



Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

Mule Pack Section



Spring 2008

Annual Newsletter



Why Mule Packs?

Mule Packs are great opportunities not just for people who love to backpack and appreciate being free of weight and more comfortable at the campsite, but for couples who enjoy the outdoors, one of whom does not backpack, peak baggers (especially those who want to pick up some Sierra peaks), photographers, fishers, artists, readers, relaxers, folks who are past their trekking prime and those who are in their prime, and people who enjoy the wilderness in relative comfort.

This Year's Trips

Mule packs have become very popular and, as John notes in his column, we don't have enough leaders to meet the demand. We know the six trips we have scheduled for this summer, while diverse and attractive, are not enough for all of you who want to go. This means you must sign up early and, if you're a leader and love mule-packing, please volunteer next year.

We start the summer as usual with a shorter trip to Hetch Hetchy in the Yosemite area in June. The area has spectacular scenery and many opportunities for relatively easy hikes. Next up in July is Humphrey's Basin at a higher elevation with

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From the Chair

Some of our members may not be aware that the MPS trips for the following summer are announced on our website in mid-November. This is the culmination of a process in which the leaders start organizing trips in October, our Outings Chair submits the trip descriptions for the Schedule of Activities in early November for publication in the February and July issues. The webmaster posts the trips at www.Angeles.SierraClub.org/mps in mid-November. We start accepting participants for the trips shortly after that.

Last November we decided to spread the word with an email announcement to all members for whom we had an email address. This had the unexpected result of setting off a rush that led to some trips filling within a matter of days. In fact one trip was quickly expanded to two separate trips to the same area.

The clear message is that we need more trips to accommodate the demand and for that **we need more leaders**. All participants

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Note: All trips are accepting applications for waiting list positions as of 3/1/08.

June 20 – 23 (Friday - Monday)

O: Hetch Hetchy/Rancheria Falls: Join us for a 6.7 mi moderate hike in along the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir to Rancheria Falls base camp. Easy-paced hike in (tigers beware and be politely patient) with multiple gains and losses for an overall elevation change of 800'. On the way, we pass tall, slender Tueulala Falls and cross the base of powerful Wapama Falls spilling 1200' over a granite precipice. Base camp is at stunning Rancheria Falls, providing a little water music for an inspiringly situated trail camp. Layover day options (moderate +) include Tiltill Valley and a trek to peek at the mouth of the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne. Depart trailhead 7:30 am Friday, return to trailhead Monday afternoon. Trip cost is \$170 for SC members / \$180 non-members. To apply, send email to David Cross. Co-leader Terry Boehmer

July 20 – 25 (Sunday - Friday)

O/I: Humphrey's Basin: (11,200'). This is a fabulous opportunity for cross country hikers who love to "naturalize" as they hike. We start from North Lake outside of Bishop on Sunday morning, go over Piute Pass and drop down to Humphrey's Basin. After 2100' of gain and about 7 miles, we'll arrive at our treed campsite at the top of a waterfall next to Lower Golden Trout Lake (exact site depends on conditions). From there, we'll have four full days to hike to the nearby peaks and lakes including Muriel Peak, The Keyhole, and Mt. Goethe, and Muriel Lake, Goethe Lakes, Desolation Lake and many others. Besides hiking, participants can fish, relax, photograph or engage in artistic endeavors. In the evenings, Winnette and volunteers will organize gourmet pot lucks around food that you bring. We'll provide plenty of wine to keep us warm. While the higher elevation means we can't have campfires, mosquitoes and other pests should be minimal. We'll have Sherry Ross, Sierra Club naturalist, to help us identify wild flowers which should be abundant. You'll be able to camp in comfort and

enjoy a variety of food with up to 50 pounds of gear per person plus whatever you can carry on your back hiking in. To apply, contact reservationist Sherry Ross and provide info on your recent distance and elevation conditioning. Trip limit is 15, cost is \$240 per/person. To apply, send email to Sherry Ross. Co-leaders: Laura Joseph, Winnette Butler.

August 5 – August 11 (Sunday - Saturday)

O/I: Cottonwood Lakes: (11,100'). On Sunday we'll hike out of Horseshoe Meadow, Southwest of Lone Pine, 5 miles and 1,300' gain to the Cottonwood Lakes. Our Campsite is next to one of the five Cottonwood Lakes, in a beautiful treed meadow. There are marvelous hikes in this area ranging from strenuous to easy and including the major peaks, Langley and Cirque, as well as many lakes. There are sufficient trails for those who prefer that method of travel. Fishing is catch and release only; all activities are at your personal option. We'll have a pot luck/happy hour organized each night by Laura, with participants providing the food and the leaders providing the wine. You'll be able to camp in comfort and enjoy a variety of food with up to 50 pounds of gear per person plus whatever you can carry on your back hiking in. Trip limit is 15, cost is \$250 per/person. To apply, send email to Mary Patterson. Co-leaders: Dan Butler, Laura Joseph.



August 17 – 23 (Sunday - Saturday)

O: Fourth Recess Lake: This gorgeous lake is reached from the end of Rock Creek road (10,260') via a 7 mile hike over Mono Pass (12,060') to our campsite at Fourth Recess Lake (10,150'). The lake is at the lower end of the Recess with steep mountains on both sides. The eastern wall rises more than 2000' above the lake and a small waterfall drops 800' into the lake at the south end, providing a spectacular setting. Dayhike possibilities include Snow Lakes at the upper end of Fourth Recess, Golden Lake at the headwaters of Mono Creek, Hopkins Lake, Third Recess Lake, and lake-filled Pioneer Basin. Pioneer Basin is framed by peaks named for the railroad barons: Hopkins, Huntington, Crocker, and Stanford

– not exactly the typical image of “pioneers”. But the peaks, along with Mt Starr, offer a couple of peak-bagging opportunities to those so inclined. Or try your luck fishing along Mono Creek or just relaxing in this beautiful setting. Enjoy daily happy hours / potlucks with wine provided. Trip limit is 12, weight limit for the mules is 50 lbs, and the cost is \$270. To apply, send email to Yvonne Tsai. Co-leader John Kaiser.



O: Golden Creek: The Golden Creek campsite is located about ½ mile north (down stream) of Fourth Recess Lake just below 10,000 feet. The site shares the attributes described for Fourth Recess Lake and, due to the lower elevation, campfires are permitted. This trip will have a limit of 15 and will allow slightly over 50 pounds per person for a cost is \$278. Generous pot luck dinners will be organized nightly. To apply, send email to Laura Joseph. Co-leader Bob Hansen



August 29 – September 1 (Friday - Monday)

O: Vogelsang Lake (Tuolumne Meadows): This is our annual Labor Day weekend trip to the beautiful Tuolumne Meadows area of Yosemite National Park. We’ll hike in on Friday, up Rafferty Creek, 7 miles, 1700’ gain to our base camp in the Vogelsang Lake area. We’ll have two full days to enjoy the spectacular scenery, with views of lakes and peaks. On one of the days, we’ll hike to Merced Lake to the High Sierra Camp that is farthest from the main road. One layover day will not have a scheduled activity, although you are welcome to join in painting or sketching. Happy Hour with wine provided. We’ll hike out on Monday. Cost \$195 per person. To apply, send email to Christine Gutierrez; Co-leaders Francine Oschin, David Cross.

RESERVATION POLICY

Email or call the specified trip leader with your questions about trips. If you decide to apply, contact the specified leader with a statement of condition, experience, and altitude tolerance. On acceptance and after request from the leader, send a check, payable to the Mule Pack Section, for a non-refundable deposit of \$25 to the MPS Section Treasurer (see below). Some leaders may request that full payment be sent at this time.

You will be asked for contact information (address, phone, email address). If you don't have email or *if the trip contact requests it*, send a 4" x 9" self addressed, stamped envelope (DO NOT send the SASE unless requested).

The balance of the trip cost must be received no later than 60 days before the trip start date. Positions will be offered to people on the wait list if final payment has not been received on time.

Cancellation Policy

Participants who cancel less than 60 days before the trip will receive a refund of 80% of the trip cost ONLY if a suitable replacement is available.

Participants who cancel 60 or more days before the trip will be charged only the \$25 non-refundable deposit.

Wait List

If a trip is full, you will be offered an option of being put on a wait list. Trips often have one or two cancellations.

Submitting Payments

Send no money until *after you are accepted* on the trip by the leader. Make all checks payable to the Mule Pack Section.

Send checks to:

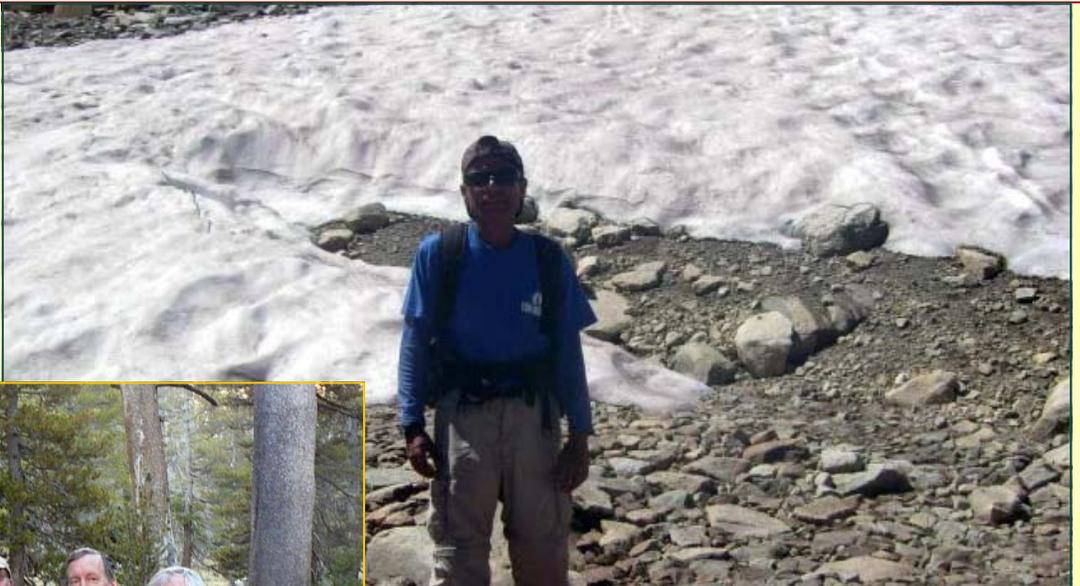
Sandy Burnside, MPS Treasurer
256 S Craig, Orange, CA 92869-3733



2007 Mule Pack Trips:

LIFE IN THE SIERRA





(From the Chair continued from page 1)

who are currently approved leaders are invited to help us in providing these trips. Any participant who has considered becoming a leader and wants more information about the certification process should contact any of our current leaders or management committee members or the Outings Chair of any regional group or section whose activities you attend.

I want to thank new MPS leaders, Terry Boehmer, Sherry Ross, Bob Hansen, Mary Patterson and Francine Oschin, who are working with established leaders to provide the 2008 trips. We are hoping the experience will prove to be rewarding and they will continue helping us expand the variety of MPS trips.

The MPS Section will hold an annual general meeting on September 28 at a location to be announced. Topics for discussion will include methods to improve the current reservation process and preliminary plans for 2009 trips. Your input is desired. Look for the meeting announcement in the Jul – Oct Schedule of Activities; an RSVP will be requested for planning purposes.

Finally, and perhaps most important, if you did not receive the email announcement last November and want to be on the email distribution list and get early notice of trips, please send me an email at jkai39@gmail.com. If you prefer not to receive an email, be sure to check our WebPages on a regular basis starting in mid-November.

John Kaiser
MPS Chair



(Why Mule Packs continued from page 1)

more challenging hiking for those who are interested. The leaders of this trip include a Natural Science Section leader and a superior pot luck organizer.

Cottonwood Lakes is a wonderful area for hiking including treks to Langley and Cirque as well as lakes and passes and features a beautiful campsite area on one of the lakes, convenient to trails. The Fourth Recess Lake trip, later in August, proved to be so popular that we scheduled a concurrent trip to the same area based at Golden Creek. The two campsites are in a gorgeous recess with mountains on two sides. While just a quarter mile from the Lake, the Golden Creek site is just low enough for campfires.

The season ends Labor Day weekend with the traditional trip to Tulolumne Meadows, always a great experience, especially for those who are not able to take a full week.

Reports of 2007 Trips

This year, rather than including articles about all the successful trips last summer, we are telling the stories in pictures. We hope you'll enjoy them.

Looking forward to seeing you in the mountains!



**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
AND TRIP LEADERS**

OFFICERS:

Chair, Webmaster, Membership:
John Kaiser

Vice-Chair:
Sandy Sperling

Secretary:
Winnette Butler

Treasurer:
Sandy Burnside

Outings:
Yvonne Tsai

Newsletter:
Laura Joseph

**OUTINGS CONTACTS :
(See Trip Write Ups)**

David Cross:
bulwonkle@yahoo.com

Christine Gutierrez:
christinegutierrez@juno.com

Laura Joseph:
ljoseph2@earthlink.net

Mary Patterson:
mpbsmis@socal.rr.com

Sherry Ross:
chlross@yahoo.com

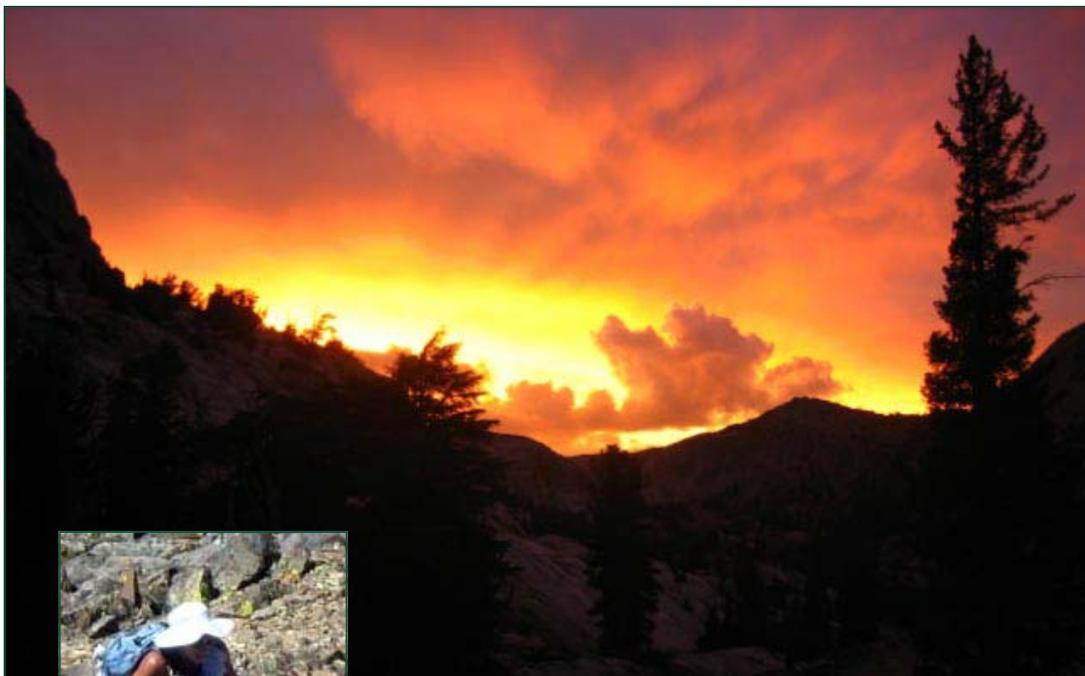
Yvonne Tsai:
ytsai@usc.edu

MULE PACK SECTION ANNUAL MEETING 2008

The annual meeting of the Mule Pack Section is scheduled for September 28, 2008 at 1:00 PM at a location to be determined. The primary business of the meeting is to plan trips for 2009. In addition, we will elect officers for the coming year and discuss any issues or proposals raised by Management Committee members or others in attendance. This is a great opportunity to present your ideas about trip destinations. Be sure to attend if you are interested in leading mule packs. Bring something for a pot luck lunch. RSVP for location to John Kaiser or Yvonne Tsai.

*Annual Meeting
September 28th
at 1:00 PM*

NEW LEADERS WELCOME!



Special Thanks

to Cathy Spears for design and layout of this newsletter

GUIDELINES FOR ALL TRIPS

On all trips, mules carry gear to the campsite, drop it off, and return at the end of the trip to carry it out. The weight per person that the mules will carry is shown for each trip. In addition, you may carry as much as you like in your pack when you hike in. All trips provide wine for the nightly "happy hours," which typically can substitute for dinner. Participants chip in pot luck style for the Happy Hour food. Campsites below 10,000' generally allow campfires. During the trip, each participant may do as he or she chooses, within safety guidelines. Usually, the leaders will plan some optional hikes as well. To apply, email the indicated leader with info about your condition and experience. Leaders email addresses are on page 7. After you are accepted for a trip, the leader will provide the details you need about what to bring and trip plan.

Note the reservation and cancellation policies on page 3.

**Sierra Club Waiver of Liability
Required for all Mule Pack Trips:**

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate in an outing, please go to www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or contact the Outings Department at 415-977-5528 for a printed version.



WE'RE ON THE WEB

For the earliest notice of each summer's trips, check the website, www.angeles.sierraclub.org/mps in December.

You can also view or download copies of this and previous newsletters in pdf format with pictures in full color.

Newsletter Subscription Policy

The Mule Pack newsletter is published annually and is sent at no charge to all who subscribe. Subscriptions are for four years and can be renewed as often as you wish. Subscriptions and renewals are automatically given to participants on trips. Others should contact the membership chair.

Newsletter Editor

LAURA JOSEPH

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If your address label says

“ IT'S TIME TO RENEW ”

Send an email, saying “please continue MPS ” to jkai39@gmail.com



ANGELES CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB

John Kaiser
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Huntington Beach, CA 92646

