peak East on our way out) the way we came up for a day's total of about 6.2 RT miles with 2,100' of gain. High Clearance, 4WD vehicles are required to reach the trailhead for Smith Mountain. Email Mat Kelliher at mkelliher746@gmail.com with contact, vehicle type and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher and Bill Simpson.

♦ **MARCH 11** **SUN** **DPS**

O: DPS Management Committee Meeting and Potluck: Join us at the home of Tom Sumner in Sylmar for the DPS Management Committee meeting at 4:30 p.m. and potluck at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a potluck item to share. RSVP to Tom at Locornnr@aol.com.

♦ **MARCH 23** **FRI** **DPS**

I: Pyramid Peak (6,703'): Join us Friday for a class 2 climb of Pyramid Peak (10.5 miles round trip and 3,800' gain) just east of Death Valley before the DPS Chili Cook-Off on Saturday in the Shoshone/Tecopa area to the south of Pyramid. With luck we'll have some wildflowers. Leaders: Tina Bowman (562-438-3809 or tina@bowmanchange.com) and Nile Sorenson (714-203-1405 or nsorenso@pacbell.net).

♦ **MARCH 24** **SAT** **DPS, HPS**

O: 23rd DPS Chili Cook-Off: Join us in the Mojave Desert near the Tecopa/Shoshone area for this DPS Classic (and it's so close to Death Valley)! Whether you like your chili Texas- style (no beans), traditional or vegetarian, bring your favorite recipe or just hearty taste buds. Cook for free or taste for \$10. Cooks prepare chili from scratch at the site, then all enjoy happy hour, chili tasting and judging, and campfire. Prizes will be awarded by category, with special recognition for the Spiciest Chili, Best Presentation, Most Original Recipe, and the coveted: Best Overall Chili. Specific location to follow. Hot springs, wild flowering, date shakes at China Ranch? and other exploring opportunities abound for the weekend!! Send ESASE with your choice as Taster or Cook and Chili Type to receive directions, contest specs, carpool info and exploring/hiking activities. Hosts: Gloria Miladin, Linda McDermott, and Julie Rush. Emails: (julierush11@gmail.com) or (miladingloria@yahoo.com).

♦ **MARCH 24-25** **SAT-SUN** **DPS, HPS, WTC**

I: East Ord Mountain (6,168') and Brown Peak (4,947'): Come join us as we make our way out to the Shoshone Area for the 23rd DPS Chili Cook-Off with a stop along the way to climb a classic Desert Peak in the Ord Mountains northeast of Lucerne Valley, California. Saturday morning we'll start out nice and early at a moderate pace to ascend the DPS "Alternate Route" up the SE Ridge of East Ord Mountain to its summit. After enjoying the views up top we'll return to our cars the same way we came up for a day's total of 2.7 round trip miles with 2,000' of gain. We'll then drive from that trailhead to the site of the DPS Chili Cook-Off where we'll join in on that celebration with a most festive Happy Hour complete with roaring campfire, chili

SAVE the DATE

Sunday May 20

DPS ANNUAL

BANQUET

Wynne Benti will present

22 Years in the Desert West

An Illustrated Memoir of Adventure and Activism

This year, the banquet will be held at a new time and new location. The Vallecito Club House has a spacious banquet room with spectacular views of the Santa Monica Mountains. Be sure to bring your friends and arrive early so that you can enjoy the views and also play the various games that will be offered, such as miniature golf, pool and bocce ball.

In addition to the traditional stand-up for emblem holders and list finishers, we'll have a couple more this year, so please come prepared with the number of DPS Peaks that you have successfully climbed and/or led since our 2017 Banquet (May 21, 2017).

NEW Location:

Vallecito Club House
1251 Old Conejo Road
Newbury Park, CA
91320

NEW Time:

4:00 pm Games
5:00 pm Happy Hour
6:00 pm Dinner

Outings Chair by Sandy Lara



Greetings, Fellow Climbers!

It's the New Year and time to get out to climb our peaks!

By mid-January, the Sierra Club will have completed a transition from the Online Activity Registration System (**OARS**) to another online Schedule of Activities called

Campfire. Campfire actually combines several separate databases used by the Sierra Club into one. It will appear similar to OARS, but allows leaders to include more information in trip write-ups, like photos. There is a separate field for what to bring (quantity of water, gear, lugsoles, etc.). There is an RSVP option where the leader can request certain information from potential participants such as phone number, email address, vehicle type, current conditioning, recent experience, and so on. You will soon get used to this new system.

A reminder to leaders planning to lead **restricted** trips: There is a long process with several steps before these trips can be posted on Campfire. They are reviewed by the Outings Chair (as all trips are), then passed on to the Mountaineering Oversight Committee (MOC) for review. Changes may be requested. Once the application is approved, MOC sends it to National Sierra Club for approval. Then it comes back down through MOC to the Outings Chair to post on Campfire. Participants require enough lead time to check their personal schedules and apply for these trips. Thus, leaders are requested to submit restricted trips at least a month prior to the trip. There is never a problem with giving even more lead time!

At the time of this writing, thanks to several leaders there are trips being led to **12 DPS peaks in January and February**. One special trip is Tina Bowman's 3X List Finish on Old Woman Mountain on February 3rd. (Tina said she picked this peak because it is "appropriate!") Also, put the Chili Cook-off on your calendar for March 24th.

Sign up and go!

Sandy Lara, DPS Outings Chair



Treasurer's Report

By *Laura Newman*

DPS Account Summary from
January 1, 2017 to
November 30, 2017

INCOME

Advertising	\$25.00
Banquet Silent Auction	\$296.00
Banquet Ticket Sales	\$2,730.00
Donations	\$189.00
Membership/Subscriptions	\$1,903.00
Merchandise	<u>\$339.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$5,482.00**

EXPENSES

Administrative and Office Expenses	\$82.55
Banquet Expenses	\$4,059.75
Merchandise Expenses	\$22.64
Sage Mailing	\$965.52
Sage Printing	\$940.68
Sales Tax	<u>\$33.27</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$6,104.41**

PAY PAL BALANCE **\$9.41**

**CHECKING ACCOUNT
BALANCE** **\$2,688.32**

UPDATES ARE NEEDED TO THE CURRENT DPS ROAD AND PEAK GUIDE!!

Please send road and climbing route updates to the DPS Road and Peak Guide Editor, Jim Morehouse, at desertpeakssection@gmail.com. Jim is continuously revising the current Version 6 of the guide; therefore, be sure and send him a quick email after climbing a DPS listed peak if you have suggested updates to the Guide while the information is still fresh in your mind. The DPS, and Jim, want to keep the guides as up to date as possible.

DPS Membership Report

by Ron Bartell

Membership Summary

<u>Type</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Sustaining</u>
Member	116	23
Household	30	
Subscriber	25	1
Totals:	171	24

Activity Report

Achievements

List Finish

#173 Keith Christensen 10/28/17 Humphreys Pk

Emblem

#594 Sandy Lara 10/25/17 Charleston Pk

New Member

Gregory Frux Tin Mtn

Renewals

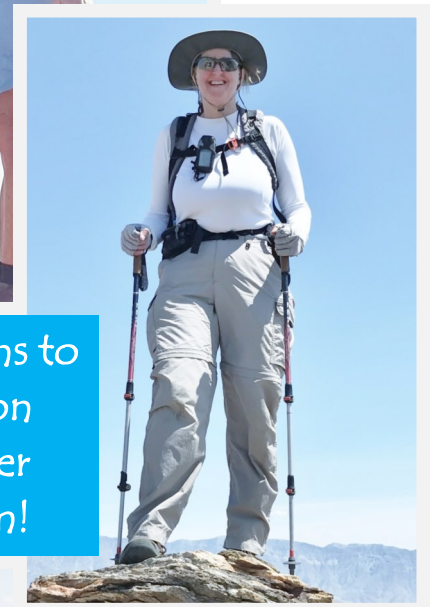
Larry Edmonds	1 year
Rich Henke & Rena Tishman	1 year
Barbara Lilley	1 year
Gordon MacLeod	1 year
Paul & Pat Nelson	1 year
John Palka	1 year
Chuck Pospishil	1 year
Maura Raffensperger & David Beymer	1 year
Daniel B A Richter	2 years
Gerry & Jennifer Roach	1 year
Le Roy Russ	1 year
Jim Scott	1 year
Elena Sherman & Scott Sullivan	1 year
Nile Sorenson	1 year
John Strauch	2 years
Bruce & Terry Turner	2 years
Jack Wickel	2 years

Donations

\$10 from Gregory Frux



Congratulations to Keith Christensen on completing the DPS list!



Congratulations to Sandy Lara on obtaining her DPS Emblem!



Welcome to new member Gregory Frux!
(photo credit: Ronald Beimel)

Conservation Chair

by Dave Perkins



Climate Change / Global Warming

On September 19th the New York Times published an article entitled: “Climate Change Is Complex. We’ve Got Answers to Your Questions.” The extraordinary thing about this article by Justin Gillis is that it examines the many questions raised by the climate change issue in a logical question and answer format that is straight forward and easy to understand. This article is available on the New York Times website: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/climate/what-is-climate-change.html> or do a web search “New York times climate change Justin Gillis.”

The three sections of the article are: What is happening? What could happen? and What can we do?

I would really recommend that you read the article. It is six pages long and too big to be copied in this report, but let me give you one example: In the answer to the question “What is the greenhouse effect, and how does it cause global warming?” The Times responded:

“In the 19th century, scientists discovered that certain gases in the air trap and slow down heat that would otherwise escape to space. Carbon dioxide is a major player; without any of it in the air, the Earth would be a frozen wasteland. The first prediction that the planet would warm as humans released more of the gas was made in 1896. The gas has increased 43 percent above the pre-industrial level so far, and the Earth has warmed by roughly the amount that scientists predicted it would.”

Just as in my last report on lead in gasoline, we bump into the issue of the nature of scientific research which is by its nature tentative and subject to revision. There are those who have taken advantage of this limitation by emphasizing the variability of data and the fact that unknowns exist. The unstated assumption that underlies the scientific endeavor is that objective truth exists, is findable, and that in the case of climate change the jury has made its verdict and these facts are well established. Over 97 percent of climate scientists agree that man-made climate change is a reality.

More Conservation News Submitted by Wynne Benti

Subject: Nevada Test and Training Range Land Withdrawal Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement Public Review

Public comments have opened on the Nevada Test and Training Range expansion into Desert National Wildlife Refuge, east of Inyo County. This expansion is approximately 301,507 acres. Please see the following Notice should you wish to attend the public hearings or submit comments:

To whom it may concern,

The Air Force has published a Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Nevada Test and Training Range Land Withdrawal. The publication of the NOA began a 90-day public comment period which will end on 8 March, 2018.

The Draft Legislative EIS and supporting documents are available on the project website at www.nttrleis.com. The Draft Legislative EIS is also available at various libraries and repositories - a list of locations is also provided on the project website.

The Air Force plans to hold five public hearings from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the dates and at the locations listed below. During the meetings, the Air Force will provide information on the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and solicit public comments on the Draft LEIS.

- Wednesday, January 17, 2018: Caliente Elementary School, 289 Lincoln Street, Caliente, Nevada 89008
- Thursday, January 18, 2018: Pahranaagat Valley High School, 151 S. Main Street, Alamo, Nevada 89001
- Tuesday, January 23, 2018: Aliante Hotel, 7300 Aliante Parkway, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89084
- Wednesday, January 24, 2018: Beatty Community Center, 100 A Avenue South, Beatty, Nevada 89003
- Thursday, January 25, 2018: Tonopah Convention Center, 301 Brougher Avenue, Tonopah, Nevada 89049

The agenda for each public hearing is as follows:

- 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. – Open House and written comment submission
- 6:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Air Force Presentation
- 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Public Hearing/Oral Comments

The project website (www.nttrleis.com) can be used to submit comments on the Draft Legislative EIS or comments may also be submitted by mail to the 99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, 4430 Grissom Ave., Suite. 107, Nellis AFB, Nevada 89191. Please direct any requests for information or other inquiries to the 99th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, 4430 Grissom Ave., Suite. 107, Nellis AFB, Nevada 89191, by e-mail at 99ABW.PAOutreach@us.af.mil, or by phone at (702) 652-2750.

Michael Ackerman
Program Manager
NEPA Division (AFCEC/CZN)

Passages

Remembering R.J. Secor: Sierra Club Mountaineer & Author
By Mary Forgione

R.J. Secor 1956-2017

R.J. Secor, Sierra Club mountaineer and author of a detailed climber's guide to Sierra peaks, may never know how many people he inspired to tackle the highest points in the Range of Light. His 1992 book "*High Sierra — Peaks, Passes & Trails*" became a climber's bible, one that reflected his own devotion to climbing and to keeping the Sierra Club's rich mountaineering tradition alive.



R.J. Secor holds a copy of his 1992 climbing guidebook "*High Sierra — Peaks, Passes & Trails*".

Photo Credit: Dan Richter

Secor (the R.J. stand for Robert John), who lived in Pasadena, died Oct. 26 at the age of 61. He had conquered numerous peaks in the U.S. as well as Canada, Mexico, South America, the Himalayas and the Karakoram region on the Pakistan-Indian border. His "alpine vitae" (climbing resume) includes summits of Alaska's Denali (1995), Aconcagua in Argentina (1986) and many of Mexico's volcanoes.

To those who climbed and hiked with him, Secor was a good friend with a wry sense of humor. His cousin Joan Colgrove says the Sierra Club was a big part of his life. "The friendships he made were important to him and brought him much joy," she said.

In 2013, Secor received the Sierra Club's prestigious Francis P. Farquhar Mountaineering Award, which honors "an individual's contribution to mountaineering and enhancement of the Club's prestige in this field."

"High Sierra," now in its third printing, is the successor to the pioneering work begun by the Sierra Club in the late 1930s. Secor credits those who provided guidance before

him and writes about his beloved Sierra peaks in the book: "One of my goals in life is to go around the world three times and visit every mountain range twice. But whenever I have wandered other mountains, I have been homesick for the High Sierra. I am a hopeless romantic, and therefore my opinions cannot be regarded as objective. But how can I be objective while discussing the mountains I love?"

In working on the mammoth project, Secor completed more than 700 Sierra mountain ascents on about 300 different peaks, climbing as many as 60 peaks in one year. The book covers more than 600 Sierra peaks and provides a great deal of history and first ascent

records, plus a vast number of invaluable photos and many maps.

Through his book, Secor provided an invaluable service to countless thousands of mountaineers who have entered the High Sierra far better prepared to contend with and to succeed on its vast array of peaks than otherwise would have been the case.

Secor has also earned international recognition for producing three editions of "*Mexico's Volcanoes: a Climbing Guide*," two editions of "*Aconcagua: a Climbing Guide*," and one edition of "*Denali Climbing Guide*." All four books are still in print and available on Amazon, which has an "R. J. Secor Page." All his books have a strong statement about minimizing the environmental impact of climbing.

In 1997 he became the second person to have twice climbed the 247 peaks on the Angeles Chapter's Sierra

Passages - continued

Peaks Section's peaks list. He was also active and held positions in the Chapter's Ski Mountaineering Section too.

In 1989-90, he served as president of the California Mountaineering Club and in 1998 he served as chair of the Angeles Chapter's Sierra Peaks Section.

Secor lived in Pasadena, the only son of Leta and Jack Secor. His mother was extremely supportive and proud of his considerable achievements. His mother died in 2016; his father in 2008. His cousin remembers him even at a young age as "a self-starter and an interesting person because he was so interested in the world around him. Although he was often the smartest person in the room, he was an innately kind person ..."

In 2005, Secor suffered skull fractures and other injuries from a glissading accident on Mount Baldy in Southern California. He regained most of his mobility but last year suffered a second head injury that ultimately led to his death, Colgrove said.

A memorial may be planned in Altadena at a later date. Contributions may be made in his honor to the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter.

Those who want to share memories and stories about R.J. Secor with his family should email southern.sierran@sierraclub.org.

John Gibba
By Randy Bernard

John Gibba was born on February 23, 1950 in Opa-Locka, Florida. After graduating from high school, he went to the University of Oklahoma and became a big "SOONER" football fan. There he studied geography; he thought all rocks were nice. When he moved to California he took the Sierra Club's BMTC class (Basic Mountaineering Training Course); he wanted to "learn the ropes" and climb to the top of those nice rocks for a better understanding of the desert.

My son Glen and I met John while he was taking BMTC. When we were carpooling with John, to climb desert peaks, he would have us stop on Friday evening at a KFC for a bucket of hot chicken; then for the weekend, he had cold chicken for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

John Gibba 1950-2017



John Gibba on Weavers Needle.
Photo credit: Wynne Benti

He knew a lot of the old mining roads and miner cabins, which he enjoyed showing us. While we were exploring these he knew how to get a hot bath and took us to Saline Valley warm springs; we always enjoyed soaking in the hot water.

During the time when John was a banker, he traveled the Mojave Desert for the bank appraising property for loans. After looking over the land he would hop in his Jeep and explore more of the desert back roads. Later he taught school in Lancaster, California.

He is survived by his wife Kathy Waddle Gibba and two daughters, Alison Gibba Logan and Lauren Gibba Gillespi, as well as five grandchildren.

John Gibba was a Druid, an ancient Celtic religion. When his liver failed him on November 10, 2017, a Saturday morning, John was able to join his Druid ancestors.

His enjoyment of desert history and my quest to get more DPS peaks put us on many hikes together. I remember

Passages – cont.

sitting around the campfire where John would tell us, “A day without Oysters is like a day without sunshine.” Now we say, “A day without John is like a day without sunshine.”

A Tribute to John Gibba By Linda McDermott

When I hear about those we are losing in our small climbing group, I am always reminded of the amazing times I've had with so many incredible people. I will never forget one weekend I spent with John Gibba and Randy Bernard in Death Valley. It turned out to be classic Gibba.

For some reason, John and Randy invited me to come along on a jeep trip to Death Valley. The plan was to explore remote parts of Death Valley by jeep, to drive down the 7-mile death-defying dirt Lippincott Mine Road to Saline Hot Springs, then home from there. It was a grand plan.

We made it to Teakettle Junction, and to the Racetrack. The weather was a little threatening, but it didn't deter us or many tourists at the Racetrack that afternoon. We were able to stop at the Racetrack to see some of the mysterious rocks making tracks across the sandy dry area when Randy noticed that his car wasn't working properly. Matter of fact, it wasn't working at all. John and Randy put their heads together to figure out what to do, and finally decided to hook up Randy's car to John's jeep with a chain and then haul it down Lippincott Road to Saline Hot Springs and on to Lone Pine where they might be able to get the car fixed. I had heard the legend of Lippincott Road before this time: it's a first or second-gear road, the drop-offs are incredible, and people die on the road from time to time when they don't make a turn.

As I was listening to this plan being developed, I started thinking about my options. I finally said to them, “If you are going to haul a car that's not working down Lippincott Road, I'm going to hitch a ride back with one of these tourists at the Racetrack.” They thought about their choices for a bit, and then decided to haul Randy's car back to the main area of Death Valley where Randy would try to get his car fixed, and John and I could go on back to Los Angeles. I was grateful for their decision and made it home safely.

Rest in peace, John! And may there be many Lippincott Roads where you are, for you to explore. Hugs :)

Great Basin Peaks Section News

Great Basin Peaks Section News By Sharon Marie Wilcox

Congratulations to Sue Wyman and Vic Henney for finishing the Nevada P2K list in November 2017 on Muddy High Point. The P2K list is one of numerous peak lists that peakbaggers pursue. This list has 170 “legal” peaks with 2,000’ or more of prominence. Other peaks on the list are restricted because they are on military property. The Nevada P2K list covers the entire state. Consequently, it provides the opportunity to explore many unique areas in Nevada. Though all of the peaks have 2,000’ or more of prominence, their difficulty varies from easy to challenging.

After driving by New Pass Peak (one of the easier peaks) for years, I finally decided it was time to head up to its summit. Both the driving access and reaching the summit are fairly easy since this peak has a road to the towers on top. New Pass Peak is in the New Pass Range and part of the Lander-Churchill county boundary line runs along the crest. The range extends north from New Pass Summit on Highway 50, which is designated “the Loneliest Highway” in Nevada. A 4WD can navigate the 12.5-mile road to the top or you can drive in as far as you feel comfortable, and then hike the remaining distance. The pleasant drive winds through a burn area that once had a heavy growth of pinion and juniper. The fire left charred skeletal tree remains, but made it easier to spot a group of antelope racing up a side canyon. After cutting off the road to reach the high point, our group didn't linger as usual on a summit because the Great Basin peak view was shrouded by smoky skies, plus the workmen at the towers didn't provide the planned atmosphere of solitude. We did a brief but unsuccessful search for the register, then headed back down the road. Another interesting day of exploring the Great Basin!

Note: For all you ever wanted to know about prominence, Adam Helman's book, *The Finest Peaks Prominence and other Mountain Measures* is the most definitive guide.



Trip Reports

A DPS group on the way to Sheephole Mountain -- please see story on this page (photo by Sandy Lara).

You Find DPS Registers in the Darndest Places!
By Bob Michael
August 27, 2017

That's for sure! Last August, I spent a perfect late summer day in my 4WD exploring back roads in the beautiful Medicine Bow Mountains of southeast Wyoming, a long day trip from my home in Fort Collins, Colorado -- (and a REALLY long way from the Kofas or Chuckwallas!). I noted that my route passed by a named peak -- Lookout Mountain, 10,264' -- and, of course a mountain day is always more satisfying when you can knock off a peak, which is what I proceeded to do. I found a small glass-jar register in a little cairn in the summit rock outcrop, and my jaw just about hit the ground when I read...

Placed by the

DESERT PEAKS SECTION
ANGELES CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB

*Gordon Macleod
*Barbara Lilley

August 28, 2007

Incredibly, this was one day short of exactly a decade before my ascent of August 27 this year. And there had only been one entry in the decade since - a solo climber from Colorado in 2014 -- this shows how "off the beaten track" this peak is. But it hadn't escaped the peak-devouring dynamic duo of legend! The register, a glass jar reinforced with a covering of duct tape, was in fine shape despite ten brutal Wyoming winters at altitude. (BTW: the name proved a disappointment; the view consisted of trees... and more trees. The register more than made up for it.)

Sheephole Mountain
October 28, 2017
By Liz Aziz

The night before the hike, Sandy and Peter Lara, Greg Gerlach, Marie Macapagal, Karen Rinzler and myself all met close to the trailhead to prepare for an early morning start to Sheephole Mountain. A decision was made to hike rather than drive the final road to the actual trailhead due to not everyone having a high clearance, 4x vehicle.

We set out bright and early on Route A and the going was relatively easy with minimal scrambling and elevation gain. We noticed quite a bit of rusted appliances and cans littering the initial wash that we dropped into. This seems to be a pretty popular spot for target practice, but we didn't see another soul during the entire hike. After we came to the end of the trek through the wash, we began our climb and route finding to our peak. The day was pretty warm as it was the tail end of a Fall heat wave. The final ascent to the peak was full of fun little keyholes to crawl through and a nice friction slab to the last few feet to the summit. We joked that this hike was more class 2.5.

We spent a little bit of time at the top enjoying the view and signing the register. After we got our fill, we made our way back down the slab to sit in the shade and enjoy our lunch before heading back down. We carefully followed our route back down the mountain. It was a long and rewarding day. We celebrated with a mini happy hour back at the cars with good beer and Marie's amazing homemade panna cotta. Then we made our way to Joshua Tree Lake to celebrate the WTC's latest graduates.

Thank you to Sandy and Peter for leading this great trip and to the rest of the group for being so awesome. With the exception of my unfortunate encounter with an aggressive cactus, the trip went smoothly and I was feeling it in my quads for a few days after.

DPS Proposal to Delist Three Peaks

DPS Proposal to Delist Three Peaks

The DPS management committee has voted to put two separate proposals to delist three peaks on the next DPS ballot. If you would like to offer arguments for or against the proposals, please email your arguments to Greg Gerlach, *The Desert Sage* editor, at gregrg1955@verizon.net by February 11, 2018.

Proposal to delist Argus and Maturango Peaks:

Because both peaks are on the China Lake Naval Weapons Station, it is illegal to climb them. It is inappropriate for the Sierra Club to appear to condone trespassing on a military reservation by having these peaks on the DPS list. Both peaks were on the ballot in 2010 for delisting, but the vote to keep the peaks on the list won by a small margin. The peaks have been suspended since June 2010, and it makes sense to delist them now because there has been no change in the situation.

Proposal to delist Navajo Mountain:

Because Navajo Mountain is considered sacred by the Navajo, ascending it is forbidden. For more information about the trespassing aspect of climbing Navajo, see <http://navajonationparks.org/permits-services/> (where it is stated, “Navajos consider Navajo Mountain as a sacred area, and ascending it is forbidden”).

Special Offer to New 2018 DPS Members and Subscribers

Beginning in 2018 the DPS would like to welcome new members and subscribers (who don't yet meet the criteria for membership) with a year's free subscription to *The Desert Sage*. New members as well as new subscribers should send the membership application form to the Membership Chair, Ron Bartell, by email (desertpeakssection@gmail.com) or USPS (the form with the address may be downloaded in Word or Adobe Acrobat format at <http://desertpeaks.org/aboutus.htm>), or may be found in this issue of the *Sage*. Although the *Sage* is available to all on the web site, members and subscribers receive an email with a link as soon as a new issue is published.



DESERT BOOKS

By Burton Falk

DESERT BOOKS: THREE BY NICHOLAS CLAPP

OLD MAGIC: Lives of the Desert Shamans (2015)

**GOLD AND SILVER IN THE MOJAVE: Images
of a Last Frontier (2013)**

BODIE: Good Times & Bad (2017)

Nicholas Clapp is a desert aficionado. The award-winning filmmaker/author has explored, filmed, and written about several of the world's deserts, including the Arabian (while researching for his 1999 book, *The Road to Ubar: Finding the Atlantis of the Sands*); those of Yemen and Ethiopia (while researching for his 2002 volume, *Sheba: Through the Desert in Search of the Legendary Queen*), and those of the American West, while researching material for the three books reviewed herein.

OLD MAGIC: Lives of the Desert Shamans (2015)

Old Magic is the first of the Clapp threesome to be reviewed as it examines the entire desert area and historically sets the stage for the other two. The author begins by explaining that the tribes of the Far West existed with “a social and cultural unity of shared myths and survival arts, reinforced by trade and intermarriage,” which was different than the settled, self-contained Pueblo tribes to the east--the Navajo, the Hopi, the Zuni. Indeed, the western tribes, such as the Southern Paiutes, the Chemehuevi, and the Cahuilla, lived in small bands “as best they could, wherever they could.” Furthermore, unlike the eastern tribes who had a “highly structured belief system expressed in kiva rituals honoring gods of the earth and sky...,” the tribes of the west relied on “individuals who had been favored with spiritual power, magical power...Shamans.”

Clapp then relates a creation story common to the Quechan, the Kumeyaay, and the Maricopa, the tale

of Kumastamxo, a giant who, attended by the very first shaman--a mountain lion, brought the sun and stars into existence. When Kumastamxo struck the ground with his spear, waters poured forth creating the Colorado River. He then created a group of humans to become shamans and, together on a raft, they drifted downstream to a spot where he led them to the heights of Avikwa'ame, **Spirit Mountain**. There, in a Dark House built by animals, “he instructed (the group) in sacred and magical and doctoring ways.” Happy with his results, Kumastamxo dismissed his shamans, and sank into the earth, to be reborn as an eagle.

The creation story of the Cahuilla is different. In their legend, twin boys, Mukat and Tamaioit, were hatched from large spider eggs. Alone and in darkness, they created people for company, and Moon, “a woman bright and beautiful and white,” for light.

Complications soon occurred. The brothers quarreled and Tamaioit, furious, sank into the earth taking the people he had created with him. Meanwhile, Mukat angered his group by abusing their beloved Moon, causing her to retreat to the sky where she could look down on the people she loved. The people killed Mukat and cremated his body. His sole friend, Coyote, rescued Mukat's heart from the fire, and carried it off into the mountains. “The blood stains are here, still to be seen.”

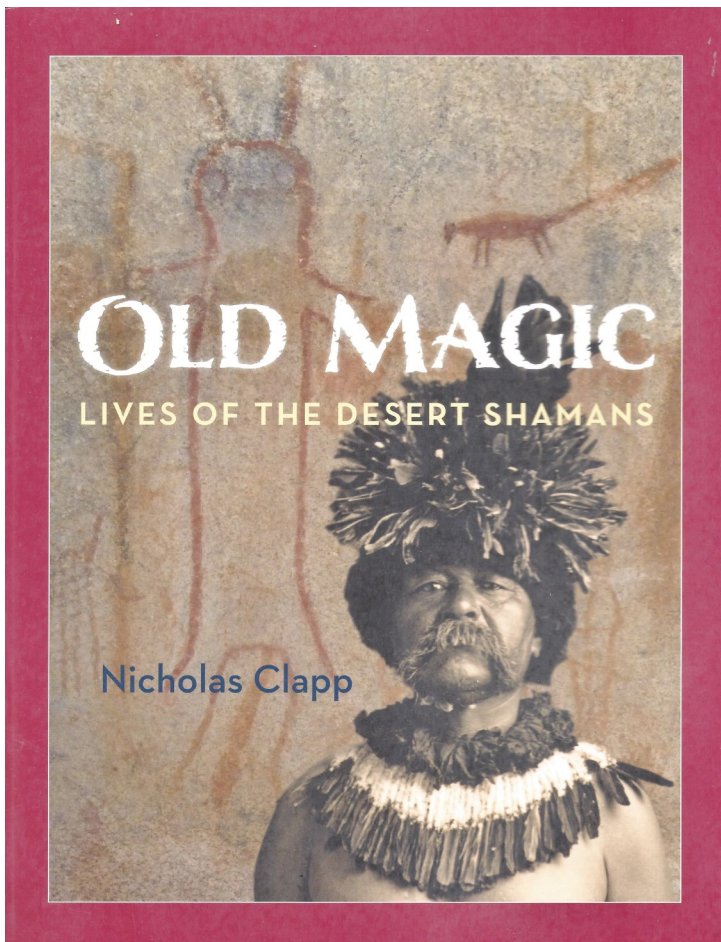
The two stories are similar in that after the departure of the creators--Kumastamxo, Mukat and Tamaioit--their power remained “in rocks, clouds, the sun, in all the forces of nature...It was power to be acquired by shamans.”

Next, by reviewing shamans' lives as documented by anthropologists in the early 1900s, and by attempting to understand physical evidence such as petroglyphs, pictographs, and other shaman-made displays, Clapp explores the role of those powerful

Desert Books - continued

men in the pre-European desert West.

Young men became shamans by various routes. Among the Cahuilla, for example, boys were introduced to tribal lore while attending week-long sessions taught by shamans. Following the classes, the boys were administered small doses of jimsonweed extract meant to produce dream visions.



One or two of the boys who experienced dreams, “vivid verging on ecstatic,” might then decide to “walk the path” of their teachers. In other tribes, the boys often had no choice. “They would belong to a family run to shamans, and a father or uncle would set them on the path. Insist on it.”

And, although a shaman's life offered power, it also presented social isolation, privation, torment, and sometimes retribution. Indeed, if the shaman, after using all his power, could not produce a successful outcome on three successive attempts, he might be “set upon and quietly murdered.” In 1876, when the Paiutes in the Owens Valley were beset by a plague of

measles--“an Old World disease alien to a native American-- natural resistance”--eighty shamans, “the very best men and boys of the tribe, were murdered for their ill-successes in treating this epidemic.”

By the 1870s, the tribes of the desert West had been overwhelmed by whites. Their ancient beliefs were under siege by a new religion, their ability to move about as they pleased was limited by the unfamiliar concepts of property rights and reservations, their opportunity to rebel was limited by military force. The shamans, who once tended the sick, conjured up game, and changed the weather, had lost their powers. Their sorcery, as the title of the book suggests, became “old magic.”

Clapp's 210-page volume is illustrated with a wealth of photographs, including several shots of rarely-seen petroglyphs. In a blurb, Michael Madrigal, of Cahuilla/Luiseno lineage and president of the Native American Land Conservancy, notes that Clapp “presents a rare glimpse into traditional spiritual practices of the Southwest Indian peoples. His diligent research and sensitivity for the Native peoples offer fresh insight into this mysterious and often misunderstood reality.”

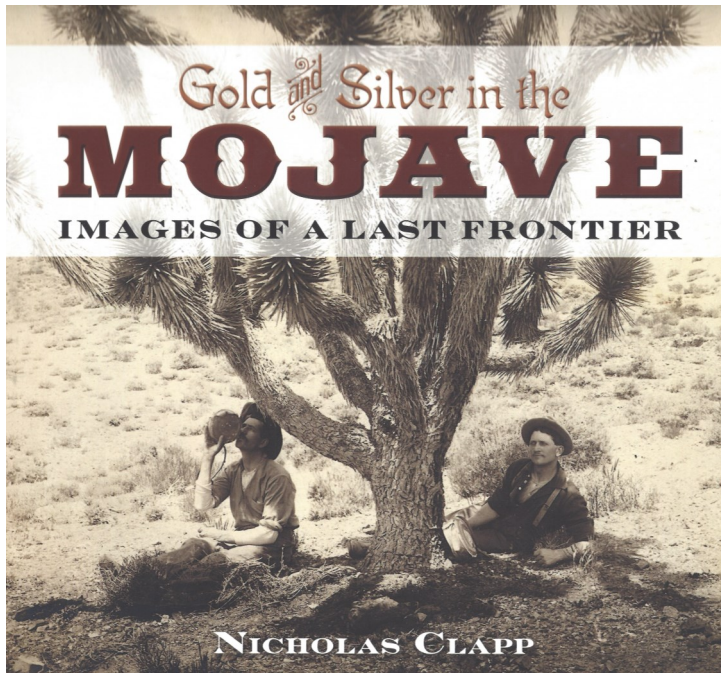
GOLD AND SILVER IN THE MOJAVE: Images of a Last Frontier (2013)

In this excellent photographic memoir of the Mojave Desert, Clapp refutes the idea that the glory days of American West were over by the 1890s. Delving deep into various desert photo collections, including but not limited to those of the Huntington Library, the Nevada State Museum, the Central Nevada Historical Society, and, somewhat surprisingly, the Covina Historical Society, and augmented by his own stylish descriptions, Clapp assembles a truly fresh look at the boom towns of yesteryear.

Arranging his material in chronological order, Clapp first considers Randsburg, where in 1895 three prospectors discovered a rich lode of gold-bearing ore on the slope of a desolate peak which, “hoping the fortune of the famed South African gold district would rub off on them,” they named Rand Mountain.

Desert Books - continued

The images in this section, many of which were taken by a local photographer, C.W. Tucker, record the impact of the strike, including scenes of the town that grew up around the original camp, a photo of stamp mills that crushed ore 24 hours a day, and a shot taken inside the Yellow Aster Saloon, where a well-stocked bar, a faro table, and a barber provided a bit of pleasure for the hard working miners.



In 1902, although Randsburg was still prosperous, “there was word of a new discovery, triggering a wave of wild-eyed excitement.” The find was in Tonopah “up in Nevada on the northern border of the Mojave.”

The Tonopah strike was of silver ore, however, and lots of it. It is estimated that the area yielded more than \$150,000,000 of the precious metal, and the town, in five short years, grew to a population of 10,000 or so.

A professional Tonopah photographer, Emery Willard Smith (1850-1941), recorded both the town and, in his studio, the townspeople. Clapp includes fifteen pages of unsigned photos which he claims are identifiable as Smith's by their “whimsy, warmth and affection.”

Shortly after the Tonopah strike, a rich lode of gold ore was discovered 45 miles to the south in what

would soon become the town of Goldfield. Proclaimed to be the “Richest Gold Discovery Made Anywhere in the World,” the population of the boom town, circa 1905, reached “perhaps 8,000.” E.W. Smith was once again on hand to photograph the town, as was Per Larson, a Swedish immigrant who owned a local stationary and gift store.

In his Goldfield section, Clapp also relates the story of Bonnie Lanagan, a young woman reporter, who spent a winter's night exploring the town. During her “dreadful” evening, Lanagan visited the Palm Grill at dinner time, “where the patrons leer and boast and drink too much;” passed by a line of jewelry shops--“Goldfielders reveled in diamonds;” stopped at a dance hall where, “every window was alight sending out strains of crazy dance music far along the narrow streets;” and ended up in the red light district, which she described as: “Down the street, away from the legitimate residence district, is the home of revelry and madness, the place where all the gold and yellow stuff is blown in answering the lure of the painted ones.”

In succeeding chapters, Clapp visits the short-lived boom towns of Rhyolite (active circa 1905-1910), Greenwater (active circa 1906), and Skidoo (1906-1909), then moves on to Ballarat, which he describes as “essentially a supply camp--and haven--for prospectors needful of powder, square meals and drink.”

With approximately 80% of its content being photographs--many of them excellent full-page shots--this 188 page coffee-table style volume would make a fine addition to any desert lovers library.

BODIE: Good Times & Bad (2017), Photographs by Will Furman

If you've ever been to Bodie State Historic Park, and were impressed by the deserted ghost town, Nicholas Clapp's recently published volume may be just the book for you. Located at 9,000' in a high desert valley in Mono County, California, Bodie's population peaked at between 5,000 and 7,000 the late 1870s, then gradually ebbed away until the last mine closed in 1942. Fortunately, J. S. Cain, a banker/

Desert Books - continued

investor whose company owned the uninhabited town, saved it for posterity by retaining “a watchman to discourage looters, would be arsonists, and the like.” More fortunately still, in 1967, Cain's son-in-law, Emile Billeb, “negotiated a transfer of the entire intact ghost town to the state of California.”

Clapp approaches his subject with an informative, sometimes tongue-in-cheek style. In his prologue, for instance, he describes how a hungry prospector, Wakeman S. Bodey, who made the initial discovery of gold ore in the summer of 1859, chased a rabbit into a burrow. Plunging in “his arm up to his shoulder --(he) failed to catch the creature. No Luck. No Dinner.” Instead, “he beheld a handful of quartz, glittering with gold.”

Alas, poor Bodey didn't live long enough to enjoy the fruits of his discovery. That same November he was caught out in a blizzard and froze to death. More irritating still, as the small mining camp began to grow, a sign painter incorrectly misspelled the town-to-be's name as Bodie.

In succeeding chapters, Clapp considers how one family, the Brothertons, living in the nearby mining town of Belmont, Nevada, decided to move to Bodie, which was considered at the time to be “hard-bitten and desperado-ridden.” About the same time, it was famously reported that one small girl, prior to emigrating to Bodie, lined up her dolls on her bed and said, “Good bye, God; we are going to Bodie.”

In his chapter, “Bad Men from Bodie,” Clapp contends that although there were no doubt many unsavory characters in town, Bodie's ill-gotten reputation was “hopelessly confounded” by yellow journalism. Contemporary newspaper statements, such as “hardly a day goes with without a killing.” Or, “A day without a killing is newsworthy,” were suspect. “(M)aybe, just maybe,” he continues, “Bodie wasn't such a bad place after all...(I)n the reputedly bullet-ridden year of 1879, there were likely more deaths from mining accidents, pneumonia, cholera, and the like.”

Bodie grew slowly until 1876, when the first of two rich veins was discovered, the largest of which, the

Fortuna, yielded ore so rich that “a shovelful of ore could be worth more than (a miner would) make in a year.” Not surprisingly, it was also a time when “high-grading” occurred, a practice in which a miner might just help himself to a sample of the rich ore. That small helping could be enough to “put food, delicacies even, on the table, outfit their wives in fine dresses, buy cute togs for little ones, and to set foot in a favorite saloon and shout...drinks on the house.”

Clapp discusses how the residents of Bodie spent their free time--skiing during the winter, visiting the nearby Sierra Nevada in the summer, celebrating the Fourth of July, and sporting a baseball team. Also, as was common in mining towns of the time, there was a thriving red light district.

As the rich ore played out in the early 1880s, and, as only lower grade ore remained, the town's population slowly ebbed away. In 1932, a fire destroyed many of the buildings in the town's business district, and in 1942, the last mine closed.

“In the end, a town born with a whoop was to die with hardly a whimper...Bodie, to the accompaniment of rattling tin roofs and creaking timber, the howling desert wind sings of your sagebrush grit and fleeting glory.”

“Oh, what a time it was.”

Bodie: Good Time & Bad is a coffee-table style book, replete with old photographs and enhanced with several new color photographs by Will Furman who employs a technique in which, shooting through a window from the outside, he captures both the subject matter inside and, as reflected in the window pane, a scene of the surrounding town and/or landscape. Very interesting.

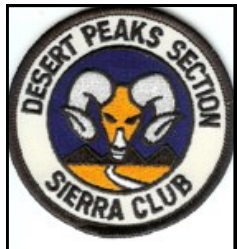
My thanks to Diana Lindsay, co-author (with her husband, Lowell) of the best existing guide to Anza-Borrego State Park, *Anza-Borrego Desert Region*; and co-founder of Sunbelt Publications in San Diego, California, which published volumes reviewed above, for providing me with copies of these outstanding works.

Desert Peaks Section Merchandise

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Ron Bartell
1556 21st Street,
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EMBLEM AND LIST COMPLETION STATUS: Emblem status is awarded to DPS members who have been a member for one year, who have climbed 15 peaks on the DPS Peak list, including five of the seven emblem peaks, and who send a list of peaks and dates climbed to Membership Records Chair **Ron Bartell, 1556 21st Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, or ronbartell@yahoo.com**. Recognition is also given for completion of the DPS list by notifying Ron of peaks and dates climbed. Please see the DPS website for additional Emblem recognition categories.

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SAGE SUBMISSIONS: The Sage editor welcomes all articles, trip reports and photographs pertaining to outdoor activities of interest to DPS members. Trip participants are encouraged to submit a trip report if the participant knows that the trip leaders are not going to submit a trip write-up. The editor may modify submittals in an attempt to increase clarity, decrease length, or correct typos, but hopefully will not modify meaning. Please note that digital documents and photographs are required for submissions to the Sage. Trip reports should include trip dates and identify trip participants and photos should indicate when and where the photo was taken, what it is of, who is in it, and who took it. Please email Sage submissions to the editor no later than the second Sunday of even numbered months; the next submission deadline for the Sage is **February 11, 2018**.

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