



# Newsletter

Serving the Coachella Valley and Beyond

Fall 2013

## .... One step at a time

It is that time. A new season of hiking, socializing and trail stewardship, for the Desert Trails Hiking Club. See you on the trails, one step at a time!!

### Trail Tid Bits

This past summer has plagued the valley with fire and rain. Due to these circumstances there are some trails that have been closed either by the State Park service or by US Forestry. Some trails damaged by fire could possibly be closed for a full year, according to the Forestry office stationed in Idyllwild—909-382-2921. There is a map posted on the DTHC website under “Breaking News”, along with other pertinent information for you to read with regard to trails closed due to repercussions of the fire. Heavy fines will be imposed to groups a/o individuals if caught using a closed trail by rangers. There are also some trails closed due to flooding, eg..Cottonwood trails out a Joshua Tree State Park-eastside. Joshua Tree has a website to check for updated information prior to heading out to enjoy these trails. DTHC tries to provide as much updated information, however, if venturing out on your own, it us up to you to become an INFORMED HIKER. Indian Canyons is now open again to visitors.

Disturbing news AGAIN, for the ladders/painted canyon trail. At the trailhead, cars have been subjected to break-ins, which includes smashing windows to gain entry, along with a tire slashing at the same time. The Sheriff’s department in Thermal is aware, however, need to be informed if and when there are these occurrences. The department can be reached at 760-863-8990.

On a positive note, DTHC has taken part in trail maintenance at the Coachella Preserve. Jack Hope will now be taking over from Rich Jarvinen to plan the work hikes for our club. A huge thank you to Rich for all his hard work planning and taking part in the trail maintenance projects. The club is looking forward to working with Jack in the future. Give some thought to coming out to the work hikes, as maintaining the trails is a great way of giving back to the valley. Check the DTHC’s website, in the hiking schedule, for upcoming work dates.

### You may have noticed

DTHC is again listing certain hikes, from our schedule, in the Desert Sun. Look for these announcements.

#### Mark your calendars

- Socials—1st Tuesday of the month from Oct-April  
Look for your Evite or check our website.
- Hike for Hope -  
March 2, 2014
- DTHC Getaway  
March 23-26, 2014  
Borrego Springs, California  
(Check website for Information)



#### Guess where this is....





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## Summary of DTHC's Coordinating Council Meeting — November 13, 2013

**Attendees** - Rich Jarvinen, Gary Ward, Dave McGuire, Cathy Luckwell, Carl Gorretta, Dave Luckwell

**Call to Order** – Gary 1:09 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes** – Moved by Dave Luckwell, seconded by Dave McGuire; **Carried**

**Treasurers/Membership Report** – Gary discussed the financial reports. It was agreed to accept them as presented.

**PayPal Progress Update** – Gary updated council on the PayPal part of new memberships and renewals. It was agreed that it will be up to Gary as to if and when he begins just keeping electronic versions of all applications and renewals.

**Indemnity Release** – Gary has to send a copy after he receives a new application via PayPal so the new member can accept the Indemnity Release.

### **Committee Reports**

**Socials** – Sandy was not available, however, there was some discussion regarding the December Social.

**Hike Schedule** – Rich advised that we have 45 hikes on the current schedule and advised that there is a hike every other day. Next quarter schedule will be out to hike leaders soon, and made available to all members around December 15 through the website. The distance shown on the hike is the TOTAL distance unless otherwise stated. Once again, there have been thefts and vandalism at the trail head parking area for ladders/painted canyon. It was agreed that the club will take hikes there only if the leaders can arrange for at least two people to stay at the vehicles.

### **Getaways**

**2013** – Carl reported all went well even though we were short hike leaders.

**2014** – Rich advised the next Getaway is at Borrego Springs. Accommodations are at the Borrego Springs Resort & Spa. They have 40 rooms blocked for our members. There will be a hospitality suite provided by the hotel for club use.

**Hike Leaders** – Carl advised that he has not received any notices that any leaders would be withdrawing as a hike leader for this season. Carl advised that he is planning to have a hike leader meeting in January or February.

**Recruitment status** – Carl advised that he has 2 possible new hike leaders to interview and possibly have them on board for the next quarter.

**Communication** – Cathy advised the current schedule hikes that were asked to be in the Desert Sun have been posted. The council Bios have been updated along with the club history document. Discussion followed in regards to best to notify members when the newsletter is available on the website.

**Desert Trails Coalition** – Rich and Gary advised that the coalition has been quite busy. They had taken the Desert Sun writer, Beth McClure, on a few hikes to introduce her to the hikes in the valley so she could write informed positive articles about hiking in the valley. Work on the land swap, as well as the Trail Subcommittee is still ongoing.

**Website** – Dave advised all is going well with the website. He is always looking for more photos to add to the website.

**Workdays** – Rich advised that Jack will be taking over the work hikes once he arrives in the valley. Recently Rich led a work hike at Coachella Preserve and he had 8 volunteers. Friends of the Desert Mountains will also be doing a work event every two weeks in order to repair all the damaged trails.



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## Old Business

**Annual Non-Profit Donations** - Gary advised that the Desert Coalition donation was made and it was agreed that Gary would issue the cheque to the Wild land Conservatory's funding auction as part of our 2014 donation.

**Graffiti Report** - Rich advised that FODM is gearing up to deal with the graffiti as part of their stewardship program using the previous donation made by DTHC.

## New Business

**Trails status** - It is advised that all hike leaders check their trail before they lead a hike, especially in areas hit by the recent forest fires and rain storms.

**Review request from Hiking Club out of Victoria BC** for help on hikes for 2/18/14 to 3/3/14 - she provided a list of 10 hikes for each of 3 levels of hikers that they are interested in hiking. It was discussed, and Carl will follow up on this.

**Next Meeting** - It was agreed that the next council meeting would be an "open meeting" at 1:00 p.m. February 05, 2014. The last council meeting of the season will be on March 27, 2014.

**Other Business** - NONE

**Adjournment** - Meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

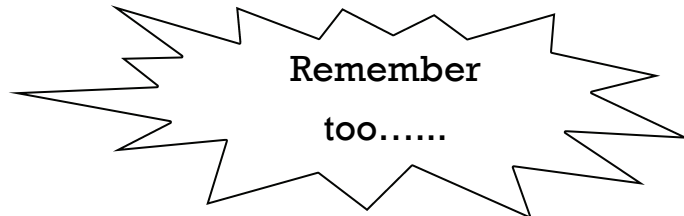
## Hike 4 Hope

Jonelle Dedrick will again be DTHC's co-ordinator for the Hike for Hope on March 2, 2014. Hike4Hope is a family-oriented, non-competitive hiking event, supporting City of Hope's Women's Cancers Program. Survivors and supporters, family and friends - we are united behind one mission. We want to help City of Hope end women's cancers, and to make a difference for more women. Hike4Hope is our chance to make that difference. DTHC provides support by club members providing their time in various jobs for this day to be a success.



## Council Members 2013/14

- Carl Gorretta
- Charlene Hope
- Jack Hope
- Rich Jarvinen
- Cathy Luckwell
- Dave Luckwell
- Dave McGuire
- Sandy Reed
- Gary Ward



**Continue checking our website for all current and updated DTHC news, especially the hike schedule. The schedule is an ongoing process that should be reviewed frequently.**



Take a look!!

Answer: Coachella Valley Preserve—McCallum Pond