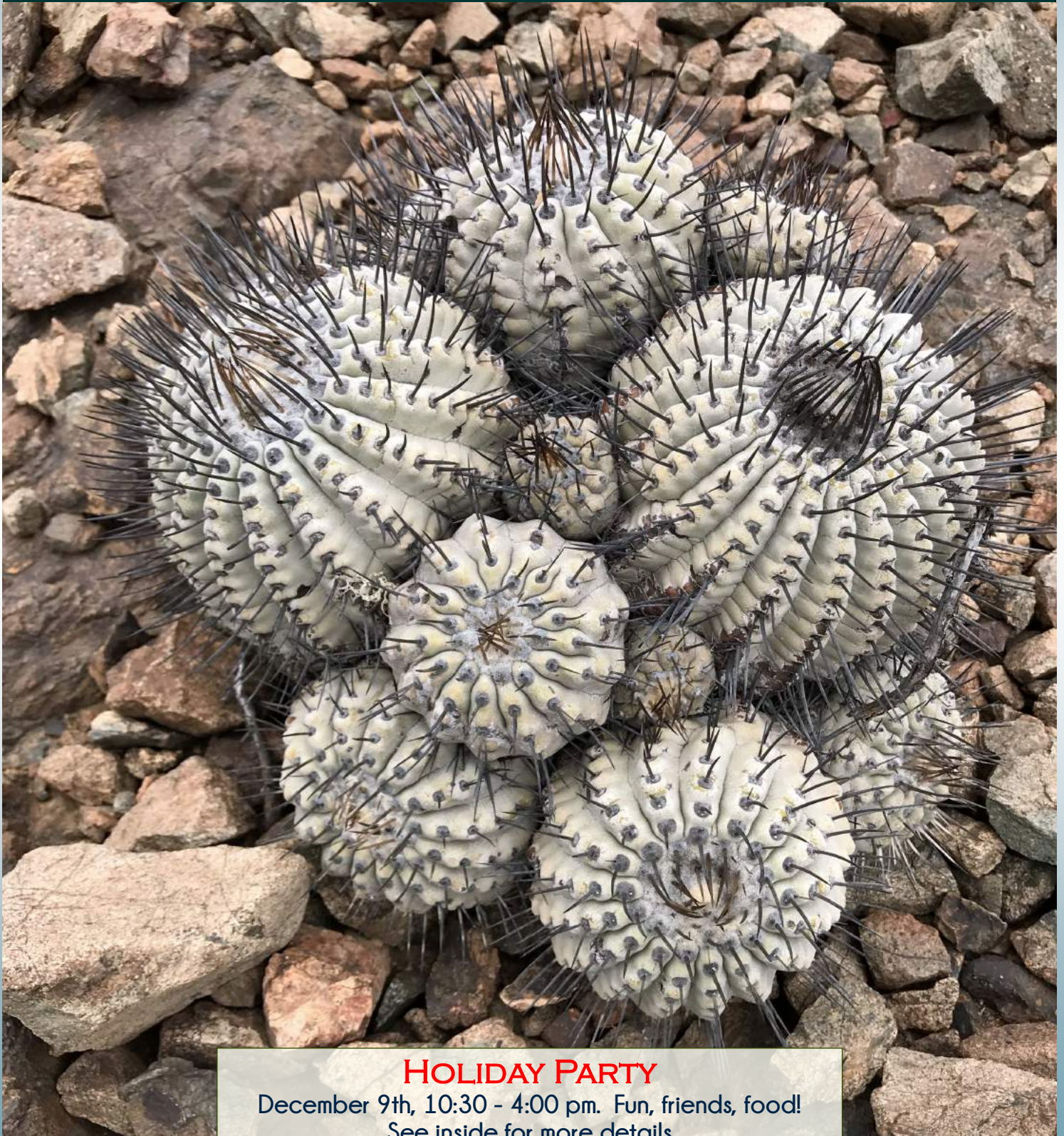


# Happy Holidays! **Espinas y Flores**

Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society



## **HOLIDAY PARTY**

December 9th, 10:30 - 4:00 pm. Fun, friends, food!  
See inside for more details



## Directors

## Committees & Sub Committees

## Liaisons

## Membership & Publicity

**Contact SDCSS:**                      **membership@sdcss.net \***

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San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society  
**2018 Winter Show & Sale**

**Saturday, February 10th, 10 - 4**  
**Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park**



## Plant and Pottery Sale

Rare and Unusual Cactus & Succulents  
Landscape Plants for Arid Gardens  
Beautiful Handmade Pottery

**Free!**  
**Public Welcome**



## The Show

Unusual and Exotic Plants on Display  
Plants from around the World  
Novice to Expert Growers



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## President's Message



What a nice picnic we had in November. About 70 members got together at the San Diego Botanical Garden on Veteran's day. We had perfect weather, great company and the Plant Swap Meet was a hit. Thanks Jerry Garner for that great idea. Special thanks to Melanie Howe for stepping in for Cathy Clark and bringing and taking home the supplies, drinks and everything else.

Our next gathering will be the Holiday Party on December 9th. Please get your payment in via the web page or to me as soon as you can so we can make good estimates for food, wine and plants. It will be a busy day for all of us and one we always enjoy. It is a great way to get to

know other members.

We are also powering up for the Winter Show and Sale in February. It is difficult because everything slows down during the holidays, so we try to get a jump on it before everything shuts down. The vendor agreements will go out mid-November for vendors. If you did not receive a vendor agreement and want to sell, contact me. I hope you and your family and friends have a wonderful Holiday season and enjoy your time together.

Chris Miller

## You can Help!...

**Plant donations:** Please bring a nice plant or C/S related item to the auction at the Holiday party. Proceeds from the auction will in part, support the SDCSS Scholarship Program.

**Volunteer for the Show/Sale:** The Winter Show/Sale is just around the corner. We need lots of help. Please volunteer! There is a task/job that fits everyone's schedule and interest.

Please email us: [membership@sdcss.net](mailto:membership@sdcss.net). Subject line: "Donation" or "Volunteer"

## San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Scholarship

### Now Accepting Applications

We are now accepting applications for the new SDCSS Scholarship. This year, \$500 will be awarded to one winning San Diego County applicant in support of their education and associated expenses as they pursue studies in the field of horticulture. The application and detailed information will soon be available on our website.

You may have already supported the SDCSS Scholarship fund by donating a plant or submitting a winning bid at a club auction. We hope to provide more or larger scholarships as our program matures. In the meantime, please consider participating in the auction at the Holiday Party by donating a plant or cactus/succulent-related item like pottery, linens, etc..



If you wish to make a donation towards the scholarship fund, or if you are interested in sponsoring a scholarship in your name, please contact Sue Thomas, [membership@sdcss.net](mailto:membership@sdcss.net). Please write: "Scholarship" in the subject line.



*Copiapoa echinoides* in habitat, Chile  
By Kelly Griffin



## Boophone... and a few other South African Amaryllids

By Ken Blackford

The first question I am often posed with when talking about one of my favorite South African bulbs is ... "Bulbs are succulents?" So to get this out of the way ... **YES!** Geophytes (bulbs) all share a common element we associate with succulent plants ... and that is their ability to store food and water, which tides them over during periods of low or no H<sub>2</sub>O availability. "But ..." you say "... they are underground ... and the leaves aren't succulent." Well ... so are many of the raised caudiciforms or pachycauls, of which many of us are fans. AND ... we had at least two Geophyte categories of entries in our June show. So, end of argument!



The *Boophone* (my pronunciation ... boo-off-phone-ay) genus currently has two species ... *B.disticha*, and *B.haemanthoides*. Some common names are Oxbane, Gifbol and Sore-eye flower (to which I can attest.) *B.disticha* ranges from Eastern to Western South Africa, North to the more tropical climates of Kenya and the Congo. *B.haemanthoides* is generally restricted to the Western Cape, not too distant from the coast. Provenance is important, especially if you plan to use in a garden setting.

Both species are often grown for their interesting, fan-shaped, usually deciduous display of leaves, as well as the flowers, AND their doubly interesting and decorative infructescence. They are generally very drought tolerant, but again, watering regimen should be based in whole or part on provenance of the bulb(s) you have. Ill-timed overwatering of those from the more temperate or Mediterranean climes WILL lead to rot and death. While I have found them tolerant of different soils ... good drainage is ALWAYS a requirement.

I obtained my first *Boophone disticha* from a UC Irvine bulb sale in the Spring of 1999. It was a leafless bulb extending about 8 inches above the soil line, like some caudiciforms, in a two-gallon container. I wasn't particularly drawn to it, but one of the clerks performed quite an impassioned sales pitch. I brought it home and set on my sunny kitchen patio. The next day ... the beginning of a flower spear emerging from the top of the bulb drew my attention. I was immediately hooked and full of anticipation for the growing inflorescence. I read-up via available literature and online over old dial-up modem speeds of that era. The doc indicated they were self-sterile ... but I wanted seed from my plant. I knew of nobody with other *B.disticha*, but I had read that one might stimulate fertilization with pollen from another closely related Amaryllid. It just so happened, I had a single, off-season naked lady (*Amaryllis belladonna*) blooming, which fit the bill. I brushed the heck out of the Boophone stigma with pollen from the naked lady anthers. The ovaries swelled with success! Apomictic? About half of them were ... the others turned out to be valid intergeneric crosses. But I digress ...

As it turned out, my purchased bulb was a Summer-grower from the Eastern Cape, and produced its fan of foliage after the late April bloom. Summer growers need H<sub>2</sub>O during the Summer. More importantly, they need to be kept relatively dry in the Winter. That original plant died when I poorly placed it at the bottom of a slope, which was soggy through most of the cool winter months.

Oddly, there are also Winter-growing *B.disticha* ... same species(!) ... from the Winter-rainfall regions of the Western Cape, which go deciduous in the Summer. Again, provenance is important as their growing patterns will NOT adjust to opposing rainfall patterns. Winter growers are of course, more suited for gardening in our climate, but one can successfully grow the Summer-growers outdoors with particular attention to good drainage. Growing both will give you the fantastic foliage year round. I've interbred the two, which have resulted in plants that produce the same fan of foliage and are nearly evergreen ... and I believe more tolerant of bad watering regimens.



Speaking of foliage ... both species display a spectacular fan of 30-50 leaves (when mature.) Very dynamic and mix well, IMO, if carefully planted with other succulents. Some display an interesting waviness or twist to the individual leaves. Leaves of *B.haemanthoides* are wider (1-1.5 inches) than those of *B. disticha* (1/3-2/3 of an inch.) I have 3 dozen or so *B. disticha* worked into my street side succulent plantings, and the distichous leaf pattern often elicits comments from sidewalk passerby. If planting multiple bulbs, doing so with the fans in parallel planes will present a more pleasing display.

In addition to *Boophone*, there are several closely related Winter-growing Amaryllids which should do well in our climate and make good landscape specimens in a succulent garden. *Brunsvigia josephinae* and *litoralis* produce interesting, upright glaucous-blue Winter foliage, followed by a Summer dormancy and spectacular umbels of flowers in late Summer or Fall. There are other *Brunsvigia* species with interesting prostrate foliage and similar blooms. *Gethyllis* and *Hessea* are also Winter growers, but smaller ... better for pot culture. Some *Gethyllis* species produce, fantastic, interesting foliage ... not unlike a sea anemone. Of course, perhaps the most common and recognizable South African Amaryllid in California Gardens is the previously mentioned Naked Lady, or *Amaryllis belladonna*. It's robust Winter foliage makes it a bit harder to work into a succulent setting, without suffocating the surrounding plants.

I've been 'playing' with these bulbs since moving to San Diego 15 years ago ... mostly growing from seed purchased from a South African supplier, followed by my own seed produced in copious amounts the last several years. A common complaint is that from seed ... they are slow ... anywhere from 4 to 10 years to maturity. Well grown plants can be flowered in the low end of that range. Working into a succulent garden can be tricky, but if done well, can add some impressive variation and diversity to a collection of succulents which generally need the same low water requirements.

# HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 9th, 2017, at 10:30 am  
Rm 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

*Let's get together and Celebrate the Holidays!*

**Food and Drink:** A delicious lunch will be served around noon. There will something for everyone! Herb Stern, "The Wine Guy" will set up the bar. In the spirit of sharing, we will also have the traditional "Potluck Dessert Table." If you have a special dessert you would like to share, please do! This is optional but always a much appreciated finish to our meal.

**Gift Exchange:** Another fun way of sharing is to participate in the Gift Exchange. If you and/or your guests would like to participate, bring a nice plant or plant related item (one per person please), and place it on the Gift Exchange Table. Make sure your name is on your plant! A committee will have the tough job of selecting the "Best Plant", which will then be set aside for auction. Whoever brought the Best Plant will have first choice of the remaining plants, and the owner of *that* plant selects a plant, and so on until all of the Gift Exchange items are distributed. As you can imagine, the nicer the plant YOU bring, the sooner you get to choose.

**Gift Plant:** The Society will continue the tradition of giving each *member* who attends this event, a gift plant. They will be distributed by lottery, during desserts. When you arrive, be sure to check in at the door to receive your ticket for the drawing. Then take some time to look over the beautiful selection of plants so you will be able to grab your favorite when your number is called. (this is a benefit of membership - no gift plants for guests).

**Auction:** Come prepared to bid on "show quality" plants at the annual Holiday Party Auction!! Up for bid will be bare root plants donated again this year by Western Cactus Growers, along with beautiful specimens donated by our own members. If you have 1-2 "show quality" plants you would like to donate to the auction, please contact Peter or Kelly and let them know.

**Too much fun to miss! We hope to see you at the party. Please let us know you are coming by filling out the RSVP/Signup form on page 6 and sending it to Chris Miller.**





### Holiday Party RSVP and Signup

Name	Member \$20	Non-Member \$25	Amount
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>			\$



### Please let us know you are coming!

Send this completed form along with a check payable to SDCSS, to  
Chris Miller, 10042 Waynecrest Lane, Santee, CA 92071

**You may also pay via the club website: <https://www.sdcss.net/payment>**



*Copiapoa haseltoniana*  
(cluster)  
in habitat, Chile  
By Kelly Griffin



### Elizabeth Glover

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Elizabeth Glover, a long time club member.

Elizabeth, a Life Member of SDCSS, passed away in mid-September at the age of 95. She was at home until the last few days.

Elizabeth was a retired Navy Commander and was very proud to stand when I asked for military past/present to stand for Veteran's Day. She and her brother Wilbur were in charge of the Paid Holding Area at our Shows. She always brought deviled eggs and we have missed them the last few years.

Elizabeth and her brother were very active in the Epiphyllum Society and donated a plant moving cart to that society. For our Summer Show they would bring several Epy blooms and Wilbur would take pictures of pretty girls and the blooms.

Chris Miller



**THE HUNTINGTON**  
LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-2100

## **DESERT FORUM: *Saturday, 13 January 2018***

Schedule of Events

- 9:00 – 9:45 **Registration**  
Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission. In order to receive free admission, you must arrive by 9:45. Late arrivers will need to pay for Huntington admission.
- 9:00 – 10:00 **Coffee and doughnuts** will be available in the lower part of the Desert Garden
- 9:00 – 11:00 **Desert Garden**  
 ♦ Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory  
 ♦ Aloes will be flowering
- 11:00 – 1:00 **Plant Sales – (exclusively for CSSA and club members)**  
Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - *please, no early bird shopping, and no shopping after 1:00.* Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 5:00 **Free Time:** Participants are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries from 10:00 to 5:00.  
**Lunch:** The café in the visitor center features a variety of sandwiches, salads, and grilled items. The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is an option for Asian food. The coffee shop by the Store offers a small selection of pre-made options

## **2018 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

- FEB. 10** SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, WINTER SHOW AND SALE BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA—INFO 619-990-2051
- MAR. 22-24** ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW AND SALE THURS. 22<sup>nd</sup> 6-9PM---FRI. MAR. 23<sup>rd</sup> 9-7PM---SAT. MAR. 24<sup>th</sup> 9-5, 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA INFORMATION CALL 562-587-3357
- APR. 7-8** SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE, 9-4 pm SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS, 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD., PALOS VERDES, CA INFO: 310-378-1953  
<http://www.southcoastcss.org>
- APR. 29** HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 to 5pm HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-3504
- MAY 5-6** SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM, 4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. 310-822-1783
- MAY 6** SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE---9am to 4pm  
SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS, INFO. 310-833-6823
- MAY 11-12** GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 35<sup>TH</sup> SHOW AND SALE, FRI & SAT 9-4:30 pm, INFORMATION ON LOCATION CALL 909-910-9195
- MAY 18-19** LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB PLANT SHOW AND SALE 10-4 pm RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA., INFO. 562-631-5876
- MAY 26-27** CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE (10-4PM), LUDWICK CENTER, 864 SANTA ROSA SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – INFO. 805-237-2054,  
[www.centralcoastcactus.org](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)
- JUNE 2-3** SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY-- SUMMERSHOW & SALE, BALBOA PARK, RM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA INFO. 858-382-1797
- JUNE 9-10** LOS ANGELES CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SHOW AND SALE JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> 9-4--10th 9-3 SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD., ENCINO, CA. INFO. [www.lacactus.com](http://www.lacactus.com)
- JUN 29 - JUL 1** CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE –HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. PLANTS SALES START JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> THRU JULY 1st 10am to 5pm  
SHOW OPENS June 30th THUR JULY 1st 10am-5pm INFO. 626-405-3504





*Ferocactus chrysacanthus*

#### SDCSS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

The newsletter, *Espinas y Flores*, is e-mailed to each member household each month. Annual dues (e-mailed newsletter) are \$15.00 per year per individual, and \$5.00 per year for each additional household member. **First class delivery of a paper copy of the newsletter is available for an additional \$10.00 within USA or \$25 for international delivery**, to cover the cost of printing and postage. Each member has all the rights and benefits of the organization.

Annual Dues (E-mailed newsletter):	\$15.00 _____
USA Delivery of Printed Copy (optional)	\$10.00 _____
International Delivery (optional)	\$25.00 _____
Additional Household Member(s) each:	\$ 5.00 _____
Amount Enclosed:	\$ _____

#### Member Information: (Please PRINT to fill in ALL blanks below!)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/FAX: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Household Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive E-mail notifications of Club events and issues? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form or a copy, along with a check or money order in US Funds, payable to SDCSS to:

SDCSS Membership Dept, c/o Paul Maker  
1245 San Pablo Drive, San Marcos, CA 92078