



Geology Alumni

21ST ANNUAL SDSU GEOLOGY ALUMNI FIELD TRIP

Mojave National Preserve/Providence Mountains Geology (Welford E. Garner Memorial Field Trip)

April 21st & 22nd 2007

The 21st. Annual SDSU Geology Alumni Field Trip & Campout will be in the Mojave National Preserve located about 80 miles east of Barstow, CA. north of I-40 & south of I-15. This trip was inspired by Welford "Ford" Garner, a former SDSU Geology Dept. Alumni, who was a NPS Ranger at Mojave National Preserve for several years. Ford recently passed away from pancreatic cancer. Joe Walsh, also an SDSU Geology Department alumni, has graciously volunteered to lead this year's field trip in an area that he has been visiting for the last 30 years.

We will attempt to provide the best overview of the Geology of the Providence Mountains and surrounding area as possible but due to very rough 4-wheel drive roads a close up view of the Paleozoic sequence may not be possible. The Providence Mountains are comprised of Precambrian crystalline rocks, Paleozoic sedimentary rocks and Tertiary intrusive rocks. The range is bound by extensive faulting which has produced considerable mineralization in the area. Low angle normal faults are the outstanding structural feature in the Providence Mountains.

We plan to start the Field Trip at the Kelso Depot Visitors Center (GPS Coordinates N35 -00-43' & W115-39-1P) at 10:00 AM on Saturday April 21st. The Kelso Depot is a wide spot in the road and all roads to get there are paved. Since there are maps of the park and other items for sale there it is a good place to meet and start the trip with an overview of the geology and history of the area by Joe or possibly by one of the Park Rangers. We will then caravan back to Mid Hills Campground stopping at selected locations along the way to look at the geology. High Clearance vehicles are not required but recommended for this trip.

Mid Hills Campground is at 5,600 ft. elevation, has water available, clean pit toilets, and sporadic cell phone coverage. The Park was not charging for any of the 26 campsites in December due to a large portion of the campground being burned several years ago. For those that can be at the campground on Friday evening car pools can be arranged for Saturday's excursion to Kelso and back. Mid Hills Campground (GPS Coordinates N35 - 07- 59' & W115-26-05") is about 45 miles from the Kelbaker/I-40 intersection (passing Kelso on the way) and about 60 miles from the Baker/I-15 intersection (also passing Kelso on the way).

As the area is very REMOTE it is advised to top off your fuel tanks at Baker or Ludow and also have adequate food and water. Allow about 5 hours driving time from San Diego. Sunday morning we will depart Mid Hills Campground to look at some of the Tertiary Volcanics on the way to Hole in the Wall and Mitchell Caverns. Tours are offered (\$4/person) of Mitchell Caverns Mon.-Fri. at 1:30 and on the weekends at 10:00 AM, 1:30 PM & 3:30 PM. Reservations are supposedly required for groups of 10 or more by mail-in reservations but it may be possible to just walk in if there is not a large crowd signed up. For more information on MNP go to www.nps.gov/moja . As usual, no guarantee is made as to weather conditions so plan for everything.

To get to Kelso on Kelbaker Rd. the choice is yours as to come in south from Baker at I-15 or north from I-40. For communications we will be using Family Service Radios (FRS) channel 11 with no tones, Citizens Band channel 11 and Amateur Radio 2-Meter Simplex frequency 146.520, just make a call for the "Geology Group". Remember that FRS and CB Radio have limited range. For specific questions contact Joe Coronas, Alumni Field Trip Chairman, Day (858) 492-5034, Eve (858) 484-3582, Cell (858) 518-7869 or JCoronas@sandiego.gov . If you have a "Special Area" that you would like to lead a future Alumni trip to please let me know.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR THIS WEEKEND FIELD TRIP!!!