

THE
AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

317 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. 20003



Please Reply To: 18600 SW 157 Avenue Miami, FL 33187

June 7, 1979

Mr. Mike McReynolds
Skinner & Co.
110 Sutter Street
Suite 1003
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Mike:

I was fascinated by the material you sent me on the Republic of Nauru. Thanks for the background information. Thanks again, too, for your efforts on behalf of AHS and for the check. Along the line of your comments about creating some contact among AHS members in different areas, I wonder what you would think about a plan to divide the country into five regions (this proposal is on paper and I could get a copy for you at a later date) and selecting one or more AHS members in each region to lead a personalized effort in membership growth. There would be printed materials available, but there would be a strong slant toward "no host get-togethers" as you called them in your letter of May 15.

But I have a second question, really more pertinent to AHS right now. You no doubt saw one or more of the announcements in Backpacker about our cross-country hike. A copy of one of them is enclosed. We are planning to depart Golden Gate Park on Saturday morning, March 15, 1980 for a walk to the Washington Monument. We figure it will take 13 or 14 months. Several people are planning to go all the way, but what we really need is a big send-off at Golden Gate Park with a few thousand people to walk out of San Francisco with us, including the Governor. I have written to him requesting that he join us. We want this hike to dramatize the recreational aspect of walking and hiking, the need for foot trails, and the need for the American Hiking Society. I am thinking of coming out to San Francisco in the middle of September to get the wheels turning on this idea. Would you be interested in helping? If so, I could send you a zip-coded list of members in the Bay area and perhaps one of your "no host get-togethers" could be the beginning of plans for the big day.

I'll wait to hear from you.

Cordially yours,


James A. Kern

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June 20, 1979

Mr. James A. Kern
President
American Hiking Society
18600 S.W. 157th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33187

Dear Jim,

Regarding your planned trip to San Francisco in mid-September, I'll be more than happy to help out in the plans for the transcontinental hike. Unfortunately, I'll be leaving August 4th for about a month and a half hike in the northern Canadian Rockies (in the Willmore Wilderness and northwest to the Kakwa area) and won't be back until roughly mid-September. It looks like I'll be taking on the co-authorship of future editions (and volumes) of the CANADIAN ROCKIES TRAIL GUIDE, so this hike is one of three superhikes planned for the next three years to do my share of the groundwork on areas not covered in the current edition. If you plan on being here after the 15th the chances are good that I will be back by then.

I mentioned the idea of a no-host get-together to Jim Owens of the Smilie Company. He agreed immediately to the idea and suggested his store as a natural for a meeting of Bay Area members due to being centrally located. Definitely would save on the cost of renting a hall or finding an unused loft in which to have the meeting. Possibly a good time for a meeting would be while you are here in September.

I'm fascinated by the concept of the nationwide (literally) hike as well as the problems involved. For example, first problem is getting out of San Francisco...how do you plan on getting across the Bay? Where will the hikers camp each night? The logistics alone are staggering, but what better idea to dramatize recreational hiking, the need for more trails and the AHS.

James A. Kern
June 20, 1979
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I also like the idea of dividing the country up into five regions. This would tend to create a more personal feeling of belonging on the local level, as well as giving the Society a better tool for membership growth, information gathering and dissemination. Also smaller regional (localized) groups are not as unwieldy as larger national groups. Perhaps volunteer newsletters of items of specific interest to regional members could be issued giving hiking ideas, hints, etc. (some of this information could also be reprinted in the national newsletter). All very much on a volunteer basis, of course.

I'll be here through this month and next, so let me know of your plans. My best to Nancy,

Sincerely yours,



Mike McReynolds

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