

THE  
**AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY**

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Please Respond To: 18600 SW 157th Avenue, Miami, FL 33187

December 19, 1983

MEMORANDUM

FROM: James A. Kern

TO : Haas, Kemsley, MacKenzie, Montgomery, E. Seaborg, G. Seaborg

I have circulated Tom Haas's memo and have now heard from all of you. Bill Kemsley responded very favorably. Monty arrived at my doorstep last week, having driven in from Illinois, to tell me that he didn't sleep for two nights after reading it! Glenn Seaborg called to say that he thought the memo represented too severe a departure from HikaNation I. He hoped we would preserve the idea of hikers going all the way. I agree with Tom that the press focused on individuals to such an extent that AHS's goals were diminished: to promote hiking and backpacking as recreation, to promote the idea of an east-west trail, to call attention to our trail bill in Congress and to elevate the image of AHS. We also wanted to create a memorable experience for all those hikers who made the journey.

I know from a lot of first-hand experience that there was an awful lot of energy spent on discussion and dissension on the matter of just who were the "through-hikers." Many of the hikers wanted to play down the idea and dwell on the unity of the group, but others, rightfully I think, expected recognition for their achievement. At the arrival celebration in Washington, I can remember not being sure whether the eight special awards I had for those that came the closest would be willingly received by all.

Monty and I have been hashing things out for most of the day and now think we have created a structure for HikaNation II that would provide leadership roles and long distance hiking opportunities for an experienced few and a way in which affiliate hiking clubs all across America could become eagerly committed to another cross-country hike. This latter objective would further an AHS goal of creating closer working relationships with local clubs.

We would create a leadership group that could hike through two continuous states, rotate off for a state and then rejoin for two more. Segments of the trail would be created of not less than five

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days and not more than twelve days that could be reserved exclusively by hiking clubs around the country. The only way to hike a particular segment would be to join the club. Hikers coming with the club would be self-contained, since they would not be hiking more than twelve days. Therefore, they would be making no major demand on Monty. The leadership group, limited to not more than six at any one time, on the other hand, would be provided the same kind of supply services they received on HikaNation I.

This two - tier structure would create long-distance hiking opportunities for mature, experienced hikers and build esprit and involvement with AHS for local hiking clubs. (I should add that Monty still has a reservation about excluding the possibility of some individuals hiking all the way.)

Please think about these things and read the attached sheet, which is a summary of our ideas. Then get back to me with any comments you might have.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jim', located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

cc: Henley  
Ingraham  
others

PROPOSAL

FACT SHEET

HIKANATION II. April, 1985 to July, 1986

Coast to coast

4400 miles

15 States

Average miles per hiking day: 12

Continuous days of hiking: 5 to 12

Entire route to be divided into segments for the exclusive reservation of hiking clubs

Rest day between segments

Departure of one group and arrival of next group on this day.

Two-tier organization structure

1. Leadership Group

Very experienced

Priority given to mature participants of HikaNation I

Must accept responsibility for hiking group (safety, welfare, emergency situations)

Long-term support services provided

Limited to two-state continuous participation

Leadership role subject to evaluation

Volunteer

Liability insurance provided(?)

2. Club Participation

Each club to reserve a specific segment in advance

1st come, 1st serve

deposit required

All hikers must come as a member of hiking club which has exclusive reservation for given segment

Club must provide transportation to trail head and from the terminal of each segment

Hikers in each club must be fully equipped and physically capable for the segment they select