

# Skinner & Co.

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July 12, 1979

Dr. Glenn Seaborg  
Lawrence Berkeley Lab  
University of California  
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

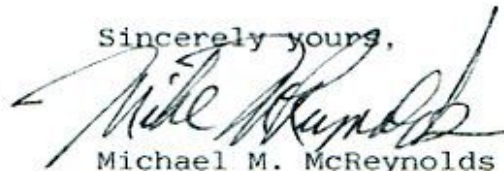
Jim Kern, President of the American Hiking Society, suggested I get in touch with you to introduce myself and offer my help in the organization of the California portion of the upcoming Hikanation.

I am a long-distance, solo, expeditionary backpacker with many years experience in the Northern Rockies. I will be here in the Bay Area until Saturday, August 4th, when I leave for a month and a half hike through the Canadian Rockies along the Continental Divide north of Jasper Park. I hope to return in time to meet Jim when he arrives in San Francisco (according to his current plans) on September 18th and to attend the meeting at North Face on the 20th. Since I have only three weeks prior to my departure there may not be too much time for long projects, but I am available for short ones that can be done in my off-hours.

I can be contacted here at the office during normal business hours and at home (usually after 8 pm) in the evenings. Home phone number is 824-7634.

I look forward to meeting you and helping out on the Hikanation.

Sincerely yours,



Michael M. McReynolds

MM/



THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU  
CENTRAL PACIFIC

TELEPHONE (415) 392-2198  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: WINNER SAN FRANCISCO  
TELEX ADDRESS: 278201

CONSULATE GENERAL OF NAURU  
110 SUTTER STREET, SUITE 1003  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94104, USA

July 12, 1979

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

Dear Jim,

Got your letter the other day and unfortunately haven't been able to answer it until now. I will definitely plan on being back by at least the 18th of September to meet you and plan on attending the get-together at North Face. The best way to reach me under the circumstances will be for you to call here at the office. Use the telephone number of Skinner & Co.... (415) 981-0970.....as we try not to use the Consular phone for personal calls as there is only one line on that number compared to about 7 lines on the Skinner & Co. number.

The memos you enclosed with your July 3rd letter are the first I've seen concerning the Hikanation (good name). Please put me on the mailing list for future memos. I will be more than happy to help out in the planning and footwork getting everything moving toward March. If there is anything I can do to help prior to my leaving for Canada on the 4th, let me know. I have written Dr. Seaborg and volunteered my services for the interim period, but there may not be anything to do until after I get back. Everyone here at the office will know of my return due date. Also leave a phone number where I can contact you if you arrive before I return.

James A. Kern  
July 12, 1979  
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As you can imagine, all my conscious (and unconscious) thoughts outside (and inside) work are of the coming hike in Canada. This will be my third major expedition in the Canadian Rockies and 6th major trek. This summer I will be crossing my 3,000th trail mile which is to me still totally unreal. I had never hiked a single mile on my own anywhere (except a forced march in Basic Training eons ago) until Summer of 1974 when at the tender age of 36 I strapped on a backpack for the first time and disappeared into the Idaho wilderness with some strange idea of trying to hike to the Canadian border and then on to Banff. I was totally out of shape and had been smoking three packs of cigarettes a day for God knows how many years. Not a very auspicious start. I barely survived the Salmon River Country, but saw enough and did enough to convince me that I wanted to do more. The next couple of years I continued north and felt a total surge of pride when I finally rounded Mt. Robson and descended the Valley of 1000 Falls and out onto the Yellowhead Highway in B.C. I can't think of anything in my life that I've enjoyed more than these long distance backpacking trips and the sense of accomplishment that comes with them. By the way, your article on going alone really hit a harmonic tone with me as I have also always done my trips alone for virtually the same reasons. I had never run across the Hazlett quote before.

Looking forward to meeting you in September. Call the office when you get into the Bay Area. Bring your hiking boots and we'll go for a day hike on Mt. Tamalpais or out onto Point Reyes National Seashore.

Best regards,



Michael M. McReynolds

MM/  
Enclosure

Home (415) 824-7634 (usually After 8:00 pm)