



JPL HIKING +

Joshua Tree Trip: "Reading The Desert"

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 (EVENING) THROUGH SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2002

Leader: Susanne Weil, PhD: Director, Whittier College Writing Program; Sierra Club Trip Leader

Coordinators: Dan Lee 818-393-4797 and Nancy Feagans, 818-354-8341

Trip Limit: 24 (*Hiking + members and their guests have priority*)

Level: Easy-Moderate

Cost: (includes camping two nights and Saturday evening Happy Hour): Members: **\$8.00**/person, Non-members: **\$13.00**/person. Park entry fee is **\$10.00** per car, to be shared by the carpoolers in each car*.

Background: At the Hiking + noontime presentation on February 19th, Susanne gave us an overview of environmental literature, with photographs, talking about the trip she will lead for us to Joshua Tree National Park. *If you weren't at the presentation and want to go on this trip, call Nancy for a copy of Susanne's handout that describes the writings and the trip itinerary.

Description: Now it's time to go and experience the wonders and beauty of the desert environment, as written about by **Ed Abbey**, **Mary Austin**, and **Barry Lopez**.

We'll have a chance to read some great writers' observations about the desert on-site at Joshua Tree, go on some hikes, and have discussions around the campfire. We'll read and discuss several chapters of Ed Abbey's **Desert Solitaire**, Mary Austin's **The Land of Little Rain**, and Barry Lopez's **Desert Notes**. Saturday evening, we may have the chance to get together and socialize with the TRW Wilderness Club, also camping at Indian Cove that weekend.

We have four sites reserved at the **Indian Cove Campground** inside Joshua Tree National Park, close to the "transition zone" between the high and low deserts, and close to trailheads to some wonderful hikes. Ryan Mountain offers magnificent views of San Geronio and San Jacinto; the hike to Lost Horse Mountain passes the old Lost Horse Mine, a fascinating historical site. With luck, we may see desert wildflowers and Joshua Trees in bloom.

Bring: The usual car camping gear: tent, sleeping bag, pad, campstove, breakfast and a trail lunch/snacks for both Sat/Sun, dinner for Saturday night. Also bring water, and firewood, if you have it. And don't forget a daypack or fanny pack, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, layered clothing, camera and/or binoculars (optional), and hiking boots or sturdy trail shoes. For additional camping information, visit the Joshua Tree web site at: <http://www.joshua.tree.national-park.com/camping.htm - camp> *carpooling highly recommended; there is a limit of two cars and two tents per site.

When you arrive, look for a Hiking + flyer with our campsite numbers at the Indian Cove Ranger Station. We'll also display the Club's historic "**JPL Hiking and Backpacking Club**" banner at one of the sites.

Pre-trip Meeting: Wednesday, April 10th at noon in the 171-351 conference room. Maps and directions will be available, carpools arranged, last minute details finalized. Please be there or be represented or you could be dropped from the trip.

RSVP: To reserve a space on this trip, fill out the slip below and send it with your check for payment in full made payable to **JPL Hiking +** to Dan Lee, M/S 601-157 by **Wednesday, April 10th**.

Yes! I want to "Read the Desert" at Joshua Tree! Name: _____ (Guest names on back)

Phone: _____ M/S or address: _____

No. in party: ____ I can drive and take ____ people; or, I need a ride ____ My check for _____ is attached.