



## Along the Trail

### Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club

#### Newsletter

April - June 2017

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#### LAST PRINTED NEWSLETTER

As announced in the last newsletter, beginning next month, our newsletter and hiking schedule will no longer be printed and mailed to the membership. Both documents will appear on the HTMC website. This action avoids the current duplication, and will save the club considerable printing and mailing costs. Members who have no Internet access, and who wish to continue to receive printed schedule and newsletters, must send a written notification to that effect, and confirming your current address, to the HTMC Membership Committee, P. O. Box 2238, Honolulu, HI 96804. There will likely be a small charge for this service beginning in January 2018.

#### ADDITION TO BYLAWS

A bylaws committee, as set out in our bylaws, has discussed, and recommends to the membership for approval, a minor change to the HTMC bylaws; namely, that we add "Insurance Coordinator" as an elected officer of the club in order to offer her (it will be Quan Haberstroh from April) the same level of protection as our other officers, all of whom are covered by HTMC's liability insurance. The proposed changes, to be voted on at the April AGM are as follows:

##### Article V Board of Directors

4. Elected Officers consist of a president, vice-president, recording secretary, treasurer, accountant, and INSURANCE COORDINATOR. ... The hike coordinators, secretary,

accountant and INSURANCE COORDINATOR need not be members of the board but must be members of the club.

##### Article VI Duties of Officers

7. The INSURANCE COORDINATOR RECOMMENDS TO THE BOARD THE CLUB'S INSURANCE COVERAGE LEVELS, APPROPRIATE POLICIES, AND CARRIERS.

8. Hike Coordinators.

#### CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD

**Barney Griggs**, who most people know as one of the strongest and most consistent hikers in the history of the club, is retiring from Lex Brodie's later this year and has therefore agreed to run for one of the three vacant positions on the HTMC Board of Directors.

**Phyllis Cox** has been a club member for over 10 years. She is a mortgage loan professional and has worked in the industry for 25+ years in Hawaii.

#### MEMBER'S BOOK WINS AWARD

HTM Club member Richard McMahon's novel, *The Court-Martial of Benedict Arnold*, has received the 2016 Gold Medal for Historical Fiction from the Military Writers Society of America. The society, whose mission is "Preserving history, one story at a time," presents the awards at its annual writers conference. Richard's novel, a work of "alternative" history, supposes that America's most notorious traitor, instead of escaping to the British, was captured and brought to trial for treason.

This is the second recognition of Richard's work by the MWSA. He also received the society's Gold Medal in 2014 for his novel, *The Dark Side of Glory*.

#### KST FENCE COMPLETED

Patrick Rorie

The fence crew hired by the State NARS has finished installing a fence along the entire section of the Ko'olau Summit Trail (KST) between Pu'u Pauao and the pu'us near the Schofield-Waikane terminus, considered by some to be the Kalalau/Na Pali Coast Trail of Oahu. The fence is a terrible eyesore, and panels have been placed where the natural cliff of the contour could have been utilized to keep pigs out. Using the natural cliffs would have saved tax payers money and lessened the visual blight of the fence. Instead, in typical State government fashion, the State NARS used panels along every inch of the trail so that they will receive the same funding amount for the next enclosure. The unnecessary panels should be removed to lessen the visual blight of the fence along this magnificent stretch of the KST. On a positive note, this stretch of the KST has been cleared and regraded, making it easier to hike.

## A MAN WE SHOULD REMEMBER

### A tribute to Luciano Peña

By John Hall

*(The paragraphs below are an excerpt from Ray Jerome Baker's "A Brief History of the Hawaiian TRAIL AND MOUNTAIN CLUB compiled from official and other records of the club in 1960 by R. J. Baker." This is a 134+ page detailed account of the club and its founding from 1910 until the end of 1959.)*

During the year just past, Luciano Peña, a young man of Mexican ancestry and a member of the Armed Services, became active in the club. He was elected a member June 1, 1938, and at the annual meeting on April 13, 1939, he was chosen a director. On May 3, Mr. Peña was appointed chairman of the entertainment committee. Active, cooperative, of pleasing personality, Mr. Peña served well during the brief time the club was destined to utilize his talents. On July 4 there was the usual trip to Rabbit Island. Peña was listed as guide. A good-sized crowd gathered to make the trip in the boat to the island. The bird season was at its height and there was an abundance of bird life on the island. Against better judgment, two of the party, Phil Kantner, who had become a member only on the previous June 7, and Dorothy Becht, a non-member, attempted to walk along one of the lower ledges of the island on the windward side, not realizing the danger they were facing. Heavy seas were running at the time, and an unusually high one swept Kantner and Miss Becht into the water.

Unmindful of the risk he was taking, Peña dove into the sea and succeeded in bringing the girl to safety. He then went after Kantner without hesitation. Battling the high seas, he struggled to bring Kantner to shore. The battle was too great for the young Navy man, and strong swimmer that he was, he was overcome. Both Kantner and Peña were drowned. The body of Peña was eventually recovered and returned to his relatives in the States. It was a sad day for the outing party and for the club. For years after, Peña's picture hung in the clubhouse. He was an honor to his antecedents, to the club and to his country. His memory will be cherished as long as there is appreciation for valor and unselfish devotion to duty."

When I joined the Club in 1962, I never heard of Luciano. No one mentioned his name or what he had done for the Club. I knew nothing about the incident above until I assembled a brief history of the organization to be published in this newsletter in 2003 or 2004. Perhaps it should be printed again for the enlightenment of more recent members. I feel that the last two sentences in Baker's account are well merited, and that it is a shame that the Club has lost all memory of this young man who died so heroically in the service of our organization. I think at a minimum that the Club Directors should prepare a plaque with the two paragraphs above in large print to be hung on the wall of the Clubhouse, along with Luciano's picture, if it can be found, so that all members of the Club will be aware of this incident, of the dangers of our sea-side walks, and of what we owe to Luciano Peña.

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

**ALONG THE TRAIL** is a quarterly publication of the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club designed to inform the membership of club activities and matters of interest to the hiking community. HTMC members and any other interested parties are welcome to submit articles to **ALONG THE TRAIL**. Contributions may be edited for clarity, grammar, propriety, or length. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions voiced by contributors do not necessarily represent the views of the officers or the general membership of the club.

Submissions must be received by the 5th day of March, June, September, and December in order to appear in the newsletter published for the following quarter, and may be sent in any of the following ways (email preferred):

email: richard27@hawaii.rr.com

Phone: 293-2554

Mail: Richard McMahon  
57-531 Kamehameha Hwy  
Kahuku, HI 96731

CHECK OUT THE HTMC WEB PAGE

<http://htmclub.org>

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**Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club**  
**P.O. Box 2238**  
**Honolulu, HI 96804**

**Clubhouse: 41-023 Puuone St**  
**Waimanalo, HI 96795**