TriNet

Earthquake Commentary for May, 1999

Map of recent earthquake activity

Send comments and suggestions to:kate@bombay.gps.caltech.edu

06:37 PDT, Sunday, May 30

A M3.4 quake was widely felt in the Los Angeles are at 5:15 am this morning. The epicenter was located 2 miles southwest of East Los Angeles. As of 6:30 am, there have been three aftershocks in the M2 range: a M2.9 at 5:20 am, a M2.1 at 5:21 am, and a M2.6 at 5:29 am. The M3.4 is not an aftershock of any recent larger quakes. As with any quake in California, there is only a small chance (about one out of twenty) that the quake could be a foreshock to a larger earthquake.

17:23 PDT, Thursday, May 27

We recorded and analysed 197 earthquakes in the past week. Click here to see a summary and map .

08:56 PDT, Wednesday, May 26

Early this morning, there were two events in the Obsidian Butte area of Imperial Valley: a M3.0 at 5:37 am and a M2.9 at 6:16 am. Both were located about 3 miles east-northeast of Obsidian Butte.

15:58 PDT, Monday, May 24

Over the weekend, there was a handful of small events, including a M2.5 in the Kern County area (6 miles northwest of Wheeler Ridge) at 4:29 pm on Friday; a M2.7 8 miles northeast of Barstow at 8:09 am on Saturday; a M2.5 4 miles north of Claremont at 12:06 pm on Saturday; a M2.5 in the Coso Range at 7:59 am on Sunday; and a M2.6 9 miles south-southwest of Joshua Tree at 6:42 pm on Sunday. The Barstow quake and the Joshua Tree quake are both Landers aftershocks, the latter being also a member of the last week’s sequence.

17:08 PDT, Friday, May 21

Although we have been a bit slower than usual in putting them out due to the volume of activity and a few computer problems, we did record and analys 422 earthquakes in the past week. Click here to see a summary and map . This number includes the sequence in the Landers aftershock zone, but does not include any Tom's Place quakes, which occurred out of our normal coverage area.

15:54 PDT, Saturday, May 15

Here is a list of the M2.5+ quakes in southern California since the M5.0 in the wee hours of Friday morning:

GMT date	GMT time	Lat.	Long.		Mag.	Depth	ID#	
1999 5 14	7 54 3.16	34 3.70	-116 22.29	A	5.0	0.06	9086578	*
1999 5 14	7 58 19.63	34 3.62	-116 23.16	A	2.9	0.03	9086601	
1999 5 14	8 1 48.99	34 4.50	-116 23.30	A	2.9	1.18	9086636	
1999 5 14	8 2 42.76	34 1.97	-116 21.52	C	2.7	5.55	9086638	
1999 5 14	8 9 11.76	34 1.62	-116 21.28	B	2.9	10.44	9086666	
1999 5 14	8 13 34.32	34 1.82	-116 22.28	A	2.8	4.98	9086680	
1999 5 14	8 18 33.98	34 4.26	-116 22.53	A	3.5	0.18	9086580	*
1999 5 14	8 19 19.36	34 2.47	-116 20.97	A	2.7	0.38	9086685	*
1999 5 14	8 22 7.15	34 1.75	-116 21.35	A	3.9	1.36	9086693	*
1999 5 14	8 24 26.65	34 2.01	-116 21.44	A	2.5	0.34	9086584	*
1999 5 14	8 25 21.87	34 2.07	-116 22.50	C	2.6	5.99	9086590	
1999 5 14	8 27 2.07	34 2.25	-116 21.51	A	2.6	0.44	7129391	*
1999 5 14	8 40 33.23	34 2.33	-116 21.69	A	3.4	1.80	7129392	*
1999 5 14	8 49 44.96	34 1.97	-116 21.96	A	2.8	0.01	7129393	*
1999 5 14	8 51 30.40	34 2.57	-116 21.18	A	2.5	0.01	3317344	*
1999 5 14	8 51 42.31	34 2.04	-116 21.85	A	3.8	0.03	7129394	*
1999 5 14	8 56 37.83	34 2.86	-116 21.96	A	2.7	0.74	7129395	*
1999 5 14	8 57 33.05	34 2.50	-116 21.75	A	2.7	1.04	7129454	*
1999 5 14	10 29 17.24	34 3.18	-116 21.87	A	2.9	5.20	9086705	
1999 5 14	10 29 33.04	34 4.06	-116 22.11	A	3.2	0.01	9086735	*
1999 5 14	10 33 55.12	34 2.76	-116 21.81	C	2.9	5.68	9086745	*
1999 5 14	10 52 35.21	34 2.03	-116 21.57	A	4.2	1.74	3317364	*
1999 5 14	10 54 3.48	34 2.05	-116 21.72	A	3.0	0.00	3317348	*
1999 5 14	10 55 0.65	34 3.04	-116 22.91	C	2.8	14.56	9086763	
1999 5 14	11 0 11.78	34 2.89	-116 21.69	A	2.5	1.44	9086710	*
1999 5 14	12 24 41.79	34 2.58	-116 21.81	A	2.5	0.40	7129601	*
1999 5 14	14 16 49.05	34 1.93	-116 21.26	A	2.6	0.19	9086775	*
1999 5 14	17 3 5.80	34 2.55	-116 21.44	A	2.8	1.74	9086835	*
1999 5 14	17 15 32.30	34 3.80	-116 22.38	A	2.9	0.87	9086825	*
1999 5 14	19 38 35.80	34 20.98	-119 37.46	A	3.2	13.08	9086891	*
1999 5 14	21 21 50.44	34 5.00	-116 22.48	A	2.6	1.21	9086908	*
1999 5 15	0 32 40.85	34 2.03	-116 20.92	A	2.7	1.67	9086960	*
1999 5 15	0 33 4.71	34 2.07	-116 20.90	A	2.6	2.09	9086974	*
1999 5 15	10 48 27.90	34 3.90	-116 22.37	A	2.7	0.58	7129815	*
1999 5 15	15 14 48.53	34 2.42	-116 21.59	A	2.6	0.97	9087124	*
1999 5 15	15 36 2.64	34 2.85	-116 21.07	A	2.8	1.04	9087138	*

35 out of the 36 events listed are members of the Landers sequence, aftershocks of the M5.0 aftershock.

The odd one out occurred at 12:38 pm on Friday, in the Santa Barbara Channel. The location was 7 miles southeast of downtown Santa Barbara, and the magnitude was M3.2. It was felt in Santa Barbara.

14:05 PDT, Friday, May 14

We recorded and analysed 153 earthquakes in the past week. Click here to see a summary and map .

09:10 PDT, Friday, May 14

There have been over 100 aftershocks of the M5.0 Landers aftershock this morning. Here is a preliminary list of M3+ events:

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ID #         Date    UTC time  Lat.     Long.     Depth                Mag.
9086596 CAR 99MAY 14  754  3.2 34  3.74 116 21.98  1.8   134 0.25 A ML 5.0 LKH
9086580 CAR 99MAY 14  818 34.0 34  4.26 116 22.53  0.2    60 0.21 A ML 3.5 JMF
9086693 CAR 99MAY 14  822  7.5 34  1.78 116 22.18  5.5    49 0.34 C ML 3.7 LKH
7129392 TEJ 99MAY 14  840 33.2 34  2.33 116 21.69  1.8    62 0.20 A ML 3.4 LKH
7129394 TEJ 99MAY 14  851 42.3 34  2.04 116 21.85  0.0    62 0.26 A ML 3.8 LKH
7129510 TEJ 99MAY 14  931 57.4 34  1.67 116 21.83  5.6    45 0.24 C ML 3.1 UNK
9086735 CAR 99MAY 14 1029 33.3 34  3.38 116 21.98  4.6    39 0.39 A ML 3.1 UNK
7129538 TEJ 99MAY 14 1052 35.4 34  1.67 116 22.19  3.5    45 0.31 A ML 4.0 UNK
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Unfortunately, we have been having some computer problems as well as earthquakes this morning, so the catalog on the "Map of Recent Earthquake Activity" web site (link above) is missing some blocks of time. We are working on correcting this as soon as possible.

The focal mechanisms of the larger events and the distribution of aftershocks indicate southward unilateral rupture on one of the strike-slip faults involved in the Joshua Tree and Landers earthquakes in 1992. The M5.0 was felt as far away as San Diego. Yes, it is normal to still be having occasional moderate aftershocks seven years into the sequence, if the mainshock was a Mw7.3, as Landers was. Aftershocks actually become less frequent with time, rather than smaller, as is commonly believed. The M5's can still happen late in the sequence, they are just spaced farther and farther apart in time.

01:27 PDT, Friday, May 14

There was a M5.0 Landers aftershock this morning at 12:54 am. It appears to have been felt as far away as the Corona area. There have been a considerable number of aftershocks in the first half hour, including two that exceeded M3: a M3.1 only two minutes after the M5.0 and a M3.5 at 1:18 am More information will be posted as we have it.

09:39 PDT, Monday, May 10

This weekend's earthquake action included a M2.5 quake at 10:22 am on Sunday, located 12 miles east-southeast of Anza, in the San Jacinto fault zone.

There was also a M2.7 at 1:11 am this morning, located 3 miles east-southeast of Ontario. We don't have any 'felt' reports on either of these small quakes, but the latter could easily have been felt.

18:10 PDT, Thursday, May 06

We recorded and analysed 168 earthquakes in the past week. Click here to see a summary and map .

13:45 PDT, Wednesday, May 05

Last evening, May 4th, at 7:17 pm there was a M3.6 earthquake 5 miles southeast of Yucca Valley. For its size yesterday's earthquake is expected to have been felt though we haven't received any official report of that. It's focal mechanism was predominantly strike-slip with some slight oblique slip as well. It is also considered to be an aftershock to the M7.3 Landers mainshock which itself occurred on June 28, 1992.

At 7:41 pm yesterday a M2.8 earthquake occurred 13 miles east-southeast of San Clemente Island. It was generally in the same location as the M3.7 earthquake that occurred Monday morning (see below).

11:05 PDT, Monday, May 03

Another M3.7 earthquake occurred, but this one was offshore. As of yet, there hasn't been any report of it being felt. It occurred 14 miles east-southest of San Clemente Island at 9:18 this morning (PDT).

19:05 PDT, Sunday, May 02

There has been one earthquake of interest today, a M3.7 10 miles east of Desert Hot Springs. It occurred at 6:07 pm (PDT) and was felt in Palms Springs and neighboring areas.