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## HAWAIIAN TRAIL &amp; MOUNTAIN CLUB

HIKES CONDUCTED BETWEEN OCT 21, 2015 &amp; NOV 18, 2015

OCT 24 SAT 8 AM AHUIMANU, COORDINATOR QUINTIN BRAY

MEMBERS - 16, GUESTS - 14, KIDS - 0

Good hike, no problems.

OCT 25 SUN 8 AM (MEMBERS) KULEPEAMOA RIDGE, COORDINATOR MIKE ALGIERS

MEMBERS - 25

Mike's narrative -

For this 'Advanced, Members Only' hike, we met at 8:00AM at the top end of Anolani Street in Niu Valley. There was a good turn-out of 23 hikers, many of whom had done this hike previously, and we familiar with it. For the 'first timers', I gave detailed directions about the route, and warned them about the hazards (narrow trail width, sheer drop offs, and a steep section where climbing a rope was necessary). I also warned everyone that on the day of the trailclearing, we had been attacked at the summit by swarms of biting flies... (luckily the flies were not a problem on this hike ). It was a crystal clear morning, and the summit was completely free of clouds.

The person who had volunteered to assist me on this hike backed out, and another person who I'd counted on to sweep, showed up with two left boots, and was unable to hike. Fortunately, there was another coordinator present who planned to hike slowly, and he filled in as a sweeper. However, he had an unreliable FRS radio, so our communications were spotty. I was hiking near the back of the pack, so I was sweeping many of the front group anyway. Several of the hikers had said they didn't intend to do whole loop, and a couple of others decided to turn back after the initial steep climb from the valley up the start of the ridge. Most of the others were a speedy bunch and we could see them far ahead, outdistancing us.

Everyone negotiated the narrow dike safely, as well as the long rope. The slope is so steep and slick a the rope, that it is necessary to completely rely on it to get up. It requires some arm & upper body strength to ascend, and it made me quite nervous to watch a couple of the people ahead of me trying to accomplish it (actually, I had to stop watching).

There are some narrow sections of trail near the summit, where a misstep would result in a long tumble but the trailclearers had tried to clear the edge well enough to show the danger. Unfortunately, near the summit is where the clearing crew began encountering the biting flies (swarms of them !), so the rest of the trail got a rushed and incomplete job. On this day of the hike, I saw a swarm of the flies going past but they did not stop or discover us.

By the time we reached the summit, some clouds had begun to drift in, so we had off & on views while eating our lunch. The summit-crossing to Hawaii Loa was muddy & slippery. As we reached Hawaii Loa and headed down that trail, we encountered numerous other hikers on their way up (some with very little water?). Before we had started the hike I had been concerned that intersection where we were supposed to turn off the Hawaii Loa trail, to head down the side-slope into the valley would not be marked, so I had given one of the fast hikers ribbon to mark it when he got there. When I arrived, I was glad to see that he had done so, and everyone seemed to have made the turn correctly.

When I got down the side-slope and arrived back at the trailhead, most of the hikers had already emerged and departed. Justin was there with a bowl of fresh fruit, which he was sharing with the few hikers who still remained. While I waited for my sweep to finish the hike, I checked vehicle license numbers, and when he and his companion arrived, we were all accounted for. No incidents to report.

NOV 1 SUN 8:30 AM WAIANAE WATER WORKS, COORDINATOR STEVE ROHRMAYR

MEMBERS - , GUESTS - , KIDS -

Awaiting Steve's report.

NOV 7 SAT 8 AM PUU MAELIELI, COORDINATOR DAYLE &amp; JACQUE TURNER

MEMBERS - , GUESTS - , KIDS -