

In the Spotlight – Chile

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Chile is a unique in many ways, but none more than its geography. Situated on the west coast of South America, it is a long but narrow country extending about 4300 kms north to south, but only averaging just over 150 kms wide. With the Pacific Ocean to the west, Chile is bordered by Peru and Bolivia to the north, but aprox 80% of its land border is with Argentina and separated by the Andes Mountains. The capital city is Santiago, which is in the middle of the country, generally on the same latitude as Buenos Aries and Montevideo, the capital cities of Argentina and Uruguay, respectively.

Chile, like much of the region, was colonized by Spain in 1540. According to the World Atlas . . .

The Republic of Chile first declared its independence from Spain on September 18, 1810. However, throughout this time they were still loyal, albeit theoretically, to the King of Spain, Ferdinand VII, during a period when France had also taken over Spain. The official proclamation of independence took place on February 12, 1818 while there were still pockets of the Chilean War of Independence. Before declaring self-rule, Spain ruled Chile through a Governor.



Extensive research into the history of the Hash House Harriers in Chile was clouded, as I found various clips of information that said there may have been a first attempt in 1978, but a quick scan of the HHH Genealogy listed the first and only hash club in Chile as the **Santiago H3**, founded by Ian Lewis, or Don/Peggy McGillivrey in March 1986.

I then reached out to the hash world, and was able to track down Michael Stuart ‘Big Mac’ Mackie, who has been hashing since 1976. He mentioned that he had spent many years in South America, in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Colombia, but only managed to log 50 runs with the Santiago H3 (1988-1990) during his 14-year stay. He said that at that time, the Santiago H3 was a “Nice mix of Aussies, S Africans, Brits, Dutch, Canadians,” and their tag line was “Thirst Among Equals.” Although he is not sure, he believed that the club was started by members of the Australian Embassy.



Big Mac was also able to dig up some pictures, including this hoodie for run #107 from 1989, that confirmed the founding date to be sometime in 1984. Calculating a biweekly hash, 26 runs per year, would make the founding in March 1985, but counting backwards for two hashes per month at 24 hash trails a year, puts the founding in Nov 1984, if they were consistent. Always looking for more information, if you happen to have been a member of the Santiago H3 back in the 1980s, or have any documentation on it, please let me know.

I recently had the pleasure to travel to Santiago for a visit, and a hash run with the current Santiago H3. They now run once a month, on the third Saturday. I was able to coordinate with Splooge Bob Stain Pants who offered to meet me at a subway station, and Uber the rest of the way to the run start. Santiago is mostly flat (with huge mountains on the outskirts to the east and west), and trail was all uphill for the first half, and all downhill for the second half, set by Lady Prune. We had beautiful scenery the whole way, an excellent trail. Upon finishing, and a couple of rehydrating beverages, we circled up for some fun. After all the customary down downs, we adjourned to the pool for a refreshing splash, followed by a most excellent BBQ. Good times on the hash.



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