



Geology Alumni

23rd ANNUAL SDSU GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP

GEOLOGIC EXCURSIONS IN THE EASTERN CALIFORNIA SHEAR ZONE

FEBRUARY 27th, 28th & MARCH 1st 2009

The **23rd. Annual SDSU Geology Field Trip/Campout** will be at the Picacho State Recreation Area, California, about 25 miles north of Winterhaven, CA. All SDSU Geology Alumni and Friends are welcome. Jon Sainsbury, who is completing his Master's Thesis in the area, has graciously agreed to be this year's Field Trip Leader. His work involves mapping an anticlinorium that has been re-activated by strike-slip faulting. By correlating age dates for the Black Mountain Basalt and the Quechan volcanics, which are incorporated into the Bear Canyon conglomerate, evidence for much younger folding than previously interpreted has been inferred. The area also contains the Chocolate Mountains and Gatuna Fault which are detachment faults. These are offset by numerous San Andreas related strike slip faulting in the Eastern California Shear Zone. Some of these faults have displacements of near 0.5 km. These detachment faults separate the Orocopia Shist, a basement gneiss and the Winterhaven Formation.

The Field Trip will start from the "Group Campground" at 10:00 AM on Saturday February 28th, 2009. The Group Camp will be reserved for the Alumni Group for the 27th, 28th & 1st and should have room for 20 vehicles or more. If you prefer an individual site fees are \$10/night/vehicle with a \$5 extra charge per vehicle up to 3 vehicles and 8 people. Solar showers are located in the main camp and fairly clean pit toilets and potable water are located throughout the area. Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and in your tent or vehicle at night. Temperatures are expected to be from the mid 70's to the low 40's. The 18 miles of gravel and washboard road between the All American Canal and the camp ground has a few soft spots but can be driven fairly easy if you pay attention to what you are doing. Additional information can be found at www.parks.ca.gov and then click on Picacho SRA.

DIRECTIONS: From SDSU take 1-8 eastbound for 172 miles to the 4th Ave/Winterhaven exit (about 3 hours non-stop for timing purposes.) Make a left turn at the stop sign off the freeway ramp and go about ½ mile to next stop sign. Make right turn onto S-24, cross the canal and in about 300 feet make a left turn staying on S-24. Follow S-24 and the signs towards Picacho SRA. Several miles up the road S-24/Ross Rd. will turn to the right but you will go straight for another 6 miles until the pavement ends. You will follow the main gravel road across the canal and in 18 miles you will reach the campground. Watch for the group camp sign directing you to the left, it is several hundred feet past the park check in stop. GPS coordinates are N 33-01-11.5, W 114-36-58.6. The AAA Colorado River Guide Map (best) and the AAA Imperial County Map (good) both have the roads delineated well for finding the Campground.

COMMUNICATIONS: There was no Nextel service in the Campground but the Ranger has phone service thru someone so depending on what carrier you have you may get lucky! We will be using Family Radio Service (FRS) radios channel 11 with No Private Tones. Remember that the FRS radios have rather limited ranges in areas of uneven topography! The Black Mountain Amateur Radio Repeater, 147.120 + w/p1+103.5 will also be monitored.

SUPPLIES/SERVICES/FUEL: If, when you get off 1-8 at the 4th Ave/Winterhaven exit, you need fuel or other supplies you can go south to Yuma on 4th Ave. There are gas stations, fast food places, etc. just a few miles into town. It is recommended that you fuel before coming to the campground as we will be driving to Jon's Field Area on Saturday morning which is about a 40 minute drive. Plan on bringing water and a lunch for the Saturday excursion. If any of our Alumni are interested in becoming involved with the Alumni Activities and would like to assist with future trips or has a special place in mind that would be good for a future trip please let me know. Give me a call or email if you have any questions. Day (858) 492-5034, Eve. (858) 484-3582, or jcorones@sandiego.gov I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Picacho. Joe Coronas, Alumni Field Trip Chairman.