MAY 2010 OVERVIEW

INYO BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL CREW

PAUL HANCOCK

As we headed into the unknown (the San Rafael Wilderness), we left our insecurities in the van. As a pack, we hiked 7 miles to the Manzana Narrows Campground and removed the boulders from our packs (mastodonic boulders with which we had ladened our pack to turn our muscles of granite into steel). After a late evening of PT, we disrobed and headed to the waterfall to pressure wash our crevices. Then we bedded down, fully at the mercy of the elements for a well-deserved rest. As the new day dawned, we popped our blisters, then hark a ding, ding, ding, ding and we were fed by a raven haired Angel.

WORK: As a pack, we armed ourselves for the hunt (pulaski's, sledges, rock bars, saws, shovels). We were led by a juvenescent but burly wilderness ranger of uncommon caliber. The path way littered with the remains of last night's hunts – doubtless the leavings of lesser predators who'd fled upon our arrival. We spent a few minutes building a trail to Big Cone Spruce, then jogged 7 miles to the tip of Hurricane Deck, brushing trees and pulverizing rocks along the way. (lest my reader be confused, time for the Inyo Pack is drastically different from the time experienced by those other humans. What, for you, would feel like weeks of hard labor is, for us, a mere lunch break. Don't try to understand. Simply accept. Now the Inyo Pack may sound as if it's all business and badassery. It is. But we leaven our efficiency with warmth of heart. We have, for example, adopted an android named Devbot, whose metallic clanks and intermittent bursts of static electricity punctuate our fleet passage atop the hills.

CURRICULUM: Our classes have incorporated rap battles, gauntlets, one armed push-ups, howlings, and exposure to voracious insects – in short, we discipline the mind by punishing he body. By certain rituals that will be familiar to nature watchers and dog owners, we have learned one another's scents, even the Dr Pepper fueled eruptions of the beloved Devbot. Our Alpha beast, in an elephant lexicon of grunts and growls, has taught us to manhandle the earth's very teeth – its boulders and its solid slabs of mountain.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Turtle Song"

"Turtle Turtles Flying everywhere. Turtles Flying in the sea. Turtles Flying In the atmospheric light Of the sea."

-Devbot (may 2010)

THE PACK:

Alpha – Paul Hancock, aka Paul the Wall

Charlie Hogle – Madison WI

Jason Thomas – aka Baltimore, aka B'more (East Coast, son)

Daniel Coghill – aka Badda Safa, Dance (Boulder, CO)

Carolynn Aguayo – Diamond Bar/ East LA

Leslie Ruster - (East Coast)

Rachel Cooke - (Santa Cruz, CA)

Dank from Humboldt

Jennifer Young - (South Lake Tahoe)

Chris Billos - (Victorville, CA)

Tracy McClelland - aka Thor (red Bluff, CA)

Miguel Galeno - Vista, CA)

Qaio An Lin - aka Lighting (San Jose, CA)

Mary Merlo - (PA)

Lexi cooper-Anderson - (Georgia)

Devin Williams - (Santa Cruz, CA) aka Dev-Bot

Acea Spades Black – aka Vega, Hollywoood! (Hollywood, CA)

Jose Nuñez – (Vista, CA)

APRIL WORK PODUCTION:

2 miles of trail maintenance on Big Cone Spruce Trail

19 RipRap Steps

MAY WORK PODUCTION:

* 6 miles of trail maintenance on White Ledge Trail

6 rip-rap steps

1 log structure (wetland crossing)

100’ re-route

*1 mile trail maintenance on Hurricane Deck Trail

*3 miles trail maintenance on Manzana trail

48 sq’ multi-tier wall

MAY WORK PODUCTION: Goal setting, Burn Incident / Safety policies, Public Speaking, Trust games / skits by Rachel Cooke.

The Inyo Crew would like to thank Phil LaFollette and Karlson Hubbard for making an appearance and being our guests. We would also like to thank Alicia Medina for cooking wonderful meals for the crew.

Till next month…..