



The Oasis

www.greatoutdoors.org/ps

Volume 5, Issue 10

October 2004

Joe Aguanno of the Palm Springs Search and Rescue spoke at the general meeting of the Great Outdoors Palm Springs Chapter.

For those of us who hike, Joe offers these great suggestions to keep us safe:

1. Do not hike alone.
2. Carry a cell phone.
3. Program the cell phone with the Search and Rescue number. If hiking in the Palm Springs Jurisdiction, call 323-8115.
4. Carry plenty of water.
5. Tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.
6. Carry your water frozen in plastic bottles to use if bitten by a rattlesnake. (This will slow the flow of blood until you can get to a doctor.)



President's Message

Our elective officers for this coming year are: myself, President, Doug Quigley, Vice-President of Outings, and Craig Courtright, Treasurer. Chris Waasdorp has been reappointed Secretary. The Core Group guides this great organization in Palm Springs and is composed of the above officers and the Newsletter Editor, Corporate Board Representative, Membership Coordinator, Bill Bulger and Game Night Coordinator, Rick Opler.

I have approached Darlene Bjork to represent us at Corporate. The club needs a new Newsletter Designer/Publisher/Editor. The newsletter editors are the most volunteer time-consuming of the positions in this organization. They are the most important too, for the newsletter is our link between members, our most important communication tool and most important public contact instrument. Thanks, Richard and Patrick.

I also want to thank Gene Roggenbuck for his coordinating Game Nights for as long as I can remember. Uno's to you Gene.

Finally, but not last nor least, Roger Gray gets the biggest thanks! Roger has been our Treasurer since the club started over five years ago. Roger has also served as Corporate Board Treasurer too. Through his dedicated volunteer time, our club's financial records are so clear and organized, our tax papers are so accurate and up to date, our club is the poster child for that catchy term "transparency." I will miss Roger. Our club owes Roger a big, big thank you.

See you on a hike.

Tim Carey, el presidente

JAMES CORNETT

Featured Speaker, Nov. 9, 2004 (second Tuesday of month) James Cornett, Desert Biologist for the Desert Sun, will speak at our November meeting which is scheduled for November 9, 2004. His topic will be "Wonders of the Coachella Valley."

SIERRA CLUB Meeting October 12, 2004 7:00PM
The Sierra Club's local chapter, **Tahquitz Group**, is presenting a discussion of the Mountain Preservation Initiative on **Tuesday, October 12, 2004** at the **Cathedral City Senior Center, 68727 E. Palm Canyon Drive (across from the Mary Pickford Theater)**. The initiative is in response to the proposed hillside development (particularly the area just below Murray Peak.) The meeting is set for 7:00 PM. Members of the Great Outdoors are invited to attend.

NEW MEMBERS

William Cooksley **Frank Lowrie**
Gerald I. Hardee **Thomas Riggs**
Jack R. Larson **Chris Teseo**
Ehrick Wright



The General Meeting is at the Desert Pride Center. Palm Springs 327-2313. The meeting is the **first Tuesday of the month, October 5** from 7:30-8:00 PM for social hour, and members' meeting from 8:00-9:00 PM. **The Core Group meets from 6:30-7:30 PM** If you wish to bring snacks etc, you may do so. The **Center's** address is 611 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Unit A. **Palm Springs, CA.**



Most hikes meet at Tomboyz Café on Arenas Rd. unless otherwise specified. Bring plenty of water and a snack

Hikers are advised to refrain from smoking on outings during this season of high fire danger.

Non-Members

We will add you to our newsletter mailing list free of charge for 3 months. Please note, however, a two dollar fee will be charged on day hikes, 4x4 outings, and moonlight hikes effective October 1, 2004.

Top of the Tram Walkabout, Sunday, Oct. 3 at 11:00 AM

If you have never taken a ride on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway for a hike in the pristine wilderness of the San Jacinto Mountains because of an illusion that the hiking there is too difficult, then, this is the hike for you. We are titling this a “walkabout”. We will walk the Desert View Trail to the lookout over the valley below, a 1.5 mile trail. Then, we walk the nature trail to the ski center, a mere 0.6 mile trail. We will reprise to the upper tramway terminal for a libation. Easy and breath-taking at the same time.

Length: 2.5 miles
 Hiking Time: 2 hours
 Elevation Gain: 100 feet
 Difficulty: Easy
 Return: 3:00 PM

Hike Leader: Tim Carey at 760-416-3102

Note: \$20.00 Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Fare. Bring snacks and water.

Barker Dam/Wall Street Mill, Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 9:00 AM

This outing combines two terrific trails within the Wonderland of Rocks area of the Joshua Tree National Park. The trail to Barker Dam goes past spectacular rock formations, Indian grinding holes and petroglyphs. After completing the Barker Dam Loop we will hike the adjacent Wall Street Mill Loop, an area of mining activity from the 1930’s

Length: 3 miles
 Hiking Time: 3.5 hours
 Elevation Gain: 50 feet
 Difficulty: Easy
 Return: 3:00 PM

Hike Leader: Doug Quigley at 760-202-4936

Note: There is a \$10 per vehicle admission charge into Joshua Tree National Park.

Oak Glen, Yucaipa. Sunday, Oct. 17 at 9:00 AM

At an altitude of 5,024 ft we will hike the Wildlands Conservancy’s trail. This trail meanders through an evergreen forest, past several ponds that have migration ducks in winter, and under a canopy of deciduous black oak forest that opens onto a south-facing chaparral hillside. The return trail follows a willow-shaded stream onto a boardwalk that is replete with butterflies in season. We then walk to the Del Rios Ranch where we can have lunch—apple pie, crisps, cider, sandwiches, etc. Dogs allowed on leashes. We will also pick our apple tree for the year of 2004-2005. See side article in newsletter.

Length: 2 miles
 Hiking Time; 1.5 hours
 Elevation Gain: 200 feet
 Difficulty: Easy
 Travel Mileage: 38 miles; 54 minutes est.

Hike Leader: Craig Courtright 760-318-8957. Please wear hiking boots and warm clothing if weather is cool.

Pushawalla, Saturday, Oct. 23 at 9:00 AM

This hike is located in the Coachella Valley Preserve, a lush concentration of California Fan Palms. The trail follows the San Andreas Fault before descending into a canyon and palm oasis. The trail leads up and out of the oasis onto a plateau before descending into a sandy wash.

Length: 4 miles
 Elevation Gain: 300 ft.
 Hiking Time; 3 hours
 Difficulty: Easy
 Return at : 1:00 PM

Hike Leader Doug Quigley at 760-202-4936

MOONLIGHT HIKE OR EVENING HIKE: SATURDAY, OCT. 30 6:30 PM (See page 4)

4,000 Ft Elevation Marker Cactus to Clouds Trail Sun. Oct 31 8:00AM

Straight up the side of the mountain! At the Palm Springs Desert Museum. The goal is the 4,000 ft. marker of stones in the ground on the famous Cactus to Clouds Trail starting in our back yard. You will pass all the warning sides to traverse no farther if you do not have the 10 essentials of hiking with you. There will be a test on this. Come out for the workout. Experience the descent too. Two liters of water minimum. Food, Cell phone. Comfortable hiking shoes. Adventurous spirit.

Length: 8 miles
 Hiking Time: 6 hours
 Elevation Gain: 4,000 ft.
 Difficulty: Strenuous

Hike Leader: Tim Carey at 760-416-3102

Note: Start in the North Parking lot of the Palm Springs Desert Museum.

4x4 News



4x4 TRIP - RED CANYON TRAIL

Notice: Effective October 1, 2004, a two dollar fee (\$2) will be charged for all non members on day hikes, 4x4 outings and moonlight hikes.

Description: Join the Great Outdoors for our Chapter's fifth 4x4 (4 wheel drive) off road adventure this year. We will drive down I-10 to the Chiriaco Summit exit and then start on the Red Canyon Trail. The trail is easy and contains no boulders or lots of loose rock to traverse like in some previous trips. The trail initially goes through the Maniobra Valley and then follows the ridge of the canyon through the Orocopia Mountains Wilderness as it moves towards and ends at the Salt Creek Wash. At the end of the trail we will turn left and follow part of the Bradshaw Trail until it connects with the Summit Road Trail back to I-10.

If you have the book "Backcountry Adventures: Southern California" (2002 edition), this is trail # 44. The Red Canyon Trail itself is listed as 13.8 miles, 2 hours driving time and a difficulty rating of 4. We'll drive another 15 or so miles to get back to the I-10 freeway once we exit the Red Canyon Trail.

Rear passenger seats in Jeep Wrangler's have a small amount of leg room, but worth the trip if you've never been off - roading. Passengers who call the contact (listed below) will be accommodated on a first come, first served basis. It all depends upon how many 4x4 vehicles sign up.

We will only assign 3 people to the smaller jeep vehicles. This will leave room for carrying backpacks and supplies in the rear of the smaller vehicles. Also, in case a vehicle has to drop out at the last minute (which has happened), the extra space will prevent someone from being turned away on the day of the event.

Meeting Information

Length: Approx 26 miles
Date: Sat, October 2, 2004
Time: 9 AM / **Return:** Approx. 3-4 PM
Place: Arranged By Phone/Email
Contact: Ed Emond at (760) 202-7413
ED@dc.rr.com

Trip Notes

Driving Time: 3-4 hours on trail
Elevation Range: 1,300-2,500
Difficulty: Easy
Note: Bring water, lunch and snacks

Note: **Drivers Wanted/Passengers Welcome**

CALIFORNIA GREAT OUTDOORS INC. PRESENTS

FOUR WHEELING - ANZA BORREGO

WINTER JAMBOREE 2005 JAN 13-17, 2005

Look for information in up-coming issues of The Oasis

Contact: Mark Legassie at mark@legassie.com or 323-822-3046





MOONLIGHT HIKE

Saturday, October 30, 6:30 PM

Hike the south end of the North Lykken Trail to the engraved marker. Easy and slow because of the twilight. See the twinkle of Palm Springs lights below. We will meet in the back parking lot of Starbucks, South Palm Canyon and Sunny Dunes for better parking ease.

Length: 2 miles
Hiking Time: 1:5 hours
Elevation Gain: 200 feet
Difficulty: Easy
Return: 8:00 PM
Hike Leader: Tim Carey
760-416-3102
Note: Bring flashlight

Game Night—Monday Oct. 11, 2004

Hosted by the fabulous Robin Ptacek, 328-9888

6:15 to 9:00 pm

Swimming available—bring suit and towel
Potluck at 6:30 pm - bring something to share

Games 7:00 to 9:00 pm

At: the Palm Springs View Estates club house in S.E. Palm Springs Golf Club Drive (east of Gene Autry) to Bolero (2 blocks north of 111) East on Bolero to guard house at end. Further east to end and club house appears.

WHAT'S GAME NIGHT?

Dear new members,
Always a fun time, game night is a casual G.O. monthly event for socializing and playing a game. It usually starts at 6:30 and ends at 9:00 or so (in time to go home to bed or hit the bars). Sometimes (always noted in the newsletter) swimming is included and it will start earlier. It is hosted by various members at various locations. A POTLUCK is included so please bring something to share, however modest and your beverage (sometimes it ends up being hors d'oeuvres, and those horrible peanut butter crackers from Joe, other times you can make a complete dinner out of it.)

Usually there are between 10 and 18 people in attendance, though it could be 7 or 26. There is usually one table of cards (Uno, spades or other), and another table or couch group playing a word game (Taboo, charades, Wise & otherwise, Trivial Pursuit, or such). Sometimes a third group is formed. Emphasis is on fun and laughter, not winning (the card group usually complains the word group is too loud, but we tell them to take their hearing aids out). Once a serious Scrabble game occurred—and I lost.

There is no elevation gain and it's "easy". It's also more fun than Monday night TV (until they take off the helmets and pads.) BRING ANY GAME YOU MIGHT WANT TO SUGGEST.

Thanks,
Rick Opler 325-8666

P.S. —WANT TO HOST GAME NIGHT? Thanks, we could use your help. All you need is an apartment, house, or club house capable of seating 15-20 somewhere. (word game people can sit on the floor.) Hosts get the paper plates and cups delivered from the club, and there is never any damage. Plus hosts are excused from the potluck contribution (though a few cook types have made a main course for the hell of it.) Hosting is fun, and everyone then knows your name, number and address, and you know their waist sizes!

Palm Springs Chapter October Events

2	Red Canyon 4x4 Trip	9:AM-4:00 PM
3	Top of Tram Walkabout	11:00 PM
5	General Meeting	8-9:00 PM
6	Barker Dam/Wall Street Mill	9:00 AM
8-10	GO Annual Conference (Fri-Sun)	
11	Game Night	6:15-9:00 PM
17	Oak Glen	9:00 AM
23	Pushawalla	9:00 AM
30	Moonlight Hike	6:30 PM
31	Cactus to 4,000 ft Level	8:00 AM

Palms Springs Core Group

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

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ED@dc.rr.com



Photos above and left: Pozabilities joins GOPs for a hike in The Big Morongo Canyon Preserve.



	<p>GO/PS TO ADOPT AN APPLE TREE</p>	
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BOWLING:
NO BOWLING FOR OCTOBER

Event location: Palm Springs Lanes.
Ramon-Landau Streets, Cathedral City.
Notes: \$8.00 per person, senior (55+)
Discount of \$2.50 per game.
Contact Doug Quigley at 202-4936

Great Outdoors Palm Springs is proud to announce that we will be participating in **The Wildlands Conservancy** "Save an Apple Tree—Preserve a Rural Heritage". Under the "Adopt a Tree" program we will be adopting an apple tree from January through December 2005, which entitles us to exclusive rights to the apples on the tree. The tree will have our name on a stake next to it. Members can visit the tree weekends between 9AM to 4:30PM. TWC will send us a post card to notify us when the apple tree is in bloom in the spring, and to let us know when our apples are ready to pick in the fall. We will be having two hikes a year to our tree and the surrounding trails.

The mission of **The Wildlands Conservancy** places a strong emphasis on preserving history, providing passive outdoor recreation, including family traditions such as apple picking and the Oak Glen harvest experience. Because of this mission, TWC acquired historic Los Rios Rancho to preserve the property and the surrounding forest wild lands at a time when the ranch was being sold for residential subdivision. For more info go to their website. **www.wildlandsconservancy.org**

Please join us on our scheduled hike Sunday October 17. We will pick out our tree, hike the trails, and have lunch at the historic Los Rios Rancho store where you can purchase everything apple and other neat items including sandwiches and drinks.



TARBELL, REALTORS
PALM SPRINGS PALM DESERT LA QUINTA DHS CC
THANK YOU, GREAT OUTDOORS
FOR HELPING SO MANY PEOPLE
ENJOY OUR BEAUTIFUL VALLEY
Martin Blecha, Realtor
760-774-5620



Great Outdoors Palm Springs
 PO BOX 361
 Palm Springs, CA 92263
 October 2004
 Address Correction Requested



Great Outdoors wants you!

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**)

I do/do not want my name/address on the roster to be shared with members of group. (**Circle** the appropriate answer.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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: Billbulger@aol.com

Phone: 760-202-0457