

MT. SAN JACINTO  
NATURAL HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION

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



Upcoming Events

- Junior Ranger Family Day at the Mountain Station 11am-2pm July 2nd.
- Lemon Lily Festival in Idyllwild, July 16th-17th.
- NHA Fall Picnic and Annual General Meeting, Idyllwild campground, 12-4pm, September 17th.
- Volunteer Training and Recognition Luncheon, Mountain Station, 10am-2pm October 1st.
- Holiday Dinner at the Mountain Station in Early December (TBA)

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Issue 31, Number 2

June 2011

June is the Month to Renew Your NHA Membership !

**Time to Renew your Membership.** All NHA memberships expire on June 30th of each year. Please be sure to renew your membership as soon as possible so you won't miss out on the many activities and benefits of being a member of the Mt. San Jacinto Natural History Association.

You can find a membership renew form on the last page of PEAKS, in the Visitor Center, or use the online form at: <http://www.msjnha.org/application.html>

You can mail your check and renewal form to our

PO box at: 255 N. El Cielo Rd. Ste. 140 #141, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Or if you are working at the Visitor Center you can drop it in the safe in the Mountain Station.

**Your support shows that you care about our local state park!** Membership in our local Natural History Association contributes to the quality of life for all Coachella Valley and Southern California residents! As the State budget continues to tighten, it is the generosity and ongoing commitment of members like you that provides valuable financial support for State Park supplies, summer

staff, and physical improvements. These contribute to the uniqueness and attractiveness of our local mountains as a special recreational refuge from the bustle of the surrounding cities. And as schools find it increasingly difficult to fund out-of-valley field trips, Mt. San Jacinto State Park is an affordable local outdoor education experience.

On a practical note, don't forget that your membership in the NHA also affords you discounts on tram tickets and in the NHA visitor center!

**NHA FALL PICNIC SEPTEMBER 17, 2011**  
**12:00pm-4:00pm at the State Park Headquarters in Idyllwild**

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 tour** of recent HQ and campground improvements. Suggested potluck items: Desserts (A-J), Salads (K-R) and Side Dishes (S-Z). Drinks will be provided.

The Mt San Jacinto State Park Headquarters is located on Highway 243 just north of the Idyllwild town center, on the west side of the road.

## President's Message by Kim Clark



***It's Worth Repeating! Following is a recap of my letter to our members dated March 2011.***

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.

**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.**

### 2011 Board of Directors

Kim Clark  
President 2009-2011

Kurt Leuschner  
Vice President 2009-2011

Regina Landry  
Secretary 2009-2011

Russ Andersen  
Treasurer 2009-2011

Dennis Schirmer  
Director 2009-2011

Iona Scapple  
Director 2010-2012

Marsha Hansen  
Director 2010-2012

Mary Wilson  
Director 2010-2012

Joe Migliore  
Director 2010-2012

State Park Liaison  
Garratt Aitcheson  
Park Superintendent

Bart Grant  
Supervising Ranger

Robert Howard  
Park Interpreter

## PEAKS Available Electronically

Over a year ago, we converted our quarterly newsletter, PEAKS, to an electronic format. For those members with computers, PEAKS is now available online. 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>

## Sky Calendar

For the avid star-watchers among us, NHA member and volunteer Robert Victor reminds us all to access the **sky calendar** at: [www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/SkyCalendar](http://www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/SkyCalendar)

The Abrams Planetarium *Sky Calendar* promotes sky-watching for people of all ages. Diagrams in the calendar invite the reader to track the moon's rapid motion past the planets and bright stars of the zodiac, as well as to follow the more leisurely pace of the planets in their gatherings with bright stars and other planets.

### Treasurer's Report By Russ Andersen

For the first five months of 2011, sales at the Visitor Center in the mountain station were \$33,446. This is down about 10% from the prior year. The good news is gross profit from sales increased by 46% over last year to \$18,329. Donations this year are over budget thanks to a generous grant of \$3,000 which was used to purchase badly needed equipment for the PSAR program in Long Valley. The NHA also contributed funds for this purpose.

Revenue from membership dues are below budget as of May 31st. But, June is membership renewal month and anyone who has not sent in their dues should renew now. (See story on page 1).

Management and general expenses are below budgeted amounts. Therefore, as of May 31st

we have raised \$16,672 to be used for interpretive programs and the Mt. San Jacinto State Park. During the first five months we spent \$14,103 on these programs and the park.

If you would like to see the complete financial report, there is a copy posted in the Visitor Center along with the NHA Board Meeting minutes.

I would also like to encourage anyone who is interested in serving the NHA as the next treasurer to contact me. I will be leaving the board in 6 months and so there will be a need for a treasurer. I would be happy to explain the responsibilities and duties to anyone who is interested. You can contact me at [postmaster@msjnha.org](mailto:postmaster@msjnha.org)



## NHA Launches Strategic Planning Initiative

**At the June Meeting of NHA Board Members** it was decided to initiate a multi-month strategic planning process that is intended to guide the efforts and activities of the Mt. San Jacinto Natural History Association during the coming years.

Impetus for the effort was provided by NHA Board Member Joe Migliore who recently returned from the California State Parks' Cooperating Associations Conference in Asilomar, California. Joe reported that there are a great variety of cooperating associations, with some much more active and successful than others. According to Joe, a good example of a successful cooperating association can be found in the Point Lobos Foundation ([www.pointlobos.org](http://www.pointlobos.org)).

Successful associations demonstrate commitment to a strategic plan which clearly delineates the mission, vision, goals and objectives of the association for three-to-five years. Per our preliminary NHA Board discussion, goals and objectives for our NHA may lie in the following areas: support for state park needs, educational outreach, membership, and fundraising. NHA Board members Joe Migliore, Dennis Schirmer and Kim Clark have been charged with drafting the strategic plan during the next few months, to be shared at our **Annual NHA Membership Meeting and Picnic in Idyllwild on September 17th**. Member input and participation is welcomed. Please contact NHA Pres. Kim Clark at [kim.clark10@verizon.net](mailto:kim.clark10@verizon.net).





A view of Mt. San Jacinto from the Whitewater Preserve area.

## NHA Spring Picnic Held in Scenic Whitewater Preserve

Several dozen NHA members, State Park Visitor Center volunteers, and their guests gathered on April 3rd for the NHA Spring Picnic. Old and new friends shared food and swapped stories under sunny skies with a blowing breeze.

The Spring Picnic is one of two potluck picnics sponsored each year by the Mt. San Jacinto Natural History Association. Our Fall 2011 picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 17th at Park Headquarters in Idyllwild (see cover story).



Clockwise from top: Rangers Sue Neary and Bart Grant, NHA Officers Regina Landry and Russ Andersen; Alan and Martha Remillard; Jan Welch; Jeff Schulke, Sharon Mattern, Vicky Schulke, Sandy Jones.

## A Bit of Tree Wisdom

- It's important to have roots.
- In today's complex world, it pays to branch out.
- Don't pine away over old flames.
- If you really believe in something, don't be afraid to go out on a limb.
- Be flexible, so you don't break when a harsh wind blows.
- If you need to maintain accurate records, keep a log.
- Grow where you are planted.
- It's perfectly okay to be a late bloomer.
- Avoid people who like to cut you down.
- Get all spruced up when you have a hot date.
- If the party is boring, just leaf.
- To be politically correct, don't wear firs.
- It's more important to be honest than poplar.



- As you approach the autumn of your life, your true colors will become evident.

—*Author Unknown*

## UPDATE: WHICH INLAND PARKS WILL BE SPARED?

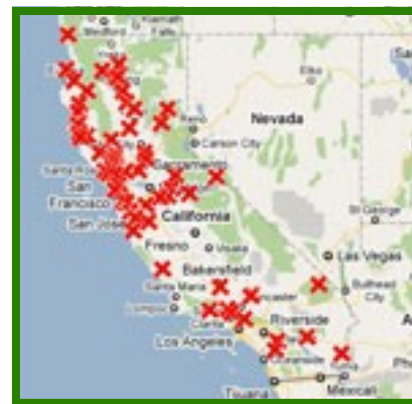
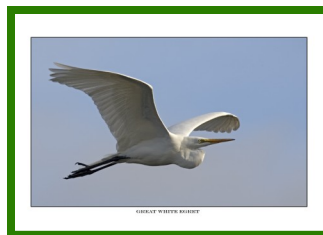
**Seventy parks are slated for closure.** On May 13th, the Department of Parks and Recreation released their proposed list of park closures due to a \$22 million general fund budget cut. Although closure lists have been released in the past in response to previous budget cut proposals, this is the first time in the 100 year history of California's state park system that state park closures will be implemented. This unprecedented plan will close the doors to 25% of California's state park system and will impact all regions of our state.

Park closures will have very real impacts on the people of California, the resources our parks protect, and our economy. So far, Mt. San Jacinto State Park has been spared. However, the list of closures includes our local **Salton Sea State Recreation Area**.



Visit the California Parks Foundation interactive map of park closures at <http://my.calparks.org>

This list may grow, depending on the budget revisions, so check back often!



Source: California State Parks Foundation, 2011



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**MT SAN JACINTO NHA**  
255 N. El Cielo Rd. Suite 140, #141  
Palm Springs, CA 92262-6974

**New Membership Application or Renewal Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

- Dues Schedule**
- Senior \$15
  - Student \$15
  - Individual \$20
  - Family \$25
  - Supporting \$30
  - Life \$150
  - 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.**

**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)