

Mt. San Jacinto Natural History Association

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



Issue 30, Number 3

November 2010

## Attend the NHA Holiday Dinner on December 9th!

### Upcoming Events:

- Holiday Dinner on Thursday, Dec. 9th in the Mountain Station
- NHA Board Meeting on Dec. 14th

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**Mark your calendars for Thursday evening, December 9th. This is the date of our annual NHA Holiday Dinner** to be held in the Francis Crocker Room at the Mountain Station, high atop the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway.

For the very reasonable price of just \$22 per person, we will enjoy a buffet dinner with choice of entrees and side dishes, dessert, and beverages. **THIS PRICE INCLUDES YOUR ROUND TRIP TRAM TICKET!** A cash bar for alcoholic beverages will also be available.

Tram officials grant us two free Tram tickets per NHA member event per year, so be sure to bring a spouse, friend or family member. NOTE: Because some NHA members will arrive solo, we can probably accommodate your third guest at this same low price.

This year's dinner will feature the winning photographers (with their photos) from the First Annual Mt. San Jacinto Photo Contest .

Be sure to enter the drawing to win one of the winning photos as a door prize.

In addition, Mr. Garratt Aitcheson, Park Superintendent, will be presenting a slide show on the many improvements made to the State Park this year, with funding from the Mt. San Jacinto NHA. Rumor has it that a mystery guest in a bright red suit may also appear...

Please complete and submit the enclosed Holiday Dinner Reservation Form, and return it at your earliest convenience. We look forward to seeing old and new members and friends at this holiday event!

The Mt. San Jacinto Natural History Association's **First Annual Photo Contest** was a great success. Under the guidance of State Park Volunteer Kay Griese, with assistance from Park Interpreter and Ranger Rob Howard, first, second and third place prize winners were selected from over 300 entries, in the categories of animals, plants, and scenic. A number of honorable mentions were also awarded. Plans are already underway for next year's contest.

## 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.**

As I drive from Redlands through the Banning Pass toward Palm Springs, to attend the monthly NHA Board Meeting or to serve my time (quite willingly) as a State Park Volunteer, the slopes of Mt. San Jacinto loom above me to the south. What a pleasure it is to see those peaks and drainages, and to know that we have adopted this mountain as a precious treasure to protect and preserve!

It occurred to me the other day just how multi-dimensional the mountain and the park are— something meaningful for many different people! For the geology buffs, the mountain provides ample evidence of natural forces on a grand scale. For the wildlife aficionados, the trails provide endless visual pleasures and discoveries. For the structural engineer, even the Tram itself is an amazing engineering feat!

Last weekend yet another dimension of Mt. San Jacinto was disclosed to many of us who attended the talk on the history of our region's Cahuilla Indians, their residence in the Valley, and their use of the plants and animals of Mt. San Jacinto.

I suppose that there are even more dimensions of this place, as seen through the eyes of rock climbers and boulderers, meteorologists, mountain rescue staff, and school children. Welcome everyone to Mt. San Jacinto!

## 2010 Board of Directors

Kim Clark  
President 2009-2011

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Vice President 2009-2011

Regina Landry  
Secretary 2009-2011

Russ Andersen  
Treasurer 2009-2011

Dennis Schirmer  
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Mary Wilson  
Director 2009-2011

Joe Migliore  
Director 2009-2011

State Park Liaison  
Garratt Aitchison  
Park Superintendent

Bart Grant  
Supervising Ranger

Robert Howard  
Park Interpreter

## PEAKS Available Electronically

Starting with the September 2009 issue, we converted our quarterly newsletter, PEAKS, to an electronic format. The online version is available in full color and can be saved on your computer. A traditional paper copy of PEAKS will be mailed to our members who do not have an email address.

If you received this newsletter through the mail and would like the electronic version, go to <http://peaks.msjnha.org>

## In Memoriam

The NHA has received a gracious gift in the memory of **Marc Beverly**, who especially loved the outdoors, his view of Mt. San Jacinto and time with his grandchildren. Marc will be remembered for his warmth, easy friendships, caring ways and wise sense of humor.

As someone who values our state park, NHA members should consider leaving a legacy to support the work of the NHA.

### Treasurer's Report By Russ Andersen

Our year-to-date sales in the visitor center remain strong, although the three week shut-down of the Tram was more than we had planned. Sales at the Long Valley and Idyllwild ranger stations have been less than budgeted this year. Membership revenue is also below budget. Members need to make sure they have sent in their renewal for the 2010-2011 year. You can use the form on page 4 of this issue to send in your dues.

Overall, for the 10 months ended October 31, 2010 we have an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$10,633. We have expended \$18,610 on interpretive projects and to support the state park. The chart at the rights shows the projects we have funded so far this year.

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

Salary for Interpretive Specialist	\$ 6,840
Work Shed in Idyllwild	4,831
Long Valley bridge and trail	1,500
Remodel of museum	1,043
Remodel of Idyllwild V.C.	965
Interpretive cart	557
Internet access for Ranger Station	270
Family days expenses	507
Junior Ranger Program	929
Display board for Ranger Station	555
Other projects	<u>613</u>
Total through October 31, 2010	<u>\$ 18,610</u>



## Cahuilla History and Lore

On Saturday morning, November 13, thirty or so Park Volunteers and NHA members crowded into the Culver Nichols Room at the Mountain Station to attend a presentation by Tribal Park Ranger Rocky Toyama. A Native American of mixed Hawaiian descent, Rocky shared an immense amount of local history and information regarding the first Indians to move east from the Riverside and Moreno Valley areas into the mountain and valley region surrounding Mt. San Jacinto. (NOTE: Rocky explained that the term "Indian" is quite acceptable to the indigenous people of this region.)

Nine bands of Indians settled in canyons surrounding the base of Mt. San Jacinto, also establishing a large central settlement in what is current day Palm Springs (formerly Agua Caliente). Daily life included fishing the mountain streams, hunting antelope and deer, and gathering or raising native plants. Evidence of trading with other tribes is found in the jewelry and clay pots from many miles to the east and west.

For further information, purchase the book **The Heart Is Fire** by Deborah Dozier in our Visitor Center (\$17.25 less your NHA discount).





is the quarterly newsletter of the Mt. San Jacinto Natural History Association. It is sent free of charge to members and other interested parties.

Newsletter Editor:  
Kim Clark

Email:  
postmaster@msjnha.org

We're on the Web  
[www.msjnha.org](http://www.msjnha.org)

## NHA Annual Fall Picnic in Idyllwild a Success!

On Saturday, September 18, 2010, approximately thirty NHA members and guests assembled at the Mt. San Jacinto State Park Headquarters in Idyllwild for NHA's annual membership meeting and picnic.

Under clear blue skies, with a cool light breeze, NHA President Kim Clark convened this annual meeting as required by our by-laws. He introduced officers and board members, and our State Park representatives. Treasurer Russ Andersen also presented a summary of the NHA's 2010 finances, and Ranger Bart presented an informative overview of State Park progress and projects funded by the Natural History Association.

Immediately following the annual meeting, state park staff grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone. NHA members feasted on potluck items that included salads, side dishes, breads, and desserts.

Since many of our NHA activities are held on the eastern side of the mountain, the officers were not sure whether this annual meeting and picnic would be well-attended. By the number and enthusiasm of the attendees --many of whom car-pooled from the Coachella Valley --it looks like Idyllwild is a sure bet for future annual meetings.

## 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 bank at the VC)

### Dues Schedule

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

## Some Winners of the First Annual NHA Photo Contest



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### Tribal Park Ranger Rocky Toyama speaks at Volunteer Training on Nov 13th



## Annual NHA Picnic in Idyllwild on September 18th

