

## Paul Caccamo Checks In

*Around the Lamorinda Weekly office he's known as "The Hiker Guy." In our last issue you met Paul Caccamo, the local musician who is hiking the Pacific Crest Trail this summer. On May 31st, after five weeks of hiking, Caccamo and his companions arrived in Tehachapi (558 miles from the Mexican border). There he took a break, a long hot shower, and visited the library from where he sent a message to his friends (excerpts below).*



### Greetings All -

Much of Southern California has been desert with mountain ranges interspersed in between. We've crossed the Laguna, San Jacinto, San Bernardino, San Gabriel, Sawmill and Liebre Mountains. At times we have walked more than 25 miles between water sources.

We have but 140 short miles before we reach Kennedy Meadows and the beginning of the High Sierra. After all this dryness what an incredible luxury it will be to carry only a little water. Before that we will be once again experiencing 100-degree temperatures and spending the hot hours in the shade. The beauty of this strategy is that now we walk well into the night, walking by the light of the moon with occasional help from our headlamps. The wildlife is incredible at night; they don't expect to see a human at that time.

It wasn't at night but I saw my first mountain lion ever the other day. It shot across the trail about twenty feet in front of me and I had to wonder if it was thinking I would make a tasty meal. I spent the next few minutes very loudly disabusing him or her of the notion: "You better not EVEN try it lion!" It never returned.

The grapevine tells me that many people have already dropped out of this insanity in favor of the comforts of civilization. Apparently the extreme dryness this year is punishing people enough to send them home. I can relate but am very happy to report that, apart from some brutal blisters and very sore feet, I am fine.

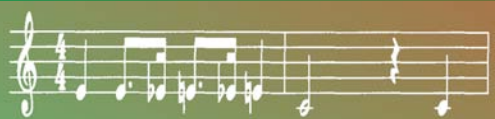
The other worry I had pre-trip was would I be able to handle being away from city life and family and friends for this long? Well it turns out I am very comfortable out here. I sleep a LOT better in the wilderness than in crappy motels, and while I miss my friends terribly it is a temporary situation and I think what I'm doing is worth the sacrifice. Have there been any great revelations/big changes since I've been out? Well, for one, I realize I like my work at Campo and want to go back. And Tim and Zach (my hiking partners, also known as Filthy Figaro and Sprout Boy) say I'm nicer than before. I may not agree but take that for what it's worth.

Everyone gets a new name out here, for example: Riddle, Troll, Oblivious, Mr. Pink, Grimace, Apple Pie, Speed Stick, Rocham and Ultrabrite. My name? Bounty Hunter. I'll explain later.

Next town stop is Independence, 240+ miles from here. They may not have a library - but we'll see.

-Paul C.

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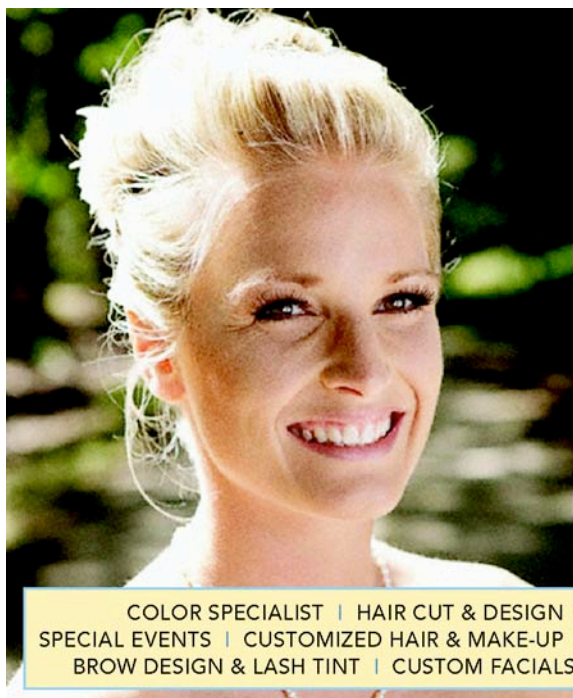
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