



Geology Alumni

18th ANNUAL SDSU GEOLOGY ALUMNI FIELD TRIP Geology and Paleomagnetism of the southern Coyote Mountains—From Painted Gorge to Fossil Canyon

APRIL 2, 3, & 4, 2004

This years Field Trip/Campout will be to the Coyote Mts. where many of us experienced our beginning Geology Field Classes. Dr. Monte Marshall will show us outcrops that speak to the geologic history/evolution of the southern Coyote Mtns., and also present paleomagnetic data that show block rotations of more than 180 degrees in places! Since most geologists have had little practical experience in paleomagnetism, we will talk about sampling procedures, and how the remanent magnetism direction in the rocks is measured and interpreted. Everyone will be given handouts that include the paleomagnetic results in the area from several MS studies. Along with the neat stratigraphy and structure we will see, we can hypothesize on the spot how this geologically complex, but beautiful and scenic range, might have formed and what is its relation to the adjacent Elsinore fault.

We will be primitively camping Friday (optional) and Saturday night in the Fossil Canyon area and Sunday morning head to Painted Gorge for one planned stop. An optional 4-Wheel Drive excursion (carpools) that takes us up thru the overlapping sedimentary rocks which are lying on the basement rocks to some scenic overlooks high in the range is also planned for those who wish to go. Please remember to bring your camera as there are photo opportunities that could easily grace the cover of any geologic publication that you receive. All SDSU Geology Alumni, Faculty, Staff, SDAG Members and other interested parties are welcome to attend.

Directions to camp area: From SDSU go east on I-8 about 90 miles to the Ocotillo, S-2, Anza Borrego State Park exit. At the off ramp make a left turn, zero your trip meter and proceed on S-2 about 1.4 miles to the stop sign. Make a right turn towards Fossil/Shell Canyon and the County Disposal Site. At 3.8 miles the pavement makes a left turn and you leave the pavement going straight and pass some BLM limited use signs. Continue on the main dirt/gravel track to 4.4 miles and an open canyon (CAMP) on your right which many of you may recognize. Watch for survey laths with multi-colored flagging tape at the turnoff from the main paved road. On Saturday morning about 9:30 we will begin the orientation and outline the day's events. This trip is not designed to be a "Death March" so plan on joining us for an educational and entertaining weekend in the Desert. Fuel & limited food items available 24/7 at the 76 station south of off ramp. Family Service Radios channel 11 will be monitored and also used on the optional Sunday trip.

Contact Joe Coronas for information. Day (858) 492-5034, Eve (858) 484-3582