

LOS LAGOS NEWS

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Announcements

Annual Meeting

Saturday January 25, 2020,
10:30am

Avail Property Management,
51350 Desert Club Drive, #5
La Quinta, CA 92253

The meeting will feature results of the board elections. All homeowners are encouraged to attend.

Seasons Greetings

The editorial staff wishes you a joyous Holiday Season and a happy New Year.

Editorial Staff

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The Mountains Around Us

The Coachella Valley is surrounded by mountains that influence our weather and enhance our views in every direction. Even though they may seem barren and remote, they have names that allow us to identify them, talk about them, and point them out to visitors. Here is an abbreviated inventory of our surrounding mountains, as they would be seen by an observer over the tree tops in Los Lagos, looking toward various points of the compass.



Santa Rosa Mountains

Looking **south** from Los Lagos, our observer would see the Santa Rosa Mountains, which loom over La Quinta and the Salton Sea to the east, and merge with the San Jacinto Mountains on the west. The nearby peak with the rounded top is known as Mount Eisenhower. The highest peak in the Santa Rosas is Mount Toro (far south of Los Lagos), with an elevation about 8,700 feet. Driving south on State Highway 74, one rapidly climbs into the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, which rise abruptly from the valley floor.

Looking **southwest** and **west**, we see the San Jacinto mountains. They form the southwestern “wall” of the Coachella Valley and hence they are the locale of our sunsets. These are relatively “new” mountains, formed in the collision of tectonic plates (pieces of the earth’s outer crust) 5 to 10 million years ago.

Community column

*For Sale in Los Lagos**

44047	Erie	499,700
44080	Mohave	450,000
44380	Ontario	499,000
44340	Michigan	569,000
44125	Tahoe	599,900
44200	Tahoe	514,900
44255	Tahoe	550,000
74988	Tahoe	400,000

*Taken 11/30 from zillow.com

Second Anniversary Issue

The first issue of this newsletter was published two years ago on December 1, 2017. Our objective has always been to provide useful news and information while fostering a sense of community.

Please send us a note and tell us how we are doing.

Did you know?

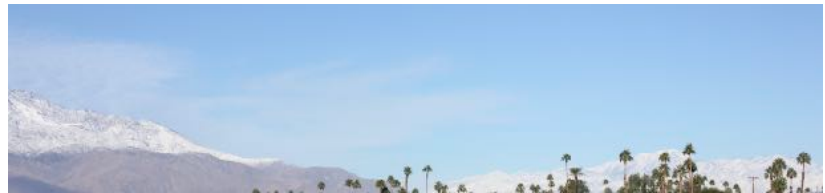
Are you trying to find something from a previous issue of Los Lagos News? Every issue from December 2017 onward is available on the website. Just go to loslagosiw.com/news.html.

Community Updates and Newsletters published by Avail from February 2016 to present are there as well.



San Jacinto Mountains

Clouds coming from the coast frequently dissipate on their way over the San Jacinto wall, leaving us with blue skies most of the time. Mount San Jacinto, (elevation about 10,800 feet) and the “Top of the Tram” (elevation about 8,500 feet) are a little to the right of our view as we look due west from Los Lagos. At the level of the mountain station of the Tram, pine trees flourish and winter snow sometimes accumulates.



Snow on San Jacinto Peak (left) and San Gorgonio Peak (right)

Looking **northwest** from Los Lagos, we see a gap in our high mountain wall. This is the San Gorgonio Pass, traversed by Interstate 10, which reaches an elevation of about 2600 feet near Beaumont. The San Andreas fault also goes through this Pass, a little north of Interstate 10, and the fault then turns northward farther west. As our observer looks northwest beyond the Pass, the San Bernardino Mountains come into view. These are also relatively “new” mountains, and they are dominated by the San Gorgonio peak, with an elevation about 11,500 feet. North and west of the San Gorgonio peak is Big Bear Lake and ski resort area, and sometimes the San Gorgonio peak itself is referred to as “Big Bear”. This is the highest peak in southern California, and if there is snow visible anywhere in the Coachella Valley, it is likely to be on top of this peak.

Looking **north** and **northeast** from our vantage point over Los Lagos, we look due north to see the Little San Bernardino Mountains, and the ridge of the Joshua Tree National Park a little farther east. This area is commonly referred to as the “high” desert - high in comparison to the Coachella Valley. Farther east are other small mountain ranges, and, like the mountains in



Little San Bernardino Mountains

Joshua Tree, these are very “old” mountains, having been created by volcanic activity and tectonic plate movements more than 50 million years ago. Weathering over eons of time has eroded the softer rocks and smoothed out the highest peaks.



Chocolate Mountains (from Wikipedia)

Looking toward the **east**, but south of Interstate 10, our observer will see a vast, vacant desert area which includes the aptly named Chocolate Mountains (up to 3,000 feet elevation). This is the site of the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range where the U. S. Navy and Marines are said to practice bombing. The Chocolate Mountains are also notable because they are said to contain one of the world’s largest untapped gold deposits near the earth’s surface. No prospecting allowed.



Santa Rosa Mountains

And now, looking **southeast**, we have come full circle as we again see the Santa Rosas looming over La Quinta and the Salton Sea. In the vicinity of the Salton Sea and south into the Imperial Valley, the

elevation is negative – **below** – sea level. Indio is barely below sea level, but Thermal is 120 feet below, and Mecca is 180 feet below! The elevation of the valley floor rises gradually toward the north and west, so Los Lagos (Indian Wells) is about 90 feet above sea level.

The mountains that surround us are rocky and barren, and not everyone sees their distinctive grandeur and beauty. But just knowing their names makes them seem friendlier. And knowing a little about them makes them more interesting.

By Herb Costner

[Editor's Note] Herb Costner moved from Los Lagos to a nearby senior living facility in April of this year and left us three unpublished articles. This is the second of the three. The first, "Seeing Red in Los Lagos", appeared in May.