



The General Meeting is at Tomboyz Café 214 Arenas Rd. Palm Springs 322-9915. The meeting is the first Tuesday of the month, 2 December, from 7:30-8:00 PM for social hour, and members' meeting from 8:00-9:00 PM.

**10% discount to members at the Café.
The Core Group meets from 6:30-7:30 PM.**

The Oasis

www.greatoutdoors.org/ps

Volume 4, Issue 15

December 2003

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

WARREN M. M.C. MCMILLAN

B.W. MCCLEAN CHUCK C.

DROR K. SCOTT M.

Special thanks to **Jonathan Sharpe** for designing the new database which now gives you your expiration date on your newsletter mailing label.

GREAT OUTDOORS HOLIDAY PARTY

This year's event is a **potluck** affair. Members and guests are requested to bring their favorite hors d'oeuvres, chips, dips, main entrees, side dishes, salads or dessert. The Great Outdoors will provide plates, napkins, cups, cutlery, water, soft drinks and ice. People may **bring their own beverages if they wish**. This is a free event for Great Outdoors Palm Springs members. **Guests** are invited, but need to make a **\$10.00** donation. In order to plan the right amount of soft drinks, etc., please **RSVP no later than December 7th, to Jim and Gene at (760) 328-4812**. We will have a "**white elephant**" gift exchange (please limit items to under \$10). Those who bring a wrapped gift will then be allowed to get a gift. We will also have a **raffle** for various items donated by Dan & Danny and Craig. Raffle tickets will be \$1.00 each.

Time: 6:00-9:00 PM **Date:** December 11, 2003

Place: Clubhouse at Date Palm Country Club. **Address:** 36200 Date Palm Drive, Cathedral City, CA 92234-1506

Directions: From Highway 111 going south from Palm Springs, turn LEFT at Date Palm Drive, cross over the bridge (over the wash), turn RIGHT into Date Palm Country Club. The entrance is between Perez Road and Gerald Ford. If you reach Gerald Ford (signal), you've gone too far. Go through the gate and follow Via Estrada (the road straight ahead). You will parallel the wash which is to your right. You will come to a stop sign. Stop and continue forward. About 30 more yards and you will see the restaurant "Club Cafe" on your left.

The clubhouse is just to the right of the Club Cafe. Park anywhere in the parking spaces around the clubhouse and restaurant. .

Notes: Due to entrance gate rules, no one will be allowed into the complex after 7:00 PM so please do not arrive after 6:30 PM.

Thanks to all of those who volunteered to work on the Pride Float and those who volunteered for the Pride Booth on November 1 and 2, 2003.

President Tim.

Pictures of this year's Pride Float and Festival can be seen on our Great Outdoors web site.



**All hikes meet at Tomboyz Café on Arenas Rd.
Bring plenty of water and a snack/lunch.**

Murry Canyon, Sunday, 14 December. 9 AM

This hike begins in the Andreas Canyon sections of the Indian Canyons. The trail follows a meandering stream past desert willow, cacti, cottonwood and California fan palms. It ends at a series of pools and waterfalls.

Length: 6 miles
Hiking Time: 4 hours
Elevation Gain: 500 ft.
Difficulty: Moderate
Return at 2:00 PM.

Trip Leader: Dwayne Hannon at 416-2312.

NOTE: Since this hike is within the Indian Canyons, there is a \$6.00 per person entrance fee.

Blind Canyon Trail, Saturday, 20 December 9 AM

There are numerous washes and trails, all of which are worth exploring. Although the various canyons do not have a water source, it is fun to climb the dry waterfalls.

Length: 6 miles
Hiking Time: 4 hours
Elevation Gain: 800 ft.
Difficulty: Moderate

Trip Leader: Craig Courtright at 318-8957

Garsten Trail, Tuesday, 23 December at 9 AM

The hike begins in the Andreas Estate area. The trail ascends via a series of switchbacks ultimately reaching an elevation of about 1300 feet. The trail joins the Shannon and Henderson trails and eventually loops back into the Garsten trail. The hike offers wonderful views of Palm Springs, Palm Canyon and the Canyon Country Club.

Length: 4 miles
Hiking Time: 3 hours
Elevation Gain: 1000 feet
Difficulty: Moderate

Trip Leader: Tim Carey at 416-3102

**BOWLING
MON. 29 DECEMBER FROM 2:00-4:00
PM.
Contact Doug Quigley at 202-4936**

Vanderventner Trail Saturday, 27 December at 9 AM

This hike is located in the Indian Canyons. The trail follows the stream at the bottom of Palm Canyon for about one mile before ascending a ridge that affords magnificent views of the San Jacinto mountain range. The trail meanders through cholla cacti fields before descending into the lush Fern Canyon area.

Length: 4.5 miles
Hiking time: 3 hours
Elevation gain: 900 ft.
Difficulty: Easy/moderate

Note: There is a \$6.00 per person admission fee into the Indian Canyons.

Trip Leader: Ed Emond at 202-7413



The Sierra Club's local chapter, Tahquitz Group, has invited Philip Ferranti to speak at its next meeting on December 9 at 7PM. Mr. Ferranti has recently written "120 Great Hikes in and near Palm Springs," an updated version of his earlier book. Members of the Great Outdoors are invited to attend. The meeting will be held at

the Cathedral City Senior Center, 68-727 E. Palm Canyon, just across from the Mary Pickford Theatre.

THE FOLLIES ARE COMING !!!



The Great Outdoors is heading indoors to see the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies. Choose either an evening performance on Friday, April 23 or Friday, May 21 with discounted tickets for only \$40.00. Please RSVP your choice by December 10 to Monte Willcoxon indicating the **number** of tickets and **your preferred date : April or May**. The most popular date will be the performance chosen. Further details to be announced in the January newsletter. To RSVP or if you have questions, call **Monte Willcoxon at 416-1530 by December 10.**



Pride Float 2003



Pride Booth 2003

The Oasis

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING E-MAIL

At the 11/4/03 CORE group meeting, the CORE group discussed the use of our current Yahoo group email list. Approximately 30 members out of 160 have signed up for the list. When the list was initially set up, it was offered as a voluntary option for all members. It was to be used by members and CORE group officers to send emails to each other. In addition to automated event reminder notices, the list was being provided as a means for members to contact other GOPS member via a single email address. For example, if someone wanted to do an unofficial hike, camp trip, take in a movie, etc., they could email the membership and say "I'm going to such-and-such a place and would like to hear from any others interested in going along."

Newly elected President Tim Carey feels not enough people have signed up for the list. The CORE group discussed the pros and cons of adding the entire membership into the Yahoo group email list vs. also keeping a separate email list for all members for official announcements (e.g., the recent newsletter corrections). After much discussion, the CORE group decided that all members who have an email address on file with the Club will be added to the Yahoo group after the publication of this newsletter. The Yahoo list will then become the official email list for the Great Outdoors Palm Springs Chapter.

The CORE group would like members to try the list out and see if they like it. After being added, any member can automatically remove themselves from the list by sending an email to: GOPS-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com - you can leave the subject line blank and no text is necessary in the body of the email message. Be sure to send it from the same email address that you have on file with Great Outdoors.

Members have the following four email options once they are signed up:

- **Individual emails** - you will receive a separate copy of each email sent into the group .
- **Daily digest** - instead of receiving several emails each day, the system will send you only one (1) email per day and that email will contain copies of each mail sent that day.
- **Special notices** - this option will suppress all general emails. You will receive only those emails designated as "special" - these emails will be limited to those sent out by CORE group members only as official announcements.
- **No email** - you can remain on the list, but you will never receive any emails. This option is generally used by people who wish to read emails on the Yahoo web site or people who simply do not want emails.

Please note that you do not have to be a Yahoo member in order to belong or use the group email list. All members added to the list will be set to the "individual emails" option to start with. If you are not a Yahoo member and wish to change to another option or have any questions, please contact Ed Emond (our Yahoo group coordinator) via email at ed@dc.rr.com or by telephone: (760) 202-7413.



HOLIDAY WALK

There will be no moonlight hike for December. Instead, we will do the Panorama Loop in Cathedral City as we did last year. It will be on December 14. We will meet at the Starbucks at Date Palm and Ramon at 5:00 PM.

From there we will carpool a very short distance on Date Palm. Suggestions for coffee and dessert afterwards will be entertained. Dress warmly according to the weather.

Palm Springs Chapter—December Events

December

2	General Meeting	8:00-9:00 PM
11	Holiday Party	6:00-9:00 PM
14	Holiday Walk	5:PM
14	Murry Canyon	9 :AM
20	Blind Canyon Trail	9:AM
23	Garsten Trail	9:AM
27	Vanderventner Trail	9:AM
29	Bowling	2:00-4:00PM

California Great Outdoors Palm Springs Chapter Fiscal 2002-2003 Report

Starting Bank Balance \$2,622.79

Income

Dues	\$3,210.00
Outings	\$2,607.56
Fundraising	\$ 604.00
Merchandise	\$ 4.00
Donations	\$ 80.00
Total Income	\$6,505.56

Expenses

Supplies	\$ 26.52
Postage	\$ 731.50
PO Box	\$ 48.00
Printing	\$ 582.23
Outing Fees	\$1,816.30
Other Outing Expenses	\$ 388.77
Bank Charges	\$ 48.45
Corporate Dues	\$ 615.00
Advertising Expenses	\$ 41.54
Other Expenses	\$ 513.57
Total Expenses	\$4,811.88

Ending Bank Balance \$4,316.47



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THANK YOU, GREAT OUTDOORS
FOR HELPING SO MANY PEOPLE
ENJOY OUR BEAUTIFUL VALLEY

Martin Blecha, Realtor
760-774-5620

Palms Springs Core Group

<http://www.greatoutdoors.org/ps>

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Great Outdoors Palm Springs
PO BOX 361
Palm Springs, CA 92263
December 2003
Address Correction Requested

*Great Outdoors rounds great!
How do I join?*

Simply fill out this form and send it in.

- Yes. I want to join Great Outdoors. Please enter my membership in the category checked below.
- I am not ready to join Great Outdoors but would like additional information.
- Renewal

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- \$25 Regular
- \$20 Senior (60 years or older)
- \$45 Couple (**\$40 2 Seniors**)
- Do you want to be on Yahoo groups?

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

By joining Great Outdoors and/or attending the club's events, I acknowledge that in order for Great Outdoors to assume full legal responsibility it would have to charge higher fees than it does now. I waive the right to ever lay claim for injuries I might suffer before, during or after any Great Outdoors event. My guests will agree to these principles in writing before attending events.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send this form and check made payable to:

GREAT OUTDOORS
P.O. Box 361
Palm Springs CA 92263

QUESTIONS? Write us at Gpsgocraig@aol.com