

MT. SAN JACINTO
NATURAL HISTORY
ASSOCIATION

A NON-PROFIT
CORPORATION
SERVING MT. SAN
JACINTO STATE PARK



Upcoming Events

- VIP Volunteer Trng, Mountain Station, March 19 at 10am.
- NHA Picnic, White-water Preserve, April 3 at 12 noon
- Meet Smokey Bear, Mountain Station, April 16 at 11am
- VIP Nature Walk Trng, Mountain Station, April 30 at 10am
- Bird Walk with Kurt Leuschner, Mountain Station, May 21 8am
- Junior Ranger Family Day, Long Valley, May 28 at 11am
- NHA Fall Picnic and Annual General Meeting, Idyllwild campground, September 17.

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Issue 31, Number 1

March 2011

Missing Hiker Found Safe on Mt. San Jacinto

A Redondo Beach man who spent the weekend lost in our mountain wilderness was found safe on Monday, February 21st.

Dr. Brian Carrico, 57, was spotted by a helicopter crew just before noon near Wellman Divide, high in the Mount San Jacinto wilderness.

Carrico was airlifted off the mountain and taken to the hospital by ambulance. He was said to be in good condition.

Sheriff's deputies say Carrico, an experienced outdoorsman, became disoriented in whiteout

conditions Saturday afternoon. He built a snow shelter to stay warm as overnight temperatures dipped into the teens. He also wrote "S.O.S." in the snow so he could be seen by searchers in the air.

He had last been seen Saturday morning when he went hiking above the Palm Spring Aerial Tramway. He parked his car at about 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the tramway parking lot, bought a permit and took a tram to the top of the mountain.

Family members contacted the State Parks department when he didn't return when he said he would.

Carrico is an experienced hiker, and relatives say he was properly equipped with food, water and heavy clothing.

A number of teams took the tram up to the top of the mountain during the search. Fifteen ground teams searched the mountain in a grid-style formation, and about 70 people were up on the mountain.

The NHA offers its praise and thanks to the State Park staff and volunteers involved in this rescue!

(Source: Riverside Press Enterprise)

NHA SPRING PICNIC SUNDAY APRIL 3, 2011

12:00pm-4:00pm at the **Whitewater Preserve**

Meet up with old and new friends for a **midday barbecue** provided by the NHA, **desserts and side dishes** (provided by YOU) and an **optional stroll** up the canyon. Suggested potluck items: Side dishes (A-L) and Desserts (M-Z). Drinks provided. The Whitewater Preserve is located off Interstate 10 at 9160 Whitewater Canyon Road. For more information about the Preserve, go to:

www.wildlandsconservancy.org

RSVP to Kim Clark at 909-633-0711 or kim.clark10@verizon.net

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.

Did you notice the number of upcoming events on page one of this newsletter, scheduled by your Natural History Association in cooperation with the Mt. San Jacinto State Park staff?!

In keeping with our commitment to create greater visibility for the NHA, to attract new members, and to increase the services to and involvement of current members, your NHA Board has set a full calendar of activities, trainings and events for the coming year.

We realize that many of you support the *IDEA* of a natural history association, for a variety of reasons:

- Some appreciate the grandeur of our unique Inland mountains.
- Some see their ongoing support as a local expression of the need to preserve all wilderness for future generations.
- Others are committed to supporting the staff and activities of the State Park, especially in these difficult financial times.

Notice that I said many support “the *IDEA* of a natural history association...” because in reality we have not seen many of our members at our annual NHA events! With the addition of more activities on this year’s calendar, we hope to change all this. **YOU ARE OFFICIALLY INVITED TO COME JOIN IN THE FUN!** And always feel free to contact us for more event information.

2011 Board of Directors

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Bart Grant
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Robert Howard
Park Interpreter

Support the NHA when you shop

You can contribute to the NHA every time you shop at a Ralph’s store in California. The NHA is a member of the Ralph’s Community Contribution Program. By registering your Ralph’s Rewards Card and designating the NHA as your charitable choice, a portion of your purchases will benefit the NHA.

To find out how to register your card go to the NHA website at: www.msjnha.org/nha/ralphs.html

In Memoriam

The NHA regrets the passing of longtime member and active State Park volunteer Howard Sussman, who was killed in a vehicle accident over the holidays.

Howard was an avid outdoorsman and Park supporter, always willing to offer both a patient smile and a helping hand.

Donations to the NHA in Howard Sussman’s name may be made by contacting NHA Treasurer Russ Andersen.

Treasurer's Report By Russ Andersen

Sales in the NHA Visitor Center were at another record. They increased 8.4% over last year to \$79,688. However, increased cost of sales resulted in a decline in gross profit. Other sources of income such as donations, interest on investments and membership revenue also declined in 2010.

For 2010, the NHA had an excess of receipts over expenses of \$14,516. The NHA support for the State Park and interpretive projects and programs more than doubled this year to \$20,174 (see chart at right for details).

Overall the NHA completed 2010 with \$75,575 in unrestricted checking and savings and an Endowment Fund savings account of \$8,711. To see a complete copy of the year-end financial statements visit our website at: www.msjnha.org/financials/year2010.pdf

Funding for Interpretive Programs and to Support Mt. San Jacinto State Park:

Salary for Idyllwild Interpretive Specialist	\$ 6,840
Work shed in Idyllwild	4,973
Long Valley bridge and trail	1,500
Long Valley interpretive signs	1,359
Remodel of Museum in Mountain Station	1,043
Remodel of Idyllwild Visitor Center	965
Interpretive cart	557
Internet access	270
Family Days	507
Junior Ranger Program	929
Display board for LV Ranger Station	555
Other	676
Year 2010 Total	\$ 20,174



Park Needs Serve as basis for NHA Plans

On January 22, 2011, the Mt. San Jacinto NHA Board Members and State Park Liaison gathered for their annual planning retreat, to review past accomplishments and to plan future activities in support of the staff and operations at the State Park. Key to the NHA's plans for 2011-2012 were the reports, comments and requests by Park staff, including:

- Short term Park needs include funds for seasonal staff positions, bulletin board cabinets, bench repairs, fence and foot bridge repairs, flooring, and a wireless microphone.
- Long range plans for Long Valley include a new interpretive center and ADA-compliant trails.
- Over 500 youngsters became Junior Rangers thanks to the good work of Park Interpreter Rob Howard and Idyllwild staff. Rob is also engaged in ongoing discussions with Palm Springs Aerial Tramway management and local school administrators to introduce a mountain natural history program to area students.

The NHA Board assured Park staff of its ongoing support for these and other worthy activities of the Mt San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area.



“Through the magic of the Palm springs Aerial Tram, you’ve risen up the rugged Chino Canyon from the desert floor to the cool pine forest.”

“Some people have bigger heads than others in proportion to their stature, so maybe they can lose a percentage more heat.”

Before You Hike, Be Aware!

Hundreds of visitors to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway and Mt. San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area pass by our NHA Visitor Center, without stopping in to discover the rich assortment of guidebooks and resources we have to explain and expand their enjoyment of the out-of-doors!

One such new book is

entitled **“The Somewhat Compleat Guide to Walks and Hikes from Idyllwild and the Palm Springs Tram”** written by Bill Havert and Gary Gray (An Earth Trails Publication, 2010).

This is a brief and delightful paperback book chocked full of details on the trails and routes on the mountain, as well as common sense guidelines

for safe and enjoyable trips into the wilderness.

For example, the authors write, “Through the magic of the Palm springs Aerial Tram, you’ve risen up the rugged Chino Canyon from the desert floor to the cool pine forest. After taking in the view and seeing the Mountain Station of the Tram, you’re

(continued on next page)

Do You Lose Most Of Your Heat Through Your Head?

Losing most of your heat through your head is a popular myth. Head heat loss is not the majority of body heat lost. Not even close.

Head heat loss is usually less than one-third to one-fifth of total heat loss. That means it is not the majority, which would be

more than 50%. Head heat loss is usually less than 20-30 percent or so of total heat loss.

Head heat loss changes with how cold it is. The lower the temperature, the higher percentage head heat loss.

The heat you lose from your head is small com-

pared to the rest of your body. Some people have bigger heads than others in proportion to their stature, so maybe they can lose a percentage more heat. To reduce heat loss, wear a hat.

(Source: www.healthline.com)



Mt San Jacinto State Park Facts

Mount San Jacinto State Park encompasses the weathered granite summit of Mount San Jacinto at 10,834 feet (3,302 m) above sea level the second highest mountain in Southern California. It is accessible by the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway and lies on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Newton B. Drury Peak within the park is named after the fourth director of the U.S. National Park Service, who was also a long-term leader of the Save-the-Redwoods League.

Be Aware! (continued from previous page)

ready for high country adventure.

“If you see a rattlesnake (not likely, but they do live here), don’t try to pet it or kill it. The snake’s first instinct will be to get away. Give it room and it will do just that. In the even more unlikely event that you encounter a mountain lion, don’t run; that sig-

nals prey to a lion. Experts suggest that you stand up, spread your arms and look larger. Yell if it seems to be menacing you, and look for any weapon: rocks, a large stick, etc....

“Even in summer it can rain and turn quite cold, and there may be lightning strikes. Always check the forecast and carry

appropriate gear...To be safer, don’t hike alone.”

The Somewhat Complete Guide is available from the NHA’s Mt. San Jacinto State Park Visitor Center for \$11.00.

“If you see a rattlesnake (not likely, but they do live here), don’t try to pet it or kill it.”

STATE BUDGET: WHICH INLAND PARKS WILL BE SPARED?

Some state parks in Inland Southern California are likely to be among the dozens recommended for closing or downsizing as officials finish a plan to reduce parks spending. Governor Brown’s proposed cuts of \$11 million in 2011-2012 grow to \$22 million in 2012-2013.

But California’s state parks have an outsized public presence. People visited the system 72.5 million times in the year ending July 2009.

Several parks make up the California Department of Parks and Recreation’s Inland Empire District. The district had 2008-2009 operating costs of \$8.6 million. Attendance and revenue for some Inland 2008-2009 include:

Park	#Visitors	\$Revenue
Lake Perris State Recreation Area	646,850	\$2,000,000
Chino Hills State Park	103,637	\$ 18,007
Citrus State Historic Park	69,572	\$ 19,822
Mt. San Jacinto State Park	66,855*	\$ 464,000

*This tally does not reflect the additional 400,000+ visitors brought to our Park by the Palm Springs Aerial Tram each year. The MSJ Natural History Association is committed to maintaining adequate funding for our State Park staff and programs.

(Source: Riverside Press Enterprise)





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New Membership Application or Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone No. _____ E-Mail _____

Dues Schedule

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- Endowment Fund Contribution \$ _____

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.

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(or drop in the bank at the VC)