

Mt. San Jacinto Natural History Association

A Non-Profit Corporation
Serving Mt. San Jacinto
State Park and
Wilderness since 1979



Issue 30, Number 2

Fall 2010

Upcoming Events:

- NHA Annual Picnic and General Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 18 Idyllwild
- Photo Contest Deadline Oct. 31
- Holiday Dinner on Thursday, Dec. 9th in the Mountain Station

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Annual NHA Picnic and General Meeting September 18

Mark your calendars for Saturday, the 18th of September!

This is the date of our annual NHA Picnic and General Meeting.

Due to the closure of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway for its annual maintenance, this year's picnic and meeting will be held in Idyllwild, a mountain village nestled on the beautiful western slope of Mt. San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area.

In case you have not been to Idyllwild in recent years, be prepared for a sur-

prise! Our State Park Ranger Station has been renovated to include a lovely visitor information and gift area.

The picnic will be held at the State Park Headquarters on Hwy 243 in Idyllwild starting at noon. There will be a short Annual Meeting prior to the picnic.

The NHA will cook hamburgers, hot dogs and provide soda. Please bring a potluck dish to complement our barbeque according to the first letter of your last name:

- A-H -- Deserts (Suggestions: cookies, brownies, cup cakes)
- J-R -- Salads (Suggestions: macaroni, lettuce, deviled eggs)
- S-Z -- Side Dish (Suggestions: potato salad, potato chips, beans, fruit)

You are encouraged to bring your family or a guest with you. But, we need to know how many people to expect. You can RSVP by Sept 15th to postmaster@msjinha.org or there is a sign-up sheet in the Visitor Center.

The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is a 2,650-mile national scenic trail that runs from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon and Washington. The Pacific Crest Trail is the jewel in the crown of America's scenic trails, passing through five California State Parks: Castle Crags and McArthur-Burney Falls in Northern California; and Silverwood Lake, Anza Borrego Desert and **Mt San Jacinto State Park** in Southern California. From desert to glacier-flanked mountain, meadow to forest, the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) symbolizes everything there is to love - and protect - in the Western United States. (See related story on page 3.)

President's Message by Kim Clark



The NHA Board has set forth an aggressive agenda of support for State Park projects, expanded NHA member activities, and increased outreach to adult and student populations throughout the region.

I am sitting in our family's cabin just east of Yellowstone National Park as I finalize this Fall 2010 issue of Peaks. Having driven here with my wife and our two golden retrievers, I am always amazed at the amount of open land along our route through Nevada, Utah, the western slope of the Rockies, and into Wyoming. So much of our daily life is filled with urban sprawl that it is easy to lose sense of the vastness of this great land!

It is for just this reason that we are so fortunate to have the Mt. San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area at our doorstep. A day on the mountain is a reviving experience, amidst crisp air and green forests. The deep canyons and looming peak of Mt. San Jacinto provided both physical and spiritual sustenance to our native forebears, and can do the same for us!

As a natural history association, we strive to bring these benefits to as many travelers and residents throughout our region as possible. This suggests not only the need for our own occasional physical presence on the mountain, but also our continued financial support of the many natural history, educational, and maintenance projects on the mountain as well.

Thank you for your membership and ongoing support of the NHA. With the summer heat at its end, it's time to come visit the mountain!

2010 Board of Directors

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Supervising Ranger

Robert Howard
Park Interpreter

New Ways to Donate to the NHA

We've made it easier for you to support Mt. San Jacinto State Park with monetary donations. The first way will not cost you a thing! The NHA is a participant in the Ralph's Community Contribution program. By registering your Ralph's Rewards card, a portion of your purchases at Ralph's grocery stores will be donated to the NHA.

It is easy to register your card--just go to our website www.msjnha.org for the instructions and the link to Ralph's. If you do not have computer access and an email account it is still possible for you to participate. You will need a "scanbar" letter

to take with you to the store and scan it with your shopping order. Copies of this letter are available in the Visitor Center or we will be glad to mail it to you if you contact any board member.

You can also make a donation directly from our website. The NHA has partnered with PayPal to provide a secure site to collect donations. You can donate using your PayPal account or any major credit card. So, if someone asks how they can contribute to our park, tell them about the website. Donations to the NHA are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Repair on Fuller Ridge Segment of the PCT

A portion of the famous Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) crosses our Mt. San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area as it meanders from the Mexican border north to Canada. The local segment of the PCT stretches from the southwest corner of our park to its northern boundary. Each summer hundreds of "though hikers" and "section hikers" pass through our park, often stopping to replenish their supplies in Idyllwild. It is not unusual for "Trail Angels" to also leave water and supplies under the I-10 at Whitewater for the weary, thirsty hikers.

The Fuller Ridge segment of the Pacific Crest Trail stretches north and downward toward the Interstate. In recent years this segment has fallen into disrepair.

The Fuller Ridge project is a three phase (multi-year) project that has been approved for several years now. Funding has finally become available and

our statewide trails coordinator, Karl Knapp, has given us priority.

Phase 1 began mid-May 2010 and will include a six month "spike camp" during which the original route is charted and cleared for use. Some rerouting is needed due to natural changes in the terrain over the PCT's decades-long history. Hikers in the area may come upon pack animals through the summer and autumn months. These animals are utilized weekly for restocking supplies,

The State Park has finalized a cooperative agreement with the Mount San Jacinto Natural History Association (NHA) for the purpose of funding Fuller Ridge expenses (primarily feed) during phase 1 of the project. The NHA will hold dedicated state funds and pay invoices from these funds. All invoices will receive prior approval by park staff.



Park Volunteer Opportunities

- Visitor Center-
- Nature Walks-
- Back Country-

Contact

Rob Howard
760-327-0631
Francine Unwin
(Idyllwild Station)
(951) 659-4880 x5

Meet Ranger Sue

"I'm very happy to be working on "the" mountain, and I am honored to follow in the footsteps of Eric Hanson. I know that those are some big shoes to fill and I probably will never quite make the mark, but it's an honor just the same."

I started as your new ranger on the mountain way back in January! Rob asked me to write a short bio, but I wanted to start out by thanking everyone for the warm welcome that I have received from Day One.

I started my park career at Big Basin State Park in Santa Cruz County during my Junior year of high school. I had the opportunity to work with the Youth Conservation Corp for two summers, and it was the highlight of my teenage years. (Continued on page 5.)

Treasurer's Report By Russ Andersen

The results are in for the first eight months of 2010 and the NHA is heading for another record year. For the eight months ended August 31, visitor center sales were \$59,120. This is 15% over budget and 19.7% ahead of last year. The gross margin on sales are also up from the previous year. (See accompanying chart.)

Membership income is below budget and last year as of this date. This is because the membership year begins on July 1st and we haven't received many renewals. The notices were sent out last month, but if you did not receive one you can use the form on the last page of this newsletter to join or renew your membership to NHA.

Donations in 2010 are down

15% (or \$170) from the 2009 level. Interest income is down due to the decline in rates paid by the bank. The net result is we had an excess of receipts over expenditures before projects of \$15,295.

The projects funded so far in 2010 have included an Interpretive Specialist position in Idyllwild for \$6,840; repainting and updating our museum in the Mountain Station for \$1,043; trail work and a bridge replacement in

Long Valley for \$1,500; and a work shed for the rangers in Idyllwild for \$4,071. Several other projects are planned for the remainder of the year and the state park really needs our help in these tight budget times.



Enter the Mt. San Jacinto Photo Contest!!

Search the Internet for photos of Mt. San Jacinto, and you'll find a number of web pages featuring beautiful photos of our local wilderness area. Now is the chance for amateur and professional photographers alike to show their photographic skills by entering our **First Annual Mt. San Jacinto Photo Contest**.

Organized by Park Volunteer Kay Griese with assistance from Park Ranger Rob Howard and the Natural History Association, our first-ever photo contest will culminate in a photo exhibition and reception at the top of the Tram in November. A number of local merchants have donated prizes for the winning photos, which will be featured in our new **2011 Mt. San Jacinto State Park Calendar**.

For complete **Photo Contest Rules**, visit the NHA website at <http://photocontest.msjnha.org/> , Deadline October 31, 2010.

Grab your cameras! Tell your photographer friends!

Nature Notes: Geology

(Excerpts from The San Jacinto Mountains by James Cornett, pp.5-6)

"Mountains are usually younger than the rocks of which they are made. Simply stated, rocks are created beneath the earth through heat and pressure or generated deep beneath the crust as molten magma. After the rocks have formed, they are raised above the surface during mountain building episodes that last for millions of years. Only in the case of volcanoes may visible rocks be the same age as the mountain itself.

"The rock mass of the San Jacinto Mountains is classified as Mesozoic granite. It is a light-colored igneous rock that can be easily observed anywhere in the San Jacintos at intermediate to high elevations. The granite resulted from the cooling of magma moving towards the surface about 100 million years ago during the Mesozoic Era, the age of dinosaurs. This granite is called a batholiths and it formed the core of the Peninsular Ranges Province that we know today. For tens of millions of years the batholith remained many miles beneath the Earth's surface.

"Slowly the batholith began to rise as the

An excellent selection of natural history books, including Cornett's The San Jacinto Mountains, early Native American and settlement history, plus a variety of children's books, are featured at the Mount San Jacinto Natural History Association's Visitor Center located at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Mountain Station.

rock above eroded, like a ship rising in the water as it emptied its heavy cargo. Around 30 million years ago enough of the overlying rock had eroded to allow the batholiths to rise above sea level and expose its upper portions.

When a crack formed in the crustal plate approximately 20 million years ago, the Peninsular Ranges Province and the San Jacintos rose at a relatively rapid rate. Known today as the San Andreas Fault, the crack eventually spread to form a boundary between two huge portions or plates of the earth's crust..."
TO BE CONTINUED

Ranger Sue (continued from page 3)

In 1985, I became a docent at Henry Cowell State Park. In 1990, I became a park aid at Manresa Uplands. In 1994, I entered the ranger academy at the Mott Training Center and it was one of the proudest times of my life. Out of the academy, I was assigned to Lake Perris SRA in Riverside County. I had the opportunity while still assigned to Perris to be the first ranger at Wildwood Canyon State Park and San Timoteo State Park.

I've wanted to work at Mt. San Jacinto SP since the late 1990's, after having the pleasure of doing a walk-a-long with Ranger Eric Hanson. Anywhere else it would have been called a ride-a-long, but Eric took me on this amazing hike, all the while laughing that I was wearing my POPE and bullet-proof vest. I felt like Dorothy from the Wizard of OZ, *this isn't Perris any more.*



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We're on the Web
www.msjnha.org

Keeping the Wild in Wilderness

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New Membership Application or Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone No. _____ E-Mail _____

Check the type of membership you would like to join or renew, fill in your mailing information and return this form with your dues. Make your check or money order payable to: MT. SAN JACINTO NHA.

Mail to: Mt. San Jacinto NHA
255 N. El Cielo, Suite 140, #141
Palm Springs, CA 92262

(or drop in the safe at the VC)

Dues Schedule

- Senior \$15
- Student \$15
- Individual \$20
- Family \$25
- Supporting \$30
- Life \$150
- Endowment Fund Contribution \$ _____